



The Forum

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

VOLUME 65

JULY 2014

NUMBER 7

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

July 16, 2014

6:00 P.M.

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

RESERVATIONS

by July 14 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or 847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

**Monday, August 4, 7:00 P.M.
PNA Home Office**

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 16, 2014—

**General Meeting - Dinner & Speaker
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

Friday, August 1, 2014—

**Chicago Society Golf Outing
Carriage Greens C.C., Darien, Illinois**

Sunday, August 17, 2014—

**Family & Friends Picnic
Busse Woods, Grove #31**

Wednesday, August 20, 2014—

**General Meeting - Dinner & Speaker
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets**

THE 2014 GOLF OUTING IS ON AUGUST 1

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 scrambles 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 for more information at (312) 520-6144.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS PICNIC - FOOD, FOLKS AND FUN

Come to the Annual Chicago Society Family and Friends Picnic, which will be held on Sunday, August 17, 2014. The picnic will be held in the Busse Woods West Forest Preserve Grove #31 in Elk Grove Village, located on the north side of Higgins Road (Rte. 72), west of Arlington Heights Road. The area is south of the Northwest Toll Road. This is the same location as two years ago. A map is located in this *Forum*.

The picnic is free for members, their families and friends. Freshly grilled and cold foods along with various beverages will be served under the covered pavilion. There is ample open space surrounding that platform, and everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and pillows. There is also a small lake nearby. Fishing permits and equipment are a necessity, although trophy fish are rare at this location. There are rest room facilities at the site. Games and treats will be provided for children.

Chairman Brother **Fred Koziol** encourages everyone to attend this always enjoyable event. The ever-popular Raffle will again run by Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and his wife Chris. Brother Ro is asking members to donate any worthwhile prizes for the raffle. Brother **Frank Czaja** and his wife Darlene will have plenty of fun children's games to keep the kiddies entertained. Musical entertainment is also being planned.

Come; bring your family friends for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. Please contact Brother Koziol for more information at (773) 297-7768.





CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

As July falls upon us, I hope everyone had a safe and well spent 4th of July holiday.

With the golf outing not too far off, Chairman **Brother Komosa** has a fun filled "Friday" with surprises for all who attend the outing. The golf outing will be held on Friday, August 1, at Carriage Greens in Darien. Please contact Brother **Komosa**

at 773-286-7123 for more details and reservations. Also, please contact Brother **Czaja**, who is our sign chairman, to advertise you or your friend's business.

Please support this event either by attending or purchasing a tee sign which all revenue going to help our annual scholarship fund.

The festivities continue in August as our annual friends and family picnic is being chaired by **Brother Fred Koziol**. The picnic will be held on Sunday, August 17, 2014, at Busse Woods. Please contact Brother Koziol for more information at (773) 297-7768

Faternally Yours,
Mark Orwat

FROM THE
EDITOR'S PEN

In my Award Winning "Self Portrait in 13 Questions" segment this month, I am featuring Brother **Mark Cwiakala**, a second generation member of the Chicago Society and son of our very own House Director and Casino co-chairman Brother **Chuck Cwiakala**. Real Estate developer Denis Kulich and producer/director Brother **Mark Cwiakala**, officially opened Hub studios, their new

10,000-sq. ft. shooting stage recently in Ukrainian Village. Brother Cwiakala and his partner acquired the 100-year old, three story building formerly owned by Space Stage studios at 2155 W. Hubbard St. in October and share management duties. I hope you enjoy this very candid and interesting article.

Please do not forget that tee signs are available for \$100 for the golf outing. A great way to advertise a business or offer a personal message. Have a great July!

Faternally,
Charles Komosa

JULY MEETING SPEAKER

Brother **John Cieslik** has arranged for very own Brother **Frank Spula**, National President of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress, to be our featured speaker at the July General Meeting to be held on July 16, 2014, at the White Eagle. Brother Frank will provide an overview highlighting his trials and tribulations, as well as poignant observations concerning his position.

BARBEQUE DINNER

The July General Meeting features the much anticipated Annual Summer Barbeque Dinner meeting at the meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at the White Eagle. House Director **Chuck Cwiakala** has arranged a delicious dinner menu for the meeting, which will include BBQ chicken, ribs, corn on the cob, several salads including potato salad, dessert, all served *abbondanza* buffet style



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2nd Place Essay - 2014 Chicago Society Scholarship Winner

By Alexander Almodovar.

