



The Forum

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

VOLUME 64

JANUARY 2013

NUMBER 1

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

January 16, 2013

6:00 P.M.

**Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois**

RESERVATIONS

by January 14

TO 847-823-8747 or

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

**Monday, February 4, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern**

COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

**Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013—
Inaugural Ball
Café la Cave**

**Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013—
Śledź
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

**Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

CELEBRATE OUR SECOND CENTURY AT THE INAUGURAL BALL

January 19, 2013, will be here soon! That evening we will hold our Inaugural Ball and kick off a second century of brotherhood and service for the Chicago Society. We will also honor 2013's Man of the Year, brother **Stanley Stawski**.

Chicago Society balls have long been well known throughout Chicago's *Polonia*. Indeed, over the years we have established our own set of standards for this occasion and our January event will showcase this legacy.



The ball will take place at Café La Cave, 2777 Manheim Road, Des Plaines. Arriving guests will be greeted with champagne and hors d'oeuvres. An open bar serving fine spirits, wines and beers will be available throughout the evening. The meal will open with a chicken consommé with julienne vegetables and pasta. Our salad will be composed of romaine lettuce, hearts of palm and mandarin oranges topped with basil vinaigrette. Entrée choices are: broiled filet mignon with Bordelaise sauce, filet of salmon with champagne tarragon sauce, or duet of chicken breast Jean Bart/ madeira shitake. For dessert, we will indulge ourselves in a decadent fallen chocolate soufflé. Red and white wine will be served throughout the meal.

The popular violin virtuoso Anthony Kawalkowski and his strolling violinists will accompany this gourmet dinner, and then play after the program for our listening and dancing pleasure.

The ticket price for the 2013 Ball will remain at \$120 per person, the same as with the 2012 event. If you have any questions at all, please contact our ball chairman, brother **Andrew Zapalski**, at 847-869-3627 (e-mail: zapandlor@att.net), or visit our web page at www.chicagosocietypna.org.

So let's all attend this gala event, not only with our significant others, but also in the company of our closest friends. We look forward to your company and a spectacular evening at our Ball! *Do miłego zobaczenia!*

CHICAGO SOCIETY ŚLEDŹ

This year's annual Chicago Society *Śledź* will take place at Przybylo's White Eagle Restaurant, in Niles on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Free parking is available. The festivities will begin with a social hour (open bar) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fine dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Dinner will start with *śledź* (herring) and chubs with rye bread as an appetizer. Dinner will include Biały (White) Barszcz Soup, Potatoes and Pierogi, Kiełbasa and Kapusta, Green Beans Almondine, Polish Style Chicken De Volaille, finishing off with ice cream and coffee or tea. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing *Śledź* will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2013. The gentleman selected acts



(Continued on page 2)



CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

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.

I would like to thank Brother **Frank Czaja** for his dedication and hard work as president for the past two years and also the outgoing member of the board.

I would like to thank all the brother members for their support of the board and myself to make the next 100 years memorable and successful.

I would like to invite and remind everyone about the Inaugural Ball which will be held at Café La Cave on January 19, 2013, as we induct the 2013 Board and honor Brother **Stanley Stawski** as the Person of the Year. Music will be provided by Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski**; for more information please contact Brother **Andrew Zapalski** at 847-869-3627 (e-mail: zapandlor@att.net).

Last, I would also invite and encourage all members, their families and their friends to attend our *Śledź*, which will be held on February 12, 2013 at Przybyło's. Enjoy a fun-filled evening before we have to "behave" during Lent.

Fraternally Yours,
Mark Orwat



Well, December 21 came and went, and we're still here (even though the Twinkie is gone). So the Mayans were wrong. Shots of *Xtabentún* for everyone!

The year 2012 was certainly an emotional rollercoaster. While our economy is on a slight upswing, many people are still struggling. The London Olympics thrilled people around the world, allowing them to—for a short time—forget their troubles. The elections brought some surprises, and some not. The tensions in the Middle East are flaring, especially in Syria. Most of Europe is in an economic crisis. Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc in the coastal Northeast. Mass shootings brought grief and sorrow to Connecticut, Colorado, Wisconsin, reopening the debate over gun control.

2013 is here, and we've averted the "fiscal cliff." I'm reminded of a speech by Wladyslaw Gomulka, then First Secretary of the (Communist) Party in Poland, once gave during the height of communism. He said, "A number of years ago we were standing at the edge of the cliff, and since then we have taken a giant step forward." Wile E. Coyote comes to mind.

