



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Now in Our Second Century of Service

VOLUME 75

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NUMBER 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

General Meeting

Rocco Vino's Restaurant,
4747 N. Harlem Ave.,
Harwood Heights, IL

Call to Order: 7 p.m.

Reservations:

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

(Reservations needed
by Monday, April 17)

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Pre-Parade Brunch &
Constitution Day
Parade—see
schedule on page 6

Dear Chicago Society Members and Friends:

Welcome to April—first and foremost, I hope you and your families had a blessed Easter.

As we wrap up the first quarter of the year. I want to reflect on all that has been happening in the Chicago Society. In January, we had our annual Evening of Elegance event, which had a far better turnout than we have had in many years. At this event, we presented the first Ro Matuszczak Member of the Year Award to the very deserving Rich Ciesla. I hope all of you will mark your calendars for this event for next year!

In a quick turnaround after the Evening of Elegance, we combined our February general meeting with the pre-Lenten Sledz event. The turnout was very good for this, too—we had walk-ins and had to set up extra tables! During that meeting, we inducted the Society's first-ever woman member, Marta Almodovar. Not to be outdone, during the well-attended March meeting, we inducted four more women into the Society—Darlene Feret Czaja, Renee A. Robinson, Beata Baranska and Agnieszka Bastryk.

For the April general meeting, we will try a new location that was recommended by one of our members (listed at left)—please come out and try this new venue with us. We will have a speaker at this meeting, Brother Andy Haszlakiewicz, who will discuss a new book he is publishing: "Madness of the XX Century."

Our next major event is the Pre-Parade Brunch at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago on Saturday, May 6. The reception starts at 8 a.m., and brunch will be served at 8:45 a.m.

During the brunch, the Chicago Society Foundation will be presenting this year's scholarships. Invitations have been sent, but if you have any questions, please reach out to Zenon Kurdziel, the chairman of the event. After the brunch, please join us at the parade. We have a spot in it, and we are working on getting a trolley as our entry. More information will be provided once the order of the parade has been announced.

Also in the works is our annual summer golf outing. This year, we have a little wrinkle in our plans, as the venue we have used for the past several years has closed. We are now looking for a new venue—and we will provide more information when it's available.

Chris Grzadziel President, Chicago Society PNA



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April Forum Highlights

- ◆ Four More Women Join Chicago Society!
- ◆ Polish Exhibit Begins at History Museum May 20
- ◆ Parade’s Theme: ‘Partnership for Peace’
- ◆ Calendar of Events Set for Polish Constitution Day

Also in this edition:

—Polish Parliament passes a resolution denouncing recent attacks on Pope St. John Paul II

—Poland still importing LP gas from Russia, despite the war in Ukraine

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A NEW SECRETARY AND A DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2023—IF YOU CAN HELP OUT, PLEASE LET THE PRESIDENT OR ANY OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS KNOW!

Remember the Chicago Society’s address:

**Chicago Society PNA, Lodge #1450
333 Busse Highway, #973
Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285**

Save the Date—PRCUA’s 150th Anniversary is October 1st

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America will mark its 150th anniversary with a special gala event on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at Drury Lane Theatre and Events, at Roosevelt Road and Butterfield Road in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. More information on this event will soon be available at the organization’s website: www.prcua.org/anniversary.

Established in Chicago in 1873 by two Polish immigrant priests, Rev. Teodor Gieryk and Rev. Wincenty Barzynski, CR, the PRCUA is the largest Polish Roman Catholic fraternal benefit society, with nearly 50,000 members nationwide, selling life insurance and annuities, and providing many cultural and educational programs, and opportunities for spiritual growth.

“Back Home: Polish Chicago” Opening at Chicago History Museum on May 20

An exhibit spotlighting Chicago’s Polish community from the mid-1800’s until the present day will open at the Chicago History Museum starting on Saturday, May 20. “Back Home: Polish Chicago” will give attendees the chance to experience the journeys that Polish immigrants have taken to get to the city over the years, the ways they have established themselves in various neighborhoods, and the duality of feeling a deep connection to two places at once.

Members of the Chicago History Museum will get the chance to see a special preview of the exhibit on Wednesday, May 17 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., followed by a reception.

“Back Home: Polish Chicago” will feature more than 90 artifacts and documents, as well as more than 100 reproduced photographs, to help tell the stories of Chicago’s vibrant Polish communities. Visitors will get to explore personal narratives, music and community involvement, as well as art installations from five local artists of Polish heritage. The exhibition is a collaborative effort with the Polish History Museum in Warsaw, the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, and the Loyola University Polish Studies Program.

The Chicago History Museum is located at 1601 N. Clark St. (corner of North Avenue) in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Guided tours are available for groups of 10 or more, and admission is always free for persons who are members of the museum. For ticket prices and other information, please visit: chicagohistory.org/group tours.



