



The Forum

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

VOLUME 65

JUNE 2014

NUMBER 6

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

June 18, 2014

6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by June 16 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or 847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, June 30, 7:00 P.M.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 19, 2014—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Saturday, June 28, 2014—
Polish Heritage Film Series
"Far From Poland"
PNA Home Office

Friday, August 1, 2014—
Chicago Society Golf Outing
Carriage Greens C.C., Darien

Sunday, August 17, 2014—
Family & Friends Picnic
Busse Woods

THE 2014 GOLF OUTING IS JUST AHEAD

Brothers **Charles Komosa** and **Mark Orwat**, co chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2014 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Chicago Society Golf Outing. The annual event will take place on Friday, August 1, 2014 at the Carriage Greens Country Club located at 8700 Carriage Greens Drive in Darien, Illinois. The day will begin with a cookout lunch in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 10:30 a.m. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at noon sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises. An open bar and appetizers will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the banquet room, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is only \$100.00 **per person**, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$35.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and cocktails. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle! Please call Brother **Charles Komosa** at (773) 286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome).

Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes. Brother **Frank Czaja** has graciously accepted to serve as Tee Sign Sponsorship Chairman. More information about sponsoring a sign will be communicated by Brother Frank shortly. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at (312) 520-6144



POLISH MOVIE TIME – KINO POLSKIE

The Polish Heritage Series Spring Film Festival, cosponsored by the Chicago Society PNA, Polish Arts Club of Chicago and the Polish National Alliance, will present "Far from Poland" on Saturday, June 28, 2014. The film will be screened at 2:00 p.m. in the cafeteria/meeting room of the Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Illinois. Tickets are only \$5.00. Coffee and cookies are served at intermission.

After Jill Godmilow failed to gain entry into Poland in the early 1980s to make a documentary on the strikes in Gdańsk and the Solidarność movement, she created this docudrama that is meant to tell her story, as well as that of the strikers and the woman who began it all, Anna Walentynowicz. Anna had been fired from her job after 30 years of dedicated service at minimal wages. The workers rallied around her, marking the beginning of the Gdańsk strikes. Anna and others of her generation are brought forward in re-enacted interviews in English.

MAY INDUCTION CEREMONY OF NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to the newest members inducted into the Chicago Society at the May meeting.

Brother **Mark Pasiaka** is an engineer by profession and is married to a wonderful Polish girl, Renata, and children Emma, Andzelina and Mark.

Brother **Brian Bernardoni** is Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Realtors and is married to his beautiful bride Carrie, and children Genevieve, Cecilia, Olivia and Sofia.



CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

With all of the May celebrations behind us. The month of May ended with Memorial Day with the remembrance of all who have served and sacrificed for our country. The month of June continues with Flag Day to be held at the PNA's office on June 16. The month of June will be filled with graduations, vacations and outdoor events enjoyed by all. Not too far off is our annual Golf Outing chaired by Brother Komosa with Brothers Czaja and Skaja as sign chairmen. This event will be held back on a Friday, August 1 at Carriage Greens in Darien. The price still stays the same at \$100, so let your family, friends and co workers know as spots will fill up. Please also support or let others or your clients know to purchase a golf sign which supports our scholarship fund. Contact Brother Komosa at (773) 286-7123 to reserve your spot.

Have a safe 4th of July anyway you may spend it. Also please don't forget to support your brother members' businesses. Please let us know if you have any suggestions also.

Fraternally Yours,
Mark Orwat

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**



**FROM THE
EDITOR'S PEN**

Dear Brothers,

I wish all you fathers — Happy Father's Day! (Especially Papa Ro!). Spend a Saturday afternoon with your significant other or friend at the movies! *The Polish Heritage Series Spring Film Festival*, co-sponsored by the Chicago Society PNA, Polish Arts Club of Chicago and the Polish National Alliance, will present. "Far from Poland" on Saturday,

June 28, 2014. The film will be screened at 2:00 p.m. Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** and Brother **Ted Wiecek** have put much thought and hard work into bringing the Polish Heritage Series to fruition.

If you have time please join us at the PNA Home Office on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. for a brief Flag Day Ceremony at the main entrance of the building followed by a complimentary luncheon in the cafeteria. Please call Brother **Paul Odrobina's** (VP) PNA office at 773-286-0500 Ext: 314 to reserve a spot. Several local elected officials are planning to attend.

