



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 66

JUNE 2015

NUMBER 6

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 17, 2015

6:00 P.M.

**While Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois**

RESERVATIONS

**by June 15 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
or 847-635-0883**

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

**Monday, June 29, 7:00 P.M.
PNA Home Office**

COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, June 17, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
White Eagle Banquets**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
White Eagle Banquets**

**Friday, July 17, 2015—
Chicago Society Golf Outing
Gleneagles C.C., Lemont, Illinois**

**Sunday, August 16, 2015 —
Family & Friends Picnic
Busse Woods**

GOLF OUTING — FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015

This year the Chicago Society has invited the PNA Home Office and the Advocates Society to co-sponsor the Annual Golf Outing. Brothers **Charles Komosa** and **Mark Orwat**, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2015 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Chicago Society Golf Outing. NOTE: The Chicago Society Golf outing will be held at the swanky Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont.

The annual event will take place on Friday, July 17, 2015, at Gleneagles Country Club located at 13070 McCarthy Road in Lemont, Illinois. The day will begin with a cookout lunch including with brats, Italian sausage, chips and draft beer in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 11:30 a.m. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises.

An open bar with appetizers will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet room, with dinner including BBQ ribs chicken, and side dishes, and program following. The cost is only \$100.00 per person, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$35.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and premium cocktails. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle!

Please call Brother Charles Komosa at (773) 286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes. Brother **Frank Czaja** has graciously accepted to serve as Tee Sign Sponsorship Chairman for the Chicago Society and Brother **Steve Rakowski** will be coordinating the Tee Sign Sponsorships and raffle prize donation for the Advocates Society.

Reservations for the complete golf package or only the dinner may also be made by credit card at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html>.

More information about sponsoring a sign will be communicated by Brother Frank shortly. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at (312) 520-6144.

JUNE SPEAKER & DINNER MEETING

Brother **Robert Groszek**, Civic Vice President, has arranged for Brother **Robert Radkowski**, Vice President of the Midwest District of the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union to be our featured dinner speaker during the May General Meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at the White Eagle. Brother Robert Radkowski was born and raised in Poland where he attended an engineering school. He immigrated to America with his family in 1991.

He attended Foreman High School on Chicago's Northwest side and later attended Dominican University where he earned a Bachelor of Science with a major in Business Administration and 2 minors in Marketing and Business Administration. Robert is married to Maggie, has two children, Natalia & Christian, and resides in Itasca, Illinois.

He started his banking career in 1998 with then Chicago's business bank - LaSalle.



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CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

As we eagerly await the coming of summer and all the family activities, and the warmer weather, we sometimes forget that the Chicago Society is constantly working for the betterment of our members. We are constantly working to better our community and to provide the leadership needed to bring everyone together.

But that leadership is not of the few but of the many. Therefore the Chicago Society needs to build bridges in helping to promote a positive image of our community. Hopefully in the coming months, the Chicago Society will join together with other Polish organizations to further the mission of the Society.

With that being said, I am looking forward to the upcoming jointly held Golf Outing with the Advocates Society, the Polish American bar association of lawyers of Polish descent on July 17, 2015. The golf outing will be held at a new location at Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, Illinois. Our golf outing chair, brother **Charlie Komosa** has assured me that this year's outing will be one of the best ever! And especially in this day and age, when everything is going up, the price of the outing will remain the same at \$100 a golfer. We have limited space, so please make your reservations early. And don't forget to contact our golf outing sign chair brother **Frank Czaja** to advertise your company or to alert your clients and friends of this wonderful opportunity to promote their enterprises. All golf signage proceeds will go to our scholarship fund.

Finally, I have floated out the idea to the Board of doing a charter boat fishing outing out of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois. The tentative date would be Sunday, September 20, 2015. The cost would be \$100.00 a person, which would include a lunch after the outing of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda and beer. And of course, all fish caught will be fileted and packaged to take home at dockside. But I need to have a rough estimate of the number of members that would be interested in this event. So, please email me at hogski@hotmail.com if you would like to have the opportunity to catch large lake trout and salmon in the company of your fellow brothers.