Here's hoping that 2013 will be better for all of us. Let each one of us use our talents and resources to improve the life of just one person. Our world will become a better place. Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Ball and at the *Śledź*.

CONDOLENCES

Antoni Pawelko, father of Brother **Thomas Pawelko**, passed away recently. Our condolence to Brother Tom and his family.

CHICAGO SOCIETY ŚLEDŹ (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

as a chaplain at the Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. The open bar will resume after dinner. There will be a raffle and a time for dancing to the music of KBE Entertainment. This festive event is open to members, non-members, family, relatives, singles, and guests. Cost is \$39 per person. For reservations call **Frank Czaja** at 312-520-6144 or pay through PayPal at www.chicagosocietypna.org

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.



ABDON PALLASCH TO SPEAK AT JANUARY MEETING

Our speaker for the January meeting will be Abdon Pallasch, who is now Pat Quinn's assistant budget director. Abdon was a frequent panelist on Channel 11's "Chicago Tonight" program. He was a reporter at the *Sun-Times*.

After 13 years as ace political reporter at the *Sun-Times* — and 25 years in journalism altogether — Pallasch, 46, is crossing over to work for Governor Pat Quinn as assistant budget director for the state. What made Quinn's offer appealing was the challenge of putting his budget expertise into practice. "In addition to being spokesman for the office, I hope to be able to have a positive impact on coming up with solutions for the state's budget problems," Pallasch told me. "At the very least I'm confident it will be a learning experience for me to walk through the looking glass and see the process I've been covering from the other side."

Steeped in local news and politics, Pallasch grew up on the Northwest Side and graduated from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. After stints at Chicago's City News Bureau, UPI and the *Chicago Lawyer* (along with a four-year detour at the *Tampa Tribune*), he joined the *Chicago Tribune* in 1998 and jumped to the *Sun-Times* the following year.

Of his many scoops and blockbusters, Pallasch considers the most memorable his early reporting on the political phenomenon of Barack Obama: "I was in the right place at the right time to ride that Obama bus through Iowa and see all those Iowa people become believers, then follow him on to New Hampshire and a dozen other states," he recalled. "Back when I was at *Chicago Lawyer* magazine in the '90s and needed a constitutional law expert, he was on my speed dial."

Pallasch called leaving the *Sun-Times* "a very tough choice," adding: "I really like my job. I worked hard to get here. I think it's very important work we do, especially at election time to give readers the information they need to make informed choices."

"Like most Americans who don't work for political action committees, I really lament the Balkanizing, fracturing, dismissive attitudes partisans increasingly take toward each other. I tried very hard in my reporting to do a balanced job reporting elections on policy disputes between the parties and to maintain a good rapport with Democrats and Republicans. I hope to do the same looking for budget solutions at the state," he said.



POLAND BIDDING FOR 2020 EURO GAMES

Poland will endeavor to be one of the organizers of the Euro 2020 football (soccer) championship, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on December 7, 2012. According to a media report, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) decided that the Euro 2020 event will take place in several countries simultaneously. Prime Minister Tusk added that the most likely candidate was the Polish capital Warsaw.

CHICAGO SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Close to 60 members, their wives and guests enjoyed the Chicago Society's Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19 at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle. After the membership dispensed with the business portion of the meeting, our St. Joseph Brother **Fred Koziol** began the festivities with the customary invocation. Brother Fred also offered a prayer and a minute of silence to honor the victims of the massacre in Newtown, CT. The guests then broke and shared the traditional *opłatek*, extending to each other wishes for a wonderful Christmas season and a joyous New Year. Music throughout the evening was provided by the very talented Brother **Kamil Bartoszcze** and Ania Leszczynska.

Following a delicious dinner prepared by Brother **Andy Przybylo** and his staff, youngsters from the Polonia Dance Ensemble delighted the guests with Christmas songs as well as a medley of children's dances. The youthful energy shown by the dancers was warmly received by all. We are gratified that the children of the Ensemble are upholding and continuing the treasures of Polish folklore. Anna Krysinska, director of the Ensemble, expressed her wishes for a Merry Christmas to all present.

Santa came early for a number of our guests. Beautiful Christmas items from the raffle were won by many of our guests. Congratulations to all the winners. May you all enjoy the gifts Santa brought.

A huge *Bóg zapłać* to Brother **Ro Matuszczak** for organizing this enjoyable and entertaining evening, as well as all the informative and pleasant dinner meetings over the past two years. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, Ro.

