



# The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA  
Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 63

APRIL 2012

NUMBER 4

## DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**

**April 18, 2012**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Przybylo's House  
of the White Eagle  
Niles, Illinois**

**RESERVATIONS  
BY APRIL 17**

**TO 847-635-0883 or**

**[meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org)**

**ARE MANDATORY**

## NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

**Monday, May 7, 7:00 P.M.  
Folak's Lincoln Tavern**

## COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 18—  
General Dinner Meeting  
Przybylo's**

**Saturday, May 5—  
Pre-Parade Brunch  
Hilton Chicago**

**Wednesday, May 16—  
General Dinner Meeting  
Przybylo's**

## POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY BRUNCH

The Chicago Society's Annual Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012 in the International Room South of the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The cost of the brunch is \$30.00 per person. Reception will be at 8:45 a.m.; seating will be at 9:45 a.m. and brunch will be served at 10:00 a.m. The parade is scheduled to step off at 11:30 a.m. from Columbus and Balbo Drives, across from the Hilton.

At the brunch, Brother **Ken Gill**, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, will present monetary awards to the scholarship winners.

The Chicago Society will have a float and marching unit in the Parade. There will be a band on the float and space for some persons to sit. Those members who will not attend the brunch but will march can contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** as to our place in the parade. Information on the day of the event can also be obtained from any parade marshal. Preferred attire for the marchers is gray slacks, dark jacket, red tie and white shirt. A business suit is certainly acceptable.

To make reservations and/or to request invitations, please contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak**. Ro has been involved in the brunch since its inception in May, 1978, making this his 35th year. For reservations, please call: 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007. Tickets will be held at the door. Co-chairmen of this event are Brothers **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** and **Charles Komosa**.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Chicago Society was officially organized on April 19, 1912. So, this month the Society is celebrating its 100th Birthday. We will observe this milestone at our April meeting with a cake (and maybe some balloons). Please make sure you join us.

Our 100th Anniversary Banquet will be held on Oct. 6 at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle. Make sure to mark your calendar and plan on participating in this celebration as well.



## PAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT APRIL MEETING

Our speaker at the April General Meeting will be Brother **Gary Kenzer**, Executive Director of the Polish-American Association (PAA). Founded in 1922, the Polish American Association (formerly the Polish Welfare Association) is the nation's only human services organization providing a comprehensive range of bilingual and bicultural services to the Polish community and others in need. Brother Kenzer will speak of the history of the Association, and how the Association was originally formed as an arm of the Chicago Society. He will also speak about how the Association has changed over the years, its current program of services to the community, and the Association roads to the future. All brother members are



strongly urged to attend this meeting and hear about the success the Association has had in improving the quality of life of so many Poles in Chicago.



CHICAGO  
SOCIETY  
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA membership

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Ted Wiecek

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR  
MEETING RESERVATION?

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Easter! Wesołych Świąt! Najlepsze Życzenia Wielkanocne!

I hope that all of you and your families had a very Joyous Easter. I would like to take time to wish all a belated Happy Easter. The time since the Śledź seemed to fly by so fast. The time for reflection has passed, and now we are to celebrate. I hope you enjoyed the many Easter traditions of Poland and Polonia, from Fat Tuesday to Wielki Post and Niedziela Palmowa and Święconka and Pisanki and finally Wielka Niedziela. Definitely, don't forget Śmigus-Dingus. Then there is the Easter Bunny. I hope that the Easter Bunny found his way hippity-hopping all the way to your young children and grandchildren. Remember those chocolate eggs for them.

I would like to thank Monica Dixon for her insightful talk about her life experiences at our March general meeting. Good luck Monica on your new business venture. I would also like to thank our House Director Brother Ro Matuszczak for coordinating the March meeting as well as the ham raffle. The raffle was a success and congratulations to all who won an Easter ham.

Our club is once again sponsoring the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-Parade Brunch, and I am pleased to announce that it will again be held at the Chicago Hilton. Join us for breakfast and the camaraderie. Let's take pride in our club and in our heritage and make a great showing for both the brunch and the parade. The brunch and the ensuing parade is a family affair, so bring your children along if you wish to the brunch and parade. We will again have a float with a band as a part of the celebration. So bring your family and friends to the brunch and to march with us and let everyone know that we are the Chicago Society of the P. N. A.

