



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 72

May 2020

NUMBER 5

### COMING EVENTS

#### May General Meeting **CANCELLED**

Monday, June 1, 2020

Board Meeting

Teleconference - 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 7, 2020

FORUM Deadline

ted.kozelka@gmail.com

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, all other planned events have been cancelled or re-scheduled to a date to be determined.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Brothers,

Happy belated Polish Constitution Day (May 3rd). As I walked through my neighborhood last weekend, it was so nice to see so many houses and passing carts waving the Polish flag. Even with the cancellation of the parade due to the virus, Polonians were definitely showing their pride. We had our flags out, and hope you did too.

Speaking of the virus, I have to sadly announce that we will not be having our May general meeting due to the stay at home order and restaurants being closed.

Still, I want to thank all of my fellow Brothers for being patient and taking care of yourself and families. These are historical times the likes of which none of us have seen. We will all be together again soon to have a drink and share stories over dinner. Hopefully we will return to normalcy during summer and celebrate our return.

Sadly I have more bad news to share Brother Ted Pacyniak has passed away. May we have a moment of silence for him and may he rest in Peace and may eternal light shine upon him. Now for some good news' Brother Frank Gondela recently had health issues that sent him to the hospital. I'm glad to report that his condition has improved. Let's all wish him well.

The Board has been meeting using teleconferencing since April and continued in May. In an effort to keep everyone informed and involved, we are including the Board minutes with this forum. Sensitive data is not shared here, because non-members receive the forum. All information is available to members per request.

Please continue to be safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

*Peter Dykas.*





## CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

## EDITOR'S NOTE

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA  
membership

Director of Publications

[editor@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:editor@chicagosocietypna.org)

Dear Brothers:

This month's forum will include the personal statements from each of this year's recipients of the James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship. Congratulations to the following:

- ♦ **Sarah Budziszewski**
- ♦ **Angelika Kwak**
- ♦ **Joanna Podosek**

Each of these young women have demonstrated an impressive commitment to not only academic excellence, but also to Polonia at large. We look forward to hearing more from each of them in the future.

### Kulze Scholarship Essay: Sarah Budziszewski

My name is Sarah Budziszewski. I am a student at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. This is my personal statement for the James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship offered by the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance.

I grew up on a farm in rural northwestern Minnesota with my parents and younger brother. I attended Tri-County Schools of Karlstad, Minnesota from Head Start to graduation. I enjoyed the support that I received from my small class of twenty students and my teachers who knew everyone by name. However, I was also disappointed by the opportunities that I had in such a small setting. I was involved in the most difficult classes, including online college courses, and almost every extracurricular that my school offered, but I was still bored. After going on a career exploration trip offered by TRIO, a part of the US Department of Education, I fell in love with the sciences. I decided that my passion for science combined with my desire to not flee after graduation but to stay at my home and make a difference made being a science teacher a good career path to take.

Currently, I am a sophomore majoring in Composite Science Secondary Education. I am working towards two minors, Middle Level Education and Biology, as well as graduating with a certificate from UND's Honors program, which involves attaining the same level of credits as a minor. With this set of qualifications, I will be able to teach biology, geology, chemistry, and physics (as well as other sciences that fall under their umbrella, like ecology or astronomy) to students from the fifth grade to senior year of high school. The Honors program has really helped to stretch my mind in different ways beyond the hard sciences through classes on concepts like creativity and writing in academia, as well as being a great home to me throughout my studies as due to the broadness of my major I never seem to have two classes in the same department.

## Kulze Scholarship Essay: Sarah Budziszewski (continued)

In the future, I plan on working as a high school or middle school teacher in the area that I'm from, north-western Minnesota. This area is very rural and fairly low income, so many students don't have many opportunities to explore their interests and learn about the different places that college or the sciences can take them. I hope that with my composite degree, I will be able to teach varied subjects in all areas of science rather than just biology or just chemistry. I am very interested in how all the sciences are really one cohesive whole and concepts of all disciplines are vital to all other disciplines, and I hope that I will be able to convey that to my students. In schools as small as those I went to, students often have just one or two science teachers from seventh to twelfth grade that teach every class. This makes me uniquely poised to impact students over several years and through different subjects, rather than just teaching a specific class to one age group in several repetitions throughout the day as is common in larger schools. In addition, teachers in small schools often have to wear many hats. I hope to be an advisor for various extracurriculars, like Envirothon, Knowledge Bowl, or robotics to give students an opportunity to learn more about and compete in STEM fields.

