



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Now in Our Second Century of Service

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NUMBER 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

General Meeting

Lone Tree Manor

7730 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Niles, IL

Call to Order: 7 p.m.

**Reservations:
Andy Haszlakiewicz**

**andyh9946@gmail.com
or call: 847-341-1068**

**(Reservations needed
by Monday, March 13)**

Dear Chicago Society Members and Friends:

Welcome to March! I hope that you have been enjoying the relatively mild weather we've been having over the past few weeks—I don't know about you, but I sure do not miss that forecasted 10 inches of snow!

Thank you to all who attended our last meeting/Sledz event on February 15 at Allegra Banquets. It was a great event; more information about it is in this FORUM. Thanks also to all who helped before and during this event.

Our next General Meeting is on Wednesday, March 15. The plan is to have several new members inducted into the Chicago Society then. Please RSVP as soon as you can, and come join us to welcome these new members.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of attending the Legion of Young Polish Women's White and Red Ball on March 4. Both the Chicago Society, PNA and the Chicago Society Foundation were among the sponsors of this event, and our logos were proudly displayed. It was great to see several Chicago Society members in attendance, and everyone enjoyed the evening. The Chicago Society was also represented at the Polish American Congress' Pulaski Day celebration on March 6.

Our next major event will be the pre-parade brunch on May 6. Preparations for this event are already underway. If you'd like to help out with this, please contact Zenon Kurdziel, our 1st Vice President.

The pre-parade brunch is just one part of a week-long series of events leading up to the parade itself. A full schedule of these events appears in this edition of the FORUM. The Chicago Society has also reserved a spot in the parade. More details will be posted as soon as we know them. Please mark you calendars, and be on the lookout for the invitation.

There are still two vacant positions on our Board—Secretary, and Director of Social Events. These are important roles in the organization, and we need your help to fill them. Please contact me or any other board member if you're interested. I wish you all the best as we inch closer to spring!

Chris Grzadziel President, Chicago Society PNA



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March Forum Highlights

- ◆ Chicago Society Inducts First Female Member
- ◆ Another Successful Sledz Rings in Lenten Season
- ◆ Calendar of Events Set for Polish Constitution Day
- ◆ Lira Ensemble Fundraiser on March 23

—On First Anniversary of Russian Invasion,
Poland Sends Tanks to Ukraine

Remember the Chicago Society's address:

Chicago Society PNA, Lodge #1450

333 Busse Highway, #973

Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285

Kamila Wojdyla Named As Queen of White and Red Ball

Kamila Wojdyla was chosen as the Queen of the Legion of Young Polish Women's White and Red Ball, held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago on March 4. Eliza Incledon was the 1st Runner-Up, and Katie Bozek the 2nd Runner-Up. Over 500 guests attended the 83rd annual edition of the Ball, and it was again judged a great success.

The other eight young ladies taking part were: Julie Chyzynski, Natalia Czernecka, Veronica Chudoba, Elisabeth Skorupa, Ania Smetek, Emilia Dubiel, Emilia Radlinski and Veronica Marganska. All of the debutantes who took part in the White and Red Ball will also be featured on a special float at the Polish Constitution Day Parade in Chicago on Saturday, May 6.

Chicago Society Makes History at Sledz: Our First Female Member Is Inducted

The Chicago Society PNA made history on Wednesday, Feb. 15 as it inducted its first-ever female member during the combination General Meeting and Sledz celebration, held at Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park.

Marta Almodovar, a native of Bialystok, Poland, was sworn into the Chicago Society at the meeting. She is a supervisor of the Office of Accessibility and Education Outreach in the office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. While still in Poland, she earned a master's degree in law at the University of Warsaw. She was sponsored by Thaddeus Makarewicz and Zenon Kurdziel.

The Chicago Society membership voted late in 2022 to change the gender-specific wording in its constitution which limited membership to men, making it possible for women to join for the first time in over a century of the Chicago Society's existence. At least five other women have applied to join since this change was instituted, and it is expected that this will take place over the next couple of months.

As a bonus, Marta also got to play the role of the Angel in the always-popular Procession that was held during the Sledz celebration!



Continuing a Chicago Society Tradition: the Annual Sledz Rings in the Lenten Season

The Chicago Society, PNA once again held its annual pre-Lenten Sledz celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park—combining it this year with our February General Meeting. Sledz (the Polish word for a herring) is the Polish version of Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday—the last night of revelry before the beginning of the somber Lenten season's 40 days of fasting and penance.