Don't forget that on May 1<sup>st</sup> there will be celebrations commemorating the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Beatification of Pope John Paul II. There will be local celebrations at various Polish parishes. If you have knowledge of any, please post on our face book fan page and our group page. Sir Gilbert Levine will conduct a special concert commemorating this Anniversary on Apr. 23. More information on the concert is elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, remember we are the Chicago Society. Support our activities and projects. Bring in your used cell phones for "cell phones for soldiers" and your used American and Polish flags for proper disposal. Remember the words of Brother Ken Gill "one member, one inductee." Spread the word about us and help us recruit new members.

Fraternally Yours,  
Frank Czaja

## FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

*Wesoły nam dziś dzień nastał,  
Którego z nas każdy żądał,  
Tego dnia Chrystus zmartwychwstał,  
Alleluje, Alleluja!*

**To all brother members, their families and loved ones, sincere wishes for a Joyous and Blessed Easter season. *Wesołotego Alleluja!***

At our March general meeting, Ms. Dixon spoke of the power of using social networking to enhance and strengthen our influence in Polonia and in our community. As you read the essays submitted by our scholarship winners over the next few months, each of them also speaks about the importance of building a strong network.

The May 3<sup>rd</sup> Consitution Day parade will be held in a few weeks. It is extremely important, especially now that our political power is diminishing in Chicago, that we come out to the Parade in large numbers—either as participants or as spectators—to show Chicagoland how large and strong our community actually is. There are approximately 1 millions of us in the Chicagoland area. Every Pole, Polish-American, Polonian—whatever you call yourself—should come to the Parade to show support and to be counted. We should put all differences—political, social, economis—aside and stand strong as one Polonia, a force that those in positions of power and influence should pay attention to. Our whole is greater than the sum of our parts.

## AROUND THE SOCIETY

Past President Brother **Frank Gondela** and his wife Beverly recently returned from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They had a winter retreat for rehab of Beverly's new hip. They did water aerobics daily, which was very successful. She is now walking GREAT!!

Worthy of note is that the local economy has been greatly affected; Canadian and American citizens continue to support the area. The average daily temperature was in the 80s, because geographically they are at the same latitude as Hawaii. Frank and Beverly enjoyed the sun and fun.

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago held a reception to open the 76th Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture on Sunday, March 18, 2012. The exhibition was held at The Polish Museum of America. There was a wide array of interesting styles of paintings and sculptures. The paintings consisted of different types of media, from watercolors and charcoal to oil. The majority of paintings were for sale as originals and prints. Everyone attending was in awe of the quality of the art work. Light beverages were served. Attending from The Chicago Society were President Brother **Frank Czaja** and his wife Darlene, Brothers **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, **Ted Makarewicz**, **Robert Maycan**, **Jim Kolar**, **Ted Wiecek** as well as other members and their wives.



President Frank Czaja and Advocate T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert at the Polish Arts Club of Chicago Art & Sculpture Exhibit opening on March 18.

## THE POWER OF NETWORKING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

Our speaker at the March general meeting was Monica Sikora-Dixon. Ms. Dixon is originally from Piła, Poland, near Poznań. In her talk, she spoke about the social gap that exists in the Polish-American Community and her attempts to narrow those social, technological, and economic disconnects. According to Ms. Dixon, there are many obstacles faced by young Polonians,



Civic V.P. Robert Groszek presents a gift to Monica Dixon as President Frank Czaja officiates at the March meeting.

complicated by a technological divide caused by outdated media. Her goal is to reunite the community to keep information flowing. In order to connect a wide number of young Polonia, she formed Bee-Closer, a Polish-American social network of Polish businesses, whose goal is to increase access and communication via the Internet. Through this network, she hopes to see relationships grow, to increase connections, and to facilitate philanthropic and professional endeavors, so that collectively we as Polonia can provide the highest quality of goods and service to our clients.

Ms. Dixon's most recent project is the "Quo Vadis" conference, which will be held this year in the United States for the first time. This conference gives the up and coming leaders of Polonia in North America a chance to come together, exchange ideas, and discuss future initiatives.



Another of her upcoming projects is the Women's Dream Project later this month, at which professional business women will have an opportunity to discuss their experiences and explore ways in which they can take advantage of each other's experiences for their betterment. And, finally, Ms. Dixon is planning a festival for Polish families to give them an opportunity to interact in a fun and stress free environment.

