



# The Forum

## of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 65

JANUARY 2014

NUMBER 1

### DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY

January 15, 2014  
6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets  
6839 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Niles, Illinois

#### RESERVATIONS

by January 11 to

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

or 847-823-8747

### NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, February 3, 7:00 P.M.  
PNA, 6100 N. Cicero, Chicago

### COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014—  
Dinner Networking Meeting  
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014—  
Inaugural Ball  
Rosewood Banquets, Rosemont

Tuesday, March 4, 2014—  
CS Śledź Mardi Gras Party  
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

### CELEBRATE AT THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S 2014 INAUGURAL BALL

January 18, 2014, is quickly coming upon us! That evening we will hold our highly anticipated **Inaugural Ball**. During the evening we will witness the installation of our newly elected president and board of directors, who will guide the Society over the next twelve months. On this evening we will also honor our 2014 Man of the Year, **Brother Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak**, an individual highly deserving of this award.

Chicago Society balls have long been well known throughout Chicago's *Polonia*. Indeed, over the years we have established our own set of high standards for this occasion and our January event will showcase this legacy. We have made every effort to ensure that the menu meets our guests' expectations, that the orchestra and its music selections reflect the tastes of both dancers and onlookers, and that the atmosphere created by the elegance of your company will encourage everyone to leave their worries behind and celebrate the evening.

The ball will take place at **Rosewood Banquets in Rosemont**, a highly-renowned steak house ideally suited to our event. Arriving guests will be greeted with champagne and hors d'oeuvres especially selected and prepared by the executive chef. An open bar serving fine spirits, wines, and beers will be available throughout the evening. Dinner will begin with an egg lemon soup and a mesclun mix salad. Guests will have a choice of one of three entrées prepared by a team of professional chefs: filet mignon with bordelaise sauce, chicken francaise with lemon basil sauce, salmon with cabernet sauce,

— Continued on Page 3 —

### THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ŚLEDŹ MARDI GRAS PARTY

This year's annual **Chicago Society Śledź** will take place at the **White Eagle Restaurant and Banquets**, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714 on **Tuesday, March 4, 2014**. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fine dinner of Herring in Cream Sauce, Chubs, Rye Bread *Bialy* (White) *Barszcz* Soup, Potatoes, Pierogi, Kielbasa, Kapusta, Polish Style Chicken De Volaille, Green Beans Almondine, Coffee or Tea, Ice Cream, and *Pączki* at 7:00 p.m. This festive event is open to members, non-members, family, relatives, singles, and guests. Dinner will start with **Śledź** (herring) as an appetizer.



After dinner, the traditional pageant representing **Śledź** will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2014. The gentleman selected acts as a chaplain at the 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. Followed by our unique Pageant, Open Bar, Dancing to Music provided by DJ Kamil Bartoszcze, KBE Ent. and a Raffle with Prizes.

The cost is \$40.00 per person. For reservations or information Call **Brother Frank Czaja** at 312/520-6144 or 708/425-6144 or purchase your tickets online through Pay Pal at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org>.



CHICAGO  
SOCIETY  
*Forum*

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Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR  
MEETING RESERVATION?

**Dear Brothers,**

First, I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy New Year. I hope your holiday season was a joyful one spent with family and friends. Happy New Year, health and happiness to all this coming year!!! As the holiday season ends, the year to come is looking excellent with more celebrations and events in store for 2014. I would like to thank again all those who have supported our efforts and events thru out the year for the Chicago Society, PNA.

I would like to thank the entire board for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend board and general meetings to strengthen the Chicago Society, PNA. I would like to personally thank **Brother Marian Skawski** and **Brother Don Gutowski** for their service as board officers this past year(s). Also, I would like to welcome aboard the new board members and thank the current members for their service. The first priority of the board is balance the Chicago Society budget in 2014 and to let you know that changer will be following in the New Year.

We will be celebrating the Chicago Society Inaugural Ball on Saturday, January 18, 2014 and **Brother Frank** and Darlene **Czaja** have planned a spectacular venue at the swanky **Rosewood in Rosemont**. This year the Chicago Society is honoring our very own **Brother Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak** as Man of the Year. Music will provided by the **Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra**. For more information and reservations, or if you would like to be a table captain please contact **Brother Frank Czaja** at 312-520-6144. Please invite your friends and colleagues to the premier Ball of Polonia in January.

