

Issue XXX

May, 2011

May 9, 2011

Annual Meeting at  
White Eagle

September 18, 2011

Scholarship Recipient  
Award Dinner and  
Installation of new  
members

Speedy Recovery to:

Alicia Dutka  
Helen Seske

Deepest condolences

to family and friends of  
our member Jeanine  
Okonek on the death of  
her husband Edmund.

## PWCC Annual Meeting

PWCC's last meeting before summer break will be on **May 9th**, at the **White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave.**

The meeting agenda:

**12:00 p.m.**— Lunch followed by the general meeting.

Our regular meeting in May will now be known as the Annual Meeting. We have a lot on our agenda during this meeting, including the Election of Officers, receiving reports of Officers, the Board Members, and Committees, and for any other business which shall properly come before the meeting.

As stated in our bylaws, we elect officers in even years, so the next elections will be held in 2012 for officers serving in the 2012-2014 period.

To ensure this meeting is organized and orderly, we will approve the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, and only items on the approved agenda will be available for discussion during the meeting.

**This meeting is open to members only. The price per person is \$17.**

**Please RSVP before May 6th to:**

Karen Kozlow  
773.467.1504

Muriel Banch  
847.577.9220

## Palm Sunday Enjoyed by All!

This year's Palm Sunday Luncheon was a wonderful success and truly focused on promoting PWCC to our future members—**children & grandchildren!** There were 53 children at this event. As we all could hear, the Avalon was filled with tiny voices excited to play with the clown and to receive the Easter baskets! The children's basket committee, headed by Karen Kozlow, did a wonderful job at occupying children with pre-baskets before the clown arrived. The clown was a big hit with the kids, as well as the parents and grandparents. While the kids were playing, adults were able to eat their meal without distraction! Even though we asked the clown not to make swords, the clever little boys figured out how to change a balloon dog into a sword. I am impressed with their ingenuity!

We will invite the clown for a longer time span next year so the children remain occupied during our raffle.

Our 2010 scholarship recipients were helping with selling raffle tickets and distributing both the children's and adults' baskets. They had an opportunity to meet our members and even get more friends on Facebook!

The baskets this year were truly spectacular! The children's baskets were so stuffed with toys, candy, and other goodies that they could not be carried by the handle. A lot of the adult baskets had gift cards, and of course a bottle of spirits was included in each basket.

A great time was had by all! If you missed the luncheon this year, plan to attend next year's event.

# Thank You, PWCC Members!

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

Muriel Banach  
Dorothy Banas  
Victoria Bas  
Joanne Beczek  
Ann Burzycki  
Kathleen Burzycki  
Geraldine Coleman  
Alicia Dutka  
Michaeline Drust  
Shirley Dudzinski  
Diane Faubl  
Sally Franz  
Marie Fugiel  
Lenore Fuesz  
Therese Glab  
Lucille Gutowski  
Patricia Izban  
Bobbi Kaminski  
Kati Kari  
Beverly Kizior  
Gen Kobelinski  
Andrew Konik  
Camille Kopielski  
Helen Kotlarz  
Bernadette Kowalik  
Evelyn Kowalke  
Eleanore Kowynia  
Karen Kozlow  
Felicia Krupinski  
Stephanie Kunas  
Gloria Lamacki  
Geraldine Les  
Delphine Lytell  
Barbara Marquart  
Lucyna Migala  
Claire Moran

Estelle Nied  
Christine O'Block  
Henriette Rocks  
Sophia Romano  
Wanda Sanders  
Frances Schrader  
Jacky Smalstig  
Lorene Stach  
Mary Wajda  
Joan White  
Therese Winters  
Patricia Zawistowski  
Marcia Zurawski  
Marcia Zurowski

The following businesses supported PWCC at the Palm Sunday 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:

Amici Restorante  
Ben Pao Restaurant  
Cucina Biagio Ristorante  
Chambers to Go Restaurant  
Charles Ifergan Salon  
Francesca Tavola  
Gale Street Inn  
Liberty Bank  
Malec & Sons Funeral Home  
Port Edwards Restaurant  
Quartino Restaurant  
R J Design  
Smak Tak Restaurant  
Spa Space  
Spare Time Chicago  
Vince's Italian Restaurant

Please visit us at [pwcci.org](http://pwcci.org) or [polishwomenscivicclub.org](http://polishwomenscivicclub.org)  
Please contact us at [pwcci@msn.com](mailto:pwcci@msn.com)

## The Importance of the White Eagle

Last month we had the article on the Polish flag with the eagle. Now we will explore where the white eagle came from.