In short, Ms. Dixon is working to help Polonians use social networking to make themselves successful and to also strengthen Polonia as a whole.

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## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Scholarship Committee of the Chicago Society, chaired by brother **Ken Gill**, takes pleasure in announcing the winners of this year's scholarship competition.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$1,000: Brittany Kowalski, age 21, of Chicago, majoring in Sculpture at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$2,000: Christopher Thomas Kozlowski, age 20, of Mount Pleasant, Illinois, majoring in Marketing at Eastern Illinois University.

1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$3,000: Mark Pawlas, age 22, of Park Ridge, majoring in Communications/Journalism at the University of Nevada.

Congratulations to the winners, and we wish them much success in their academic endeavors.

The scholarships will be awarded at the Pre-Parade Brunch on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chicago Society Foundation has provided matching funds for these wards.

## PEACE THROUGH MUSIC

May marks the first anniversary of the beatification of Pope John Paul II. To honor this event, the famous conductor of the London Symphony Sir Gilbert Levine, known as "the Pope's Maestro" will conduct a concert "Peace Through Music: In the Spirit of John Paul II." Participating in this historic concert will be the Orchestra of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Chorus and a quartet of internationally renowned vocal soloists. Pieces to be performed are: Magnificat in D-flat by Bach, Symfonia no. 3 in E-flat "Eroica" by Beethoven, Psalm 91 by Cone and the Polish hymn Bogurodzica. This historic concert will take place on Monday, April 23, 2012 at Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall, so please mark your calendar. For more information and to purchase your tickets, go to <http://cso.org/TicketsAndEvents/EventDetails.aspx?eid=5155>.

## POLISH TRADITIONS IN APRIL

Easter is the most important day in the Christian calendar. Easter is a prominent celebration in Poland which reflects her rich cultural heritage. While religious ceremonies follow the rituals of the Christian church, Easter celebrations have integrated elements of native Polish culture. There are many traditions that seem to be the blending of the Polish and Christian cultures.



Easter is preceded by Holy Week, which starts on *Niedziela Palmowa* (Palm Sunday). Christ's triumphant ride into Jerusalem is commemorated by processions in each parish. The people carry elaborate *palmy*, fashioned from dried flowers, herbs, evergreens and pussy willows. While these palmy originated in the region of *Kurpie* in Central Poland, they are now seen in all areas of the country, but with some regional influence.

*Święconka*, the "blessing basket," is a unique Easter tradition in Poland and one of the most enduring and beloved. On Holy Saturday people take decorated baskets containing a sampling of traditional food to churches to be blessed: hard-boiled eggs, ham, sausage, salt, horseradish, fruits, bread and cake. Prominently displayed among these is the Easter lamb, usually molded from butter or sugar, and colorful *pisanki*.

On Easter morning, a special Resurrection Mass *Rezurekcja* is celebrated in every church in Poland. At this Mass, a procession of priests, altar boys and the people circles the church three times while the church bells peal and the organ is played for the first time since they had been silenced on Good Friday. Following the Mass, people return home to eat the food blessed the day before.

The family breakfast on Easter Sunday morning is an important part of the Polish Easter celebration. The Easter breakfast begins with sharing blessed eggs with the members of the family and wishing each other good health and happiness for the rest of the year (very similar to breaking *Oplatek* at *Wigilia*). The Easter table is covered with a white tablecloth, indicative of the white swaddling cloth with which Our Lord was wrapped when he was placed in the Holy Sepulcher. In the middle of the table will be colored eggs, cold meats, coils of sausages, ham, yeast cakes, pound cakes, poppy-seed cakes, and a lamb made of sugar. Polish Easter soup called *żurek* or White Barszcz is also served, garnished with the hard-boiled eggs and sausage.

A popular tradition is *Śmigus-Dingus*, (or *Lany poniedziałek*), celebrated on the first Monday after Easter. On this day boys roam around the neighborhood to sprinkle girls with water or perfume. The custom of pouring water is an ancient spring rite of cleansing, purification, and fertility. *Śmigus-Dingus* has been associated with the baptism of Prince Mieszko I. Tradition states that Prince Mieszko I along with his court were baptized on Easter Monday in 966 A.D. Thus, *Śmigus-Dingus* and its rites of sprinkling with water have become a folk celebration in thanksgiving for the fact that the first king of Poland was baptized into Christianity, bringing Catholicism to Poland.

