

The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 69 FEBRUARY 2018 NUMBER 2

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday February 13, 2018

Śledź - Mardi Gras Dinner & Pageant White Eagle - 6:00 pm

Tuesday February 20, 2018

Casino Day
White Eagle Banquets
1:30pm to midnight

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

February General Meeting
Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant
6:00 pm
RESERVATIONS
by February 19 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or (773) 444-0744 or

https://www.chicagosocietypna.org

Monday, March 5, 2018

March Board Meeting

PNA Home Office 6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Thursday March 15, 2018
Candidates Corned Beef Dinner
More info to come

February 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

Our speaker for the February General Meeting will be our **Brother Brian A. Bernardoni**, a 2010 Jerome Holtzman award recipient. Called "one of the great experts on Wrigley Field" by Chicago Cubs owner and Chairman Tom Rickets; a son of the southwest side of Chicago, and the grandson of a woman who was a pioneer and champion in 16 inch softball, Brian Bernardoni is a noted Chicago Cub/Wrigley Field historian, archivist and life-long Cub fan.



In 2018 Brian A. Bernardoni enters his twenty first year as a Wrigley Field Ambassador Guide. He is a native Chicagoan and is widely recognized and highly regarded as an expert on the West Side Grounds and Wrigley Field; the ballparks of the Chicago Cubs.

Brian along with his colleague, Chicago Police Officer Michael Reischl

Continued on page 3

2018 Śledź

Chairmen Brothers **Ted Makarewicz** and **Mark Orwat** cordially invite you to attend the 2018 Annual Chicago Society Śledź on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at White Eagle Events and Convention Center, 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles IL 60714. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 pm with dinner being served at 7:00 pm. Dinner will feature



herring in cream sauce, salad, pasta, baked New England cod and chicken breast marsala, wine, coffee, tea & pączki. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2018. The gentleman selected acts as our chaplain at Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. This festive event is open to members, family, relatives, and guests. The celebration of Śledź is the Chicago Society's version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries. It is a celebration of carnival, or Mardi Gras—the period immediately preceding Lent. Following our pageant will be a cash bar and raffle with prizes. The cost is \$40 per adult and \$15 per child. To RSVP, visit the Śledź page at https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/sledz on the Chicago Society website or contact **Ted Makarewicz** at 847-456-0717 or hogski@hotmail.com.



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 Brothers,

As I settle into my second year of service, things are far less intimidating. I hope with a better knowledge of the history and



predilections of this venerable institution I can be more effective in my leadership.

Our Inaugural Ball was held on January 27th at Victoria in the Park. It was a great evening. For those brothers who attended, thank you for your support. For those of you who did not, some pictures of the festivities will be posted on our website soon. Special thanks are due to Judge John Wasilewski (Ret.) for administering the oath of office to incoming officers. Congratulations to Brother Makarewicz for being named our honoree. He delivered a very inspiring speech. As usual, special thanks are due to Brother Matuszczak and his lovely wife, Chris, for their hard work in making the evening a great success.

So far in 2018, membership maintenance continues to be a persistent problem. We replaced in January four members we removed for dues non-payment. We lost one member in February and we received one application. We are not meeting the growth goals I shared with you after the November general meeting. The passage of time is not going to ameliorate our continued revenue problem. If I am sounding like a broken record, I apologize. However, since it is the season for state of the union speeches, I feel it is incumbent on me to share that membership benefits and other costs of existing policies are outpacing revenue. If we do not have a significant influx of new members this year, policies and traditions will have to be changed. Please recommend the Chicago Society to your friends, family and business colleagues. Suggest they join as members. Our organization will be revitalized, past practices will be preserved, and you will be free of further lectures from me.

Exciting news about membership-a comprehensive written repository of all things Chicago Society is available. Thanks to Brother Grzadziel, we have a membership roster updated through mid-January, 2018. It was compiled into a booklet along with copies of our updated Constitution and By-laws along with other handy information about our organization. Copies are available for \$8.00. Please see Brother Grzadziel.

Further good news is anticipated soon. I am working with the President of Polish American Congress to create a comprehensive calendar for recording the event dates for all Polish organizations. More news will be available shortly on this subject. Stay tuned.

Our next meeting will be on February 21st at Sawa's Old Warsaw in Broadview. Please come out to enjoy a change of scenery and to support our South-side brothers. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Steven Rakowski

Continued from page 1

February 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

and the "Way Out of Left Field Society" coordinated efforts with the Illinois Medical District and the Illinois State Historical Society to place a historic marker at the location of the West Side Grounds, where the Chicago Cubs played (1885 -1915). Their effort, featured on WLS-TV's "190 North" and in the film "We Believe" as well as a number of books brought much attention to a lost Chicago ballpark.

