



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA
The Voice of an Autonomous Lodge of the Polish National Alliance

Volume 63

March 2012

Number 3

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

March 21, 2012

6:00 P.M.

Elks Club

495 Lee Street
Des Plaines, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

BY MARCH 19

TO 847-635-0883 OR

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, April 2, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 21—
General Dinner Meeting
Elks Club, Des Plaines

Wednesday, April 18—
General Dinner Meeting
Site To Be Announced

Saturday, May 5—
Pre-Parade Brunch
Hilton Chicago Hotel

MONICA DIXON TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEETING

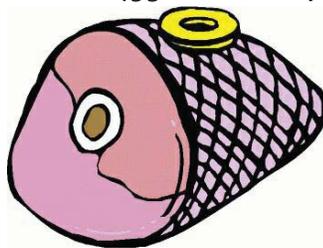
Our speaker at the March meeting will be Monica Dixon, founder of Monica Dixon Public Relations and an expert in using social networking. Her topic will be "Made in Chicago. How I made my dreams come true in one of the greatest cities in the world." She wants to encourage Chicago's Polonia to follow their dreams and achieve their goals right here in our city which has so much to offer. Ms. Dixon will also speak about "The power of social networking events and how to build a network."



EASTER HAM RAFFLE AT THE MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, at the Elk's Club at 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines. Cocktails will be available at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 p.m. Parking is available at the Elk's parking lot, at the First Merit Bank west of the Club and also at the shopping center across the street. A map showing the location of the Club is found on page 5.

A sit-down dinner of corned beef and cabbage will be served. A ham raffle will be held at this meeting since our April meeting falls after Easter. Please make your reservation as early as possible so we can order enough dinners. If there are any questions, please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak**, House Director, at 847-635-0883.



POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

The annual Chicago Society Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Please save the date! Complete information will be printed in the April Forum.

If advance information is needed, please contact Chairman Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883.



CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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Ted Wiecek

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

Well, it seems like we just can't seem to get away from this mild winter. We might even set the record for February of such mild weather. So those of you who are into winter sports, you may need to travel for adventure. For the rest of us it's time to think of early spring.

Speaking of spring time weather, I would like to welcome back board member Ken Gill from his sunny home in Arizona. He might have been enjoying the sun, but those of us who attended The Polish Advocates Society celebration on February 17th experienced the warmth and friendship that those of Polish culture share so well. Congratulations to all in the Advocates Society on their 81th anniversary. A fun night was also had by many members at the White and Red Ball, and I would like to congratulate the debutantes, their escorts, and families who worked so hard to contribute to the cultural image of Polonia. Pulaski Day was celebrated by the annual celebration at the Polish Museum of America and by the Pulaski Day dinner sponsored by the Polish American Congress. Our culture was also celebrated at "The King's Dinner" on March 6, 2012. This was to celebrate the last ruling king of Poland, King Poniatowski. The event was sponsored by the Warsaw Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International. All who attended had a very enjoyable evening

And, in the spirit of continuing not only our culture but also our spiritually, I would like to thank all who attended the Śledź and especially Brother Mark Orwat for organizing yet another great event for the Chicago Society. A great time was had by all, and I am particularly pleased to be able to congratulate Brother Fred Koziol who was chosen as the new St. Joseph.

I hope you all enjoy the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and of course the celebration of St. Joseph's Day. To quote the late comedian Don Rickles "St. Joseph gets no respect". So don't forget him on the 19th. Please join us at the general meeting for a treat at the Elk's Club. Help us help you. Also, please let me or fellow board members know if there is an activity you would like us to consider or participate in.

"Beware the Ides of March."

Fraternally,
Frank Czaja

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

Witaj wiosno! Welcome, spring. So what happened to winter? Remember in the fall they were predicting a terrible winter in Chicago? I swear, if we did our jobs as well as the weather forecasters do theirs, we'd all be out of a job.