In this edition of the CS Forum, I have included my award winning **13 Questions Self Portrait** interview series and spoke with recently inducted Brother **Mark Pasieka**. The interview is a must read and is a snapshot of his life in Chicago.

I heard a great summation of the time we spend at meetings — *A meeting is an event where minutes are taken and hours wasted.*

Brothers! Keep the faith and spend time with your children and grandchildren — It does make a difference in their lives! Have a wonderful month of June!

Brother Charles "Karol" Komosa

CHICAGO SOCIETY'S JUNE MEETING SPEAKER

Brother **John Cieslik** has arranged for Thomas Benigno, Deputy Secretary of State and Chief of Staff for the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office, oversees nearly 3,700 employees, manages a budget of approximately \$400 million, implements key traffic safety initiatives to decrease fatalities on roads, establishes ethics policies as well as an annual ethics test for employees in order to maintain good government, strengthens laws in Illinois' Graduated Drivers Licensing Program and oversees the state's organ and tissue donor program with more than 5.1 million people registered.

Tom will speak about the Secretary of State's programs and update us on the efforts to assist non documented immigrants in obtaining driver's licenses and identification cards at the June General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at the White Eagle. The dinner is a "Polish Night" offering Krakowia goulash, Polish kiełbasa and sauerkraut, pierogi, gołąbki, sałatka and dessert. Please make reservations with Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847-823-8747.

AROUND THE SOCIETY!

Brother **Stanley Jendzejec**, Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, Brother **Tomasz Pawelko** and **Charles** and **Agata Komosa** celebrated Mother's Day's Day and 1st Communion of **Brother Stan's** great nephew Oliver at Zhivago's Restaurant in Skokie.

Brother **Steve Rakowski** organized an Advocates Society salmon fishing outing at Winthrop Harbor in Zion and Brothers **Ted Makarewicz**, **Robert Groszek**, **Mark Orwat** and **Charles Komosa** were the catches of the day!

It's a "triple header"! **Brother Ro** and **Chris Matuszczak** announce the graduations of their grandchildren: Paul Koontz from the School of Law at Southern Illinois University; Kyle Robinson from St. Viator High School who is enrolled at Carthage College in Wisconsin; and Haley Robinson from Pine Grove Grammar School who will follow her brother, Kyle, at St. Viator High School. Congratulations!



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Ludmila Wiecek, mother of Brother **Ted Wiecek**, the Chicago Society Secretary, passed away May 25, 2014, at age 86. We offer Brother Ted our heartfelt condolences. **Bernadette Wiermanski**, wife of Brother **Richard Wiermanski** and mother of **Rick Wiermanski**, passed away on April 12, 2014. A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Wednesday, April 16, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville, Maryland. Condolences to Brother **Richard** and family!

Brothers **Frank Spula**, **Hubert Cioromski**, **Rom Poplawski**, **Zenon Olejniczak**, **Joseph Drobot**, **Mark Orwat** and **Charles Komosa** all attended the 70th Anniversary meeting and anniversary banquet of the Polish American Congress in Buffalo, NY. Brother **Frank Spula** energetically chaired the meeting and was the main speaker at the banquet with many dignitaries from the US and Poland. During a break in the conference brothers **Mark** and **Charles** visited Niagara Falls on the US side. More Buffalo stories: while motoring back to Chicago, brother **Rom** found the Fireside Winery in Sandusky, Ohio, and Brothers **Rom**, **Mark** and **Charles** took a tour and picnicked on the beautiful grounds—we looked like Frenchmen in a 1950's movie. Last word on Buffalo and 9 hours of driving together—if you are interested in a new business venture, Brother **Rom Popalwski** has a contact in Tibet/Nepal to export yak jerky or bulk yak meat to the USA!

