

Polish Women's Civic Club, Inc.

FOUNDED: APRIL, 1924



Issue XV

December, 2009

Upcoming Events

December 5, 2009

Christmas Luncheon
Ruth Lake Country
Club

January 11, 2010

Meeting

February 8, 2010

Meeting

March 8, 2010

Meeting and elections

March 28, 2010

Palm Sunday Luncheon

April 12, 2010

Meeting

Deepest condolences

to Geraldine Smentek,
her family and friends
on the passing of her
mother, Anne Czyscon.

Get well wishes to

Aldona Ferenc
Joan Flor
Stephanie Franceschina
Lorene Stach

'Tis the Season...for the Christmas Luncheon!

PWCC's Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 5 at the **Ruth Lake Country Club, 6300 S. Madison, Hinsdale, IL.** This venue is a beautiful location for our luncheon, and will feature festive Christmas decorations to make sure we are holly and jolly the entire time! Tickets are priced at \$55 per person. If you have not done so already, please respond as seating is limited to 200 members and guests.

Festivities will start at 11:30 a.m. with cocktails and a social hour. Our scholarship recipients will be in attendance in holiday garments, so make sure to look out for them! This is not

only a great time to catch-up with your friends, but you can also sing along with maestro Robert Dutka and the PWCC choir as they perform your favorite Christmas carols.

The Past Presidents, from 1970 to 2008, will be honored at this event. Join us as we recognize these women and their contributions to the PWCC. Lucille Kurelo (1970-1972), Wanda Kalin (1974-1976), Lorie Gorny (1976-1978), Alice Zurek (1986-1988), Shirley Dudzinski (1988-1990), Stephanie Jagielski (1990-1992), Maria Ciesla (1992-1994), Felicia Krupinski (1998-2002), and Camille Kopielski (1994-1998, 2002-2008) will be at this luncheon.

Remember to buy tickets for the raffle. There are many wonderful prizes! Lucille Gutowski's committee has been busy preparing for this event. If you have any additional prizes, gift cards, or funds to donate for the raffle, we can still use them!

We did not send out raffle tickets with the invitations in order to cut the cost of printing and mailing. You can pay for the tickets with your reservations and pick them up when you check-in; or, let us know and we will fill them out and enter them for you. Tickets will be sold at the event.

See you on December 5!

Passing of Anne Czyscon

Anne Czyscon, member of PWCC since 1996, passed away in November. Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Baran Funeral Home, 2644-46 N. Central Ave. The Funeral was held on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at St. Stanislaus B&M Church followed by entombment at Maryhill Cemetery.

Stephanie Kunas represented PWCC. She led a prayer at the service and talked about Anne as a friend and member of PWCC.

Stephanie presented the PWCC pin to Anne's family and invited them to the next Memorial Mass in November 2010. The family was very gracious in accepting the pin and placed it on Anne Czyscon's dress. Geraldine and Anne's granddaughter showed their gratitude for having a member of PWCC come to express the club's condolences.

Maria Ciesla, PWCC President, 1992-94

I joined the Civic Club in 1974 as a young mother with the first two of eventually four children, and was sponsored by my wonderful mentors Bernadette Wiermanski, Dorothy Dulak (now Leahy) and Wanda Kalin.

I served on/chaired several Committees and held several offices under Wanda Kalin, Lottie Lorenz, Lorie Rose Gorny, Angie Ritza, Sally Binkowski, Helen Chmiele, Alice Zurek, Shirley Dudzinski, and Stephanie Jagielski. If my mother-in-law could not watch my succession of toddlers/ preschoolers, I brought one to a meeting here and there, with permission of course; my children were always good, and the Board members were kind to them. I always felt honored that the PWCC thought enough of me to sometimes accept a child in tow. It did not hurt that each child got to ride the El with me and walk through Marshall Field's, a truly magical place as it was for me as a child on our visits to Chicago. Never interested in driving downtown for PWCC meetings, I would often park at my in-laws' and walk over to the Addison stop, or after our last was in school. took the 85A bus near my home to Jefferson Park and then onto the El, where I would often meet a PWCC member or two doing the same.

My recollections of my early PWCC years were that because of so many active women, there were often up to 20 Standing Committees plus the current officers, with a member rarely serving in more than one capacity. There were such now-disbanded committees such as: Cookbook, Courtesy, House Chair, Music, Cultural, Outings, and Polish Social Services. The Membership Committee still retained a South side and a North side chair for prospective members. Each year's program and speakers were put into place during the summer and listed in each year's directory, and rarely did a speaker cancel. And speaking of the PWCC directory - in the first few years of my membership, we continued to have a

small leather-like notebook with six small rings, and each year, we would receive new membership replacement pages; if the By-Laws and Constitutions were revised, we received those pages also. Included was a handy list of our press contacts, and affiliations. It was such a neat, economical way to carry the sturdy directory in your purse.