Fraternally Yours,
Ted Makarewicz



Dear Brothers,

The Chicago Society Annual Golf Outing is coming up on Friday, July 17, 2015 and this year we are co-sponsoring the outing with the PNA National and the Advocates Society for great participation and networking. Please consider coming out for a day of golf and great networking. The golf outing we sponsor has to be the most reasonably priced tournaments in the area. If you are not a golfer please consider promoting your business or company by sponsoring a tee sign for \$100.00. We are in need of raffle prize donations- please call me at (773-) 286-7123 to arrange for a pick up. Please see the enclosed article and flier for full and complete details.

Fraternally,
Charles A. Komosa

JUNE SPEAKER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Many banks later Robert has gained knowledge and confidence to be a successful Bank Manager and a Business Development Officer. He joined the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union in March of this year and is responsible for the Midwest District, its growth and expansion into the ethnic market. He currently manages three (3) offices and will be opening a new office in Schaumburg to serve a large group of Polish-Americans in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago.

Robert likes to play racquetball and is a good swimmer. He loves to travel and spend time with his family.

The June General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu including Krakovia goulash salad, assorted Polish sausage with sauerkraut, gołąbki, pierogi, bread, desert & coffee.

AROUND THE SOCIETY!

Congratulations to Brother Mark Matker on being wed to his lovely bride Roxani Matker on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at St. Monica Church with master violinist Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski** providing the wedding music. Following church, the newlyweds had a celebration for family and guests at the Edgebrook Golf Club. Joining in the excitement were Brother **Robert** and Jennifer **Groszek**, and Brother **Dan** and Aimee **Zolkowski**.

Post wedding, Brother **Robert** and Jennifer **Groszek** departed for downtown Chicago and met with Brother **Mark** and Renata **Pasieka**, and Brother **Mark Orwat** and girlfriend Gina at Sound bar where the young crowd demonstrated their disco dance moves on the floor. The evening later ended up at Redhead Piano Bar.

Congratulations to Michael L. Kurzydowski, son of Brother Dr. **Henry Kurzydowski**, who graduated *Summa Cum Laude* on May 23 from Loyola Academy. In addition, Michael is a proud recipient of the Stan Musial Scholarship presented through the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. This honor is based on being an academic scholar, a varsity athlete, and the writer of an outstanding essay, "The Blades of Grass." He will be attending the University of Chicago as a member of the class of 2019 and a member of the University's Maroon football team. Now it is time to sponsor Michael, a fine young Polish American to our great Chicago Society!

Brother **Robert** and Jennifer **Groszek**, co-chairs of Music 4 All, are hosting a

Garden Party Fundraiser to benefit Upbeat Music and Arts, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that benefits children from families with limited resources to not only learn an instrument, but to learn discipline, self-esteem, and uncork the power of creativity. The children are taught in after school programs and summer camps. The Garden Party Fundraiser will be held on the Groszek Estate located at 3601 N. Pulaski (Pulaski and Addison) in Chicago on Thursday, July 9, 2015, from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., and will include fine wine, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, live piano music, and an art auction. Tickets are only \$45.00 in advance and \$50.00 per person at the door. Several levels of sponsorships are available. For further information please call Jennifer Groszek at (219) 743-5977.

Brother **Ted Makarewicz** with Brother **Charles Komosa** and sons Alex and Charley drove together departing at 4:00 a.m. to Winthrop Harbor on Lake Michigan to participate in a fishing outing organized by Brother **Steve Rakowski** and the Advocates Society. After six hours of fishing, the chartered boats returned to the marina and all enjoyed a BBQ luncheon and libations prepared by Brother Steve at a private pavilion. Charley and Alex Komosa reeled in together for about 12 minutes the biggest catch out of the group of 20 plus fishermen—an 18 lb. King Salmon!

Brother **Steve Rakowski**, Brother **Ted Makarewicz** and Brother **Charles Komosa** are planning to host a Chicago Society Fishing Outing in late September. More details to follow in the Forum.

Brother **Ted Wiecek** and Brother **Charles** and Agata **Komosa** and sons, Charley and Alex attended an evening

Polish American Garden Party at Alex Danel's house, where all enjoyed tasty grilled kielbasa and other items, an assortment of Polish beer and wine, great bilingual Polish-English conversations, and topped it off by each guest cutting their own fresh bouquet of pink peonies from Alex's garden. That Wednesday, June 3, the evening was enhanced by the Chicago Blackhawks fighting back in the 3rd period of play to beat the Tampa Bay Lightning at home with four minutes left with a 2 to 1 to win to take the 1st game of the Stanley Cup Championship!