Fraternally Yours,  
**Brother Mark Orwat**



**Dear Brothers,**

I wish you and your family a phenomenal 2014 with much health, love, and wealth. After a five year hiatus, I have returned as the Editor of the *Chicago Society Forum* for 2014. (Please hold the applause!). I want to thank **Brother Ted Wiecek** for his outstanding work for the past two years as the *Forum* Editor! (Please applause loudly in

his honor!).

I am planning to post new articles and feature stories throughout the year. My first feature article is titled a **Self Portrait Created in 13 Questions**. I conducted a candid interview with **Brother Ted Makariewicz** to create a self portrait of him for the readers. I hope you find it interesting and learn a few new things about **Brother Ted**. Please send me an email or call me if you would like me to mention an item or two about you, your family, important events, trips, etc.

**Brother Charles A. Komosa**

## CHICAGO SOCIETY'S JANUARY GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

**Brother John Cieslik** has arranged for Brian Gorman, Get Covered Illinois, to be



our featured speaker at our January General Meeting to be held on January 15, 2014 at the White Eagle. Brian Gorman is the Director of Outreach and Consumer Education for the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace. He is responsible for creating grassroots awareness and action for the Marketplace and working closely on field communication strategies. Gorman has a deep background in candidate and issue campaigns having worked on Obama for America in 2008 and 2012. He also was active in organizing on behalf of the Affordable Care Act and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, through his work with the Democratic National Committee from 2009-2011. Most recently Gorman served as Senior Campaign Advisor to the Illinois Senate Victory Fund. He lives in Chicago with his wife, 6 year old daughter and newborn son.

## AROUND THE SOCIETY!

**Brother Don** and **Lucille Gutowski** have decided to move after many years from their charming home in Norridge. The **Gutowski's** purchased a swanky condo style residence in the prestigious Park Ridge area. They are planning to move into the new residence after their high end renovations are completed. No doubt that **Brother Don's** knowledge and experience will be missed by the Village of Norridge government, trustees, and residents.

On December 9, 2013 **Brother Frank** and **Darlene Czaja**, representing the Chicago Society PNA, attended an open house at the Polish American Association's Open House, at their south side location, to celebrate the expansion and improvement of their services. The highlight of the event was the recently created computer lab where they bought 18 computers and new Interactive Whiteboards for their ESL classrooms. These Interactive Whiteboards have become a valuable tool for their staff and ESL students where teaching and learning English became more effective. They also took this opportunity to introduce their newest program offered at the north side location called **Supervised Visitations & Safe Exchange** where safe, neutral, and friendly surroundings are provided to encourage healthy interaction between the supervised parent/relative and a child. **Brother Gary Kenzer** serves as the PAA's Executive Director.

On December 22, 2013 **Brother Frank** and **Darlene Czaja** participated in an event called Lost, But Not Forgotten. The

## INAUGURAL BALL (Continued from Page 1)

or a vegetarian meal, accompanied by mushroom potato and broccoli provencale "polonaise." Dessert will be a white chocolate mousse cake. Red and white wine will be served throughout the meal.

The popular violin virtuoso **Brother Anthony Kawalkowski** and his strolling violinists will accompany this gourmet dinner. Following dinner and after the installation ceremony of the newly-elected president and board, this highly respected and popular orchestra, one of the best in the Midwest, will get everyone on their feet for a night of revelry. But before we hit the dance floor, members of the *Polonia* dance ensemble will open the ball with a traditional Polonaise.

Each of us on the committee, as a member of the Society, is striving to create a beautiful, festive, light-hearted atmosphere at this black tie optional event. Each of us should consider ourselves a co-chair of the ball—fully vested in its success. So let's all attend this gala event, with our significant others and in the company of our closest friends. We encourage you to select a Table Captain from among your party and reserve your table of up to 10 guests in advance.

We are pleased to announce that the ticket price for the 2014 Ball will remain at \$120 per person, the same as with the 2013 event. Kindly submit your reservations and payment by Monday, January 6, 2014. If you have not yet received your invitation, need extras for your guests, or have any questions at all, please contact our ball chairman, **Brother Frank Czaja**, at 312-520-6144 (e-mail: [frankcz@usa.net](mailto:frankcz@usa.net)) or pay by PayPal at our web page at [www.chicagosocietypna.org](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org). We look forward to your company and a spectacular evening. The champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

event took place at Indian Oaks Academy. Indian Oaks Academy is A Safe Harbor School, which is located in Manteno, IL. This was put together by some of the ladies from the motorcycle riding group ULRB, of which Frank is a member. Frank played Santa Claus. The goal was to help 140 children, ages 11 to 21 with emotional/behavioral disorders due to abusive situations in their lives, experience the positive wonders of Christmas.