Spring is coming, and with it nature is waking up from its winter rest. Soon, leaves will be sprouting and flowers will be blooming. And with this new life, it is time for each of us to reflect on the direction of our lives and our involvement in the lives of those around us. How much am I involved in the Chicago Society? What more can I do? Which friends and colleagues can I get to join and become involved? How can I use the power of the network of the Society to build or enhance my own network? What can I contribute to this network?

The network that is the Chicago Society is only as strong as its members and their involvement, and it's up to each of us members to work to strengthen this network, not only for our own personal benefit, but for the benefit of Polonia at large.

THE CHICAGO SOCIETY ŚLEDŹ

Approximately 30 members and their guests enjoyed the Annual Chicago Society Śledź, held on Feb. 21 at LaVilla Restaurant in Chicago. Following a welcome from President Brother **Frank Czaja** and Chairman Brother **Mark Orwat**, our St. Joseph Brother **Walter Piecewicz** gave the invocation, asking for God's blessings on those gathered as we enter the solemnity of Lent. A delicious dinner, starting with the traditional śledzie followed by an entrée of salmon or chicken, was graciously served.

In keeping with the tradition of Pączki Day, the guests enjoyed delicious pączki, donated by Brother **William Wojcik**, manager of Laramie Bakery. Chairman **Mark Orwat** would also like to thank all those who attended the 2012 Śledź, Brother **Victor Drapszo** for his donation and **Bob Trytko** from B&M Auto Collision for purchasing an entire table.

In introducing the Śledź pageant, Brother **Czaja** spoke of the traditions incorporated in the pageant. These traditions stem from the Middle Ages, when people feasted prior to the fasting required of Lent. Singers travelled from house to house, with much frivolity, presenting a variety of plays and pantomimes. Our pageant included a number of "characters"; the Angel, symbolizing all that is good; the Devil, tempting us to break our Lenten fast, Father Time, the reaper of all; and the pall-bearers, carrying the śledź. Ruling over the festivities were the King and Queen of the pageant, Brother Hon. **Ed Marsalek** and his wife Ann. Finally, our current St. Joseph Brother **Walter Piecewicz** anointed Brother **Fred Koziol** as the Chicago Society's St. Joseph for 2012.

Polka Generations entertained the guests with a variety of music both during and after dinner. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening, especially Drake Groszek, son of Brother **Robert Groszek**. We'll see him on "Dancing with the Stars" in a few years.



Richard Jadczyk, Richard Bivins and Fred Koziol



Judge Ed Marsalek and Ann Marsalek

POLISH TRIVIA

Pulaski Day, honoring gen. Kazimierz Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolution who was killed in the Battle of Savannah, is celebrated in Illinois on the first Monday in March. What was the name of gen. Pulaski's

horse? Hint: coincidentally (or maybe not), it's the same name as Pulaski Road was previously named. If you know the answer, please email it to editor@chicagosocietypna.org.

The first person who emails the correct answer will be featured in the

next *Forum*.

Answer to February's question: Cinematographer Janusz Kaminski has won two Academy Awards, for *Schindler's List* in 1993 and *Saving Private Ryan* in 1998. He has been nominated 3 additional times, including this year.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR PIN?

Did you know that you as a Chicago Society member can receive a Chicago Society lapel pin on your "round" anniversary (5th, 10th, etc.), with a "dangler" indicating the number of years of membership? If you feel you deserve one and have not received one, please check with Personnel Director Brother **Chuck Cwiakala**.

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CONCERT TO HONOR POPE JOHN PAUL II

This May marks the first anniversary of the beatification of Pope John Paul II. To honor this event, the famous conductor of the London Symphony Sir Gilbert Levine, known as “the Pope’s Maestro” will conduct an international, inter-religious concert. Participating in the performance will be the Orchestra of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Chorus and a quartet of internationally renowned vocal soloists. Among the pieces to be performed are: Magnificat in D-flat by Bach, Symfonia no. 3 in E-flat “Eroica” by Beethoven, Psalm 9 by Cone and the hymn Bogurodzica. This historic concert will take place on Monday, April 23, 2012 at Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall, so please mark your calendar. Tickets will be available soon.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR LISTING

We are preparing the Membership Directory for publication. The current Directory was recently emailed to all members. Please take a few minutes to check your listing. Please send any corrections or additions to our Webmaster webmaster@chicagosocietypna.org. If there are substantial additions or corrections, an updated Directory will be distributed in April. Also, if we don't have your email address, please provide that as well. Email is the most efficient way of keeping you informed of any events, activities, or other useful information.



