



Issue XXXVI

December, 2012

January 16, 2012
Meeting

February 13, 2012
Meeting

March 12, 2012
Meeting

April 1, 2012
Palm Sunday Luncheon
at Avalon Banquets

May 14, 2012
Annual Meeting and
election of officers

Speedy Recovery to
Felicia Krupinski
Geraldine Balut-
Coleman

Congratulations to
Kathleen Burzycki on
graduating from
University of Chicago
Booth School of
Business with a degree
of Master of Business
Administration.

Congratulations to
Genevieve Lukes on her
passing her national
licensing exam to qualify
her as a National
Certified School
Psychologist.

Congratulations to
Aneta Grudzien, our
past scholarship recipi-
ent on her marriage to
John Costa.

Get Spooky with our Next Guest Speaker!

All members are invited to PWCC's general meeting on **January 16, 2012**. The meeting will be at **White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave.**

The schedule is:
11:45 a.m.— Guest speaker **Ursula Bielski**, lunch, and general meeting.

Ursula Bielski is the founder of Chicago Hauntings, Inc. and the host of PBS' "The Hauntings of Chicago" (WYCC).

An historian, author, and parapsychology enthusiast, she has been writing and lecturing about Chicago's supernatural folklore and the paranormal for nearly 20 years, and is recognized as a leading authority on the Chicago region's ghostlore and cemetery history. She is the author of five popular and critically acclaimed books on the same subjects, all published by Lake Claremont Press.

Ursula's interests in Chicago ghost hunting began at a young age. She grew up in a haunted house on Chicago's north side and received an early education in Chicago history from her father, a

Chicago police officer, who introduced Ursula to the ghosts at Graceland Cemetery, Montrose Point and the old lockup at the storied Maxwell Street Police Station. Since that time Ursula has been involved in countless investigations of haunted sites in and around Chicago, including such notorious locales as Wrigley Field, the Congress Hotel, the Indiana Dunes, the Red Lion Pub, Hull House, Bachelors Grove Cemetery, Rose Hill Cemetery, haunted Archer Avenue, Chinatown, the Eastland disaster site, Death Alley, Dillinger's Alley and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre site.

Aside from her writing, Ursula has been featured on numerous television documentaries, including productions by the A&E Network, The History Channel, The Learning Channel, The Travel Channel, and PBS. She also appears regularly on local Chicago television and radio and lectures throughout the year at various libraries, historical and professional societies. In addition to her

books, Ursula is the author of numerous scholarly articles exploring the links between history and the paranormal, including articles published in the *International Journal of Parapsychology*. Ursula is a past editor of *PA News*, the quarterly newsletter of the Parapsychological Association, a past president and board member of the Pi Gamma Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, and holds membership in the Society of Midland Authors.

A graduate of St. Benedict High School in Chicago, Ursula holds a B.A. degree in history from Benedictine University and an M.A. in American cultural and intellectual history from Northeastern Illinois.

This meeting is open to members, prospective members, and guests. The price per person is \$17.

Please RSVP before January 12th to:
Karen Kozlow
773.467.1504
Muriel Banach
847.577.9220

Visit us at pwcci.org or polishwomenscivicclub.org
Contact us at pwcci@msn.com

Christmas Luncheon a Huge Success!

The Christmas Luncheon was another wonderful fundraiser for the PWCC. Geraldine Balut-Coleman and her committee prepared beautiful raffle gifts, with gifts valued at \$200 in the gold raffle. Geraldine sent soliciting letters to a number of businesses who responded in kind with gift cards.

Shirley Dudzinski spent countless hours arranging the seating. A lot of gift cards from local restaurants were donated by a member. We were able to have a gift card or two in each raffle basket. The Christmas tree, booth and snow man centerpieces were also donated by a board member and were sold at the end of the event.

Angelika Piwowarczyk brought her art exhibit to share with the members and guests at the Christmas Luncheon. She had the opportunity to

explain her work to the many guests who stopped to admire her work.

Five of our scholarship recipients came to help sell the raffle tickets, make change, pick winners and distribute gifts. They had a surprise when Judy Baar Topinka agreed to take a picture with them and post it on her Facebook.

Tom and Kathleen Burzycki were the musical entertainment. Although Christmas carol books were on the table for each guests, everyone was too busy purchasing raffle tickets and catching up with their neighbors to sing. The members and their guests were very generous, purchasing several tickets for the raffle, oplatki, and centerpieces!

The PWCC Scholarship Fund benefited from donations and profits at the Christmas Luncheon.

Member's Corner

Frank Lukes, our recipient this year, has been selected for this quarter by the Presiding Judge of the Law Division of the Cook County Courts to be his Judicial Intern.

Breaking of the Oplątek

One of the most beautiful and most revered Polish customs is the "breaking of the oplątek." The use of the Christmas wafer (**oplątek**) is practiced not only by native Poles in Poland, but by people all over the world whose ancestors came from Poland.



The "oplątek" is a thin wafer, made of flour and water. For table use, it is white. In Poland, colored wafers are used to make Christmas tree decorations. Formerly, these were baked by organists or by religious and were distributed

from house to house in the parish during Advent. Today, they are produced commercially and sold in religious stores and houses.

On Christmas Eve (wigilia), the whole family gathers and waits impatiently for the appearance

of the first star. With its first gleam, they all approach a table covered with hay and a snow-white table cloth. A vacant chair and a place setting is reserved for the unexpected guest.

The father or eldest member of the family reaches for the wafer, breaks it in half and gives one half to the mother. Then each of them breaks a small part of each other's piece and, after a warm kiss, they wish each other long life, good health, joy and happiness, not only for the holiday season, but for the coming year and for many years to come.