Congratulations to Brother **Ted Wiecek** who is retiring at the end of June as a High School Math Teacher in the Chicago Public School System after working for a gazillion years!

On June 4, the Warsaw Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International presented its 4th Annual Thursday King's Dinner fundraising event in the beautiful setting at the Sheridan Shores Yacht Club in Wilmette Harbor on Lake Michigan. This event paid tribute to the historic "Thursday Dinners" hosted by King Stanislaw August Poniatowski for prominent politicians, artists, writers and thinkers of his time. Chicago foodies had a unique opportunity to dine on a feast by top Polish-American chefs including Michael Lachowicz of restaurant Michael in Winnetka, Art Wnorowski of Lokal in Chicago, Don Zajac of Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville, plus Tom Rybinski and Basia Brown of the TV culinary series "Poland on a Plate." Welcoming guests were lovely young ladies and handsome young men, who were dressed as Polish royalty from the days of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski.

As you entered the dining room was Brother President **Ted Makarewicz**, Chairman of this event, who handed you a shot of vodka and bread dipped in salt. Cocktail hour followed as about 150 guests mixed and mingled on the patio deck overlooking Lake Michigan and the Harbor. King's Dinner guests were treated with an incredible nine-course tasting menu, wine pairing and specialty cocktails. A sample of the menu featured lobster mascarpone pierogi, salmon pierogi by chefs Tom

— Continued on Page 5 —

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PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY 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: Adam Konopka
Address: 8045 N Ozark Ave.
Niles, IL 60714
Phone: (312) 762-9540
Occupation: Attorney, Dowd & Dowd
Birth date: May 11, 1984
Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois
Education: B.S. Michigan State University; J.D. DePaul University
Sponsors: Brothers Bernard Pacyniak and Krzysztof Zadlo

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

- 4 Jan Plachta
- 6 William Kolodziej
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Adam Augustynski
- 16 Stanley Jendzejec
- 17 Krzysztof Kielczewski
- 20 Bernard Pacyniak
- 25 Michael Dropka
- 28 Donald Versen

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ANNUAL FAMILY AND FRIENDS PICNIC

Brother **Peter Dykas**, chairman of the Chicago Society's Annual Family and Friends Picnic, has selected Sunday, August 16, 2015, for our picnic date. We are having it at the same location as the past few years in Busse Woods on Higgins northwest of Arlington Heights Road.

This year we will have a traditional Good Ole American Style Picnic with lots of food and drink and games for the children and adults. For the menu, we will have: hot dogs, burgers, brats, sausages, watermelon, coleslaw, potato salad, and corn on the cob. Libations will include beer, wine, harder spirits, water, soda, and juices. Ice cream and sweets for desert.

As always we will have raffle prizes to win. Top prize is 3 tickets to a Cubs game for this year. We are seeking other prizes for our raffle as well. This will be greatly appreciated. There will be plenty things to do. We are seeking hidden talents of our members and of their families. We have a lot to offer and showcase to all of us. Did you know we have musicians among us? Did you know some of our members children play guitar? So come on out. Bring your violin, or guitar or accordion. Play a few tunes for us. Want to show off your classic car? Please bring it over. We will be trying to do our own car show. It even includes your bikes. Do we have any painters among us? Looking for someone to paint faces for the kids and even adults.

Worried about the weather. Don't be. We have a covered picnic shelter. Worried about going to the bathrooms? Don't fret. There is a bathroom building right on the other side of the parking spaces. We will have something special for the women and something special for the men.

Come one, Come all. The picnic starts

at 11:00 a.m. and goes till sunset. The raffle will occur around 5:00 p.m. Let's have fun together.

Please contact Brother Pete at (312) 493-3046 for reservations and raffle prize donations.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **John Teschky**, who is celebrating his 35th anniversary, inducted in June, 1980, Brother **Gerhard Kaes**, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary, inducted in June, 1990, and Brother **Frederick Koziol**, who is celebrating his 15th anniversary, inducted in June, 2000.



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
President

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2ND PLACE ESSAY — 2015 CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

BY DAMIAN OPIOLA

In my family, I have three relatives that survived the atrocities and brutality of World War II. They are my great-grandfather (who is the paternal grandfather of my father), my great-grandmother (who is the maternal grandmother of my mother), and another great-grandfather who is the maternal grandfather of my mother as well. From the stories that my mother and great-grandparents have told me, I know a bit of history about how the conditions were and how life was like during World War II. Whenever I come and visit Poland, I listen to these stories with great ardor, curiosity, and passion for anything that is affiliated with or about war provokes my attention and interests me greatly, especially about the people whom I love very dearly and have survived and endured World War II. Those relatives, in particular, all talked about the oppressing and difficult times that were contemporary with the war and how they had to obnubilate and constantly hide themselves amongst bushes, shrubs, and forests for fear and anticipation of impending danger and enemy troops.