*Did you know?* April in Polish is *kwiecień*, which comes from the flowers (*kwiaty*) which begin blooming during the month. *Choć już w kwietniu słonko grzeje, nieraz pole śnieg zawieje* (even though the sun is already shining in April, often snow will cover the fields).



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### FORMER SOCIETY MEMBER SETS WORLD RECORD

Former Chicago Society member Conrad Miczko recently set a world record by participating in 57 social events in the month of February. The record-breaker was the St. Kunegunda Bingo and Quilting Bee. While there, Conrad befriended Hank and Bertha Maiz, who invited him to stay at their estate—a sprawling ½-acre estate in Momence, Illinois. Conrad is looking forward to spending some time with his new friends. Bertha said, "We would love to have him come stay with us. We spend most of the day sitting on the front porch, watching the corn grow. I'm sure he will enjoy that."

### DON GUTOWSKI GETS HIS HEAD SHAVED

Brother Don Gutowski recently participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation head-shaving event. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research. Because of his support of this event by having his head shaved for seven years, Brother Don has become a Knight of the Bald Table. Congratulations to Brother Don!!



Before



After

**LET A SMILE  
BE YOUR UMBRELLA ...  
IF YOU DON'T MIND  
GETTING VERY WET**

### CHICAGO SOCIETY SECRETARY TO WED

Secretary Brother Ken Gil upon returning from his recent get-away to Arizona announced he is getting re-married. "Of course, no one can replace my immensely lovely late wife," said Ken when he shared the news. The lucky bride-to be is Freda Przestrzyczowicz. They met at a Senior's Polka Party at Our Lady of the Tumbleweed parish. "He is such a dreamy polka dancer," said Freda, "and now I'll have a last name people can pronounce."

### CHICAGO SOCIETY FORMS JUNIOR DIVISION

At its last meeting, the Board of the Chicago Society approved the formation of a Junior Division of the Society, for sons of members below the age of 21. The Junior Division was formed at the urging of Civic Vice-president Robert Groszek. The first "unofficial" member of this division was Jesse Soszko, who was inducted in 1967 at the age of 14. Another "junior" member was T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert. If he really is 39 years old as he claims he is, then he was inducted at the age of 6. Selected to serve as the first president of the Junior Division was Drake Groszek. Drake said, "I want to have some fun with my friends while Daddy is with his friends."

### MATCO TRAVEL ANNOUNCES CRUISE TO THE PACIFIC

Brother Ro Matuszczak recently announced that his travel agency Matco Travel is organizing a cruise to the Pacific Ocean. The highlight of this cruise will be crossing the International Date Line 5 times. "That way, the participants will return before they leave," says brother Ro. The cruise departs Feb. 30, 2013. For more information, call Ro at 800-555-HAHA.

### AROUND THE ANXIETY

Chuck Cwiakala (aka Chuck Chihuahua) has opened a casino in Las Vegas, using everything he learned at the Chicago Society's poker nights. Although saying he was traveling on business, he was actually scouting for volunteer dealers in Sin City.

It was rumored that John Cieslik joined the Wall Street protesters, but he was actually sitting in a tent in New York's Central Park counting his money. Well, it may have been other people's money, but he says he doesn't like to make such discriminatory decisions.

Together Stuart and Stan Sawa have purchased a smorgasbord hot dog stand at 35th and Drexel to supplement the southwest side restaurant. Always, ready for more work, Stan is moonlighting, though, by doing certified inspections of porta-potties in Humboldt Park. He says they're a lot cleaner than a lot of homes he has inspected.

Ted Makarewicz is suing for being placed at the end of this year's Constitution Day Parade immediately behind a Mariachi band. He was heard yelling, "Esto es totalmente injusto," as they dragged him out of the parade committee's meeting. He was later offered a better position in the Bud Billiken parade, but they refused to give him an official sash.

It's disappointing, but Marian Skawski will not appear on "Dancing with the Stars" after refusing to be partnered with Chaz Bono.

Unfortunately, his stint as the Chicago Society's St. Joseph had a bit too much influence on Walter Piecewicz. Allegedly, he has spent the past few days at St. Hyacinth Church prostrating and flagellating himself. Moreover, he is said to be considering quitting his profession as a lawyer and intends to become a carpenter.

President Frank Czaja's idea to boost meeting attendance by replacing speakers with belly dancers met with general approval. On the other hand, his suggestion to find the bellies at Weight Watchers was rejected.