His expertise of the history of Wrigley has granted him unique opportunities. He successfully testified on behalf of the Chicago Cubs on land marking and signage matters before the Chicago Landmarks Commission and the Chicago City Council Committee on Buildings. He is called upon by Chicago Cubs ownership on various matters on the history of the ballpark and events that have taken place on its site.

He is a member of the Emil Verban Society (The Washington DC Chapter of the Chicago Cubs Fan Club), the Emil Rothe Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Researchers (SABR), the Ballparks Committee and the Old Timer's Baseball Association of Chicago of which he was the 2008 "Old Timer of the Year."

He has also served on the Advisory Board of the Mordecai "Three-Finger" Brown Society, Little Cubs Park in Freeport, Illinois and the Chicago Baseball Museum; where he also served on the Board. For these efforts and contributions to Chicago baseball history, Brian was awarded in 2010 with the Pitch and Hit Club of Chicago's "Jerome Holtzman" Award and was also recognized by the Illinois Medical District Commission for his efforts in preserving baseballs past.

A vigorous researcher he has contributed significantly to several books including Maybe Next Year: Long Suffering Sports Fans and the Teams That Never Deliver, Before the Ivy, Brush Back, The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball, Haunted Baseball, Field of Screams: Haunted Tales from the Baseball Diamond, the Locker Room, and Beyond, Classic Cubs: A Tribute to the Men and Magic of Wrigley Field, Wrigley Field Year by Year: A Century at the Friendly Confines, Hoodoo: Unraveling the 100-Year Mystery of the Chicago Cubs and Living the Dream – An Inside Account of the 2008 Cubs Season. He has presented before SABR; the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Alumni Association and a number of other groups.

His research has also been sought out by writers George Will and Sara Paretsky. His poetry on the Cubs can be found on Bardball.com and he has blogged for MLB Reports. His own book on Wrigley Field is anticipated soon. He is also working with noted baseball researcher Peg Gripshower on her book on Charles Weeghman, the man who built Wrigley Field.

Brian and his efforts to preserve the history of Chicago Cubs ballparks have been featured in two recent films on the Chicago Cubs; "We Believe" and "Chicago Cubs: The Heart & Soul of Chicago." Brian was also a contributor on both films. He has been featured in the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times, Parade Magazine, Sports Illustrated, on CNN Radio, Al-Jazeera America, WGN – TV, WCIU – TV, WLS-TV, WLS-FM, WGN-AM, and Cubs Insider amongst others as a subject and resource on Wrigley Field as well as in the Official Publication of the Chicago Cubs Vineline.

Brian is not only a serious baseball historian but also has played a role in some interesting Cub related events including "Burying the Curse" where he performed a poem in a funeral home with legendary performer Tom Dressen (which can be found at Bardball.com) and a séance in the room where Billy Jurges was shot at the Hotel Carlos; an inspiration for the book and subsequent film "The Natural." As always he is currently involved in secretive esoteric baseball research.

Brian and his wife Carrie are residents in the Chicagoland area and are the parents of four daughters who all reside with his Wrigley Field, Federal League and Chicago Cubs ephemeral. His grandmother Emily Bernardoni nee Kwiatek played 2nd base in softball on the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress team which

2018 Inaugural Ball



On Saturday, January 27, 2018, the Annual Chicago Society Inaugural Ball was held at the elegant Victoria In The Park Banquet facility in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. There were one hundred and thirty attendees. Our honoree was Brother Member Ted Makarewicz who well deserved to be so honored. The program was short. The evening started with Izabela Jarko and Patrick Gawronski singing the Polish and United States Anthems. Chairman Ro Matuszczak welcomed the guests and invited Father Robert Fedek, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish to give the invocation. During dessert, there was a dance presentation by the Polonia Dance Ensemble of the PRCUA. Then came the Honoree /Award to Brother Makarewicz and the Booster Award, also presented to Brother Ted

Makarewicz. Brother Member Judge **John A Wasilewski**, Cook County Judge – Retired, inducted the Officers of the Chicago Society. This followed with **Steve Rakowski** giving the President's address.

During the meal **Tony Kawalkowski** strolled among the diners playing requested songs. The music for the dancers was provided by the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra.

Some of the dignitaries present were Honorable Toni Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board; Hon. Joe Berrios, Cook County Assessor; Marta Zaborska, Advocates Society President; Kristin Kozlowski Lyons, incoming Advocates Society President, Member Martin Obrecki, President of PAPA - Polish American Police Society; Hon. Dan Patlak, Commissioner Tax Board of Review; Member Hon. Robert Martwick, Jr., Illinois State Representative; Hon. William Gogolinski, Circuit Court Judge; Hon. Anthony Iosco, Circuit Court Judge, Retired; Rev. Michael Wyrzykowski, Pastor of Our Lade of Victory Parish; Jonathan Green, Candidate for Cook County Judge; and Hon Robert Martwick, Sr., Norwood Park Township Committeeman. Present at the cocktail hour was the Hon. Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer.