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In Memoriam

Brother **Walter Bialka** passed away on December 12, 2012, at the age of 96.

Our condolences go to his wife Mary, his children and grandchildren on their loss.

THE POLISH AIR FORCE IN WORLD WAR II

The Polish Museum of America in Chicago and the Polish Air Force Veterans Association (Stow. Lotników Polskich) invite you to an exhibit "The Polish Air Force in World War II." The exhibit highlights the exploits of Polish squadrons who first were overwhelmed by the Luftwaffe in September 1939 and later in France in 1940. During the Battle of Britain they were the highest scoring group of pilots among the "few" who saved Britain and possibly Western civilization during the dark days of the German Luftwaffe's "blitz" in WWII. The PAF then moved on the offensive and was on the winning side.



The opening of the exhibit will take place on Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Polish Museum of America. General admission to the opening is \$10; veterans and PMA members paying \$5. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on view until February 24, 2013.

LOW POLISH INFLATION

As expected, Polish inflation lowered in year-on-year terms in November, dropping to 2.8%, the lowest figure in two years. Month-on-month prices grew merely 0.1%, largely thanks to a huge drop in gas prices. The bright inflation outlook opens then the door for an even more aggressive easing of the NBP monetary policy.

DESERVING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 13, 2012, the Chicago Society hosted its annual Deserving Children's Christmas Party at the Polish National Alliance Headquarters in Chicago. Our thanks to our Brother **Frank Spula**, President of the PNA, and Brother **Charles Komosa**, National PNA Secretary, for making arrangements to hold the party in the PNA hall.

There were seventy-one children attending, and with their parents, the total was approximately one hundred persons enjoying the festivities. The event started at noon with a light lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, soda and milk. An animal act followed, giving the children and adults the opportunity to pet the animals. The highlight, as in the past, was a six-foot long boa constrictor who, besides being petted, was placed on the shoulders of some of the children.

After the animal act, Santa Claus arrived amid squeals of joy by the children. Our Santa, Brother **Richard Ciesla**, did a great "job" of talking to the children in Polish and English. Each child received a gift, labeled with the child's name and age. Upon leaving each child received an envelope containing five dollars.

The chairman of the event Brother **Romuald Matuszczak** would like to thank the following persons for their help: Chris Matuszczak, Ro's wife, who was in charge of the kitchen, ably assisted by Lottie Pilarski, Maria Ciesla and Alina Tondryk. The all did a fine job in getting hot dogs ready for the hungry crowd. To Brother **Peter Dykas** and his wife Agata for their contribution of soda for those present; to President Brother **Frank Czaja**, his wife Darlene and their son Patryk for the donation of potato chips and their help in serving the hot dogs; Brother Charles Komosa and his wife Agata; Brother **Richard Ciesla**; Renee Robinson, Ro's daughter, and grandson Kyle Robinson, who helped to serve milk and cookies; photographer Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**; Tanya Cwiakala Theodosakis and her son Max for all their help; Eugene and Teresa Urbaszewski for contributing gifts, and to Terry Przybylski who played Christmas Carols on his accordion.

Donations for this annual event were received from the following: PNC bank \$1,000.00, through the efforts of Mario and Barbara Pucharic of Integra Communications; Ted Szywala, \$300.00, who has been donating for over 35 years; Brother **Jack Skaja**, who also has been donating for over 30 years and donated \$200.00; Brother **Chuck Cwiakala**, \$100.00; Brother **John Wojciechowski**, \$100.00; Tanya Cwiakala Theodosakis, \$100.00; Judge Diann Marsalak, \$100.00; **Mitch Pasiewicz**, \$50.00; Brother Charles Komosa and raffle prize money of \$80.00. The gift wrappers were Chris Matuszczak, Ro's daughters, Renee Robinson and Yvonne Koontz, and grandson Kyle Robinson. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and contributors who made this a successful event.

This was Brother Ro Matuszczak's 49th year as Chairman of the Deserving Children's Christmas Party. Always a joy!

FUN FACTS

Pieorgi (few remember that the singular is *pieróg*, probably because so few of us will eat only one!) have a Patron Saint, and it has been confirmed: St. Hyacinth (Święty Jacek), of the early 13th Century, has that honor. Here's a fact that will pique your attention: St. Hyacinth was a man. He was a son of aristocracy in Śląsk, a region of Poland between Wrocław and Kraków. He met and was the first Polish member of the St. Dominic "Order of Preachers," becoming known as the "Second Apostle of Poland" as he was conducting his travels through Lithuania, the Ukraine and Russia. Legend has it that he created pierogi as his way of providing filling food to the starving at a time of famine.



