



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Now in Our Second Century of Service

VOLUME 75

September 2023

NUMBER 9

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

General Meeting

The Great Escape
9540 W. Irving Park Rd.
Schiller Park, IL

Call to Order: 7 p.m.

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

Reservation deadline:

Monday, Sept. 18

Guest Speaker:
Trent Modglin

Dear Chicago Society Members and Friends:

I hope everyone enjoyed a nice long Labor Day weekend. I would like to thank all of the Chicago Society members who volunteered at the “Taste of Polonia” festival at the Copernicus Center on that weekend.

Now that everyone is done with their summer travels, and now that school has started and the weather is cooling off, we are almost in the home stretch of the year. Pretty soon, we will be surrounded by fall colors—and then come the holidays. I can’t believe some of the stores have already started selling Christmas decorations!

I would like to remind everyone that our monthly meetings are still on the third Wednesday of every month. We are now settled back at The Great Escape—but we will visit Sawa’s Old Warsaw for our Thanksgiving meeting in November. Look to the Forum for information on other upcoming events also.

We are still also looking for a chairperson for our “Evening of Elegance” in January 2024. While this is still four months away, planning for it needs to start now. If you’re interested in helping out with this event, please contact our interim Director of Social Activities, Marta Almodovar.

Fraternally,

Chris Grzadziel

President, Chicago Society PNA

Guest Speaker to Give Presentation on Craft Beers, Oktoberfest

Now that fall is almost here, it’s time for Oktoberfest celebrations—and the beers that make them so special. A local authority on both subjects is scheduled to be the guest speaker at our September meeting. Trent Modglin, owner and publisher of Illinois Brewing magazine and The Real Park Ridge magazine, will give a

presentation on the history of Oktoberfests (the German version), and the different beers that are now being introduced as Oktoberfest beers. His website, www.illinoisbrewing.com, has information on almost all the micro-craft breweries in Illinois—and their products. Let’s come out and give him a warm welcome!



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September Forum Highlights

- ◆ Remembering Chicago's Former 'Top Cop' Matt Rodriguez
- ◆ Get Ready to Help with Deserving Kids' Christmas Party
- ◆ Church Beatifies Entire Polish Family Killed in WWII

Remember the Chicago Society's address:

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

***We are still looking for a new
Secretary; if you can fill this role,
please let us know—your help
will be appreciated!***

Chicago Fire Soccer Holding Polish Heritage Night Oct. 7

The Chicago Fire major league soccer team is inviting members of the Chicago Society to their Polish Heritage Night, at Soldier Field on Saturday, Oct. 7. The game against Charlotte FC starts at 7:30 p.m. There will be a meet-and-greet with Kacper Przybylko, who plays the striker position for the Fire. All fans will also get a scarf co-branded with the Fire logo and the Polish flag. For more information, visit the team website: www.chicagofirefc.com.

Lira Ensemble Seeking Donations of Polish Items

Are you moving, or cleaning out storage, and looking for an easy tax deduction? The Lira Ensemble is currently seeking donations of "anything Polish"—including costumes, folk artifacts, paintings, pictures, sheet music, etc. Lira will provide a tax letter for all such donations, so you can deduct the value of the donations from your federal taxes. Anyone interested is invited to call 312-804-1306 to make arrangements.

Preparations Beginning for Deserving Kids' Christmas Party

Santa is coming to town...or, more precisely, to the Polish National Alliance headquarters on North Cicero Avenue in Chicago, and the Chicago Society's annual Deserving Children's Christmas Party, which will be held this year on Saturday, December 9. Local children and their families are welcomed to the PNA headquarters each year for this special event—which includes a visit from Santa, presents, lunch, music, and usually a special show for the kids, featuring various animals brought by professional animal handlers. We are currently looking for members to volunteer their time at this event, and also to make donations of Christmas presents and/or money. More detailed information on this event will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, please think about how you will help these needy children and their families in the upcoming Christmas season!

Exhibit on Sept. 29 to Kick Off PRCUA's 150th Anniversary

A special exhibit, "PRCUA: 150 Years of Cultural, Financial and Spiritual Growth," opens on Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. It will officially start the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America's celebration of its 150th anniversary. The PRCUA is headquartered in the same building as the PMA; its president, James Robaczewski, is a Chicago Society member.

The celebration will continue on Sunday, Oct. 1, with Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Westmont, starting at 9 a.m., followed by a Jubilee Brunch at nearby Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace. The PRCUA sells life insurance and annuities, and provides many benefits such as Polish language and dance schools, sports tournaments, scholarships and educational loans to members.



Remembering Matt Rodriguez: City's Former 'Top Cop'—and a Chicago Society Member

People throughout Chicago, and police departments across the country, paid tribute to the city's former Police Superintendent, Matt Rodriguez, after he passed away on August 30, at age 87. Rodriguez, who served 5-1/2 years as superintendent (1992-97) and worked in the department for 38 years, left behind a legacy of service to the city and the police department.