Mark Orwat is determined to make the Golf Outing a financial success. He says that cutting the play to 12 holes will somehow result in a 33% savings and most of the drinkers on the course will never know the difference. He is also considering moving the dinner to White Castle. Even if only two foursomes participate, we'll still make a buck, states Mark.

The editor hopes you enjoyed this special April Fool's section of the Forum ... and that's no joke

## PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of this prospective member, he should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting. Sponsors are to attend the general meeting in which the new member will be inducted and to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction ceremony.

Name: Walter Kazmierczyk  
 Address: 1705 Pavilion Way, #206  
 Park Ridge, IL 60068  
 312-451-8664  
 Occupation: Trustee, Maine Township  
 Birth date: May 9, 1951  
 Birthplace: Chicago, IL  
 Education: BA Political Science  
 Sponsors: John Teschky and  
 Romuald Matuszczak

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society would like to extend to the following brother members, who are celebrating their birthday in April, a warm wish of *Sto Lat!*

- 5 Matt Rodriquez
- Eugene Siegel
- 7 Ronald Olech, II
- Andrew Wawrzyniak
- 8 Andrew Przybylo
- 9 Eugene Urbaszewski
- 10 Peter Dykas
- 13 Anthony Kawalkowski
- Anthony Lenard
- 14 Richard Jakubowski
- 17 Fred Koziol
- 19 Richard Kolakowski
- 26 Mario Mikoda
- 27 Michael Schneider
- 28 Joseph Hercik
- John Wojciechowski
- 30 William Przybylski

## INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Joseph Dondalski**, sponsored by Brothers **Frank Czaja** and **Charles Cwiakala**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy!*

## SUSPENSIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

The gentlemen listed below have been suspended for non-payment of dues in accordance with the Constitution. Call Financial Secretary Ryszard Jadczyk at 847-516-3333 regarding reinstatement.

Edmund Boduch  
 Dariusz Budzikowski  
 Mark S. Dobrzycki  
 Lawrence Gryniec  
 Leonard Krajewicz

Mark J. Kupiec  
 Slawek Laskowski  
 James O. Lodesky  
 Philip A. Oerke  
 Lawrence R. Rzewski

Joseph Santoro  
 Les Sraga  
 Les Surowiec  
 Waldemar Wyszynski

## FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

For a number of years prior to its organization the progressive young men of Polish descent in Chicago felt the need of a strong Polish-American organization. Such an organization, they felt, composed of far-seeing, wide-awake young men, could do so much toward the political, cultural, and social advancement of the Pole in Chicago.

A meeting was called by brothers Leo S. Malick, Frank A. Osuch and Alex M. Smetanka for April 3rd, 1912, at the Western Hall, with a view toward realizing the aims of the progressive younger element in Chicago. A goodly number heeded the call—they were imbued with the same ideals and enthusiastically supported the project of organizing a alert Polish-American unit. Those present urged affiliation with the largest Polish fraternal body, the Polish National Alliance, and elected for their temporary officers Alex M. Smetanka, Chairman, Leo S. Malick, Recording Secretary, and Frank A. Osuch, Financial Secretary. At the second meeting, held on Friday, April 19th, 1912, the actual organization became an established fact, the name "Chicago Society" was adopted, and permanent officers were elected.

Excerpted from Chicago Society News from 1925 (forerunner of *The Forum*)

## POLISH TRIVIA

Baseball season opens this month (Go, Cubs!). What is the name of the baseball player who played for the Chicago Cubs from 1976 to 1981 known as "The Polish Prince"? (not to be confused with Bobby Vinton).

Answer to March's question: Pulaski's horse was named Crawford. Congratulations to Brother **Marian Skawski** and Brother **Ed Marsalek** for submitting the correct answer.

## PLEASE CHECK YOUR LISTING

We are preparing the Membership Directory for publication. In the coming week, each member will receive the information we have in his listing, either by email or by "snail mail." Please indicate any additions, changes, or other corrections, and submit them to [editor@chicagosociety.pna.org](mailto:editor@chicagosociety.pna.org) **no later than April 30** to be included in the Directory.



## REMINDERS

Brother members, please be reminded to ...

... **follow the Dress Code.** Members are reminded that, although the warm weather seems to be setting in, our dress code is still in effect. Members are required to wear suits or sport coats to general meetings.