At some point, I may decide to work towards a master's degree in the education field. UND has a great one-year Masters of Science in Curriculum and Instruction program that I am very interested in, but I am unsure if I will be financially able to enroll right after graduating with my undergraduate degree, so I plan to work for a few years before reassessing if I would like to further my education.

My faith is the most important aspect of my life. As a child and throughout high school, I attended Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota. That was really the place that brought me in touch with my Polish heritage. The Florian area is composed of a few homes, a hall built by the Polish National Alliance, and the beautiful church built by the farmers. The inscriptions on each stained-glass window give the name of the person who donated it "z rodzina" – with their family. Every year, Florian hosts a Polish Day in June that starts with a Mass with Polish hymns, followed by a delicious meal and Polish dancers and singers. When I was younger, I helped out with the event, but it's still one of my favorite things to go to when I'm home for the summer.

In college, I continued to grow in my faith. From my first weekend on campus, I have attended the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. Between my own personal prayer life and the work that I do for the church, I often spend upwards of 10 hours during a school week at the Newman. In addition, I live in the Newman House on campus for Catholic women which is a great way to grow in friendship and faith within a community. After being encouraged by my friends and the missionaries on our campus, I considered going on a mission trip or pilgrimage over spring break this year. I am very excited that I was selected to go on a pilgrimage in March. We were supposed to visit religious sites in Krakow, Warsaw, Czestochowa, and other towns, as well as visiting other sites of national significance like Auschwitz. I'm very excited to visit the places where not only great saints but also my great-great grandparents called home. This trip was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but I still hope to make it to Poland at some time in my life.

## Kulze Scholarship Essay: Angelika Kwak

In May 2019, I graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, minor in Public Policy, and a 3.94 GPA-Summa Cum Laude Honor. I have graduated from Polish School in 2015 with High Honors and completed summer courses at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. I am proud and humbled to accept Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine for my dual degree in Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy (MD/MPH). Spring 2020 will be my last semester of my MPH before starting my journey towards becoming a physician in July 2020.

My journey of wanting to become a physician started when I began to witness my mom's chronic migraines and the debilitating effects on her physical and mental health. Seeing my mom's pain made me passionate to put myself in a position where I can decrease suffering and improve people's quality of life- I wanted to be a doctor who could utilize her scientific and clinical skills to reach the root of the problem. It wasn't until years later that I realized that public health is just as important as medicine. By understanding disease and social determinants from a population level, you begin to understand medicine and people's lifestyles from a deeper perspective. You are no longer treating just the disease but are incorporating the whole picture when treating someone-their race, geographic location, socioeconomic status, language, and so on. Coming from a family of Polish immigrants, I witnessed my mom struggle to speak English, gain health insurance, and navigate the socioeconomic barriers to quality healthcare. Thus, with my MD/MPH, I plan to work towards my goal of making healthcare more equitable and accessible to people of all backgrounds in Chicago.

What makes my current work meaningful and genuine to me is my Polish culture. My parents have inspired my passion for improving healthcare and have provided me with the wings to fly towards my dreams. One thing they have always instilled in me is the importance of family and identity. To me, being Polish means being hardworking, loving, determined, spiritual, cultural, familial-it is a way of life. Whether it be celebrating Polish traditions like Wigilia or doing medical interpretations in Polish for patients, my culture is a part of my heart that cannot be broken. I cannot wait to grow as a student doctor, daughter, and traveler, and utilize my Polish-speaking and cultural skills to enhance care, facilitate communication, and enhance connection in whatever aspect that may be.

To gain more experience as a Polish professional, I became a Polish interpreter at the largest medical clinic for the uninsured--Community Health. I wanted to help individuals like my parents: scared and vulnerable. By being in the same room as the patient and doctor, I serve as an advocate for those lacking language skills and facilitate the dialogue to improve communication. I not only utilize my Polish speaking skills, but also my discernment for different cultural expressions, such as understanding belief patterns that I have recognized before, body language and mannerisms, etc. This role has instilled in me the importance of my Polish culture and language skills and increased my capacity of love for medicine.

## Kulze Scholarship Essay: Angelika Kwak (continued)

Furthermore, to take my Polish skills to another level, I received the Kosciuszko Scholarship where I had the privilege to study abroad in Krakow and take intensive C1 Polish courses to improve my Polish speaking skills and interact with numerous people from foreign countries. This experience not only gave me the toolbox to strengthen my proficiency in speaking Polish and knowledge about Polish history and literature, but also allowed me to gain various perspectives of others from different backgrounds, something that will be vital in medicine. While in Poland, I would make sure to volunteer at the hospital in my hometown- Zakopane. I not only worked alongside physicians and saw them administer medications to patients, but I was able to translate prescriptions and medical advice from Polish to English for patients that were having a hard time communicating with hospital staff. Additionally, it was an interesting experience to be able to compare the medical system and healthcare in both Poland and the States.

