



# The Forum

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

VOLUME 67

DECEMBER 2016

NUMBER 12



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 21, 2016

6:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets

### RESERVATIONS

by December 18 to

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

847-635-0883

## NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, January 2, 2017

7:00 p.m.

PNA Home Office

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017—

Dinner Meeting & Speaker

White Eagle Banquets

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23, 2017—

CS Foundation Quarterly Meeting

Colletti's Restaurant

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner & Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017—

2017 Inaugural Ball

Café Le Cave

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres 6:30 p.m.

Gourmet Dinner & Entertainment

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017—

Śledź Mardi Gras Dinner & Pageant

LaVilla Banquets

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.

Dinner & Entertainment 7:00 p.m.

## Ho, Ho, Ho! MERRY CHRISTMAS DINNER!

The Chicago Society Board of Directors cordially invites all members and members' widows to our annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, December 21, starting at 6:00 p.m. at White Eagle Banquets, located in Niles. An open bar will be available one hour before the dinner and one hour after. Guests will enjoy a plated dinner consisting of Caesar salad, breaded pork tenderloin, African stuffed scampi on rice, string beans and carrots and a special Chef's choice dessert, coffee/tea/ milk. The Polonia Dance Ensemble will perform.



There is a \$25 charge per member and a \$25 charge for the member's first guest for the dinner. Widows of deceased Brothers are free of charge. The charge for each additional guest, including guest of a widow, is \$35.00. Prompt reservations for the dinner are a must! Please make your reservations no later than Sunday, December 18, by contacting Brother Ro Matuszczak: e-mail (preferred) at [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org) or call 847-635-0883 for reservations. Payment and reservations can also be made quickly and conveniently via PayPal at [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments). The annual Christmas Party raffle will take place following our dinner. Our tradition is that members, their guests, and our generous friends donate prizes for the raffle. Any item of merit will be appreciated and will be acknowledged in *The Forum*.

## DESERVING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



As in the past years, the Annual Chicago Society Deserving Children's Christmas Party will be held at the Polish National Alliance Headquarters on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** (his 53rd year) states there will be about 75 children present. A thank you to Brothers **Frank Spula**, President of the PNA and **Charley Komosa**, PNA National Secretary for allowing the event to be held at the PNA. **Brother Robert Radkowski**, Vice President of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union states the organization will make a donation for the party. Naturally, donations are accepted. Call Brother Ro Matuszczak at 847-635-0883 if you wish to donate. A complete report will be in the January edition of *The Forum*.



## CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA membership

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Charles A. Komosa

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Dear Brothers,

I would like to extend to you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! It has been quite a year and we all have a lot to be thankful for. I would like to begin by thanking all of the officers and directors of the Chicago Society for their dedication and participation in organizing the various activities of the Chicago Society. These past two years, the Chicago Society has made it a point to reach out to other organizations to provide a cooperative atmosphere to foster and promote our mutual goals and missions. It is the Chicago Society that continues to provide the leadership role in Polonia. I would especially like to thank Brothers **John Cieslik, Robert Groszek, Ted Wiecek and Andrew Zapalski** who are retiring as Officers or Directors. Thank you again Brothers for your sage advice.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation to the membership for giving me the opportunity and honor to serve as your President for the past two years. I would also like to congratulate Brother Steve Rakowski for being elected as our new President. I have worked with Brother Steve when he was president of the Advocates Society as well as these past two years. I am confident that Steve will provide the leadership needed to guide and grow our Society in the future. Thank you for your friendship and I hope we all continue to work together for the betterment of the Chicago Society. God Bless

Fraternally Yours,  
Brother Ted Makarewicz

Dear Brothers,



I offer you my 2017 Chicago Society New Year's Resolutions to foster camaraderie, networking and social pleasure!

### ***New Year's Resolutions!***

- 1) Attend more monthly meetings, which are included in your dues.
- 2) Participate more and volunteer at a CS event such as a Texas Hold'em Casino Night or picnic.
- 3) Take an active role by becoming a CS board member.
- 4) Support and attend more CS social events such as the Inaugural Ball, Śledź, May 3rd Pre Parade Brunch, Annual Golf Outing, Picnic, or Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner.
- 5) Invite and sponsor a family member, business associate, or close friend to join the Chicago Society.
- 6) Employ or use the service(s) of a brother members like dentist, electrician, doctor, lawyer, banker
- 7) Inform *The Forum* of career or job opportunities available for members.
- 8) Inform *The Forum* of internships or scholarships available for member's relatives.
- 9) Drop a few lines to *The Forum* about you, your family, and activities or milestones.
- 10) Buy Brother Ro Matuszczak a drink at the bar when you see him! He deserves it for his years of continued service and dedication to the Chicago Society!

