



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA
Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 68

JULY 2017

NUMBER 7

MONTHLY NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY
JULY 19, 2017
6:00 p.m.
White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
by July 17 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, July 31, 2017
7:00 p.m.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 19, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m., Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m., Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 20, 2017—
Friends & Family Picnic
Busse Woods

JULY SPEAKER AND GENERAL MEETING

Our speaker for the July General Meeting will be Attorney Michael Traison. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at the White Eagle. Cocktail hour will start at 6:00 p.m. with dinner meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. Michael H. Traison is an attorney working in Restructuring and Insolvency International, Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution. He is a widely recognized leader in helping businesses solve their commercial problems and has specialized in all types of commercial matters for 35 years. He represents clients with business problems from litigation to issues of debtors and creditors' committees in Chapter 11 reorganizations, and in out-of-court workouts. Michael also represents clients with interests throughout the world with a special focus on Israel, Poland, the Czech Republic and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. A tireless advocate on behalf of his clients, Michael has appeared before courts throughout the United States, Poland and Israel. Prior to entering the practice of law, Michael was a public school teacher for 15 years in Detroit and in Essex County, Ontario. He is certified in Michigan and Ontario as a secondary school teacher.



The July General Meeting offers not only great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! The menu includes BBQ pork ribs, Southern fried chicken, homemade potato salad, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, corn, Chef's choice of dessert, coffee and tea. Please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847-823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm their reservation with Brother Chuck. 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.

The Picnic is Coming, The Picnic is Coming!

see p. 3 for information





CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Ted Wiecek

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Dear Brothers,

Whether you like him or not, President Trump took an important step in recently visiting Poland and delivering a speech which recognized Poland for the resilient and stabilizing European force that it is. Many of you already know that Poland has had steady economic growth for many years. And, that it consistently enforces its immigration laws to maintain its cultural identity. It also honors its NATO funding obligations when few other European countries do. By publicizing Poland's achievements and the strengthening economic ties between it and the U.S. (purchase of liquid natural gas and missile defense technology) President Trump did much to repair an unfortunate rift in our relations and signal a new partnership between the U.S. and Poland. Perhaps we may see a review of the U.S. visa policy next. One can hope.

Your Board recently approved privacy policy language completing its update of the new Bylaws. Look for copies of the new Bylaws to be made available for members in August. With completion of the Bylaws the new Membership Directories can be printed. Look for a copy of the new Directory soon.

Polonia was bustling last month with many activities. I represented the Chicago Society at the Polish American Association gala, the Dar Serca charity boat cruise, the opening of the Beksinski exhibition at the Polish Museum, Alliance of Polish Clubs reception, and the Crown and Cross viewing at the Chopin Theatre. These events demonstrate the vitality of Polonia in Chicago and I encourage all brother members to support other Polish organizations. My goal is to partner with other Polish organizations to create a central resource to maintain a calendar to which all organizations can post their events. By doing so the idea is to cross-publicize, grow participation, and increase the influence of Polonia in Chicago and its suburbs.

Next up for the Chicago Society is our annual picnic. The date is Sunday, August 21. Please gather up family and friends and come out to enjoy the summer weather and great Chicago Society hospitality. If you have time or resources to contribute and anyone would like to help, please contact Brother Romauld Matuszczak.

Fraternally yours
Brother Steve Rakowski



A "community" is defined as "a group of people with a common background or with shared interests within society." Its Polish equivalent, *wspólnota*, has much stronger connotations. Sociologists have found that the Anglo culture has a weak understanding of the concept, and it is used primarily in reference to a physical attribute. However, the concept of *wspólnota* connotes permanence, tradition, exclusivity—strong emotional ties. In the Anglo culture, many view the "ties that bind us" as constraining or limiting, preventing us from developing strong relationships with each other or even our own identities in our community.