... **donate your cell phones** and charger to the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program.

... **bring your old, unusable flags**, USA or any other national flag, for proper disposal.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month.

Richard Bivins	2007	5 Years
Tomasz Pawelko	2007	5 Years



## CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY 3RD PLACE WINNER - BRITTANY KOWALSKI

How would you persuade a person of Polish descent to get involved in Polonia organizations?

The best bet in getting people more active in a community is always to start with the people who care most deeply about it. Luckily, in Polonia there are many Poles who care about the community and each other. It may be that there are many people looking to get involved that don't know where to go or what to do. To persuade people to get more involved I would first look out for those who are most interested. I would ask those interested about what is most important about being involved and use their input to then create more appealing ways to recruit other people to the organizations of Polonia. I would remind those who are interested, and those who may be less interested, of their heritage. By joining Polish organizations they will be more prepared to preserve their heritage and keep Polish traditions in their community alive. A person of Polish descent who is not active in the Polish community may be the result of distance from their family whether it is due to location or more personal reasons. Joining a Polish organization can give them a community, much like a family, to spend time with if they have no one else to do so with for whatever reason.

The first thing to do would be to personally approach people in the Polish-American community. This way, the Polonia organizations have a recognizable face and can focus more on the union of the community. A one-to-one personal meeting is where people can take action to address their concerns and effect change. This means organization leaders are listening to what is said by those people of Polish descent and being responsive. Also, by bringing people of Polish descent together it is more likely that they will practice Polish-American traditions together. By spending time together and celebrating their heritage, Polish-Americans can create a stronger community based on the values brought upon by their parents and/or their relatives in Poland.

The next step to persuading people of Polish descent to join the Polonia organizations would be to reach out further by using emails and letters. This works better by using information gathered beforehand to target people. A mailing list made up of close contacts and acquaintances of people already involved can quickly spread word of upcoming events in the Polish community. As a young person, I find that is now easiest to communicate ideas with people through technology. Information can be shared worldwide within seconds now and the Polish community can only benefit from being more advanced. Using social networking sites such as Twitter or Facebook can especially be helpful in recruiting younger people to Polonia organizations. Most of the news that is heard by my generation comes through some form of technology, directly targeting this form of communication has proven to be the most effective. Not only could technology make it easier to communicate with others in the Polonia organizations but it can also become a useful tool in contacting relatives in Poland. By using a program like Skype or Facebook, Polish-Americans, if they have any, can contact their relatives in Poland, and have their families in the organizations virtually. This can be mentioned as another reason to join Polonia organizations, by joining such organizations, members may in turn become closer with their Polish families. Whether they are using an organization Skype or Facebook account, or emailing a fellow member, technology can be used to influence more members and bring the community closer together.

After acquiring contacts it may be that a person doesn't want to or can't come to Polonia organization meetings and doesn't want to be rep. Think instead about what they CAN do. Utilizing personal talent can bring diversity and make more people more interested in Polonia.

Ask them if they can put up a poster, distribute newsletters, help with the website or pass information. A community is built of different people, and by recognizing individuality it can encourage people to be more comfortable in being involved in an organization with people of the same heritage. Common bonds and freedom of self can bring the people in Polonia together. All of these things can make the Polish community stronger.

In order to keep people involved in Polonia organizations, constant contact with people must be made to see how they're getting on. Getting someone to do one thing for his or her community is rarely the end of the story. It's often the case that people who do one thing for the community gain the confidence to do something else and that first, small task becomes the first step on the road to them becoming an organization representative. Polish organizations are meant to bring together the people in the Polish community through the commonality of their heritage. A larger Polish community will help the heritage stay alive and keep our Polish traditions active in our society. Since practicing Polish traditions is a huge part of our culture I think that being able to do that through organizations would be enough to influence someone of Polish descent to become more involved. By grouping people of Polish descent together a strong bond can already be made, by encouraging involvement in a constant time frame you can keep the community unified and harmonious.

## PWCC LUNCHEON

The Polish Women's Civic Club held their annual Palm Sunday Luncheon at Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove Village. This is the Club's major fund-raising event of the year. Scholarships were awarded to 9 deserving Polish-American students. Among those enjoying this wonderful afternoon were Brother Rich Ciesla with his wife Maria and their family, Brother Ken Gill, Brother Don Gutowski with his wife Lucile and their family, Brother T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, and Brother Ted Wiecek.





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