POLISH SHALE GAS WILL THREATEN RUSSIAN MONOPOLY

Warsaw (PMN)—It has recently been discovered that Poland boasts Europe's largest deposits of shale gas, an estimated 7 million cubic yards, which according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration is enough to supply Poland's energy needs for the next 300 years.

FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

The nativist ideology of 100 percent Americanism in the 1920s could dissipate as well as strengthen the comparable Polonia ideal of strength in unity; for it held out the path, or assimilation as an alternative to group power. Thus the Polonia ideal was never fully realized. Just when the Polish-American community's potential for leadership and solidarity was greatest, in the interwar period, it began dissolving into the surrounding American society. The Polish press was full of denunciations of professional people who abandoned Polonia, joining city-wide, non-ethnic professional associations instead of the Chicago Society or the Polish Lawyers' Society. The Chicago Society itself felt the tensions of a divided self-image, of a suspension between two cultures, of an ambivalence between the desires for acceptance and for distinctiveness. Founded to unite professionals with a sense of Polish identity, it held its meetings initially in Chicago's Loop at the Masonic Temple, raising many Polish eyebrows and perhaps alienating some potential members. At election eve dinners, organized to inform leading Polish-Americans, the table fare was invariably corned beef and cabbage, not *kielbasa z kapustą*.

The Chicago Society typified the dilemma of Polonia's capital in the crucial years of rapid change between the World Wars. Expanding in size, wealth, and attachment to America, Polonia's capital wished to unify and strengthen itself to wield power and influence in the city. But the Chicago Society and the other leaders of Polonia's capital never decided whether to seek power as *Polish-Americans* or as *Polish-Americans*. In this unresolved dilemma lay the further failure of Polish-American politics and of group power in Chicago.

Excerpted from *Polish-American Power: Hopes and Realities*.

POLISH TRADITIONS IN MARCH

Most of *Wielki Post* falls in March (this year). *Wielki Post* literally means “the Great Fast.” Lent is a time of special services, retreats, fasting and individual acts of penance. Liquor and wild entertainment are not allowed, and no weddings take place. For Polish Catholics, Lent is the most reflective spiritual season of the year, a time for prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and reflection on the mystical nature of redemption. Specific to the Polish Roman Catholic celebration of Lent are the Lenten Lamentations or *Gorzkie Żale*, which are sung each week throughout Lent.