Jennifer and Brother **Robert Groszek** are hosting a Garden Party featuring an Art Auction, wine, hors d'oeuvres at their home located on Pulaski & Addison on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. that benefit the building of a **ShelterHer Women's Shelter** at the Polish American

Association. This is a great event and I am asking you to support it financially. Co-chairs of the event are the Illinois State Comptroller **Judy Baar Topinka**, Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan**, PMA President **Maria Ciesla**, Alderman **Ariel Reboyras**, Alderman **John and Jill Arena**, and many more. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door—sponsorships available. Please call **219-743-5977** or shelterher@hotmail.com.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

- 2 Michael Dropka
- 4 Jan Plachta
- 6 William Kolodziej
- 8 Hubert Cioromski
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Adam Augustynski
- 16 Stanley Jendziejec
- 17 Krzysztof Kielczewski
- 20 Bernard Pacyniak
- 22 Lukasz Wrobel
- 28 Walter Sojka
- 28 Donald Versen

JUNE ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Stuart Sawa**, who is celebrating his 30th anniversary of induction in June into our organization.

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1st Place Essay — 2014 Chicago Society Scholarship Winner

Over the next two months we will publish the essays of the 2014 Chicago Society Scholarship winners. Mr. Adam Rozanek, a second year fulltime student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana majoring in Accounting, submitted the following essay that won first place in the 2014 scholarship. The Chicago Society and Chicago Society Foundation awarded Adam a check for \$3,000.00 at the CS May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Pre parade brunch:

Growing up in a family where the only known language is Polish; I was surrounded by Polish culture, heritage, and traditions my whole life. I'm the only one in my family that was born outside of Poland as my parents immigrated to the United States to escape communism. Because my parents had to make a living they found jobs right away which did not give them time to learn English. Because of this; my first language was Polish and I went into elementary school not knowing English.

This was one of my first challenges in life as I was in school and I did not understand anything that was going on. I kept quiet; and it was not until a week into the school year when the teacher recognized that I did not speak English so I was put into a special program. What usually lasts three years; I was able to get back into the regular program in one year and by fourth grade I was in the gifted program. During my time in grade school I was already involved with Polish heritage because of my parents. They wanted to make sure that I knew as much as I could about Polish heritage even though we were away from the homeland.

One of the first Polish organizations I joined was the Polonia dance group. We practiced traditional Polish dances such as the Krakowiak and we put on shows across the Chicago land area. Another group that I joined was named Wieczernik. This is a theatrical group in which we put on plays about religion; however some also have to do with Polish culture. An example of this was when we did a play about John Paul II which we displayed across the Chicago-land area. Our most popular play; however, is the Passion of the Christ which we still put on today during the time of lent and we get extraordinary turnouts. Both of these groups spread Polish heritage across Chicago land.

By the time high-school came around I was serious about my studies and I got into the International Baccalaureate Programme, which is a vigorous program with an emphasis on biodiversity. We learned about many countries; and

many times we gave projects on our home-land. My projects of course; were always on Poland. I will never forget when I impressed my AP History teacher when I made a project on communism in Poland. I presented it in front of the whole class and everybody was in shock as I gave first-person stories on communist Poland that my parents told me.

I was surprised to see that my very own history teacher did not know of what went on in Poland during communism and that made me see that everybody else is oblivious to what really went on. Of course; there are textbooks that tell you what happened but hearing the stories from people that had to live through those times such as my parents are a much different experience. I'll never forget when my mom told me how they tied a body slain by the government on a door across the whole city of Gdynia in opposition to communism. There were other stories such as police raiding my parent's house or not being able to buy milk for their children. I actually have an interview with my parents on YouTube in which they go in depth about what they had to go through during communism. I even had someone email me to use those videos as a source which I agreed to.

Learning about communist Poland from my parents and doing that project really affected my interest in Poland's history. I actually started paying attention during History class on Saturday mornings in Polish school. I never knew how long and rich Poland's history is; and it really is a shame that children do not learn about it in school. Because of this, I decided to get more involved with the Polish culture and heritage.

Every summer for the past couple of years I have been going to a place named Camp Vista. This is a Polish camp for children but it also has a religious aspect to it. At this camp I am in charge of a group of about ten kids. In addition to supervising the kids we also have to teach them. Every day we have group meetings during which we discuss respect towards others, religion, and Polish heritage. My goal in being a counselor at this camp is to have these kids connect to God and to also have pride in being Polish.