Also, they frequently enounced about how they had to work for long and umpteen hours and do cumbersome, tedious, and arduous tasks for meager and the most minute modicums of food, let alone a loaf of bread (which, given the condition and position they were in, would have been a privilege to have). Nevertheless, I think the most interesting story told was by my grandfather (maternal side), who now is 90 years old. The stage was set; it was the year 1943, and my great-grandfather's parents (or my great-great grandparents) have now passed away and traversed the fine boundary from what is reality and beyond (i.e., heaven). My great-grandfather's mother died when he was only at the age of five years old and so couldn't even remember or know anything about her (for he was still in the nascent stage of life), whereas his father passed away when he was at the youthful and auspicious age of only 9 years. The thing that stuck with him and that was subconsciously moored into his mind was the sound of her voice. From that point on in his life and having no family members or relatives to tend and care for him, he worked and toiled long hours for others (almost as if he was enslaved) and was "indentured" in lieu and exchange of having a place to sleep at and just barely getting by in life. Also, by

the time the outbreak of World War II came about, my great-grandfather was only at the juvenescent age of 14 years.

During that year, my great-grandfather was sitting in the kitchen of his home when he abruptly and unprecedentedly heard an unusual voice that was whispering, "Run away." Having heard this eccentric voice, my great-grandfather did nothing of it and thought to himself that maybe he had overheard someone or was "hearing" things. Before long, that same voice whispered "Run away," albeit this time in a bit louder and salient tone; nevertheless, my great-grandfather thought that this was absurd and inane and that there was no such voice for he was the only person present in his home. He then proceeded to continue on eating his breakfast and while he was doing so, that same voice loudly yelled "Run away!" for the last time. At that very moment, he leaped off his chair and quickly looked out the window, only to see the Russian infantry and troops heading in the direction of his home. At this point, he didn't really have any choice or option but to quickly run away and lie doggo [out of sight] and given that there wasn't much time left, he decided to ensconce and hide himself amongst some tall flowers that were directly adjacent to and that grew next to his home, where he sat quiescently in fear of being discovered or found by the soldiers. He was lucky for the dogs that accompanied the soldiers that were searching for him lost their sense of smell when they were by the flowers. He was also very fortunate for in some way, he came out unscathed and alive from that predicament he was in.

Also, my great-grandfather later identified and recognized that mysterious voice as being that of his late mother, who looked and cared after him from heaven and saved him from being captured by the Russian soldiers (he still lives to tell the story to this day.)

Knowing all of this and how my great-grandfather miraculously survived because of how his mother posthumously and uncannily intervened to save him all the way from heaven, this is easily and by far my favorite story that my great-grandfather has told me and a story that I will tell to my children, and that will be told for many generations to come.

AROUND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Rybinski and Basia Brown, arugula with grilled peaches, goat cheese and prosciutto and roast pork belly by Chef Don Zajac, grilled quail and American kobe and bison sliders by Chef Artur Wnorowski, duo of angus beef rib and foie gras ravioli and roast onglet of beef by Chef Michael Lachowicz, and for desert was an assortment of petite patisseries by Pastry Chef Bogna Solak from Oak Mill Bakery.

Pawel Pietrasinski Minister Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C., was honored at this special event. Seen in attendance were Brothers **Ted Makarewicz**, Chairman of the event, Brother **Peter** and Agnes **Dykas**, who were celebrating an early wedding anniversary dinner, Brother **Dean Niedospial**, Brother **Les Sraga**, Brother **Stanley** and Barbara **Stawski**, who brought a lot of his products to taste, Brother **Wojtek Putz** and Brother **Frank Spula**. It was truly a dinner "Fit for a King!"

FOUNDATION MEETING

The next quarterly meeting of the Chicago Society Foundation will be held on Monday, July 27, 2015, at LaVilla Restaurant in Chicago. Please call Brother **Mark Orwat**, Chicago Society Foundation Secretary at 773-502-6969 for grant request information.

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