Thanks to Brother Chuck Cwiakala for passing this on, courtesy of the *Rockford IL Diocese Observer*

FOLKLORE OF POLAND

This year, let's take a "tour of Poland" by exploring her various folkloric regions. Ethnographically, Poland is divided into five macro-regions. These regions are *Wielkopolska*, *Małopolska*, *Pomorze*, *Mazowsze*, *Śląsk*. Their exact borders cannot be drawn, as the regions are not official political or administrative units. Each of these regions has its unique culture, such as country traditions, lifestyle, costumes, music and songs, tales, dialect, etc.

Wielkopolska (Greater Poland)

The Wielkopolska region is a flat region interspersed with forests and lakes. Located in the Warta River basin, it was the home of the Polanie tribe, an ancient Slavic tribe from which the Polish nation arose. In its center lies Gniezno, an ancient castle town built in the eighth century and Poland's first capital. Wielkopolska, sometimes called the "cradle of Poland," formed the heart of the 10th-century early Polish state. Poznań and Gniezno were early centers of royal power; historians believe that this is where Mieszko, Poland's first historical ruler, was baptized in 966. Other cities in the region include Kalisz and Konin,

Małopolska (Little Poland)

The *Wiślanie* (Vistulans), a Slavic tribe, lived along the upper Vistula River basin near Kraków. Kraków itself became Poland's capital in 1038. The royal residence was on Wawel hill overlooking the town. On it still stands the remains of a 10th century church. Additionally, archeological evidence indicates that under the foundations of the 10th century Church of St. Wojciech (Adalbert) in the town's main square are the remains of a pagan temple. It is a region of gently rolling hills and green valleys. The area associated with this name is quite large, stretching from Częstochowa in the west to Lublin in the east and encompassing the land between this line and the mountain ranges forming Poland's southern border. Other cities include Rzeszów, Tarnów, and Sącz

Pomorze (Pomerania)

The Pomorze region lies on the south shore of the Baltic Sea. Divided between Germany and Poland, it stretches roughly from the Recknitz River near Stralsund in the West, via the Oder River delta near Szczecin, to the mouth of the Vistula River near Gdańsk in the East. Outside its few urban centers—most notably the Szczecin and Trójmieście metropolitan areas—the soil is mostly used as farmland, dotted with numerous lakes, forests, and small towns. Agriculture primarily consists of raising livestock, forestry, fishery and the cultivation of cereals, sugar beets, and potatoes.

Mazowsze (Mazovia)

The historical region of Mazowsze is situated along the middle course of the Vistula River. The historical capital of Mazowsze is Płock, being the oldest town in this region. It received its town rights in 1237. It is the former residence of the Mazovian princes. A part of the country at its inception, it became a separate principality that was incorporated back into Poland in 1529. Mazowsze is a low-lying region. During the 15th and 16th centuries the region began exporting grain, timber, and fur. Two-thirds of the province's residents live in cities, with the most living in Warsaw, the nation's capital. Other large cities include Radom, Płock, and Siedlce. The latter part of the 19th century saw rapid development of agriculture, the food, metal, and textile industries, and railway transport.

Śląsk (Silesia)

Śląsk is an area of southwestern Poland stretching along the Czech border. This area was part of Poland up to the 14th century after which it passed successively into Czech, Austrian, Prussian and eventually German hands. With the passage of time, the Polish-speaking population of the region became increasingly Germanized, more so further West. Upper Silesia's rich deposits of coal have resulted in the area becoming highly industrialized. Silesia is rich in mineral and natural resources and includes several important industrial areas. Silesia's largest city and historical capital is Wrocław. Other large cities are Opole, Gliwice, and Katowice.

In the next months, we'll take a look at each of these regions in more depth, and how its geography, history, and politics have influenced the folkloric characteristics unique to the region.