To put my Polish to the challenge, I decided to become a Polish Instructor for the medical students at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine through the organization Medical Polish-which became one of my favorite activities. I love being able to create meaningful relationships with students and share my culture with them. Every week, I work on teaching them more phrases and medical terminology, with the goal of the students taking a Polish medical history assessment at the end of the semester. Furthermore, being on the Medical Polish board allows me to help plan events such as Wigilia, Pączki day, and Polish Physician Panels to increase cultural competency. Through this organization, I have the pleasure of shadowing a Polish physician and seeing her interact with Polish patients. This experience not only solidifies my Polish and teaching skills, but also allows me to share and express an important part of my identity to others.

Overall, I strive to be a physician that will make an impact on her patients through her medical and public health skills, and also through culture, language, and human connection. My parents taught me the Polish proverb, “Gość w dom, Bóg w dom.” In English, it means “Guest in house, God in house.” My interpretation is to find God in all human encounters. Thus, whenever I interact with people, I want them to feel respected, valued, and understood. I cannot wait to further use my skills to impact the communities in Chicago and continuously thank my parents for the arduous journey they took to immigrate from Poland to America to give me a better life.



### Cancelled: 2020 Chicago Society Golf Outing

This year's golf outing has been cancelled due to the current health crisis. Stay tuned for next year.

## Kulze Scholarship Essay: Joanna Podosek

My desire to become an occupational therapist was inspired by my sister's progress in her rehabilitation journey. My sister, Paulina, was born in Poland with a devastating congenital condition, advanced Hydrocephalus. Due to a medical malpractice, my family was forced to immigrate to the States for better medical care. In the states, my sister underwent several correctional surgeries and years of rehabilitation. Treatment from her occupational therapist stood out to me because of the direct impact it had on my sister's functional independence, the opportunity for creativity in therapy, and the teaching component.

Occupational therapy is a career where the sciences and creativity meet. As practitioners, we use our creativity to adapt treatments, objects, and equipment for the best possible use of our clients. Before I began my journey in occupational therapy, I was an artist for many years. From a young age, I took painting and sculpture classes at a Polish American organization, Art Ruim led by Barbara and Stephan Niedorezo. They taught me patience, craftsmanship, and creativity. After college, I returned to Art Ruim, this time as a volunteer working with the younger students. The skills I have gained at Art Ruim, as a student and volunteer, will assist me in my role as an occupational therapy practitioner and allow me to take a holistic approach to rehabilitation, healing the mind, body, and spirit.

My goal is to become a school occupational therapist and work with the Polish students in Chicago Public Schools. I want to help parents advocate for their children and ensure a positive environment where families feel heard. I witnessed my parents struggle to advocate for my sister when she attended special education schools and know first-hand the impact a language barrier can have on clinical relationships. I hope to provide Polish students with the same type of reassurance I felt from Polish speaking staff members when I first started school and didn't know the language.

Working toward my goal of becoming a school OT, I applied and was selected as a scholar in the Tiered Occupational Therapy Program. TOT is an additional year of training embedded in our didactic curriculum and explores how poverty and adverse life experiences intersect trauma-sensitive practices. It is designed to prepare occupational therapy students to work in school systems addressing the physical and mental health needs of children. As part of this program, I was placed in an early learning center and worked with 3-5-year-olds, who either have a disability or who have 'at risk' characteristics. In accordance with my long term goals I'm developing my capstone project on advanced practice in pre-schools and plan to specialize in pediatrics.

With the dynamic nature of occupational therapy, my goals are constantly changing as new passions emerge, the more I learn. My greatest asset is my ability to be adaptive to new ideas in a constantly evolving career. One thing that will never change is my desire to use my clinical knowledge to positively impact the lives of the individuals with whom I will be interacting with and give back to the Polish community. As I move into my calling, I am eager to use my bilingual skills, personal experiences, and clinical knowledge to empower my clients and help Polish speaking families as they navigate the school system.



## Special Announcement

Congratulations To Brother Adam Konopka in a major professional achievement!

The law firm of Dowd & Dowd, Ltd is pleased to announce that Adam has been named a partner. He is extremely proud to be the first in his family to attend college and thereafter law school. He credits his success to determination, perseverance and hard work.

Under the tutelage of his experienced mentors, Adam has worked on a variety of dynamic and high stakes cases since he joined the firm in 2012. We are excited to welcome him as a partner as he continues to effectively, efficiently and zealously represent the firm's clients with outstanding results.



