



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 71

February 2020

NUMBER 2

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

February General Meeting
Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant

6:00 pm

RSVP

by February 16 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or (847) 635-0883 or

www.chicagosocietypna.org

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Śledź

Lone Tree Manor

Cocktails at 6:00pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

RSVP

sledz@chicagosocietypna.org

or, www.chicagosocietypna.org/sledz

Monday, March 2, 2020

February Board Meeting
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub

Park Ridge - 6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Constitution Day Parade

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Labor of Love Fundraiser

February 2020 Meeting Speaker

Adam Konopka

We are pleased to announce that our speaker for the February general meeting will be Anita Pindiur of the **Way Back Inn and Grateful House**. Established in 1974 and 1958, respectively, prior to their merger in 2002, the organization was recently recognized with a grant from the Chicago Society Foundation to help them continue their important work. Licensed by the State of Illinois, the organization strives



to rebuild lives damaged by addiction by creating an environment of transformation and healing. They offer Polish speaking programs, a veterans program, a gambling disorder program and many others to help heal relationships and communities. Please join me in welcoming Anita to our meeting as she shares more about the mission of her organization and provides information on how to support it and how to support those that may need its services. For more information go to www.thewaybackinn.org or follow them on Twitter @thewaybackinn.

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Evening of Elegance Recap

Chris Grzadziel

The Chicago Society 2020 Evening of Elegance was held on January 25th at Fountain Blue, Des Plaines, IL. This year we were celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Chicago Society Foundation. The co-chair for this event was Peter Dykas.

The event started at 6 pm with an open bar and Hors d'oeuvres which included Crispy Chicken Bites, Tenderloin of Beef Meatballs, Vegetarian Egg Rolls and Cucumber Rounds with Salmon Mousse. Prior to dinner, the program started with the playing of the national anthem of the Republic of Poland and the United States of America. After a welcome speech by the EoE chairman, the 2019 Chicago Society St Joseph provided the invocation.

Dinner started with Cream of Mushroom Soup and Chef's Tossed Cucumber Salad. Guests then had an entrée option of Char Broiled New York Strip, Chicken Lemon Basil, Seared Salmon with Lemon Butter or Mediterranean Purse – Vegetarian. The entrée included Herb Red Roasted Potatoes, Haricots Verts and Julienned Carrots. For dessert, guests were served Vanilla Bean Gelato.

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CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Dear Brother Members,

Please take a moment of silence for **Brother Ron Olech** and past member **Jerome Mytych**, both recently passed away in January. May they rest in Peace and may eternal light shine upon them, thank you.

The ground hog has made his prediction for 6 more weeks of winter. Well that gives us a reason to stay indoors and to enjoy a dinner and dancing at our annual Society Sledz event. 2020's Chairman **Brother Anthony Kawalkowski** is working hard to make it even better than last year. The Dixie Land Band will be back to play four hours this year. A five course dinner will be provided in addition to a raffle with great prizes. Did I mention the Pageant? You have to see it for yourself! This is our Polish Mardi Gras; so come with your wife, your family and friends. All this is happening less than a month after our very successful Evening of Elegance.

A big *thank you* goes out to our **Brother Chris Grzadziel** and his wife Kasia for setting this all up. Additional thanks to my wife Agnes, for all her hard work, and also to **Brother Anthony Kawalkowski** for donating his musical talents. Thank you all! I also want to thank the Directors and Officers of the Society, our members in attendance, and to our sponsors in the program book. Thank you for your support.

Special appreciation for **Brother John Wasilewski** who delivered the oath of office; it was very touching for me. Regarding attendance, I had hoped more members would have participated in our Evening of Elegance. Brother Chris asked me after last year's Inaugural Ball how can we get more members to attend, so I said let's try to fill their requests from the survey. It helped slightly as we had an increase from last year.

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February 2020 Meeting Speaker (continued)

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February , 2020 at at Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant, 9200 W Cermak Rd, Broadview, IL 60155. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please contact **Brother Ro Matuszczak** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call (847) 635-0883 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider asking your wife or accountant for a few extra dollars to purchase \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets. Based on a resolution voted in by the Officers and Directors, all proceeds from the raffles will be placed into a special Youth Fund.

2020 Chicago Society Golf Outing

The Chicago Society Golf Outing will take place at Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, IL (<https://www.golfgleneagles.com/>) on July 10, 2020. The forecast as of printing of this forum is a perfect 75 degrees and sunny. Cost per golfer (including a lunch at registration, golf, beverages from registration through dinner and the dinner reception) is \$150 per golfer. Tee signs are available for \$100 with other sponsorships available. Please spread the word and plan on joining us as we work to support the youth of Polonia. If you are a non-golfer but are available to help with the event on the day of, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. If you have anything you can contribute to the event or contacts that might be able to help, please contact me immediately akonopka@dowdanddowd.com. Lets make this a success for our organization and Polonia!

February Birthdays

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

01	Francis Gembala	07	Raymond Golenia
03	Richard W Wiermanski	23	Terrance L Przybylski
04	Jon Osada	28	William B Sawicki
04	Edmund Gronkiewicz		

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.

George Tolczyk

Address: 612 Austin Ave, Park Ridge **Phone:** 847-384-1870

Occupation: CFO, Zion School District 6

Birth Date: October 8, 1972 **Birthplace:** Chicago

Hobbies: Golf, Billiards, Swimming, Biking

Sponsors: Brothers Adam Konopka and Peter Dykas

February Anniversaries

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following Brothers on their anniversary of being inducted into the Chicago Society.