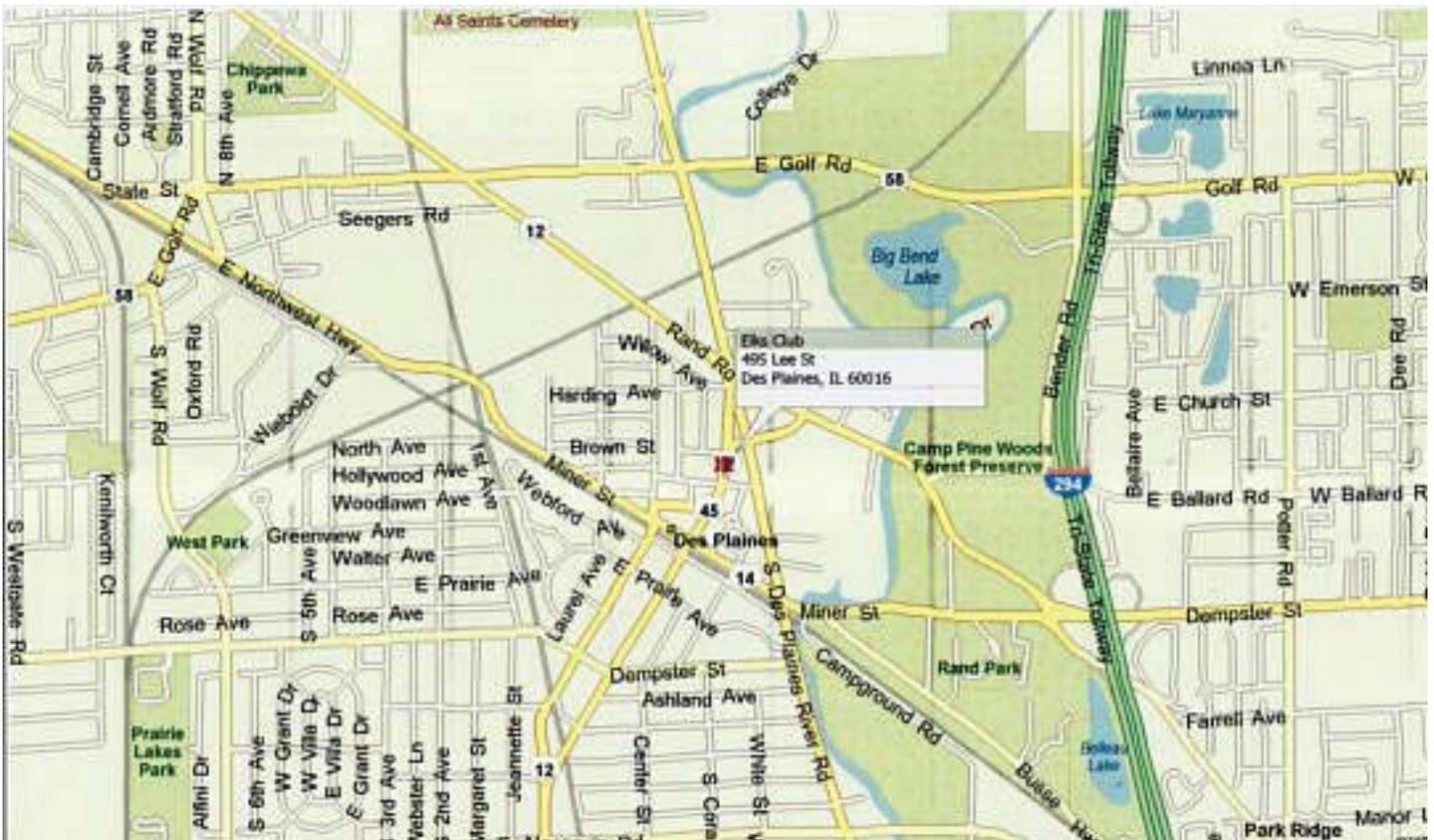
In Poland, it is customary to celebrate *imieniny* or namesday, the feast day of one's patron saint. Years ago, for the many Josephs whose namesday happens to fall on March 19, smack dab in the middle of Lent, the church granted a special dispensation from the rigors of the fast on that day. Poles see this as a “break” from the Lenten solemnity and hold a number of parties, festivals, concerts, and other festive events.

Święty Józef kiwnie brodą, idzie zima nadol z wodą. (St. Joseph shakes his beard, and see winter's disappeared!)

Did you know? March in Polish is *marzec*, from the Latin *Martius*, month of the god Mars.

**YOUR DUES CAN STILL BE PAID
BY APRIL 1 WITHOUT ANY PENALTY**

MARCH MEETING – ELKS CLUB, 495 LEE ST., DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS



**THANK YOU FROM
HON. DIANN MARSALEK**

Mr. Frank Czaja,
President, Chicago Society

Dear Frank and Chicago Society Members:

I am writing to thank you for honoring me as the Chicago Society Person of the Year at the Chicago Society ball. This was a great honor and privilege for me to be recognized by the Chicago Society. I truly appreciate all

your support and kindness shown to me over the years. I look forward to many years of attending your events and celebrating the next 100 years of the Chicago Society.

Sincerely,
Diann Karen Marsalek

CASINO DAYS SCHEDULED

Texas Hold 'em Casino Days to benefit the Chicago Society have been scheduled for the remainder of 2012. They will be held on Thursday,

June 21; Thursday, Sept. 27; Thursday, Oct. 25; and Wednesday, Nov. 28. All will be held at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle.