I have often heard that "In England, you're either British, or you're not." And the "nots" use that distinction to their advantage, joining together to form their own identity. In the mosaic that is the American culture it is important for our *wspólnota* to develop and nurture our identity for the benefit of all members. We are more than a group of people who live in the same neighborhood or share the same interests. We are a *wspólnota* „z tej samej matki" (from the same mother).
► *continued on p. 3*



"BRIDGING URBAN AMERICA" TO AIR ON WTTW-CH. 11

"Bridging Urban America: the Story of Master Engineer Ralph Modjeski" will air on WTTW Ch 11 on Wednesday, August 9 at 9:00 p.m. and again in October for Polish American Heritage Month. This is thanks to the efforts of discussions between officers of the Polish American Congress, Illinois Division, including Michael Niedzinski, president, and Brother **Jan Plachta**, Recording Secretary, and WTTW Program Director Dan Soles.



"Bridging Urban America" celebrates master engineer Ralph Modjeski, 20th century significant bridges and their impact on urban development and commerce. The film takes a deeper look at the scientific mind and artistic soul of a Polish-born Paris-trained immigrant who contributed to the building of a modern America.

According to an article by Mary Wisniewski which appeared in the Chicago Tribune on July 13, 2017, "Ralph Modjeski may be the most illustrious Chicagoan most Chicagoans have never heard of. A Polish immigrant, Modjeski built nearly 40 bridges in the U.S. and Canada. He was chief or consulting engineer on some of the continent's most famous spans, including the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the Ambassador Bridge connecting Detroit to Windsor, Ontario, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge from Philadelphia to Camden, N.J., and Louisiana's Huey P. Long Bridge.

Though Modjeski traveled the continent to work, Chicago was his home for many years — he opened his first office in the Loop's Monadnock Building in 1893 and was a member of the nearby Union League Club, a prominent social club." For the full article, go to <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-modjeski-bridges-getting-around-0213-20170212-story.html>

FAMILY AND FRIENDS PICNIC — FOOD, FOLKS, AND FUN!

Come to the Annual Chicago Society Family and Friends Picnic, which will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2017, rain or shine. Start time is 12:00 noon. The picnic will be held in the Busse Woods West Forest Preserve, Grove #31, located on the north side of Higgins Road (Rte. 72), west of Arlington Heights Road. This is the same location as the last several years. The picnic is free for members, their families and friends. We will have brats, kielbasa, hot dogs, burgers, watermelon, ice cream and more, along with various beverages—all under a covered pavilion. There is ample open space surrounding the pavilion, and everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and pillows. There are rest room facilities at the site. Games and treats, for children. We are working on special treats for the ladies and gents. We are seeking volunteers to play a set or two of music on their favorite instrument. We are also asking for prizes for the famous Grand Raffle. Please bring your family friends for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs, and your appetite. So that we are sure to have enough food, if you are coming to the picnic, or if you are coming to the picnic if you like to donate a prize for the raffle drawing or be a picnic sponsor contact Brother **Ro** at cmatco@gmail.com or 847-331-8007. Mark your calendar and plan on coming to the picnic for a pleasant afternoon!



VOLUNTEER FOR THE TASTE OF POLONIA SEPT. 1—4, 2017

Since the Festival's inception, Chicago Society members have volunteered at the Taste of Polonia. Working at the Taste has been a tradition with the Society for many years. Members always have a good time. The members of the Chicago Society are once again asked to volunteer in two areas:



1) As in years past, the Chicago Society will man the bars on Saturday, Sept. 2, in the afternoon. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Brother **Mark Orwat** at marko123@att.net

2) We have also been asked to volunteer at Big Nick's Casino, chaired by Brother **Charlie Komosa**. Poker and Black Jack dealers are especially needed. The dates are September 2, 3, 4. If you are available and interested, please e-mail Brother Charlie at charles.komosa@pna-znp.org

◀ continued from p. 2

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

Up until 1989, Polonia had a common goal: to defeat communism and end its negative impact on our Motherland and its people. The people of Poland have enjoyed freedom now for a whole generation, the same freedoms we enjoy: freedom to choose one's government, one's religion, one's lifestyle, without any outside influence. Since the fall of Communism, many in our community turned their attention to other causes, often looking at how to better their own lives. The goal of our *wspólnota* needs to be the betterment of all. We need to use our skills, knowledge, and talents for the betterment of others; only then will we better ourselves. And only then will our *wspólnota* be strong.