Chairperson **Ro Matuszczak** thanks his wife Chris, Reservation and Reception Chair and our Honoree who unselfishly gave of their time and effort to help make the Inaugural Ball a success. It was a great evening.



More pictures and videos are available on the Chicago Society web site — https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/2018-inaugural-ball

Continued from page 3

February 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

won the first recognized international tournament in the sport. As a result of the success of the tournament, P.K. Wrigley would later found the All-American Girls Baseball League which would play its All-Star Game under lights in 1943 at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

For his service to the team since 1998, Brian was awarded a 2016 World Series Ring by the Chicago Cubs National League Ball Club.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday February 21, 2018 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 **Mario Mikoda** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call (773) 444-0744 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother **Mario Mikoda**. No exceptions! 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.

2018 Chicago Society Dues

Just a reminder that 2018 dues notices were sent out at the end of December. Full payment is to be made by March 1. If you haven't already paid, feel free to bring it to the February meeting, or mail to: Rick Wiermanski, 1906 Holly Ave., Darien, IL 60561. Dues can also be paid online at the Chicago Society website. For those of you that are Senior Members, please remember that your dues are now \$100. Call Brother Rick Wiermanski with any questions at 815-222-3472. For those or you that have already paid, Thank You!

Kulze Scholarships Off and Running

Brother **Walter Piecewicz**, Chairman of the Kulze Scholarship Committee of the Chicago Society Foundation, reports that applications for this first year of scholarship awards have now closed. Many worthy candidates have applied for the three \$7,500 awards, available to college, graduate and professional school students. Jim Kulze, a former President of the Society, was very active in the club, and an ardent supporter of students with financial need. He and his charming wife Lillian were outstanding dancers at the Inaugural Balls too. Through his generous contribution to the Foundation, we will be able to annually fund meaningful scholarship awards far into the future. The full committee will have its hands full to select among the host of outstanding young Polish Americans.

Chicago Society February Casino Day

Our next Casino Day will be on February 20th at the White Eagle. Volunteers are needed for this event. Shifts are 1:30 - 6:30 and 6:30 - midnight. There is no need to know how to play any of the games. The volunteer work is for administrative functions of the event. If you can give a few hours of your time, please contact co-chairmen Brothers **Chuck Cwiakala** or **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or send an e-mail to casinoday@chicagosocietypna.org.

Check Your SPAM

Please check your SPAM folder to make sure the Chicago Society announcements



are not getting trapped. For 2018 the emails will come from cgrzadziel@gmail.com. Each email system will be different but please mark this address as a safe/non-spam address. In some cases, adding this address to your contacts list will also work. Emails with Chicago Society information will be sent a few times a month depending on the events for that month.

Membership Directory Booklet

The membership directory booklet has been published. It is available for purchase for \$8 and will be available at the general meetings. The booklet includes the Chicago Society constitution, bylaws, pledge, and member contact information.

February Birthdays

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

- 01 Francis Gembala
- 03 Richard W Wiermanski
- 04 Jon Osada
- 04 Edmund Gronkiewicz
- 07 Raymond Golenia
- 13 Brian A Bernardoni
- 23 Terrance L Przybylski
- 26 Gregory M Kosin
- 28 William B Sawicki
- 28 Robert Martwick

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: Zygmunt J Dyrkacz Address: 1543 West Division Street Chicago IL 60642 Phone: 773-814-5352 Occupation: Owner and Manager, Chopin Theatre

Birth date: May 21

Birthplace: Kalisz, Poland
Education: Biology degree
Michigan State University
Sponsors: Brothers Thaddeus
Makarewicz and Steve Rakowski



I am humbled and honored to be your Director of Publications for 2018. We are already one month into the new year and we are in full swing with events for the year. There is a full

schedule of events available on the Chicago Society website. Please take a look and consider attending these events.

The Forum and website are tools to provide you information on the activities and news of the Chicago Society. I invite all brothers to submit any and all items they would like to share with the membership. This includes life-events, events you have attended, news about other members, anything you feel might be of interest to your fellow members. Send any information to editor@chicagosocietypna.org.

If you have any photos or videos of Chicago Society events please consider providing them to the webmaster to post on the website. Send an e-mail to webmaster@chicagosocietypns.org to discuss the best way to send them.

Fraternally, Brother Christopher T. Grzadziel, Editor

Chicago Society Foundation

The Chicago Society Foundation had its meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018. After conducting its general business, election of officers was held for the coming year. The following members were nominated and elected: President, **Ted Makarewicz**; Vice President, **Mark Orwat**; Treasurer, **Stan Sawa**, and Secretary, **Richard Ciesla**. The President appointed **Adam Konopka** as Advocate and **Ron Olech** as the Accountant. Before adjournment **Walter Piecewicz**, Scholarship Chairman, discussed the Scholarship Program and the progress being made.