The evening began with cocktails, followed by a full family-style dinner featuring, among other things, herring. But the highlight of the evening was the Sledz Pageant, performed by the Chicago Society's Not Ready for Prime Time Performers. In the opening scene, we had the Angel flittering around, trying to save souls by passing out Lifesaver candies. The Angel is always followed closely in this pageant by the Devil—dressed all in red, and with a menacing red mask with green eyes, and a pitchfork—trying to prod all of those in attendance to break their upcoming Lenten fast.

Then came Father Time, with long white hair and dressed in a white gown, and carrying a large clock—the reaper of us all—following the Devil to remind us that we are all here only for a short time. Then followed the somber Pallbearers, with top hats and white gloves, escorting the Sledz to be presented to the audience. And finally, we had the entrance of the King and Queen of the Pageant, giving the royal wave to their subjects and making royal proclamations to all.

Following the King and Queen, our current St. Joseph entered. Another tradition of the Sledz is to anoint the incoming St. Joseph of the Chicago Society for the next year. His duty is to offer a prayer at the beginning of each Chicago Society general meeting throughout the year. Chosen as the new St. Joseph for the coming year was Tony Kawalkowski.

A good time was had by all at this event, and I would encourage all of our members to put it on their calendars for next year!

Chris Grzadziel, President

Some Members Still Need to Pay Dues for 2023

As required by our Constitution and by-laws, Chicago Society dues are required to be paid by March 1 of each year. We show the following members as still needing to pay their dues for 2023 to remain in good standing. Please note that anyone not paying dues by April 1 is suspended, and will not be able to take part in meetings or other activities, or vote on any proposals.

Joseph Bauerle
John Domagalski
Walter Kazmierczak
James Kolak
Chris Laskowski

Robert Michalak
Mario Mikoda
Ron Osiol
Andrew Zapalski

Lira Ensemble Holding Fundraiser Featuring Khary Laurent on March 23

A fundraising event to benefit the Lira Ensemble will be held on Thursday, March 23, at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, at 1530 N. Lake Shore Drive. A program of Polish, French and American music will be presented by Mr. Khary Laurent, a Lira soloist and bass/baritone singer who is fluent in Polish, and has given concerts in Poland.

A full open bar will begin service at 5:30 p.m.; canapes will also be served at that time. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m., and a Polish buffet supper will be served starting at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$150, with a portion of the ticket price tax-deductible. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 773-505-8731; tickets will not be sold at the door. Receipts will be mailed out after the event.

There's Still Time to Sign Up for Lira Trips to Poland This Summer

Anyone who is interested in visiting Poland this summer still has a chance to sign up for an excursion to either northern or southern Poland, both of which are being sponsored by Chicago's Lira Ensemble. The trip to southern Poland, which runs from June 22—July 6, will include stops in Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa, Lodz, Zakopane and Wadowice (the hometown of Pope John Paul II). The trip to northern Poland, which is from July 13—26, will include Warsaw, Poznan, the Tri-City region (Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot) on the Baltic Sea coast, Torun, Bialystok, the Malbork Castle and the Bialowieza Forest. Both trips also include a visit to the birthplace of Frederic Chopin in Zelazowa Wola, west of Warsaw. Trips to Poland are a better bargain than usual this year because of a beneficial exchange rate between the US dollar and both the Polish zloty and the euro, said Lira general manager and co-founder Lucyna Migala. Airfare is in addition to the cost of the tour. For the itinerary for each trip and information on prices, call 773-508-7040, or visit the Lira website at: lira@liraensemble.org.

'Pack the Pantry' Dance Planned in Willow Springs on March 12

A 'Pack the Pantry' dance to benefit the St. Blase Food Pantry in the Southwest Suburban area will be held on Sunday, March 12 at Royalty West Banquets, 8675 S. Archer Ave. in Willow Springs. Doors open at 1 p.m., and there will be music and dancing from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., with entertainment provided by the E-Z Tones of Michigan City, Indiana.

Admission for adults and teenagers is \$12 each, with children 12 and under admitted free. There will also be food and drinks available for purchase. Everyone attending is asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item to donate to the St. Blase Food Pantry. The pantry, run by St. Blase Parish (now part of the new combined parish of Blessed Martyrs of Chimbote, in Summit) for many years, is now operated by Catholic Charities.