Ladies' First: Four More Women Join Chicago Society at Our March Meeting!

Just a month after Chicago Society PNA Lodge 1450 inducted its first-ever female member, four more women were inducted at the March meeting, held at Lone Tree Manor in Niles. Officially sworn in at that meeting were: Renee A. Robinson, a daughter of the late Ro Matuszczak; Darlene Feret Czaja, wife of member Frank Czaja; Beata Baranska, wife of member Bill Sufranski; and Agnieszka Bastrzyk. They now join Marta Almodovar, sworn in at the February meeting, as full members. The men of the Chicago Society voted late in 2022 to change gender-specific language in the organization's constitution and by-laws, which had limited membership to men for over a century.

PAPA to Honor 7 Policemen, 2 Civilians As Persons of the Year at Its Award Banquet

The Polish American Police Association (PAPA) will honor seven local police officers as Law Enforcement Persons of the Year, and also two Civilian Persons of the Year, at its 57th annual awards banquet on Friday, May 5 at Allegra Banquets, 5035 N. River Rd., Schiller Park. Cocktail hour starts at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m.

The Honorable Michael Chmiel, Chief Judge of McHenry County, Ill., will be the keynote speaker at the event, which is part of a week of activities throughout the Chicago area marking the celebration of Polish Constitution Day.

Police officers to be honored as Law Enforcement Persons of the Year at the banquet are: Sheriff James Mendrick of DuPage County; Sheriff Robb Tadelman of McHenry County; Chief Frank Kaminski of the Park Ridge Police Department; Chief Kevin Licko of the Lisle Police Department; Deputy Chief Chad Roszkowiak of the Libertyville Police Department; Deputy Chief Reed Foltyniewicz of the Oak Brook Police Department; and Deputy Chief Paul Klimek of the Countryside Police Department.

Also to be honored at the event as Civilian Persons of the Year are Dr. Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs; and Andrzej Brach, a photographer for local Polish-American media. Tickets are \$100 each, and must be ordered by Monday, April 24; tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the event. Forms for ticket purchase are available at the website: events@polampolice.org.

These 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. Please note that anyone not paying dues by May 1 is suspended and unable to take part in meetings or other activities, or vote on any proposals.

Joseph Bauerle
John Domagalski
Walter Kazmierczak

Chris Laskowski
Robert Michalak
Ron Osioł

Lt. Col. Adamczyk Is Parade's Grand Marshal; 'Partnership for Peace' Is Its Theme

"The Polish American Partnership for Peace" is the official theme for the 2023 Polish Constitution Day Parade, to be held on Saturday, May 6, on Columbus Drive in downtown Chicago, with Lt. Colonel Andrew Adamczyk of Springfield, Ill., serving as Grand Marshal. He has served in the Army since 1995. The Vice Marshal is James Robaczewski, president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (and a member of the Chicago Society). The parade will highlight the 30th anniversary of a partnership between the Illinois National Guard and the military of Poland. Major General Richard R. Neely has also been chosen as a "Friend of Polonia."

Also presiding over the parade will be Marianna Mosh, a 17-year-old student at Taft High School in Chicago, who was chosen as Parade Queen from among a dozen contestants in March. She and her family live on Chicago's Northwest Side. She was also chosen as Miss Congeniality at the Queen's Pageant. Among the other contestants were first runner-up Carolina Wozniczka; second runner-up Victoria Czarnik, and Claudia Walkosz, who was chosen as Miss Photogenic. All 12 young ladies who competed at the Queen's Pageant will also be on the float at the parade on May 6.

Officer Seija, 7 Others in K of C Police Council Receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

Chicago Police Officer Thomas Seija, president of the Polish American Police Association and a member of the Chicago Society PNA, was among eight officers who received a Lifetime Achievement in Law Enforcement Award at the 25th Annual Gala Dinner of Knights of Columbus Police Council #12173, held March 25 at Carlisle Banquets in Lombard.

Also receiving this award were CPD Officers Sgt. James T. Calvino, Sgt. Paul Zugg, Frank DiMaria (retired), Kenneth A. Hauser (retired) and Rick Caballero (retired); Timothy Schaefer of the Lincolnwood Police Dept.; and Sgt. Daniel A. Kearns of the Park Ridge Police Dept.

Also, retired Chicago P.D. Sgt. Robert Fuggitti was honored as the council's 2023 Man of the Year; and the council Deputy Grand Knight, Kenneth J. Malowski of the Burr Ridge P.D., the chairman of the Survivors Organization, was named Humanitarian of the Year. The police council, named for St. Michael the Archangel, patron saint of police, is based in Chicago and has about 155 members.