**Brother Frank** and **Beverly Gondela** are doing their share of supporting the medical profession. Bev is currently in rehab after having her second knee implant. She hopes to be ambulatory in time for the Inaugural Ball on January 18. Brother Frank spent New Year's Day at the V.A. Hines hospital for a checkup. The

next time you see Brother Frank be sure to ask him how they are both doing.

## IT'S A GOOD TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES



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## PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of this prospective members, he should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting. Sponsors are to attend the general meeting in which the new member will be inducted and to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction ceremony.

Name: Michael Dropka  
 Address: 2432 Forest Avenue  
 North Riverside, IL 60546  
 Phone: 708-305-6205  
 Occupation: Media Affairs, Office of the  
 Illinois State Comptroller  
 Birth date: June 25, 1984  
 Birthplace: Palos Heights, IL  
 Education: B.A. North Central College,  
 M.P.A., UIC (14)  
 Sponsors: John Cieslik & Mark Orwat

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 2 Gregory Ciesla
- 3 Henry Ziemba
- 8 Zenon Olejniczak
- 12 Jaroslaw Jastrzebski
- 13 Frank Gondela
- 15 Joseph Kotlarz
- 21 Edward Blicharski
- 23 James Kolak
- 24 Robert Radkowski
- 26 Norbert Barszczewski
- 26 Frank Spula
- 27 Carlton Marcyan
- 27 Walter Piecewicz
- 28 Bogdan Korzeniowski
- 31 Michael Gadzinski

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate **Brother Ted Szywala**, who is celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his induction in January of 1954!

**GET YOUR INAUGURAL BALL  
TICKETS TODAY**

## "Ro" MATUSZCZAK TO BE HONORED AT THE INAUGURAL BALL

The Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance will honor Brother **Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak**, popularly known as "Mr. Chicago Society," as the Man of the Year at its Inaugural Ball, which will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014, at Rosewood Banquets in Rosemont, Illinois.

Brother Ro has been a member of the Chicago Society for over fifty-seven years. He was a seven-time President of the Chicago Society and has served on many committees and chaired many events. During World War II, he served in the United States Marine Corps. Ro has received the Award of Merit from the Advocates Society, the Civilian Man of the Year from the Polish American Police Association as well as a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Richard M. Daley for his lifelong contributions to Chicago. For fifty years Ro has chaired the Chicago Society Deserving Children's Christmas Party, and for thirty-six years chaired and has been involved with the Annual Pre-Parade Polish Constitution Day Brunch. He has also served on the Constitution Day parade Committee for many years.

Brother Ro has been president and vice president of numerous organizations. He is active with the Des Plaines VFW Post 2992 as Advisory Board President and Chaplain. Ro is also a member of the Polish National Alliance, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Elks, American Legion and Associate Member of PAPA (Polish American Polish Association).

Please join us at the Inaugural Ball to honor Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak. This is an honor well-deserved for his many years of service to Chicago's Polonia and the community.

## DESERVING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 14, 2013, the Chicago Society Deserving Children's Christmas Party was held at the Polish National Alliance Headquarters at 6100 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. This was made possible by our **Brother Frank Spula**, President of the PNA, and **Brother Charles Komosa**, PNA National Secretary.

Sixty children attended the event. Quite a few children did not show up because of the weather. As in the past, the party started after the noon hour. A light lunch was served of hot dogs, chips, cookies, soda and milk. The children enjoyed watching a magic act, which was followed by the arrival of Santa Claus (**Brother Richard Ciesla**). Each child received a gift which was addressed by name and age. Upon leaving, each child received a bag containing five dollars, coloring book, colored pencils and candy.



The chairman of the event would like to thank his wife, Chris, who was in charge of the kitchen, and her helpers, Maria Ciesla, Lottie Pilarski and Alina Tondryk. To **Brother Peter Dykas** and **Brother Chris Gradziel** a thank you for their donation of soda, and **Brother Peter** for serving the children. To able assistants **Brother Frank** and **Patryk Czaja**, **Brother John Domagalski**, **Brother Ted Wiecek**, Tanya Cwiakala Theodosakis and Eva, our photographer **Brother T. Ron Jasinski Herbert**, and **Brother Terry Przybylski**. Also present were our President, **Brother Mark Orwat**, and **Brother Mitchell Pasiewicz**.