Wishing you a phenomenal 2017!  
Fraternally, Brother Charles Komosa

## THE 2017 INAUGURAL BALL IS COMING!

The 2017 Annual Inaugural Ball with Installation of Officers of the Chicago Society for 2017 will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017. The Ball will once again be held at the elegant Café La Cave. Ball Chairman Brother Ro Matuszczak ensures that the evening will meet the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks and quality entertainment. The reception starts at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. The complete dinner selections will be provided in the January issue of *The Forum*. Invitations will be mailed soon. Our honorees this year will be The Advocates Society. Music will be provided by The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra. The cost of the Inaugural is \$130 per person. Black tie is optional. Please call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 for more information. To make reservations easily and conveniently via PayPal using your credit card or checking account simply go to [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments).



## THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ŚLEDŹ MARDI GRAS PARTY

Co chairmen Brother **Mark Orwat** and Brother **Charles Komosa** cordially invite you to attend the 2017 Annual Chicago Society Śledź on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the LaVilla Restaurant and Banquets, 3632 N Pulaski in Chicago. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will start with śledź (herring) as an appetizer, served with chubs, rye bread, *biały* (white) *barszcz* soup, followed by *kiełbasa*, *kapusta*, Polish style chicken *de volaille*, potatoes, pierogi, green beans *almandine*, coffee or tea, ice cream, and *paćzki*. This festive event is open to members, non-members, family, relatives, singles, and guests. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2017. The gentleman selected acts as our chaplain at Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. 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 unique pageant will be an open bar and raffle with prizes. Music by DJ Kamil. The cost is \$40.00 per person. For reservations or information call Brother Mark Orwat at 773-502-6969 or Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123 or purchase your tickets online through PayPal at [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments).



*I wanted to share a thank you letter from the PAA addressed to the Chicago Society Foundation Board on October 17, 2016.*

Dear Chicago Society Foundation Members,

thank  
you!

As you know, this past fiscal year has been extraordinarily challenging for non-profit social service agencies such as the Polish American Association. The Chicago Society's support helped enable us to continue our work when so many other agencies closed their doors forever. Your generous gift of \$5,000, which we received on October 17, 2016, truly made a difference in a year of great uncertainty. We are deeply grateful, not only for your financial support, but for your friendship and sponsorship that allows us to serve those in greatest need in our community. We look forward to future partnerships and ongoing mutual encouragement as we endeavor to fulfill our missions on behalf of the Polish American community in Chicago. In appreciation for your generosity,

Magdalena Dolas, Polish American Association Executive Director

## NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION & THANKSGIVING DINNER MEETING REPORT

The November General Election & Thanksgiving Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at White Eagle Banquets. Over sixty brother members enjoyed an outstanding dinner of mushroom barley soup, succulent turkey, stuffing, sweet & mashed potatoes, fresh cranberry sauce and followed with fresh baked apple pie for dessert. After the hearty dinner, Brother **Stanley Jendzejec**, chairman of the 2017 CS Nominating Committee presented the non contested slate with one vacancy for Civic Vice President to be appointed by incoming President Steve Rakowski and approved by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to the following Officers and Directors who were elected as the Chicago Society Board of Directors for 2017. President Steve Rakowski, Executive Vice-President Peter A. Dykas, Civic Vice-President vacancy, Recording Secretary Richard Ciesla, Financial Secretary Richard Jadczyk, Treasurer John Wojciechowski, Advocate Adam Konopka, Senior Director Ted Makarewicz, Social Activities Director Romuald Matuszczak, Club House Director Charles "Chuck" Cwiakala, Directors at Large: Richard Wiemanski, Charles A. Komosa, Ronald Topczewski, Christopher Grzadzki, and Mark Orwat. After the meeting adjourned, Brother Ro Matuszczak and Brother Chuck Cwiakala raffled off 15 succulent gourmet turkeys. The following brothers gobbled up the birds to take home; Brother Steve Rakowski (3 total), Brother Tom Sieja, Brother Jan Plachta, Brother Bill Szufarski, Brother Fred Koziol, Brother Richard Jadczyk, Brother Ray Golenia, Brother Ronald "Topper" Topczewski, Brother Ken Waldek & Brother Mark Orwat.