Combination Polish/Mexican Celebration Planned in Willow Springs on April 30

Everyone is invited to attend a musical celebration honoring both Polish Constitution Day and the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo on Sunday, April 30 in southwest suburban Willow Springs. The event will be held at Royalty West Banquets, 8675 S. Archer Ave. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m., and there will be music and dancing from 2 to 6 p.m., with the Polka Family Band performing, and both Polish and Mexican music featured. The price to attend is \$18, which is payable at the door; children 12 and under will be admitted free. Food and drinks will also be available for purchase. The event is hosted by Bel-Aire Enterprises.

Events About to Start in Earnest for Polish Constitution Day in Chicago

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 events connected to the parade which are still upcoming:

Saturday, April 15—Deadline for submissions to the Parade Art Contest. Make submissions to May 3rd Parade Committee, 5835 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60639, or to: konkurs.parada@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 30—Polish Constitution Day Concert, “Polish and Proud,” presented by Lira Ensemble, 5 p.m., at Holy Trinity Polish Mission, 1118 N. Noble St. (at Division St., next to Kennedy Expressway). For more information, see the website: lira@liraensemble.org.

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

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

Thursday, May 4—Constitution Day celebration starting 6 p.m. at Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, 1530 N. Lake Shore Drive. Also, ABBA/Rafal Brzozowski concert (Elite Club Poland), Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago.

Friday, May 5—Polish American Police Association (PAPA) Awards Banquet, Allegra Banquets, 5035 N. River Rd., Schiller Park. Cocktails 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Honoring seven local police officers as Law Enforcement Persons of the Year, and two Civilian Persons of the Year. Keynote speaker, Hon. Michael Chmiel, Chief Judge of McHenry County, Ill. Tickets are \$100; deadline to purchase is April 24. For more info, email: events@polampolice.org.

Saturday, May 6—Pre-Parade Brunch at the Hilton Chicago, Salon A, 720 S. Michigan Ave., sponsored by Chicago Society PNA. Reception starts, 8 a.m.; seating, 8:45 a.m.; brunch served, 9:15 a.m. Tickets \$50 per person; please RSVP by April 30. Parade starts at 11:30 a.m., Columbus Drive and Balbo Street; all Chicago Society PNA members please wear business attire. Chopin concert starts 2 p.m., Grant Park, Michigan Avenue at 11th Street.

Sunday, May 7—Mass at Holy Trinity Polish Mission, 1118 N. Noble St., starting 10:30 a.m., hosted by the Polish National Alliance. Also, Constitution Day Banquet starting 2 p.m. at Jolly Inn, 6501 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, hosted. by May 3rd Parade Committee; prizes for parade contests will be awarded during the banquet; contact Eva Ruminski at 773-742-1427, or email: 3maj@usa.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 ***

Polish Parliament Passes Resolution Denouncing Attacks on Pope St. John Paul II

WARSAW, March 9 [Reuters] — Poland's Parliament passed a resolution defending the name of the late Pope St. John Paul II, after a new book charged that he covered up sexual abuse by priests when he was the archbishop of Krakow (1964-78).

The allegations about John Paul II, the first Polish pope, aired in a documentary shown by private broadcaster TVN24, provoked fierce debate in one of Europe's most devoutly Catholic nations. Many religious conservatives condemned what they see as a left-wing plot to discredit a figure who is at the core of the nation's identity.

Politicians from the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party proposed the resolution defending his name, which was passed 271-43 by the Sejm, the lower house of parliament. "The Sejm strongly condemns the shameful media campaign, based largely on materials of the (former) Communist apparatus of violence, whose object is the great pope, St. John Paul II, the greatest Pole in history," the resolution reads.

"We will not allow the image of a man whom the whole free world recognizes as a pillar of victory over the Evil Empire to be destroyed," it added, using the term coined by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan to describe the Soviet Union.

The head of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Poznan, also called on "all people of good will not to destroy the common good—and the legacy of John Paul II undoubtedly belongs to this...Poles should remember about the blessing that Providence gave us through this pope," Gadecki said in his statement.

The book, titled "Maxima Culpa," written by a journalist from the Netherlands, Ekke Overbeek, and published in Polish in March, charges that John Paul II knew about sexual abuse in his archdiocese, but helped to cover it up by transferring priests from one parish to another. It draws on the archives of the former Communist Polish secret police, as well as conversations with alleged victims. Those defending the late pope question the reliability of information from the Communist secret police documents.

Poland Remains Top Importer of Russian LPG

Poland has been by far the European Union's biggest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Russia over the past year despite the war in Ukraine, a new report shows. Poland spent 710 million euro on Russian LPG in 2022, which was almost two-thirds of the 1.1 billion euro spent by the entire European Union. (The euro is currently about equal in value to the U.S. dollar.)

In March 2022, shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Polish government pledged to stop all energy imports from Russia by the end of 2022. The following month, the prime minister also pledged to end LPG imports from Russia within the same time frame. But whereas coal and gas imports were ended, and oil drastically cut, LPG purchases were not reduced after the Russian invasion, but actually increased—and are continuing to do so, according to the Warsaw-based think tank Forum Energii.



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