Growing up with a Puerto Rican father and a Polish mother I found myself with the luxury of having two entirely different cultures brought into my life. However, even with only one Polish parent, I was still deeply submerged into the Polish lifestyle that seems to be thriving and spreading nowadays. As a child, I easily experienced the Polish culture with my many reoccurring visits to my grandparents in Poland. But as I grew older here in Chicago, so did my awareness of Poland as I still continued to see bits and pieces of its heritage everywhere I roamed.

One of the most significant factors to increase my awareness of Poland's culture and its heritage is a summer camp called Camp Vista. I began attending Vista as a camper in June of 2005, but in the more recent years I've been a counselor with a group of campers under my watch. The camp is located in a forest by Lake Cedar in the middle of Wisconsin, and it is entirely Polish, from the campers that attend it to the people running it. This camp has been successful in bringing me closer to the Polish culture in many ways. One reason is that the language mainly spoken at the camp is Polish, which allows me to naturally observe and obtain various characteristics of the dialect. More importantly, the camp has united me with some of my closest friends, who just so happen to come from purely Polish households. And each of these friends is like another gateway to the further exploration a portion of the Polish heritage.

Another way in which Poland's culture has been brought to my awareness is through the Taste of Polonia. The Taste of Polonia is a festival held Labor Day weekend at the Copernicus Foundation in Jefferson Park, which celebrates Poland's traditions in various ways, but mostly through a mass amount of Polish food. Since eighth grade I have been working at the festival. My jobs have ranged from setting up tents and stages, to unloading trucks full of ice and drinks. My most frequent duty however at this event is maintaining the parking lots. As uneventful as this particular duty sounds, it actually proves to be quite the experience every time I work it. When charging and parking the hundreds of festival attendants I witness a wide diversity of Polish people and interactions, everything from the way they dress to their mannerisms. Ultimately, it's very interesting to observe the different directions Poland's culture has shaped into.

Although there have been many factors in my life that have increased my awareness of Poland's heritage, only the Taste of Polonia and Camp Vista make me feel like I'm also contributing to spreading the awareness of Poland's culture. As a camp counselor it's my responsibility to make sure my campers have an enjoyable and enriching experience. Likewise, when I'm working the Taste of Polonia, I'm part of the backbone that keeps the festival functioning properly so hundreds of people can get their fulfilling Polish experience. I'm like a mediator when accomplishing these works, by making people more aware of Poland's heritage. As little as my contributions may seem, it's significant as long as it plays a role in making Poland's culture more aware.

In Memoriam

Brother **Kenneth P. Gill** born in Chicago Feb. 29, 1944, passed away June 29, 2014, at age 70.

He was the beloved husband of the late Marlene Gill (nee Wilczynski), devoted son of the late Casimir and the late Sylvia (nee Rieb), cherished brother-in-law to Joseph and Denice (nee Kwak) Wilson and dear cousin to many.

Brother Ken served the Chicago Society in several capacities over the years as Recording Secretary, Director of Finance, St. Joseph, Chairman of Scholarship Committee and volunteer for Chicago Society events such as the Annual Golf Outing and Texas Hold'em events.

Brother Ken and his wife Marlene enjoyed many Chicago Society social events, including the Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, Śledź, and Inaugural Ball.

Brother Ken was a fraternal member of the Polish National Alliance and Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He was an active member of many Polish organizations and served as director of the Polish Museum of America, elected positions in the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division, the International Polka Association and the Polish American Librarians Association.

He was a retired Chicago elementary school teacher.

August Will be a Great Month to Enjoy Chicago Society Events
Golf Outing on August 1 — Picnic on August 17 — Meeting on August 20