Candidates' Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Save the date... The Chicago Society Annual Candidates' Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner ahead of the Primary Elections will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The co-chairmen Brother **Mark Orwat** and Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** are in the process



of finalizing the venue and costs. As always we will have dinner featuring Harrington's famous corned beef with cabbage, a raffle and plenty of time to network. More information will be sent via an e-mail and will be posted in next month's Forum. Also check the Chicago Society website for current information.

Inducted Into Membership

During the January general meeting four gentlemen were inducted into membership. Inducted into membership were Thomas Gabryszewski, Chester Konopka, David Marutzky, and Chester Slonina. *Witamy!!*





On January 12, 2018, Dominik Alexander Cain was born in Madison, WI. He is the Grandson of Brother **Richard (Rick) W. Wiermanski** (our Financial Secretary), and the Great Grandson of Brother **Richard (Dick) M. Wiermanski** (our member of 60 years).

Get well wishes go out to Brother **Zenon Olejniczak** as he recovers from triple bypass surgery.

Our sympathies go to the Kuk family on the passing of long time Chicago Society member Edward Kuk. The funeral was held on Saturday, January 20, 2018. May he rest in peace.

Tyler C. Matuszczak, 17 year old grandson of **Ro** and Chris **Matuszczak**, was honored by the Hoffman Estates Village Board on January 15, 2018 with a Citizen Lifesaving Award. On November 12, 2017 Tyler was leaving his home in Hoffman Estates when he saw his neighbor collapsed on his driveway. Tyler immediately alerted the neighbor's wife and administered CPR to the victim until paramedics arrived. At the presentation, the daughter of the victim thanked Tyler publicly and stated, "... you gave us our dad back." Tyler is a student at Fremd High School and an Eagle Scout. Congratulations to Tyler for a job well done.

Better late then never... December 9th, 2017. Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski** and his Orchestra presented his annual **'Unwrap Christmas' Concert** at the Copernicus Center. The Chicago Society Foundation was one of the proud sponsors of this event. The evening featured Polish, German, Latin, Irish as well as English Christmas songs to the delight of nearly a full house. Singers and dancers of all ages helped **Brother Tony** create this magical evening. Among the performers were Wayne Messmer, who lent his amazing voice to this musical, and the Saint Andrew School Choir and others. This year's concert featured a 38-piece orchestra including 7 vocalists and a 50-member children's choir. The music is accompanied by a backdrop of compelling visuals and video, and several dramatic presentations, including a reenactment of the Nativity scene. Spotted amongst the crowd were Brother President **Steve Rakowski**, Brother **Christopher** and Kasia **Grzadziel**, Brother **Walter** and Anne **Piecewicz**, and Brother **Peter** and Agnes **Dykas** and many more. This wonderful production demonstrates Tony's hard work and dedication. We look forward to future outstanding shows. Great Job!!

Sunday January 14th, 2018. The new year started out with a continuation of the old year. AMOPOD (AMericans Of POlish Descent) held their 27th Annual "Wieczór Kolęd" at the Sheridan Yacht Club in Wilmette overlooking Lake Michigan and the Baha'i Temple. This year's event was hosted by Alexander Danel and Brother Peter and Agnes Dykas and were guests of Roman Poplawski. Among those in attendance were our own Brother President Steve Rakowski, Brother Christopher and Kasia Grzadziel, Brother Adam and Amanda Konopka with their little one and both parents which includes newly inducted Brother Chester Konopka, and Brother Wojciech Putz. Wojciech Putz who as President of Chicago Chopin Foundation, was presented a check gift from AMOPOD from last years profits to continue their work in the Polish Music. The evening was a continuation of the holiday season as it is celebrated in Poland with singing carols in both Polish and English, cocktail hour, dinner and the Bethlehem Peace Light presented by the Polish Scouting

Organization's Druhna Lucia Bucki and Druhna Basia Chalko. Dinner was catered by Kasia's Deli, deli meat and cheeses from our own Brother **Bill Wojcik** and Laramie Deli and pastries from Delightful Pastries. All had a blast and no one went home hungry or thirsty. Keep an eye out for this again in early 2019.

Bení Cwiakala, granddaughter of Brother **Chuck** and Teresa **Cwiakala**, is a top 40 contestant on Gordon Ramsay's "MasterChef Junior - Season Six" television show. The all-new season of the popular culinary competition series debuts with a special two-hour premiere Friday, March 2nd (8:00-10:00 PM Eastern Time /Pacific Time) on the Fox Channel.

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