*Adoption of the Polish-Lithuanian Constitution of May 3, 1791. The painting depicts King Stanislaus Augustus together with members of the Grand Sejm and inhabitants of Warsaw entering St John's Cathedral in order to swear in the new national constitution just after it had been adopted by the Grand Sejm in the Royal Castle visible in the background. May 3rd Constitution was the first written national constitution in Europe, and the world's second, after the United States Constitution. The May 3rd Constitution was adopted by the Sejm of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth on May 3, 1791*



### May Birthdays

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

- 03 Wojciech Putz**
- 09 Walter Kazmierczak**
- 11 Anthony J Szplit**
- 11 Adam Konopka**
- 13 Slawomir Lapinski**
- 14 John J Domagalski**
- 18 Len Krajkiwicz**
- 21 Zygmunt J Dyrkacz**
- 31 Zenon Cebula**



## This Month in Polish History: Constitution of 3 May

The Constitution of 3 May 1791 was a constitution adopted by the Great Sejm ("Four-Year Sejm", meeting in 1788–92) for the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, a dual monarchy comprising the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Constitution was designed to correct the Commonwealth's political flaws and had been preceded by a period of agitation for—and gradual introduction of—reforms, beginning with the Convocation Sejm of 1764 and the consequent election that year of Stanisław August Poniatowski as the Commonwealth's last king.

The Constitution sought to implement a more effective constitutional monarchy, introduced political equality between townspeople and nobility, and placed the peasants under the protection of the government, mitigating the worst abuses of serfdom. It banned pernicious parliamentary institutions such as the liberum veto, which had put the Sejm at the mercy of any single deputy, who could veto and thus undo all the legislation that had been adopted by that Sejm. The Commonwealth's neighbors reacted with hostility to the adoption of the Constitution. King Frederick William II broke Prussia's alliance with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and joined with Catherine the Great's Imperial Russia and the Targowica Confederation of anti-reform Polish magnates to defeat the Commonwealth in the Polish–Russian War of 1792.

The 1791 Constitution was in force for less than 19 months. It was declared null and void by the Grodno Sejm that met in 1793 though the Sejm's legal power to do so was questionable. The Second and Third Partitions of Poland (1793, 1795) ultimately ended Poland's sovereign existence until the close of World War I in 1918. Over that 123-year period, the 1791 Constitution helped keep alive Polish aspirations for the eventual restoration of the country's sovereignty. In the words of two of its principal authors, Ignacy Potocki and Hugo Kołłątaj, the 1791 Constitution was "the last will and testament of the expiring Homeland."

The Constitution of 3 May 1791 combined a monarchic republic with a clear division of executive, legislative, and judiciary powers. It is generally considered Europe's first, and the world's second, modern written national constitution, after the United States Constitution that had come into force in 1789.





Given the continued quarantine, and the likelihood of continued enjoyment of adult beverages amidst our ranks, permit me to suggest another potential indulgence. Our alcoholic sojourn for this month takes us to the northern plains of Italy, just south of the Alps.

The Gavi grape is named for the same town found in the Piedmont region. The bright citrusy flavors and pleasant dry finish are perfect for the new warm weather. Gavi is accordingly synonymous with fashionable dry whites that are far less frivolous than most well-known Piemonte whites. This makes it one of the most highly regarded Italian whites alongside Roero. Gavi is the region of choice for the Cortese connoisseur, as its fruit seems to fail to produce any interesting aromatic canvas anywhere else than here. The wines tend to have straw-like color and a rather mild aroma. It expands in the mouth with sharp acidity, producing an unassuming fruity, persistent, and balanced white that generally peaks after a year or two of rounding in the bottle.

These very stylish wines are generally marked by ripe and zesty peach, pear and honeydew with something of a steely finish augmented by a honeyed edge and sharp freshness. The vines that produce the fruit are grown on vineyards around the town of Gavi. It was one of the first Italian wines to obtain international status, and still ranks amongst the best.