Volunteers are needed for these events. You don't need to know how to deal, only how to smile. If you can give a few hours of your time on any of those dates, please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak**.



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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: Gary E. Kenzer
 Address: 9118 Kenton Ave
 Skokie, IL 60076
 847-910-5591
 Occupation: Executive Director,
 Polish American
 Association
 Birth date: July 30, 1957
 Birthplace: Chicago, IL
 Education: MSW, University of
 Illinois at Chicago
 Spouse: Cynthia
 Sponsors: Marian Skawski
 Casey Baczynski

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

- 3 Lawrence Grygienc
- 9 Joseph N. Bauerly
- 10 Charles Komosa
Edmund Nowak
- 14 Milton J. Steinke
- 16 Paul Odrobina
Marek J. Placek
- 18 Jerry Sufranski
- 20 Les Sraga
- 21 Dale L. Ihssen
Joseph Santoro
- 22 Alfred C. Kotlarz
- 23 Christopher T. Grzadziel
Daniel G. Pikarski
- 24 Mitchell Pasiewicz
William Sufranski
- 26 Voytek Strojny
- 27 Ted Szywala

MEMBERS DELINQUENT IN 2012 DUES

The following gentlemen are delinquent in payment of their dues and are currently subject to suspension from membership. March 1, 2012, was the cutoff date for payment of 2012 dues without being considered delinquent. In accordance with the Chicago Society Constitution, Financial Secretary Richard Jadcak is required to prepare a list of those who will be removed from the roster unless dues are paid by April 1, 2012.

Barszczewski, Norbert	Kupiec, Mark	Rzewski, Lawrence
Bauerle, Joseph	Kurdziel, Zenon	Santoro, Joseph
Bivins, Richard	Laskowski, Slawek	Sawa, Edward
Boduch, Edmund	Lodesky, James	Sawa, Stuart
Budzikowski, Dariusz	Loza, Marek	Sraga, Les
Dobrzycki, Mark	Mikoda, Mario	Strojny, Voytek
Gronkiewicz, Edmund	Oerke, Philip	Surowiec, Les
Grygienc, Lawrence	Olech II, Ronald	Szpindor Watson, Michael
Kolakowski, Richard	Olech, Ronald	Wojciechowski, John
Kopka, James	Placek, Marek	Wyszynski, Waldemar
Krajcikiewicz, Len	Putz, Wojciech	

After April 1, a member must submit a new membership application, current dues and a fee of \$50 to have his membership reinstated. The application must then be approved by the Board of Directors. Dues should be sent immediately to Richard Jadcak, Financial Secretary, 28761 W. Fox St., Cary, IL 60013, to avoid the foregoing requirements.

CONDOLENCES

Florence Mazewski, mother of Brother **Al Mazewski, Jr.**, and wife of our late member Aloysius Mazewski, passed away February 10, 2012. Aloysius Mazewski was president of the Polish National Alliance. Our condolences to Al and his family.

Genevieve Kobelinski, mother of Brother **Gregg Kobelinski**, wife of our late member Mitchell Kobelinski, passed away February 27, 2012. Mitchell Kobelinski was president of the Copernicus Foundation. Our condolences to Gregg and his family.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month.

Jesse J. Soszko	1967	45 Years
Gregg Kobelinski	1997	15 Years
Joseph A. Kuechel	1997	15 Years
Lawrence P. Boris	2002	10 Years

IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Civic Vice-president Brother **Robert Groszek** and his wife Jennifer on the birth of their son Luke Aleksander Groszek, born Feb. 9, 2012.



MOST EURO 2012 TEAMS PICK POLAND FOR BASE CAMPS

Warsaw (PMN)—Tournament organizers said on February 6, 2012, that an overwhelming 13 out of the 16 teams for Euro 2012 have opted for base camps in Poland, leaving fellow host Ukraine virtually out of the picture. The announcement was made at a ceremony after a deadline expired for picking training locations.