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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 member, 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: James P. Pieczonka
 Address: 4322 Hammersmith Lane
 Glenview, IL 60026
 Phone: 773-307-2575
 Occupation: Attorney, Law Offices of
 James Pieczonka, P.C.
 Birth date: Sept. 12, 1956
 Birthplace: Chicago
 Education: BA, NEIU; JD,
 John Marshall Law School
 Sponsors: Frank Czaja,
 Robert Groszek

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 2 Gregory Ciesla
- 3 Henry Ziemba
- 8 Zenon Olejniczak
- 12 Jaroslaw Jastrzebski
- 13 Frank Gondela
- 15 Joseph Kotlarz
- Chester Sawko
- 21 Edward Blicharski
- 23 James Kolak
- 24 Robert Radkowski
- 26 Norbert Barszczewski
- William Powell
- 26 Frank Spula
- 27 Carlton Marcyan
- Walter Pieciewicz
- 28 Bogdan Korzeniowski
- Arthur Siemion

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother member, who is celebrating the anniversary of his induction in January.

Kenneth Walczak 2008 5 years

PNA ASSISTS NEEDY CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS WITH ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

The Polish National Alliance held its annual toy drive for needy children from November through December 7th, 2013. A large decorated carton stood in the lobby of the Home Office for donations from PNA employees and guests as they entered the building. The PNA affiliates—the two PNA Bank locations (Niles and South Pulaski Avenue in Chicago) and the Polish Daily News (*Dziennik Związkowy*)—also participated in the toy drive with drop off boxes in their buildings. This year the donations were the most we have received in the past few years.

Vice President Brother **Paul Odrobina** oversaw the collections. Mr. Odrobina's Administrative Assistant Joan Oskorep assisted in the organizing of the drive. Many employees donated cash; cash donations were used to purchase additional toys from area stores.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, many large boxes containing over 200 donated toys, games, stuffed animals and books were delivered to The Women's Center in Chicago, Illinois. The staff (Carol and Jackie) of The Women's Center was very grateful for the donations and would like to thank everyone who donated a gift to make a needy child at Christmas smile.



Brothers Frank J. Spula (left) and Paul C. Odrobina, PNA President and Vice President, respectively, with toys collected for underprivileged children.

Submitted by: Robert M. Jadach

NEW BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OFFICE

At the Board meeting on December 27, 2012, the newly elected Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Society took their oath of office. In addition, the following directors-at-large were appointed to the following posts:

Brother T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert	Director of Special Projects
Brother Charles Komosa	Director of Finance
Brother Mario Mikoda	Director of Public Relations
Brother Ted Wiecek	Director of Publications
Brother John Wojciechowski	Director of Personnel

Please join in wishing the members of the Board and the Directors much success in advancing the Society for all its brothers.

POLISH AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUB

At its November 2012 meeting, Polish American Business Club elected the following officers and directors:

President Brother **Ro Matuszczak**; Vice President Brother **Joseph Bauerle**; Secretary/Treasurer Brother **Tom Laskowski**. Directors are Brother **Ted Lipkowski**, Tom Marzec and Bernard Kowalski.

The PABC meets at Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant in Broadview on the second Tuesday of the month. New members are welcome. For information contact Brother Ro at 847-635-0883 or email at cmatco@gmail.com.

IMF FUNDS NOT USED BY POLAND

Poland has not used any means from the Flexible Credit Line (FCL) granted by the International Monetary Fund, according to a weekly IMF report. On December 20, 2012, Poland had at its disposal the full amount of special drawing rights (SDR) of \$6 billion granted by the fund. The first FCL arrangement with Poland was approved in May, 2009.



Santa Claus was assisted by Brother Richard Ciesla to give a present to every child at the Deserving Children's Party.



Deserving Children's Christmas Party Chairman Brother Ro Matuszczak definitely had "a monkey on his back."



Members and guests enjoyed the entertainment and the White Eagle's food at the Christmas Party.



"The Little Elves" of the Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble entertained at the December Meeting and Party.



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
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HAVE
YOU
PAID
YOUR
2013
DUES?



Brother John Skaja, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance at the December Meeting and Christmas Party.

POLISH TRIVIA

This event began 150 years ago, on January 22, 1863, in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It began as a spontaneous protest by young Poles against conscription into the Imperial Russian Army, and was soon joined by high-ranking Polish-Lithuanian officers and various politicians. It ended in 1864. As a direct result of the Poles' defeat, all traces of the former Polish autonomy were removed. Russian also became the official language of the country, used exclusively in all offices of the general and local government. What was this historical event?

Answer to December's question: The oldest Polish Christmas carol or *kolęda*, dates from 1424 and begins with the words "Zdrów bądź, królu anjelski" ("Be healthy, King of angels").

ALLERGY AND ASTHMA



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