The ceremony is over, everyone sits down to a tasteful, though meatless supper, after which all sing kolędy (Christmas carols and pastorals) and open gifts from under the tree, until the time for Midnight Mass, also know as "Pasterka".

Sometimes, the oplątek is sent, in a greeting card, to loved ones away from home.

Visit us at pwcci.org or polishwomenscivicclub.org
Contact us at pwcci@msn.com

Contact information for
Ann Burzycki
E-mail:
pwcci@msn.com

**Serving the Polish
Community since 1924**

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

What a year 2011 has been. The PWCC has had another successful, transformative year. We revised our bylaws to coincide with our status as a 501(c)3 organization, now we are determining how the new bylaws will impact PWCC in the coming year. This year we joined the Facebook to create a more personalized relationship with members. Our newsletters help us connect with those members who can't make it to the meetings and/or are homebound. Our email has become a system of communication for PWCC and other organizations in the Chicagoland area. We have a website which will go through revisions to optimize our content and communication. Our logo has been glamorized and updated. We were interviewed by Dziennik Zwiazkowy in September. The Palm Sunday Luncheon continues to grow and has become a popular destination for not only our members but also their children and grandchildren. This year we awarded \$31,000 in scholarships – a club record! PHEW!

With all the victories come a few setbacks. Our total membership continues to decline as more members pass and fewer new members join. This is a disturbing trend for all organizations. We were able to attract some younger members but they work. It seems like these new members have more on their plates in terms of balancing careers with family care, and therefore are unable to volunteer to the extent the older members did. We are looking to outside help to organize the fundraisers. We need to find new ways to appeal to these new members if the club is to endure another 87 years. Facebook is playing a more vital role in our organization. We now have 32 likes, which puts us in an upgraded status. We can now have more presence to impact the younger generations. We need to consider venues other than the White Eagle for our events and continue modernizing the organization without giving up our traditions and other elements that our current membership still value and enjoy.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas Luncheon—what a wonderful event. Our board members sure know how to throw a great party!

Dr. and Mrs. Ken Korzec sent a generous scholarship donation to us before the holidays. What a wonderful act of generosity. Dr. Korzec's support is so appreciated by not only our membership, but also by the scholarship recipients who are able to get funds for their educations. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Korzec and his wife, Janette, as benefactors—thank you again!

We need a Chair for our big fundraiser on Palm Sunday!!! If you would like to join the board, work with wonderful women, and enjoy organizing a large-scale event (where everyone will be very appreciative of your efforts!), call or email me. The Palm Sunday Luncheon is our major fundraiser. We also need members to solicit gift cards and baskets from local retailers, as well as generate items for the gold and regular raffles. Our raffles have a reputation for being of high value.
We need your help!

You can find PWCC on both the web and on Facebook. We are accessible through either "pwcci.org" or "polishwomenscivicclub.org". Remember to like us on Facebook!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you, your family, and your friends from the PWCC!

Please visit us at pwcci.org
or polishwomenscivicclub.org
Please contact us at pwcci@msn.com

Support the Businesses that Support PWCC!

The following businesses supported PWCC at the Christmas Luncheon by giving us gift cards which were used in the raffle baskets or a donation to the scholarship fund. Please support these businesses by purchasing at their stores and thanking them for their generosity:

Anyways Restaurant & Pub
Altair Advisers
Bob Chinn's Crab House
Charles Ifergan Salon
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Cucina Biagio Restaurant
Francesca's on Taylor
Francesca Tavola

Grand Victoria Casino
Maria Konopnicka Adult Cultural Group
Lombard Roller Rink
Pasta D'Arte Restaurant
Paris Club
Polish Museum of America
Red Apple Restaurant
Salon Louise
The Second City
Sawa's Old Warsaw
Smak Tak Restaurant
Spare Time Bowling
Superdawg
Zanie's Comedy Club

Thank You, PWCC Members!

The following donations were received from our members either for the scholarship fund or the raffle prizes:

Kazimiera Bober
Dorothy Banas
Muriel Banach
Joanne Biazek
Lucie Bucki
Ann Burzycki
Barbara Chalko
Maria Ciesla
Geraldine Balut Coleman
Judy Drobot
Shirley Dudzinski
Sandy Dumalski
Mary Duszynski
Alicia Dutka
Diane Faubl
Marie Fugiel
Lenore Fuesz
Lucille Gutowski

Patricia Izban
Bobbi Kaminski
Camille Kopielski
Bernadette Kowalik
Beverly Kizor
Karen Kozlow
Gloria Lamacki
Dr. and Mrs. Ken Korzec
Geraldine Les
Barbara Marquart
Meg Nagel
Christine O'Block
Henriette Rocks
Frances Schrader
Jane Kaminski-Simers
Jacky Smalstig
Eunice Warda
Theresa Winters
Joan White
Patricia Zawistkowski
Eleanore Zarnowiecki
Marcia Zurawski

Chicago Society Inaugural Ball

The Chicago society of the P.N.A. requests your presence at the 100 Year Inaugural Ball on Saturday, January 21, 2011 at 6:30 pm. the event will take place at the Beau Jolie by Victoria, 9950 Lawrence Avenue #5, Schiller Park, IL..
Person of the Year will be the Honorable Judge

Diann Marsalek.

Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres and entertainment at 6:30pm. Dinner at 7:30 pm. Dancing to Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra at 9:pm to 12:00 am.

Price per person \$120. RSVP before January 10, 2012.