NEWS BRIEFS

Prepared and Distributed
by the Poonia Media Network

According to a recent survey of salaries carried out by the consultancy firm Sedlak & Sedlak, on average, employees in Poland earn the most in Warsaw, Wroclaw and Poznan, and the lowest in Bialystok, Lublin and Opole. The average wage in Warsaw is \$1,775, \$1,388 in Wroclaw and \$1,356 in Poznan. Gdansk comes in fourth with an average wage of \$1,323, while people earn about \$1,291 on average in Katowice and Krakow. Meanwhile, out of the 16 cities surveyed, people in Bialystok earned the least, an average of about \$968. The ranking reflects Poland's east-west divide, whereby people living in eastern, less-developed parts of the country generally earn much less than those living in western regions. A principal exception to this rule is Warsaw.

Dziennik Gazeta Prawna [Daily Legal Journal], citing unnamed sources, reported in February that Turkish Airlines, Air France/KLM and Lufthansa were all interested in acquiring state-controlled LOT Polish Airlines. The Treasury had already confirmed that it had officially entered into talks with Turkish Airlines, but failed to confirm any other potential buyers. Treasury spokesman Magdalena Kobos told the newspaper, "We'd like to privatize LOT as soon as possible, by the end of 2012 at the latest." In order for the takeover to happen, regula-

tions would have to be modified, because current rules say that the state has to maintain a 51% share of the company.

Poland's weather has been so brutal this winter that Prime Minister Donald Tusk ordered local officials to lift the ban on allowing drunks into homeless shelters. The bitter cold featured temperatures as low as -20° F. degrees. Police in Warsaw and other cities have encouraged the homeless and indigent into shelters, while the brutal cold snap lasts. More than 200 Polish street dwellers died last winter from hypothermia. Warsaw has thousands of homeless, many of whom live and sleep in underground heating ducts. Some are unwilling to enter shelters, where alcohol is strictly forbidden.

Thousands of people attended funeral ceremonies for 1996 Nobel-winning poet Wislawa Szymborska, who died in early February, at the age of 88. The civil ceremony on February 9, 2012, was held under falling snow at the Rakowicki Cemetery. Poland President Bronislaw Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk were among those attending. An urn with Szymborska's ashes was placed in the family tomb to a musical recording of Ella Fitzgerald, Szymborska's favorite singer, singing "Black Coffee," which was her favorite drink.

Poland's Super Cup football match scheduled to take place on February 11, 2012, at the recently opened Warsaw's National Stadium, the main Euro 2012 arena, was cancelled due to police secu-

urity concerns. The police stated they did not have sufficient communication inside the stadium to guarantee security.

The number of Poles who live below the poverty line has declined in the last six years, from 13 million to five million, according to a recent report by Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency. Such a significant and rapid drop has not been recorded in any other country in Europe, stated Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza [Electoral Gazette]. The EU currently defines someone who lives below the poverty line as someone who cannot afford to pay for accommodation, electricity and heating, does not go away on vacation, and does not own a washing machine, color television or a phone.

A Polish museum about Pope John Paul II will not be ready in time for this year's Euro 2012 football championship, when thousands of tourists are expected in the capital Warsaw, media reported on February 13, 2012. The museum was set to open in time for the start of Euro 2012 on June 8, but the building will not be finished for at least another year due to a lack of funding, wrote Rzeczpospolita [The Republic] daily. Museum officials were working to secure the \$6.2 million necessary to complete the work, of which 20% was to come from the Warsaw Archdiocese and the rest from the state budget.

The first Polish office of the Best Western hotel chain has opened in the Skylight Building office project in central Warsaw. This brings the number of Best Western hotels in Poland to 11. The company plans to open a further nine by the end of 2012. "Last year we doubled the number of Best Western brand facilities. This year, we are also planning an intensive development of our portfolio," Gheorghe Cristescu, regional sales director at Best Western in Poland, said in a statement as reported by the Warsaw Business Journal.

Authorities in one of Poland's most popular sea resort areas say that most residents are against plans to build a nuclear plant there. The town of Mielno said on its website on February 13, 2012, that some 2,237 among the 2,378 eligible voters indicated in a referendum were against a nuclear plant in the area.





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