Here's the Schedule of Upcoming Events Connected to Polish Constitution Day

The 132nd Polish Constitution Day Parade in Chicago will be held on Saturday, May 6, with the parade kickoff planned for 11:30 a.m. on Columbus Drive at the corner of Balbo Street in downtown Chicago. All Polish and Polish American organizations, clubs, businesses, media and other individuals are invited to participate. Following is a schedule of upcoming events connected to the parade:

Saturday, March 11—Election of the Parade Queen, starting at 6 p.m. at Allegra Banquets, 5035 N. River Road, Schiller Park. Contact Eva Ruminski at 773-742-1477, or email: 3maj@usa.com

Saturday, April 1—Deadline for 2023 Parade Participant applications. Submissions to the May 3rd Parade Committee, 5835 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639, or email: info@polishparade.org

Saturday, April 15—Deadline for submissions to the Parade Art Contest. Submissions should be made to the May 3rd Parade Committee (same address as listed above), or email: konkurs.parada@gmail.com.

Monday, May 1—Deadline for submissions for the Home, Business and Organization Decorating Contest. Submissions to the May 3rd Parade Committee, or email: info@polishparade.org

Tuesday, May 2—Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tadeusz Kosciuszko monument, on Solidarity Drive in Chicago, hosted by the Polish National Alliance (details to follow); and the Polish Flag-Raising Ceremony at 12 noon, in Daley Plaza, Chicago.

Friday, May 5—Polish American Police Association (PAPA) Awards Banquet (details to follow).

Saturday, May 6—Pre-Parade Brunch at Hilton Hotel, downtown Chicago, hosted by the Chicago Society PNA (details to follow); Parade starts at Columbus and Balbo, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 7—Mass at Holy Trinity Polish Mission, 1118 N. Noble St. (at Division Street, next to Kennedy Expressway), hosted by the Polish National Alliance, at 10:30 a.m.; and May 3rd Constitution Day Banquet, hosted by May 3rd Parade Committee, starting at 6 p.m. at Jolly Inn, 6501 W. Irving Park, Chicago. Prizes for parade contests will be awarded during the banquet. Contact Eva Ruminski at 773-742-1477, or email: 3maj@usa.com.

Parade applications are still available at the website: www.polishparade.org; or the Alliance of Polish Clubs, 5835 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639; telephone 773-992-0857; or fax 773-745-7278; or email: info@polishparade.org. Or contact Dr. Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs, at 773-396-9242; or email: zkppresident@gmail.com.

NOTE: The Parade Committee invites volunteers age 18 and up who are willing to collaborate and help on the day of the parade. Two training sessions will be held for volunteers: on Tuesday, April 25 on the APC Zoom Platform; and on Tuesday, May 2 at APC headquarters.

*** Current Events ***

On First Anniversary of Russian Invasion, Poland Delivers 4 Leopard Tanks to Ukraine

WARSAW, Feb. 24 [Reuters] — Poland has delivered four Leopard tanks to Ukraine already, and is prepared to deliver more quickly, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said, as Western nations also increase their support to Ukraine a year after Russia invaded the country.

“Poland and Europe stand by your side. We will definitely not leave you; we will support Ukraine until complete victory over Russia,” Morawiecki said during a visit to Kyiv, standing next to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Poland’s commitment to its neighbor has been instrumental in persuading European allies to donate heavy weapons to Ukraine, including tanks—a move opposed by several European governments, including Germany, until recently.

Poland said in January that it aimed to get training time for Ukrainian soldiers on Leopard 2 tanks down to five weeks.

Morawiecki also called for a stronger new package of European Union sanctions against Russia. The bloc is currently discussing a tenth round of sanctions. “As for the tenth sanction package, we are not happy, because it is too soft, too weak...I am in contact with our team, and we are pushing our allies to make this package as extensive as possible,” Morawiecki said.

Poland Has Welcomed Almost 1-1/2 Million Ukrainian Refugees, Says Government Minister

The government of Poland recently estimated that almost one and a half million Ukrainian refugees are still in the country, a year after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine.

After the attack, Poland became the primary destination for those fleeing the conflict, with millions crossing its border. Some subsequently moved on to other countries, while others were later able to return to Ukraine, but many remained.

“Today, we estimate that around 1.3 to 1.4 million Ukrainian refugees are staying in Poland, with the intention of staying longer,” Polish deputy interior minister Pawel Szafernaker told Polskie Radio recently.

He noted that overall, 1.5 million Ukrainian refugees obtained a Polish national identification number, known as a PESEL, which allows them to access public services and social benefits.

Szafernaker added that the Polish government estimates that Polish families have hosted 1.6 million Ukrainian refugees in their homes since the invasion.

“This is an undertaking on a scale unimaginable in the world,” said the deputy minister. “The Polish people have opened their hearts, shown the world what solidarity is all about.”

Szafernaker also noted that Ukrainian refugees are, for the most part, adapting well to Polish society. “These are people who today, 80 percent of adults have taken up employment in Poland,” he told Polskie Radio. “These are children who attend Polish schools.”

—From: *NotesfromPoland.com*



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