*Cortese is a white Italian wine grape variety predominantly grown in the southeastern regions of Piedmont in the provinces of Alessandria and Asti. It is the primary grape of the Denominazione di origine controllata (DOC) wines of Cortese dell'Alto Monferrato and Colli Tortonesi as well as the Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita (DOCG) wine of Cortese di Gavi. Significant plantings of Cortese can also be found in the Lombardy region of Oltrepò Pavese and in the DOC white blends of the Veneto wine region of Bianco di Custoza. Cortese has a long history in Italian viticulture with written documentation naming the grape among the plantings in a Piedmontese vineyard as early as 1659. The grape's moderate acidity and light flavors has made it a favorite for the restaurants in nearby Genoa as a wine pairing with the local seafood caught off the Ligurian coast.*

**Chicago Society, P.N.A.**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Held on Monday May 4, 2020**

**Due to the corona virus emergency this was a teleconference meeting**

Call to Order: President Dykas called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Roll Call of Officers and Directors present: Brs. Ciesla, Cwiakala, Dykas, Konopka, Kozelka, Matuszczak, Mikoda, Pieciewicz, Plachta, Wiermanski. Absent were: Brs. Kawalkowski and Kurdziel, Br. Dykas declared a quorum. Br. Dykas asked for minute of silence in memory of our former member Ted Pacyniak who passed few days ago after his battle with cancer. He is the Brother of our member Bernie Pacyniak who lives in Albuquerque, NM.

Correspondence: Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) send us a thank you note for our (redacted) donation in support of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Art Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture that was scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2020, at the Polish Museum of America. We were informed also that the Polish Museum of America 2020 Summer Gala has been rescheduled for August 28, and it will be held at the Café la Cave in Des Plaines, IL. Details of this event will be provided at a later time.

Bills: Br. Matuszczak moved to pay the bill for (redacted) from System Forms, Inc., for printing and mailing of the April Forum. Br. Wiermanski submitted a bill in the amount of (redacted) that was paid to TAXPOL Mt. Prospect Corp. for preparation of the 2019 tax forms and a bill for (redacted) to the Illinois Secretary of State for our annual corporate filing. Br. Cwikala seconded. Motion passed.

Directors and Officers Reports:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Br. Konopka reported that there will be no meeting in May. As there is no meeting in May, there will be no speaker. We will resume speakers once we resume meetings. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Br. Matuszczak stated that there was no meeting in April and the May meeting has been cancelled too. We will have to wait till the June 1 Board meeting to see if we could have a meeting in June. Br. Konopka moved to accept the report. Br. Ciesla seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Br. Wiermanski stated that last week he send his report to the Board members. There were no comments. Br. Ciesla moved to accept the report. Br. Matuszczak seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary: Br. Ciesla reported that our total deposits to date are: (redacted). The Wiecek repayments are on schedule and has a balance of (redacted) (34+more payments). We have 103 members; 8 members have not paid their dues. Their names are: Brian Bernardoni, Mark Cwiakala, David Marutzky, Tomasz Pawelko, Andrew Przybylo, Matt Rodriguez, Greg Sarwa and Dan Zolkowski. These members shall be suspended and removed from the Forum mailing list and the directory. Two applicants will be inducted. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion Passed.

Social Activities Director: Br. Kawalkowski was absent. There was no parade and the Pre-Parade Brunch has been cancelled. Br. Konopka reported on the Golf Outing. Golf Outing Committee discussed the effect of the virus on the success of this event, there is still a lot of uncertainties. The Committee decided that due to serious complications with the virus, the Golf Outing should be cancelled. Br. Konopka is the only one who paid for this event and he requested a refund of (redacted). Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion Passed.

Advocate: Br. Piecewicz stated that there no legal issues. Wiecek payment are on schedule. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Cwiakala seconded. Motion passed.

Director of Outreach: Br. Kurdziel was absent.

Director of Personnel: Br. Cwiakala said that due to the extension of the stay at home proclamation, the May General Meeting is cancelled. The invitation for the delayed inductions for the two approved candidates will be extended for the June meeting, pending confirmation that the June meeting will be able to take place. Br. Matuszczak moved to accept the report. Br. Piecewicz seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: Discussion developed on the issue of collecting dues without being active for the last couple of months. Decision was made to email board meeting minutes to membership only, as they would have received the minutes at the meeting under normal circumstances and seeing the minutes can help everyone keep track of the organization's activity and the Board's efforts to keep things going during the current situation. Br. Konopka moved to accept the proposal. Br. Matuszczak seconded. Motion passed.

Good of the Order: Br. Matuszczak reported that Br. Frank Gondela suffered a minor stroke, is presently in a hospital and is doing much better. His phone number is: 708 453 2363.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Br. Matuszczak and was seconded by Br. Ciesla. There being no farther business, Br. Dykas adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm. Next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jan S. Plachta* – Secretary



## **THE SKAJA FAMILY**

Family owned and operated  
Serving out community for  
84 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja  
Members

## **SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME**

7812 N Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714

## **CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM**

6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, #360  
Chicago, IL 60646-3728

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

