

Issue XXVI

January, 2011

Upcoming Events

January 10, 2011
Meeting

February 14, 2011
Meeting

March 14, 2011
Meeting

April 17, 2011
Palm Sunday Luncheon
at Avalon Banquets

May 9, 2011
Meeting

Speedy Recovery to:
Sally Franz
Mary Bielka
Diane Faubl

Deepest condolences to Christine Szafraniec, family, and friends on the passing of senior member Florence Szafraniec.

Congratulations to Aurelia Pucinski on the marriage of her daughter Annie.

Come to the First Meeting of 2011

PWCC's first meeting of 2011 will be held **\$17.**

January 10 at the White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. The meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. with a presentation by Commissioner Robert Avila, lunch, and the general meeting. **This meeting is open to members, prospective members, and guests. The price per person is**

Please RSVP before January 7th to:

Karen Kozlow
773.467.1504
Muriel Banach
847.577.9220

Christmas Luncheon—Great Success!

The Christmas Luncheon was another wonderful fundraiser for the PWCC. What a great turnout! Barbara Marquart, Fran Schrader, and their committee prepared beautiful raffle gifts, with gifts valued over \$150 in the gold raffle. Barbara also brought her own table covers and decorations to make the event even more special!

Shirley Dudzinski spent

countless hours arranging the seating. Christmas ornaments donated by a board member were successfully sold before and at the luncheon. The Christmas tree centerpieces were also donated by a board member and were coveted by all attendees. When lit, the room glowed, and the atmosphere was instantly festive and full of merriment!

Robert Dutka accompanied the PWCC chorus, singing

both Polish and English carols. Fellow musicians Ed Ptaszek and Tom Burzycki also contributed to this musical afternoon. The members and their guests were very generous, purchasing several tickets for the raffle, ornaments, oplatki, and centerpieces!

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

Thanks, Dr. Korzec!

Dr. Kenneth Korzec and his wife Janette sent PWCC not only sent their annual contribution to the Kenneth Korzec, M.D. Scholarship Fund, but they also included a major second donation.

Janette wrote the following: *Enclosed find two checks for the Kenneth Korzec, M.D. Scholarship Fund. There is our usual yearly donation and a second one for the same*

amount. As you know my mother-in-law Stella Korzec passed away this year. She was very supportive and appreciative of the efforts of the Polish Women's Civic Club in higher education. We thought it fitting this year to donate an additional amount from her estate in her name to the scholarship fund. We're sure she would have wanted this and know you will put it to good use.

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

Szopki Krakowskie – Cracow Christmas Crib

The most refined forms, the most opulent and beautiful ornamentation – these are the distinctive features of Szopki Krakowskie. They have been made by Cracow masters of carpentry and stone – masonry since the mid 19th century.



The design of all these cribs as a rule refers to such historic Gothic and Baroque structures in Cracow as Wawel Castle, the dome of the Sigismund Chapel, St Mary's Church, defensive walls, the Cloth Hall and the Old Town houses. All Cracow cribs resemble churches or palaces, having three or five tall towers with domes or slender steeples. They are pasted with glossy color paper, and colorful, shining silver paper. They captivate with the mastery of tiny architectural details, countless ornaments and fabulous colors. Michal and Leon Ezenkier, the creators of the first crib of this kind in 1860, are thought to be the precursors of Christmas crib making art in Cracow. Other Cracow stone – masons followed their steps. In later times, when they were unemployed in the winter season, they occupied themselves with crib

building and singing Christmas carols.



They quickly understood that the bigger, more colorful and beautiful their crib was, the greater number of rich Cracow burghers would invite them to their house to sing carols and perform nativity plays to please their family and especially children. Cracow Christmas Crib are still popularly made, owing to the annual crib competition organized in Cracow from 1937 under the patronage of municipal authorities as well as the Historical and Ethnographic Museums.

Every year, with the only interruption during World War II, the works of many crib artists are displayed in Cracow Market Square under the Adam Mickiewicz Monument in the first days of December. Huge multi story structures as well as miniature, a few centimeters tall buildings made with great precision and mastery, true works of art in model – making and ornamentation, can be admired here.

Adventures in Travel with Lenore Fuesz

I would like to tell you about my love of travel. It began after I was introduced to several books written by a young man, named Richard Haliburton. He lived during the thirties, traveled extensively and simply and then wrote at least a half dozen books regarding his adventures. I know he inspired me and as a consequence I have traveled a great deal. My trip to the Orient was quite unusual and began when I boarded a plane in Chicago headed for Tokyo. Throughout the flight to the west coast, I was entertained by the pilot discussing Tokyo. We reached the west coast and everyone disembarked from the plane. Being the “seasoned” traveler I am, I didn't bother to review my documentation any further but just checked to find that our plane needed some minor repairs and we would then be on our way to Tokyo. I leisurely roamed around the airport, checked my mileage card with the proper airline employee and then boarded the plane to take me to Tokyo. When a stewardess requested that I show her my boarding

pass, I immediately displayed same. Before long we arrived in Tokyo, and I went to claim my luggage only to find it was not available. I talked to the proper Japanese employee in the airport and then looked for a company tour guide. Not finding anyone present from the travel company, I found my way to the proper hotel by bus and, in the morning, I met the guide and the group of travelers I was to travel with. The trip was great and enjoyed by all. Upon returning home I paid a visit to my local travel agent regarding the bus I had to take on my own to the hotel and my missing luggage. I found that I arrived late because I boarded the wrong plane from the west coast to Tokyo, which also accounted for my missing luggage! Moreover, my local travel agent had to see that the airline I utilized was properly paid for my flight from the west coast to Tokyo, and reimbursement was received for the prepaid fare from the airline I did not use to fly to Tokyo. Traveling is very adventurous.