Currently I am studying at the University of Illinois in Champaign and I am very involved with the Zagloba Polish Club. This past winter we organized a Wigilia that was open to everybody. We even got a Polish priest to come from

— Continued on Page 5 —



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13 QUESTIONS SELF PORTRAIT INTERVIEW

I conducted a straightforward Q & A with Brother **Mark Pasieka** about his life, reflections and experiences. It is an interesting in depth expose of Brother Mark. I hope you enjoy reading it. [Editor's note: Brother Mark's family owned and operated the famous Pasieka Bakery on Milwaukee Avenue in the Jackowo area for many years.]

Where were you born? *In the Jackowo area of Chicago.*

Family background (parents alive or deceased, brothers and sisters), marital status? *Father passed April 11, 2012; Mother lives in Phoenix more than in Poland these days. Brother lives in Phoenix and my two older brothers passed away. I am married to Renata and we have three children - Emma, Andzelina and Mark.*

When did you move to Chicago and for what reason? *I moved back in 2006 because my wife insisted on it.*

What is your educational background and current position in your profession? *High school: Northridge Preparatory for Boys, Bachelors: University of Arizona, Electrical engineering and Masters: Arizona State University, Electrical Engineering / Electromagnetics. I am currently: working on developing acoustic optic modulators and deflectors (my own business).*

When did you join the Chicago Society and who were your sponsors? *I have been a part of the Polish society my entire life, a month ago I joined the subset of that group, the brotherhood that identifies itself as the Chicago Society by the sponsorship of Mark Orwat and Robert Groszek.*

How would you improve the Chicago Society? *I have not been a member long enough to have an opinion on this. I usually avoid*



improving things unless they are broken or can easily, and without possibility of failure, provide additional features, at minimal cost.

Do you have childhood or school nickname? *My white friends called me Pasieka and my black friends called me Pooshacka (I think it was a derivation of Shaka Zulu as that was on TV when my black friends started calling me that.).*

On a scale from 1 to 10 how important is your Polish Heritage? *I may have been assembled in the United States but my components are all imported from Poland. Nothing else seems to fit or is just simply incompatible so I would say 10, very important.*

What other organizations do you support and take an active role in? *Jackowo parish, NDFA and the Pumping station one.*

Do you have strong religious beliefs? *I believe so, but compared to most I am a sinner.*

Which would you prefer, a street named in your honor or a postage stamp? *A Street is more long term. It would be nice to be remembered, but having a street named after me is not my objective in life.*

Which actor would you chose to play the role in a movie about you and your life? *My Son, he's the best actor I have observed to-date. My brother isn't bad but my son is only 4.*

If they made a mixed drink in your honor, what would be in it? *Miód Pitny and something ... I'll have to get back to you on that one ... I haven't tried mixing it with anything. Then again, when I ferment it I have found adding cherry syrup, currants and gooseberries varies the flavor enough to almost make it something else.*

1ST PLACE ESSAY (continued from page 4)

Chicago to give mass. After the mass we had the Wigilia with an astonishing turn out. We had over 350 people and many of them were not Polish. This was a fun experienced as we showed them what to do with the *optatek* and explained why there are no dishes with meat.

This event, along with many others has really spread Polish culture around the campus here at the University of Illinois. There are over two-hundred people in the club now and the people that are involved the most (including me) live in the same apartment complex. It feels like a second family because our Polish club is very close. Thanks us being close to each other; a couple of my friends and I are working on a video in which we will have first person stories about communism in Poland. Many of the students here have older parents or grandpa rents that lived through communism and I think it's imperative to get their stories because there is an extraordinary amount of people that do not know what happened in communist Poland.

I have been surrounded by Polish customs and traditions ever since I've been born and they have followed me all the way to college. I played on the Wisla soccer team and I walked

in every May 3rd parade. My whole life I have been smothered with Polish culture and I try my best to display it for others to learn about it. I will continue spreading Polish customs and traditions during my time here at the University of Illinois as next year I am hoping to be President of Zagloba. One thing in particular I am focusing on spreading is the history of Poland as many people do not know how fascinating it is.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES POLISH ARCHEOLOGIST

(PMN) The June, 2014, edition of *National Geographic Magazine* features a detailed article about the find of a royal Peruvian tomb by Milosz Giersz, 36, who teaches Andean archeology at the University of Warsaw.

Despite the claims that looters had already removed everything from the site, the previously undiscovered tomb contained four Wari queens, at least 54 other highborn individuals and more than a thousand elite artifacts.

Mark Your Calendar
Family & Friends Picnic - August 17

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