During my Presidency (which I assumed at age 45, thanks to PWCC's confidence in me), we continued to meet in the 7th floor Wedgewood Room of the downtown Field's. I headed an excellent and experienced roster of Officers, Board, and Past Presidents. The mutual respect we had for each other will remain with me for a lifetime. As had other Presidents, I hosted the December and June Board meetings at other locations.

There would often be up to 75 guests for the luncheon meeting. Our Christmas, Palm Sunday, and Spring Luncheons were wildly successful for our Scholarship Fund, with one or two events having 300 guests; of course, this was a time when fewer women were in the work force, or were more easily able to take a Monday off to attend. Just as the meetings were on Monday, so were most of the events, except for the family-themed Palm Sunday Luncheon (which was still a newer PWCC event) and the Day at the Races. The Spring Luncheon and Installation was always a fashion show with members modeling, and the annual, well-attended Day at the Races was always on a Wednesday - our male guests really looked forward to this event.

It is a joy to see the commitment of the current officers and Board continue, despite a smaller number of active Board members. Even at today's hectic pace, dedicated women continue the efforts and retain the values of those before them. The proud tradition of 85 years has adjusted well.

Submitted by Maria Ciesla

Polish Arts Club of Chicago Christmas Luncheon

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago will celebrate the season with a Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. at the House of the White Eagle, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue.

Niles, IL. The tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased by calling Mrs. Alice Fondryk at 773.775.7554.

**Contact information for
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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The Memorial Mass at Christ the King Church in Lombard, IL was very moving. It was a day to reflect and honor deceased members as a united organization. Our Cantor, Valerie Glowinski, sang beautifully and was accompanied by Bill Runge on the organ. The luncheon was catered by Sawa's Old Warsaw. A short meeting followed. Many members purchased tickets for the fifty-fifty raffle. Our members donated many raffle prizes and a free raffle was held for these prizes. We also held the PWCC pin raffle., which we will be doing again in the future! I was so pleased to see that many of the members who have not been able to attend previous meetings were at this one! For instance, Anna Piecewicz was able attend the Mass and the luncheon after her long recuperation following her operation in May. Many thanks to Bobbi Kaminski for being the Chairperson, Jacqueline Smalstig for being in charge of the raffle, and all the other ladies who pitched in to make this luncheon such a great success.

I am happy to report that the carpool program is going great! We were able to match up all requests to driving members, so that more members could attend the Memorial Mass!. **Thank you all the members willing to participate in the carpool!** For those who would still like to sign-up, please let me know and we can continue to make sure that everyone who wants to attend our meetings can make it!

Evelyn Johns, Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee, has been busy contacting prospective sources for our scholarship funds. She has been revising PWCC's process for raising funds by updating our letters, brochures, business cards, and thank you notes. Obviously, her hard work is paying off, as **Evelyn has already procured a \$500 donation for our scholarship fund. On behalf of the PWCC, I would like to thank Evelyn for all her hard work and for taking on this difficult task.**

We will be honoring our past presidents at the Christmas Luncheon. As this is our 85th Anniversary, we want to recognize those women who have gone above and beyond in their roles as members of the PWCC. Please join us as we showcase the past presidents at this function.

Upcoming newsletters will include biographies of past presidents. We are continuing with a biography of Maria Ciesla, which is featured on page 2 of this month's newsletter. We are also including a section in the newsletter that lets members know about fundraisers and events that are important to not only our organization, but for Polonia in Chicago. As the PWCC board cannot always make it to all the functions, we would like to extend the invitations to all of the membership to attend and support these organizations.

Everyone should have received their dues statement, so please send the completed form and check to Bernadette Kowalik. For the members who have not renewed their membership, a **second reminder is included with this mailing.**

If you find any newspaper articles that mention the PWCC, please bring them to the next meeting, or send them to me.

The board wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Support Businesses That Support the PWCC

Meg Sowa Nagel, Broker Associate

Sudler Sotheby's International Realty
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Office: 312.706.2430
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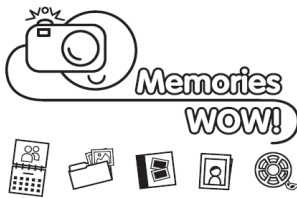
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News from the Polish Scouting Organization in Chicago

Please reserve Sunday, December 13th for an evening of Polish Koledy at the Polish Consulate. Also, on Sunday, December 20, the Museum of Science and Industry will open their display of

Christmas Trees Around the World. The Polish tree is decorated by Scouts every year, so please support them as they put on their **Polish Wigilia** program! Hope to see everyone there!