The donations received this year were the most ever and are as follows: PNC Bank - \$1,200.00 received through the effort of Mario Pucharic of Integra Communications; an anonymous donor - \$500.00; **Brother Warren Dulski** - \$100.00; **Brother Jack Skaja** - \$200.00; Judge Dianne Marsalek - \$100.00; **Brother Richard** and **Maria Ciesla** - \$200.00; **Brother Ed Blicharski** - \$100.00; and **Brother John Wojciechowski** - \$100.00.

The gift wrappers were Chris Matuszczak, and Ro's daughters Yvonne Koontz and Renee Robinson. Heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and contributors who made this a successful event. This was **Brother Ro Matuszczak**' 50<sup>th</sup> year as Chairman of the Deserving Children's Christmas Party. It certainly has been rewarding to be able to do this event these many years. Thank you!

## A CHICAGO SOCIETY SELF PORTRAIT ANSWERED IN 13 QUESTIONS

I conducted a straightforward Q & A with Brother Ted Makarewicz to draw his Self Portrait:

1) Where were you born? *I was born in Detroit, Michigan.*

2) Family background (parents alive or deceased, brothers and sisters), marital status? *My parents are Theodore V. Makarewicz (deceased) and Helen M. Zaremba Makarewicz (living); I have an older sister, Loretta M. Miscavish who is living in Sterling Heights, Michigan.*

3) When did you move to Chicago and for what reason?

*I moved to Chicago from Detroit in the fall of 1975 to attend law school at Lewis University College of Law in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, k/n/a Northern Illinois University College of Law located in DeKalb, Illinois.*

4) What is your educational background and current position in your profession?

*I received my bachelor of arts in History from the University of Detroit in 1974. I started an MBA program at the University of Detroit but then had an opportunity to attend law school in Illinois. I received my JD degree from Lewis University College of Law which was later sold to Northern Illinois University. I currently hold the position of Deputy Assessor of Legal for the Assessor of Cook County. I have held that position for a little over 3 years and before that I was employed by the Cook County Board of Review for approximately 20 years.*

5) When did you join the Chicago Society and who were your sponsors?

*I'm not sure when I joined the Chicago Society and who my sponsors were, but it was a little while ago.*

6) What do like about the Chicago Society?

*I enjoy the fellowship between my member brothers and the good works it performs in the community. The Chicago Society also keeps the Polish traditions alive for its members and the future generations of Polonia. The Chicago Society also provides a network of businessmen who exchange their experiences and ideas for the betterment of their fellow brother members.*

7) How would you improve the Chicago Society?

*I would improve the Chicago Society by trying to get more people involved and to take ownership in the mission of the Society. Today, image is so important that the Chicago Society has to embrace change in order to be relevant in today's world. Like all social groups in Polonia, our members are older and we*

*need to attract younger members. The question is how???*

8) Do you have childhood or school nickname?

*I use to write a sports column for the high school paper entitled, "Thoughts from Thud" I was also called Thad because it was difficult to pronounce my name Thaddeus.*

9) On a scale from 1 to 10 how important is your Polish Heritage?

*I would rate the importance of my Polish Heritage as a "10". My Polish heritage defines who I am as a person. Yes, I was fortunate to be born in the United States and all the traits that we hold dear as Americans, i.e. freedom loving, the concept if you work hard you will succeed and a democratic way of life. But in combining my polish experience of a people who have struggled to overcome great odds with high moralistic ideals makes the Polish-American a special person.*

10) Do you have strong religious beliefs?

*Yes, I have a very strong religious belief in the Catholic faith. I am a daily communicant and stress prayer in my life. I am a member in the lay religious order of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Also known as the Order of Malta or the Knights of Malta. It is the fourth oldest religious order in the Catholic Church. It dates back to 1099 and the Crusades. It is an international order with approximately 13,000 members. Our mission is to serve the sick and the poor.*

11) Which would you prefer, a street named in your honor or a postage stamp?

*I would prefer a street named in my honor because people would have to travel on it daily. People would ask where is Makarewicz Street? Who's that? Kind of like Pulaski.*

12) Which actor would you chose to play the role in a movie about you and your life?

*The cartoon character, Popeye the Sailor man. He's always helping people when they get into trouble and never took himself seriously.*

13) If they made a mixed drink in your honor, what would be in it?

*A mixed drink in my honor would definitely consist of Polish vodka, pieces of Polish sausages and olives stuffed with blue cheese.*



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