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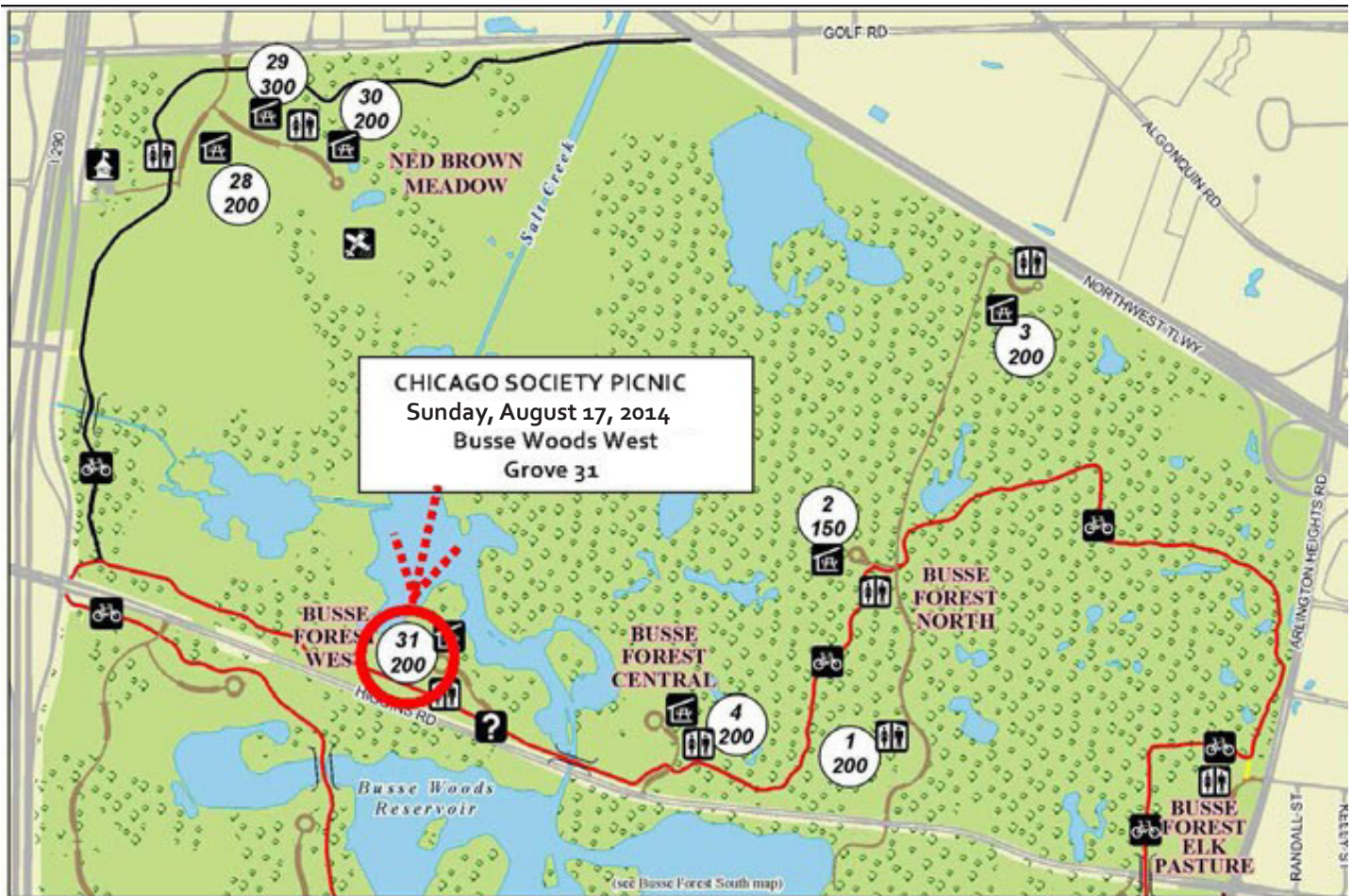
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3rd Place Essay -2014 Chicago Society Scholarship Winner

By Samantha Dziadkowiec.

Growing up Polish in America, I always knew I was different. If my unpronounceable last name, which included at least half the letters of the American alphabet didn't give it away, it was my traditional Polish lunches. I so badly wanted to be like my simple American classmates, eating their Wonder-bread sandwiches and proudly wearing their Brownies and Girl Scout vests. Instead of Girl Scouts, my Saturdays were devoted to Polish School. And when the other American girls joined cheerleading and put pretty bows in their hair, I got to put on my Góralskie shoes and go to Polish Dance—as if that was the same thing.

In my parent's heads, we were not American; we were Polish people living in America. My parents had raised me with a vow to always keep me immersed in the Polish culture, regardless of whether I liked it or not. It did not matter to my parents what all the other American boys and girls were doing—we were Polish, and Polish people do things differently. As I grew up I learned to embrace my Polish side, and as I think about my own childhood and observe what is going on in schools today, I have a plan for raising awareness of Poland, her culture, heritage and traditions. My plan, you see, starts with my college education.

I am an Elementary Education major, and as a future teacher my preparation consists of hundreds of countless hours spent observing in classrooms all over the city and suburbs of Chicago. From all my visits I have come to the realization that the children who embrace their cultural identity, come from schools that foster and bring awareness to that culture's heritage and traditions. In essence I am talking about bilingual schools. Did you know that almost all Chicago Public Schools offer a Dual Language Immersion program? That means that students are being taught in two languages, in the case of CPS schools, that language is Spanish. However, there are more than 2 million people of

— Continued on Page 5 —

MEETING RESERVATION ?