Submitted by Lenore Fuesz

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Ann Burzycki**

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**Serving the Polish
Community since 1924**

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Alicia Dutka

Directors

Ann Burzycki

Alicia Dutka

Stephanie Kunas

Lucille Gutowski

Shirley Dudzinski

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

PWCC has had a successful, transformative year. We revised our bylaws to coincide with our status as a 501c3 organization, developed a new format for our newsletter, used e-mail as a more efficient way of communicating, created our first website (pwcci.org) with downloadable scholarships forms, were interviewed on WPNA in March, and experienced very successful Palm Sunday and Christmas Luncheons. <PHEW!> I also accepted the position of President for another 2 years.

There were also losses...in fact, 13 of them. Thirteen PWCC members passed away in 2010, and many other members have moved to assisted living facilities or nursing homes. As our membership continues to age, we are still trying to find the key to attracting younger members. Something must be done so that the club can endure another 86 years and fulfill our mission statement. What does it take to make our group relevant to the younger Polish women? By today's standards, a website alone is passé. Now social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, are growing in importance. We need to develop a presence in these places over the next 12 months if we have any hope to impact younger generations. Otherwise, we will become the shrinking White Eagle Monday Luncheon Club. Just as we left the Walnut Room many years ago, it is time to face the reality that we have to again modernize without giving up our traditions and the things the current membership enjoys.

While we think about these challenges, let us be thankful for the 86 years that PWCC has existed. During the holiday times, I am especially thankful for family and friends, as well as the PWCC's ability for us to stay connected and enrich each other's lives through acts of charity.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas Luncheon—what a wonderful event! Our board members are really good at throwing a party! I would also like to let you all know that we received a donation for our Scholarship Fund from Richard Zaber in memory of Lottie Zaber. What a kind gesture on his behalf.

We are currently considering new venues for upcoming meetings. The board thought that by meeting in different locations in the city, more members would be able to attend. Karen Kozlow promises that the programs will be interesting and brief. If you have any suggestions on program topics or restaurants, please contact Karen.

We need new members to continue our cause and good work. One of the goals for the 2010-2011 PWCC year is to get at least 10 new members. The Board has approved an incentive for signing up new members. **Any member who recommends a new member that joins PWCC will receive a free lunch at a future meeting of their choice.** We hope that this incentive brings new members into the PWCC as well as encourages regular members to attend.

The Palm Sunday Luncheon is our major fund raiser. **We NEED co-chairs for this event!!!** We also need the 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!** A solicitation letter is included with this newsletter that you can take to your retailer.

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.

I look forward to 2011, which promises to be full of change that will help make the PWCC a stronger organization !

Please visit us at pwcci.org
or polishwomenscivicclub.org

Thank You, PWCC Members!

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

Kazimiera Bober

Ann Burzycki

Kathleen Burzycki

Lois Cichowski

Alicia Dutka

Diane Faubl

Eileen Klocko Fitzgerald

Marie Fugiel

Lenore Fuesz

Lucille Gutowski

Patricia Izban

Bobbi Kaminski

Beverly Kizior

Genevieve Kobelinski

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Korzec

Eleanore Kowynia

Karen Kozlow

Evelyn Lo Savio

Delphine Lytell

Barbara Marquart

Anna Piecewicz

Henriette Rocks

Frances Schrader

Jane Kaminski-Simers

Maryann Slavinsky

Jacky Smalstig

Loraine Stach

Rita Stevens

Eunice Warda

Marcia Zurowski

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

Neiman Marcus

Super Dog

Norwood Restaurant

RJP Jewelers

The following individuals and organizations contributed to our scholarship funds:

Suzanne Sweeney and Richard Zaber

Polish Falcons Nest #1

Maria Konopnicka Adult Cultural Group

Chicago Society's Inaugural Ball

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. Ninety-Ninth Inaugural Ball will be held on **Saturday, January 22, 2011** at **Café La Cave**, 2777 Mannheim Road, Des Plaines, IL.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. including hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, complete dinner, and the event program. The event will conclude with ballroom dancing courtesy of the Anthony

Kawalkowski Orchestra. Please note that black-tie is preferred.

Tickets are \$135 per person until January 15 and then increases to \$150 until the January 19 deadline.

Contact **Marian Skawski** at 708.246.9165 for reservations and/or more information.

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