A many, many years ago, or maybe even more, there lived three brothers, Lech, Czech, and Rus. For many years they had been living happily in their villages, but the families grew larger and they needed more space to live and more land to feed themselves.

The brothers decided to travel in different directions to search for new homes. Lech, Czech, and Rus traveled with their troops for many days. They rode their horses over mountains and rivers, through forests and wild country. There were no people to be found anywhere, not a town or tiny village. On the crest of a mountain top, they separated, each going in a different direction. Czech went to the left, Rus went to the right and Lech rode straight ahead, down the mountain and across vast plains.

One day Lech saw a splendid sight. He and his

troops had come to a place where a meadow surrounded a small lake. They stopped at the edge of the meadow as a great eagle flew over their heads. It flew around in great swooping circles, then perched on its nest, high on a craggy rock. Lech stared in awe at the beautiful sight. As the eagle spread its wings and soared into the heavens again, a ray of sunshine from the red setting sun fell on the eagle's wings, so they appeared tipped with gold, the rest of the bird was pure white.

"Here is where we will stay!" declared Lech. "Here is our new home, and we will call this place **GNIEZNO** ... (the eagle's nest).

He and his people built new houses and it became the center of his territory. They called themselves Polonians, which means "People of the Field". They made a banner with a white eagle on a red field and flew it over the town of Gniezno, which became the first historical capital of Poland.

And, now you know how Poland began . . .

## Polish Arts Club 75th Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago cordially invites everyone to attend the opening reception of the 75th Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture at the Polish Museum of America on Sunday, May 15, 2011.

The gala opening will be at 1:00 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 per person.

The exhibit runs from May 15 thru May 29, 2011.

## Your Trash Could be our Treasure!

The Polish Museum of America is holding a fundraiser on May 14 and May 21, 2011. They will be collecting military items and souvenirs from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam Wars and turning some of the items into cash. If they receive rare items they will be placed in the Museum's collection.

They are seeking such military items as uniforms, hats, caps, helmets, jackets, bayonets, knives, swords, pistols, clips, ammunition, belts and buckles, pouches, backpacks, pins, patches, medals, flags, military maps, photos, manuals and publications. These can be from countries such as the USA, Poland, Germany, Italy, Russia, France, Great Britain, Korea and Vietnam.

Go through your items that have been taking up space in the basement, garage, and closets and donate them to us.

The collection points will be the parking lot of the **Polish Museum of America**

984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL on Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Copernicus Foundation**

5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL on Saturday, May 21st from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

For more information contact Jan Lorys at 773.384.3352 ex. 102 or write [jan-lorys@polishmuseumofamerica.org](mailto:jan-lorys@polishmuseumofamerica.org).

Visit us at [pwcci.org](http://pwcci.org) or [polishwomenscivicclub.org](http://polishwomenscivicclub.org)  
Contact us at [pwcci@msn.com](mailto: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:**

PWCC's Board had a board meeting at a new location—Vince's Restaurant in Harwood Heights. We had a wonderful dinner followed by a meeting. Participants really enjoyed the change of pace and having a chance to share a meal with their friends.

At March's meeting Karen Kozlow, Program Chair, did a wonderful job introducing Kathy Curran as our guest speaker. Kathy spoke about healthy food for our hearts and arthritis. It was a very informative meeting with a lots of questions from our members for Kathy.

Barbara Marquart worked at her position of Chairwoman of the Palm Sunday luncheon very seriously and we could see the results. Her committee packed the baskets, which Barbara, Lucille and Don Gutowski delivered to Avalon. The children's baskets were prepared by Karen Kozlow, who has become quite the expert! Her committee helped, but Karen knew how many stuffed animals, toys, and other gadgets to add to get the children so excited. Even with the record number of children attending, Karen was able to keep up and get the baskets prepared. On the morning of the event, Barbara came early to ensure that everything was set-up just right. Alicia and Raymond, from RJ Design, worked on decorating the tables and baskets with extra ribbons. Raymond surprised everyone by making palm crosses and letting us sell them as another form of fundraising at the event. It is very encouraging to have so many people step up to help with such a wonderful event. Luckily all these fabulous volunteers will get a chance to take a breather before we start planning the next one!

We put a membership brochure on each table at the Palm Sunday Luncheon. They were just hot off the press and this event was a great time to advertise the benefits of being a PWCC member. It must have worked, because we had **3** new members who signed up at the luncheon. We currently have **6 new members** for our installation in September. We still need 4 new members to achieve our goal for the year, so make sure to ask your friends to join! **Any member who recommends a new member that joins PWCC will receive a free lunch at a future regular meeting of their choice.**

The response for the Bobby Vinton at the Drury Lane is more than we ever anticipated! We have 41 members and guests going on May 16th to see the Polish Prince, which promises to be a fantastic show.