**HAVE YOU MADE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?
YOU CAN MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION BY EMAILING
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org**



Prince Mieszko I was baptized in 966 AD, introducing Christianity to the people of Poland. Discuss how over 1,050 years of Catholicism has impacted Poland and Polish-Americans, as well as how it has influenced your life.

1ST PLACE ESSAY – BARBARA FOLGA

Prince Mieszko I's baptism in 966 AD initiated the beginning of a millennia's long era of fervent Catholicism in Poland. His conversion to Christianity influenced Poland historically, politically, culturally, and religiously, and the continuous presence of the Catholic Church in Poland today has impacted the nation itself, Polish-Americans, and me personally. Furthermore, reactions to many historical and political events, such as the Partitions of Poland, World War II, and Communism, as well as religion's position in Polish culture, attest to the crucial role that the Catholic Church played and continues to play in the lives of people with Polish roots. Thus, Catholicism is one factor among many that helped cultivate and develop Poland, and throughout history it has been shown to serve a unifying function for Poland, Polish-Americans, and for myself.

The origins of the Polish state can be accredited to Prince Mieszko I's baptism, and thereafter, Catholicism gradually spread around the state, gaining plenty of followers. One thousand fifty years later, Catholicism remains the religion predominately practiced by Poles, whose culture and traditions have been grounded on Christian ideals. Since Catholicism's early beginnings, Mary has been crowned the Queen of Poland, Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope of the Catholic Church, and several Polish religious figures, as well as laity, have been either canonized or beatified. In addition to this religious progress, Polish Catholics and Polish-American Catholics too have expressed their devotion to their faith by participating in pielgrzymki, traveling to shrines and religious sites so as to strengthen their faith by means of communal worship.

This commitment and dedication to faith that has been exhibited by Poles has been particularly evident during times when religious and political freedoms were forcibly taken away. Throughout Poland's extensive history, during periods of war, imposed oppression, and partition, Catholicism served as a beacon of hope, symbolically as a light at the end of the tunnel. Catholics embraced their faith during these times of struggle, praying and placing their trust in the Lord. Through faith, they unified in their troubles and joined forces to recreate a free Poland. It can be demonstrated that the Catholic Church represented optimism for the flourishing of the nation as well as for its people.

Polish-Americans, especially those immigrating to Chicago, sought too this optimism for a better life. In order to establish their roots in the United States and still maintain traditions from their homeland, Polish-Americans turned to their Catholic faith. By building churches and forming religious organizations, they founded a Polish community united by a common religion. Polish language schools and charities subsequently sprung up, all set up with a basis grounded on the Catholic Church and its teachings. Thus, Polish Americans preserved their sense of home through their faith, and it has been kept alive by the traditions and unifying function of the Catholic Church. Once again, the Catholic Church united Polish-Americans not only in Chicago but the whole United States.

Catholicism has influenced my life tremendously. I was raised Catholic, attended mass every Sunday, and participated in the service as an altar server. My relationship with God has deepened as I have grown older, and I pray to Him and to Mary to walk me through the troubles of life. I ask for their guidance and for their support in my daily decisions. This past summer, I developed an even deeper bond with my faith; I experienced what I would constitute a once-in-a-lifetime event. I was privileged enough to travel to Krakow to partake in World Youth Day. I attended the religious festivities with a group of friends and a few family members, and it was the best experience of my life. I cannot put into words how much I valued my time there; I reflected on what it is to be a Catholic and what it means to follow Jesus's footsteps. It taught me how far human kindness reaches, as well as the importance of loving your neighbor and yourself. It taught me how, and as cliché as it may sound, powerful we all are if we overlook our differences and embrace our brothers and sisters. The collection of 2.5 million Catholic youth in Poland, from all countries and from all backgrounds, who assembled together to worship the Lord and express their faith is a miracle, and I was fortunate enough to be one of those 2.5 million people. Again, Catholicism and the Catholic Church proved themselves to be elements that unite people, and World Youth Day integrated young Catholics all over the globe to communally participate in prayer and adoration. It is one of my most cherished memories, and my whole experience can be cycled back to Catholicism and its ability, through faith, to unify individuals from all diverse settings.