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A CHICAGO SOCIETY SELF PORTRAIT IN 13 QUESTIONS

I conducted a straightforward Q & A with Brother **Mark Cwiakala** about his life, reflections and experiences. It is an interesting in depth expose of Brother Mark. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Where were you born? *Chicago*. Family background (parents alive or deceased, brothers and sisters), marital status? *Both parents alive, Chuck & Teresa (married 50 years), two sisters, Tanya & Erica. I am married to Erin and we have two wonderful children; daughter Beni and son Izak.*

When did you move to Chicago and for what reason? *Born here, raised in Bucktown, then later in Park Ridge.*

What is your educational background and current position in your profession? *My background is in fine art, specifically sculpture. I have a BFA in Sculpture from DePaul University. I currently own a creative agency, named Captain. We specialize in broadcast commercials and digital video content.*

What current business projects are you involved in now? *Currently, working on commercials for Abbott, developing creative for Yelp and finishing a feature length documentary on stamp collecting.*

How would you improve the Chicago Society? *The club could be improved by branching out into more current streams, whether it be continuing education for members (and their families) or serious social networking. There are a lot of progressive start-ups going on in Chicago; I don't see CS as relevant resource for members, their families or potential members. For example, instead of a \$1000 scholarship (average cost of college is \$25,000/year). We should be tapping into every member and their industry and offer internships,*



collaborative work-study programs ... utilize each other's resources. As I see it, there are a lot of opportunities outside the club for advancement, CS has to compete with increasingly busy schedules as well as advanced programs that inspire younger members.

Do you have childhood or school nickname? *Nope.* On a scale from 1 to 10 how important is your Polish Heritage? *It's too complex for a number.* As I've gotten older and learned more about my family's history (which includes Ukrainian, Polish/Austrian Jewish), even my last name is rumored to be a Polonized version of the Italian Civiccala. What is important is my family members and how living ... and dying in Poland, for a cause, has shaped my life. Whether it be my father's father who fought in both the Polish/Ukrainian and Polish/Russian wars, my mother's father who was killed by the Nazis, or my Uncle who spent 5 years in a POW camp, the connection to me is purely family and provenance.

What other organizations do you support and take an active role in? *Most of the organizations I take part in are film based; my wife and I also sit on boards of some non-profit artist collaborations.*

Which would you prefer, a street named in your honor or a postage stamp? *Well, being a third generation philatelist, I would say stamp. But after living on Jefferson Street in the Loop for years (honorary Frankie Knuckle Way), a street sign does get more attention.*

Which actor would you chose to play the role in a movie about you and your life? *Based on personality (and size) I would say Vince Vaughn.*

If they made a mixed drink in your honor, what would be in it? *Probably something that would get you really drunk, really quickly.*

3RD PLACE ESSAY (Continued from page 4)

Polish descent living in Chicago, which means there are more Polish people in Chicago than in the city of Warsaw, Poland! Which begs the question, so why aren't there any bilingual American Polish schools? This is my plan to save the Polish culture, a culture so loved but lost by so many in this city.

As previously mentioned, I am Elementary Education major; however my concentration is dedicated to teaching English as a Second Language/Bilingual (ESL). With my education, it is my future goal to start bringing Polish Immersion Dual Language Programs into schools. I have seen the success of bilingual Spanish schools throughout the city; there, families do not face the battle of picking and choosing a language and a culture to live by, you get the best of both worlds. In a Dual Language Immersion program, students are provided with a learning environment that develops bilingualism, bi-literacy, and a cultural understanding among English language learners and native English speakers.

If we start funding Polish Dual Language Programs in our schools, our Polish families won't have to battle trying to raise Polish kids in an American society, you can successfully have both. If other cultures have this privilege, I ask why not us? With over 2 million Polish people in Chicago alone, there is definitely a need, so why aren't we doing anything about it? We are at crucial time period where uniting Polonia and rekindling our cultural flame is vital for the sake the Polish community. Therefore, if you don't want to give up on Polonia, don't give up on me. Through the help of this scholarship, I can change the loss of Polish culture one classroom at a time.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mark Cwiakala
- Zenon Kurdziel
- 7 William Drozd
- 10 Romuald Matuszczak
- 14 Thaddeus Makarewicz
- Tomasz Pawelko
- 17 Alexander Tzanos
- 20 William Wojcik
- 22 Edward Marsalek
- 23 Donald Gutowski
- 24 Jack Skaja
- 27 Edward Sawa
- 30 Gary Kenzer

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Brother **John Pikarski**, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary, and Brother **Gregory Ciesla** on his 20th anniversary of induction in July of their respective years.

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