This month's newsletter features articles discussing the Easter tradition of Pisanki and a continuance of last month's history lesson on the white eagle. The pisanki we included in the raffle baskets were mass produced. The real ones are usually one-of-a-kind and stay with the family who received them. Find out more about the pisanki on page 4 and the folklore behind the white eagle on page 2.

The May meeting will now be known as our Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be a recap of the year—what we have done as an organization, what we can do more of, how can we get more women involved, and who will take over running the fundraisers next year. We will elect new officers in 2012 to serve from 2012-2014.

Visit PWCC on the web—we are accessible at "pwcci.org" or "polishwomenscivicclub.org." This website includes information about our club, a list of our upcoming events, event photos, and current (and previous) newsletters.

**2011 is proving itself to be a year full of change that will help make the PWCC a stronger organization !**

Visit us at [pwcci.org](http://pwcci.org) or [polishwomenscivicclub.org](http://polishwomenscivicclub.org)  
Contact us at [pwcci@msn.com](mailto:pwcci@msn.com)

## Learn about Pisanki

The centuries-old art of Polish ***pisanki*** is a wax-resist method of decorating Easter eggs, much like batik. The word comes from the verb “to write” – ***pisać*** (PEE sahtch) in Polish and ***pysaty*** in Ukrainian — as the designs are not painted on, but written with 100% pure beeswax. Every Eastern European country has its version.

Eggs are a symbol of spring and rebirth around the world and they have become a symbol of Easter and the Resurrection. In Eastern Europe, decorating eggs during the long, cold winters in anticipation of warmer days and the end of Lent became an art form. The symbols, colors and styles all differ by country and even by region within a country. What remains universal is the drawing or writing on a hard-cooked, raw or blown egg with melted beeswax using a stylus, known variously as ***pysachok***, ***pysak***, ***pysal'tse***, ***kystka*** or ***kistka***.

Pisanki are made by heating beeswax in a small bowl or jar lid on a stovetop or hot plate, and then scooped up by the stylus as needed. The molten wax is applied to the white egg by rotating the egg, not the hand. The egg is then dyed one color. More wax designs are applied and the egg is dyed another color, and so on. The dye sequence is always light to dark. After the final color, the wax is removed by heating it gently over a candle flame and rubbing off the wax with a cloth or paper towel. The intricate designs and beautiful colors are now revealed.

Other types of Polish Easter Eggs include:

**Pisanki** – Eggs that have been decorated with melted wax, then dyed several times. The wax is then removed and intricate patterns are visible.

**Kraszanki** – Solid-color eggs dyed with natural plant materials such as beets, onion skins, and greens.

**Malowanki** – Hand-painted eggs.

**Drapanki** – Solid-color eggs with a design scratched onto the surface after they are dyed.

**Wyklejanki** – Eggs decorated with colored yarn.

**Nalepianki** – Eggs decorated with paper cut-outs or straw.



Pisanki are typically made to be given to family and close friends as a symbolic wish for the gift of life. They are hollow so they can be displayed all year and saved from year to year, ensuring good health and prosperity. The kraszanki or solid-color eggs are made to be eaten. The eggs that have been blessed on Holy Saturday are considered sacred and their shells are never thrown out. Instead, they are buried in the garden or crop fields in hopes of a good harvest. The water used to cook the eggs is also saved to water fruit trees to ensure sweet fruit and wash beehives so the honey will be golden and delicious. At the ***Święcone***, the traditional Polish Easter breakfast after Mass, a blessed egg is shared by the family while exchanging good wishes, and pets and livestock also receive a piece of blessed Easter egg.

## Polish American Association Celebrates the Family!

The Polish American Association is focusing on strengthening family bonds by providing quality programs such as Substance Abuse Youth Program, Teen Counseling and Parent Education for the Polish community.

They will be honoring their most generous board members Ed Bleka and Bogna Iwanowska-Solak at the Sunday Family Dinner on May 22, 2011.

Reception 4:00 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m.

White Eagle Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave,

Niles, IL

Cash Bar, raffle to follow.

Activities, entertainment and surprises for children of all ages.

Tickets; adults \$50, children \$25 (2 to 16)

RSVP before May 14, 2011.

For more information contact Marta Buchanan at 773.427.6308 or email

[marta.buchanan@polish.org](mailto:marta.buchanan@polish.org).

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