The Catholic Church has on multiple occasions shown its unifying function, as can be confirmed by Poles' optimism during times of struggle, by Polish-Americans yearning for a better life, and by my experiences at World Youth Day in Krakow. All of this can be traced back to Prince Mieszko's I baptism in 966 A.D., which was seen as the first step for a millennia's-long Catholic campaign in Poland.

**SUMMER DRESS CODE
NOW IN EFFECT**

The Summer Dress Code is in effect for general meetings of the Society. Gentlemen are permitted to dress "casually," suit/sport coats are no longer required. However, jeans, shorts, and gym shoes are NOT permitted.



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UNESCO DESIGNATES NEW WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN POLAND

The 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO at its meeting in Krakow inscribed 21 new sites on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Among them is the Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine

and its Underground Water Management System. Located in Upper Silesia, in southern Poland, one



of the main mining areas of central Europe, the site includes the entire underground mine with adits, shafts, galleries and water management system. Most of the site is situated underground while the surface mining topography features the remains of the 19th century steam water pumping station, which testifies to continuous efforts over three centuries to drain the underground extraction zone. It has made it possible to use undesirable water from the mines to supply towns and industry. Tarnowskie Góry represents a significant contribution to the global production of lead and zinc.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SPEECH IN WARSAW

At the request of Brother Marian Skawski, we are providing a link below to President Trump's Speech in Warsaw.

<http://niezalezna.pl/101788-president-donald-trump-warsaw-and-his-great-speech-poland-europe-and-usa>

Please note: The Chicago Society does not endorse any political individual or party. We are providing this link due to its relevance.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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



- 1 Zenon Kurdziel
- 4 John Wasilewski
- 7 William Drozd
Krzysztof Zadlo
- 10 Romuald Matuszczak
- 13 Mark Cwiakala
- 14 Thaddeus Makarewicz
Tomasz Pawelko
- 15 John Bobrytzke
- 17 Alexander Tzanos
- 20 David Cooper
William Wojcik
- 22 Edward Marsalek
- 23 Donald Gutowski
- 24 Jack Skaja, Sr.
- 27 Edward Sawa

JULY ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Carlton Marcyn** who is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society..

Are you coming to the Picnic? Be sure to let Brother Ro know, matco@gmail.com. We want to make sure we have enough food for you.

Do you know a potential member?



O'HARE
5420 N. Harlem
Chicago, IL 60656

LINCOLN PARK
2502 N. Clark
Chicago, IL 60614

Office: 773.792.3000
Cell: 773.485.3000
hubert@troyrealtyltd.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cut this out and tape it to your refrigerator
Sunday, August 21, 2017
Family & Friends Picnic

Thursday, October 26, 2017
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Saturday, November 18, 2017
Hunting Outing

Saturday, December 16, 2017
Deserving Children's Christmas Party

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.



Attending a special screening of the film "The Crown and the Cross" benefitting PAC-IL Division were Brothers **Steve Rakowski, Ted Makarewicz, Jan Plachta, Wojtek Putz, and Ted Wiecek.**

Brother **Mario Mikoda** was recently named president of the Copernicus Foundation.

Brother **Ted Wiecek** was recently named Corresponding Secretary of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division. He joins Brother **Jan Plachta**, Recording Secretary, as an officer of the Division.

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We are now offering non-members the opportunity to advertise their business in *The Forum* Please contact ads@chicagosocietypna.org for more information.



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