Brother William B Drozd
is celebrating his
15th Anniversary.

Thank you for your loyal
membership & **STO LAT!**

Labor of Love Donation

Adam Konopka

The Board was recently made aware of two Polish sisters, Olivia and Sara who have been forced to live on their own following the sudden and tragic death of their single, immigrant mother following a two month battle with cancer. Their absent father, while alive, has been and remains permanently out of their lives out of concerns for their own safety. Since the mother's passing, the girls have endeavored to take care of themselves with contributions from their community aka "Fairy Godparents." However, it is clear that the needs of the sisters exceed what the community is able to provide and the Park Ridge Newcomer Club has made them the focus of their annual philanthropic event called the Labor of Love, which will be held on Saturday May 9, 2020. (<https://www.parkridgenewcomersclub.org/Labor-of-Love>) The event proceeds will be distributed to a trust created for their benefit and administered by a corporate trustee to be used to address expenses for housing, education and the girls' basic needs.



Moved by the tragedy they faced, the strength they have shown, and the acts of kindness shown by the community via "Fairy Godparents," I am proud to announce the Chicago Society Board voted unanimously at the February meeting to donate \$1,000 from the Youth Fund in order to help fund the trust to support these girls. Somewhere in all of our stories there was a mom, dad or both who took the leap of faith to travel to a new country in order to provide a better life for their families. We are proud and thankful to be able to support this cause, which will help keep that same dream alive for these girls as they look to establish themselves with the help of Polonia.

Let's make the Sledz a big success along with the May 2nd Polish Constitution Day Pre Parade Brunch, **Chairman Zenon Kurdziel**, by attending. We have had really good numbers from outside groups and individuals to attend, why not join them and rub elbows with some dignitaries, or just grab a picture with someone.

This month, we will be able to support 2 organizations from our Youth Fund. We will be donating to the Polish Cub Scouts, boys division, where we will be sponsoring their dodgeball tournament, and an organization called the Park Ridge Newcomer Club (PRNC) that will be holding an event called a Labor of Love on Saturday, May 9, 2020 to benefit 2 young ladies. The funds raised will help 2 young Polish girls who lost their mom to cancer and don't have a father. This event is called the Labor of Love.

One final update, please welcome our new Editor of the Forum, **Brother Ted Kozelka**. As **Brother Grza-dziel** finished his 2 years in that capacity and as he works toward higher education, he informed us that he will not be able to be our Publications Director. See everyone soon at one of our events and meetings.

Sincerely,

Peter Dykas



Continued

President of The Chicago Society PNA.

Evening of Elegance Recap, *Continued*

After dinner the program continued with **Brother Peter Dykas** introducing the Chicago Society Foundation. **Brother Ted Makarewicz**, Foundation President, spoke on behalf of the Foundation and invited representatives of the Way Back Inn and Polish Scouting Organization to provide information on how the grants helped their organization.

The program continued with the induction of the 2020 officers and directors. Presiding over the induction was the Honorable John A. Wasilewski. After the induction, Brother Peter Dykas, 2020 President, spoke to the guests. The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra provided wonderful dancing music for the rest of the evening.

Some of the dignitaries in attendance were:

Ms. Agata Czarnota - Vice Consul General of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Frank Spula – President of the Polish National Alliance

Ms. Alicia Kuklinska – National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance

Mr. Michael Niedzinski – President of the Polish American Congress Illinois Division

Mrs. Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz – Vice President of the Polish American Congress Illinois Division

Ms. Kathy Lesny Evans – President of the Legion of Young Polish Women

Ms. Pauline Kulka – 1st Vice President of the Legion of Young Polish Women

Mrs. Beata Niebrugge – Chairperson of the board of the Polish Scouting Organization – Illinois Division

Mr. Robert “Rocky” Nowaczyk – Past President – Polish American Police Association

Mr. Ron “Topper” Topczewski – President Emeritus – Polish American Police Association

Mrs. Maria Ciesla – President Emeritus of the Polish Museum of America

Ms. Virginia Cudecki & Ms Sharon Orlowski – Board of Directors for the Polish Museum of America

Mr. Mario Mikoda – President of the Copernicus Center

Mr. Dan Patlak – Commissioner Cook County Board of Review

Justice Jesse Reyes - Illinois Appellate Court, First District



The program book for the 2020 Evening of Elegance can be viewed on the Chicago Society website at:

www.chicagosocietypna.org/2020-program-book.

Pictures from the event are also on the Chicago Society website.

Thank you to all who attended. This year the Evening of Elegance drew 70 guests. It would have been nice to have more member participation. Regardless, the evening was very pleasant. A great thank you to **Tony Kawalkowski** for donating his time for both dinner and dancing music. I would like to thank my wife Kasia, and Peter and Agnieszka Dykas for all their help in planning, preparing and executing for this event.



James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge 1450 of the PNA, announces that it will again be funding up to three \$7,000 scholarships through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate, or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through February 15, 2020. Selections will be made in April 2020 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates, and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements can be found on the Chicago Society's website at www.chicagosocietypna.org/foundation-kulze-scholarship.

Please email **Brother Walter M. Piecewicz** for further information at wpiecewicz@immaculaw.com.

CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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