## Do You Know A Prospective Member?



**BROTHER T. RON JASINSKI HERBERT TO BE HONORED!**

Chicago Society's late Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** is being honored for leaving his home to the Copernicus Foundation after his passing with four different plaques, each representing an organization near and dear to T. Ron, on the memorial panel located at the Copernicus Center's. The dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 5:15 p.m. The event is the Copernican Award and Dedication of the Annex. Please see the enclosed invitation for information and ticket pricing.



One of the plaques honoring Brother T. Ron Jasinski Herbert has the following inscription.

*The Chicago Society Foundation is a private charitable organization chartered in January of 2000. T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert authored its constitution and became its first President and Chairman of the Board and was re-elected to that position three years in a row. The Foundation was created to permit donors to obtain charitable deductions and for flexibility in managing philanthropic causes. Its constitution requires it to provide philanthropic and charitable assistance specifically and only to individuals and organizations dedicated to the Polish American community.*

*Mindful of that purpose, the Foundation's directors, consisting of all former Presidents and current President of the Chicago Society, have made grants to an array of organizations and causes consistent with service to the Polish American community. These have included: the Polish Museum of America, the Irena Krzyzanowska Sendler film, the Chicago Society scholarship winners, Polish dance groups, and a biography of Casimir Pulaski for placement in many Chicago Public libraries.*

*The Foundation maintains a Finance Committee consisting of experienced individuals who have invested the Foundation's funds prudently and conservatively. The Foundation meets quarterly, carefully invests its funds to remain a viable source of grants for years to come, welcomes qualifying grant requests from worthy Polish American organizations and causes for consideration, and will continue to serve its mission.*

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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



- 9 Frank Czaja
- 12 Jack Rohner
- 14 Charles Cwiakala
- 16 Benjamin Sipiora
- 21 Dean Niedospial
- Ronald Olech
- 23 Thomas Laskowski
- 27 Ronald Wolosiewicz
- 30 Robert Pietryka

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**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY**

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



**HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI**  
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**2017 CHICAGO SOCIETY  
DUES STATEMENTS MAILED!**

Financial Secretary Brother **Richard Jadcak** has recently mailed members their 2017 Chicago Society dues statements. Dues can be paid on the Chicago Society website's PayPal link, by mail, or given to a Chicago Society director at a meeting if Brother Richard Jadcak is not available. As usual, the 2017 CS Membership Dues are due by February 28, 2017. To make dues payments easily and conveniently via PayPal, with no convenience fee, using your credit card or checking account simply go to [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments).

**PAY DUES ON-LINE****NEW BOOK BY BROTHER  
JAN PLACHTA**

Brother Jan Plachta has authored a new book, *Artysta Betonu i Stali*, (Artist of Concrete and Steel), which describes 40 bridges that were designed by Ralph Modjeski that to this day remain as classical examples of bridge engineering. Modjeski was also a piano virtuoso who performed with Ignacy Paderewski in Chicago. Modjeski received numerous awards and honors for his notable achievements as an engineer of great bridges that combined the principles of strength and beauty. Modjeski bridges are located all over the North American continent, from Alaska to New Orleans and from New York to San Francisco. The book is in the Polish language, has 462 pages, 270 photographs and drawings. The price of the book is \$25.00.

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**Like a Timex-** he keeps on ticking! Brother **Ro Matuszczak** went in for a tune up and had a few old stints replaced; he feels as good and energetic as ever!

**Ole!** Brother **Chuck** & Teresa **Cwiakala** celebrated his and several family members' December birthdays at the mucho classico Hay Caramba Restaurant in Park Ridge. Celebrating with Chuck were son Brother **Mark** & Erin **Cwiakala**, daughter Tanya Cwiakala-Theodosakis with husband Jim. Others enjoying the delicious food and flow of tequila at the birthday fiesta were Society brothers **Ro** & Chris **Matuszczak**, **John** & Jeanie **Cieslik**, Dr. **Alex** & Lauren **Tzanos**. A fantastic band playing Mexicana música entertained the guests all evening.