It was widely known that Rodriguez was the first 'top cop' in Chicago who could claim Latin American heritage (through his father); but most Chicagoans probably did not realize, and the local media all but ignored, the fact that he also was of Polish descent (through his mother)—and he embraced the latter at least as much as the former. He was a proud member of the Chicago Society for over 25 years, and was a 1954 graduate of the predominantly Polish-American Holy Trinity High School.

Matthew Louis Rodriguez was born in Chicago on April 5, 1936, the son of Matthew and Annette (nee Drozdzik) Rodriguez. A native of the Back of the Yards neighborhood on the South Side, he joined the Chicago Police Department in 1959 and worked his way up through the ranks—serving in the patrol, criminal investigation, organized crime, vice control, training and youth divisions. He was also the deputy superintendent of technical services for 12 years, which included the planning of the city's 911 center. He was appointed police superintendent by Mayor Richard M. Daley in April 1992—during the famous “underground flood” that affected many major buildings in the Loop. He became known nationally for initiating the Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) program for community policing. For over four years, he was chairman of the Major Cities Chiefs Organization, which represents 50 of the largest police departments in the United States, and four in Canada. After stepping down from the department in 1997, he continued to work as a highly respected consultant on police affairs, and taught courses in criminal justice.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth (nee Williams); his daughter, Kathleen (Richard) Diaz; two grandchildren, Matthew Diaz and Felicia (Matt Wojas) Diaz-Wojas; two sisters, Sandra (Richard) Potocki and Darlene (Paul) Sheils; and many nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Richard.

Visitation was held on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home on North Cicero Avenue in Chicago (next door to the PNA building). The funeral Mass was said Friday, Sept. 8 at Queen of All Saints Basilica, followed by entombment at Maryhill Cemetery in Niles.

REQUEST TO REINSTATE MEMBERSHIP IN CHICAGO SOCIETY

Applicant: Mark Adler
Address: 1141 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL
Birthdate: March 3, 1954
Birthplace: Poland (now U.S. citizen)
Occupation: Retired Auditor
Spouse: Janina (born in Poland)
Hobbies: Ham Radio, Travel, Bass Guitar
Telephone (cell): 773-486-6153
Email: MarkAdlerChicago@yahoo.com

Polish-American Medical Society Holding Physicians' Ball Oct. 6

The Polish-American Medical Society is holding its 70th Annual Physicians' Charitable Ball on Saturday, Oct. 6, starting at 6 p.m., at the Union League Club in Chicago. All proceeds from the event go to its Scholarship Fund, which is distributed to worthy students of medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. More information is available at the medical society's website: www.zlpchicago.org.

*** Current Events ***

Vatican Beatifies Entire Polish Family That Was Killed for Hiding Jews in WWII

[Catholic News Agency] On a “day of joy” in Poland, the Catholic Church on Sunday, Sept. 10, for the first time ever, beatified an entire family at once—Jozef and Viktoria Ulma and their seven children, who were martyred during World War II for sheltering two Jewish families from the Nazis.

“It would be misleading if the day of beatification of the Ulma family served only to bring back to memory the terror of the family’s atrocities perpetrated by their executioners—on whom, by the way, the judgment of history already weighs heavily,” said Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect for the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, in his homily at the Beatification Mass, attended by some 30,000 people in the Ulma family’s village of Markowa, in southeastern Poland. “Instead,” the cardinal continued, “we want today to be a day of joy, because the page of the Gospel written on paper has become, for us, a lived reality, which shines brightly in the Christian witness of the Ulma couple and in the martyrdom of the new Blessed.”

Early on March 24, 1944, a Nazi patrol surrounded the Ulma home on the outskirts of Markowa. They discovered eight Jewish people hiding on the Ulma farm and executed them. The Nazi police then killed 31-year-old Viktoria, who was pregnant and in premature labor, and 44-year-old Jozef outside their home. An additional order sealed the fate of the remaining family members: “Kill the children, too.” Executed were Stanislaw, 7; Barbara, 6; Wladyslaw, 5; Franciszek, almost 4; Antoni, 2; and Maria 1.

The seventh child to die was the couple’s unnamed son, who was in the process of being born. The boy had been incorrectly described in some news reports as the first unborn child to be beatified—a key detail that the Vatican recently clarified. Though there was no time to baptize the child, what transpired instead was what the church calls “a baptism of blood.”

In his reflections, Cardinal Semeraro also made it a point to honor the memory of the Ulmas’ Jewish friends. “Today, together with the new Blessed, we also want to remember their names,” he said. They were Saul Goldman and his four sons—Baruch, Mechel, Joachim and Mojzesz; Golda Grinfeld and his sister, Lea Didner, and her young daughter, Reszla.

Beatification in the church is one step before canonization, when a person recognized for special holiness is officially declared to be a saint. Those who are beatified receive the title “Blessed,” and may receive public veneration at the local or regional level.

Reporting:
—**Andrea Gagliarducci**
—**Shannon Mullen**



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