**Remember The Alamo!** Brother **Christopher** & Katherine "Kasia" **Grzadziel**, a newly elected CS Director at Large, spent 6 days in November in the San Antonio and Fort Hood areas of Texas visiting his wife's family and especially her 87-year-old uncle. San Antonio is a popular city to visit in Texas. Top sights the Grzadzies toured include the Alamo and other historic missions, the River Walk and the Alamo Plaza. The historic Alamo and its sister Spanish colonial missions have been honored as the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Texas. Brother Christopher recognized that everything in Texas is served "big" – Texas Style!

**Lights, Camera, Action!** - NBC has rented out part of the PNA building to film an episode of "Chicago Justice", a new series by powerhouse creator Dick Wolf, who delivers a captivating new installment to the hit Chicago franchise. Just like their brethren in the Chicago P.D., the State's Attorney's dedicated team of prosecutors and investigators navigates heated city politics and controversy head-on, while fearlessly pursuing justice. As they take on the city's high-stakes and often media-frenzied cases, they must balance public opinion, power

struggles within the system, and their unwavering passion for the law. And it all starts with a gut-wrenching case when one of Chicago's finest is shot in the line of duty. The series stars Carl Weathers- aka boxer Apollo Creed in Rocky's I & II. NBC production team filmed for 12 hours on Friday, December 9. The series is to premiere on NBC on January 14, 2017. Incredible the amount of productions crews, equipment, trucks and people involved was just overwhelming at the PNA!

**Bon Voyage-** Brother **Mark Orwat** and fiancée Gina enjoyed a 4 Day Bahama's cruise from Miami, Florida on Oct 31 aboard the luxurious Norwegian Sky with with an open bar on the ship. They had a balcony stateroom with it being the first room on the top deck behind the bridge overlooking the tranquil waters of the Atlantic and Caribbean. Due to the hurricane earlier, their itinerary was slightly changed. Their first stop was Nassau Bahamas and then to Key West Florida with a day at sea enjoying the sun and drinks. Brother Mark commented that he felt like James Bond in the casino drinking a martini shaken not stirred with his lovey girlfriend at his side trying to figure out their cash winnings.

Brother **John Skaja** and his wife, Gabrielle, are proud of their son Matthew who was named the MVP of the Northbrook Bluehawks, the 2015-16 Champions of the Northern Illinois Hockey League – Bantam Elite. Matthew is continuing his love of hockey playing this year on the Glenbrook North Spartans. Congratulations!

**!Viva México!** Brother **Ted Wiecek** recently spent 10 days over the Thansgiving holiday in sunny Puerto Vallarta. When he wasn't sipping mango margaritas on the beach, he was exploring the vast and wild jungle of the Sierra Madre that surrounds it, home to over 250 species of birds and countless other species of animals. He visited the location of the movie *The Night of the Iguana*, starring Richard Burton and Ava Gardner. This trip was not purely pleasure; he also spent time scouting out the feasibility of relocating there to spend his "golden years" there, away from the icy climes of Chitown.

## PNA'S SINGLE PREMIUM PLAN CHRISTMAS PROMOTIONS

PNA's Christmas promotions earmarked for children ages 0-15. For a limited time (October 21 through December 23, 2016) we are featuring the Single Premium Plan with a 5% discount on the premium payment. Please, have in mind the great benefits PNA offers to our young members: Scholarship Program, Tuition Rewards Program and various fraternal activities when offering this plan to your prospective members. In order to provide a discounted premium promotion for our members, the commission rate for the discounted Single Premium plan is \$5 per thousand. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brother **Richard Jadczyk**, PNA Sales Representative, at 847-224-1326.



## HELP A DESERVING MOTHER IN NEED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

In the spirit of the upcoming Holidays, Polish National Alliance (PNA) is helping the Single Mother's Home under the auspices of the Missionary Sister of Christ the King in Chicago, a safe and confidential shelter for all women who are pregnant, and with children, single, abused, homeless, and in financial crisis. Desired items are diapers, baby wash, shampoo, towels, detergent, kitchen utensils, paper towels, tp, and many more items needed for a household. Cash donations of any amount also appreciated. The drop box is located at the PNA, 6100 North Cicero Avenue in Chicago (Cicero & Peterson next to the Whole Foods) from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or at the Polish Daily News located at 5711 N. Milwaukee in Chicago. Please contact Mary Srodon at 773-286-0500 ext. 12. or Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123. Donations are being accepted through December 31, 2016.

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