



Issue XXXV

November, 2011

December 4, 2011
Christmas Luncheon at
Rosewood Restaurant

January 9, 2012
Meeting

February 12, 2012
Meeting

April 1, 2012
Palm Sunday Luncheon
at Avalon Banquets

May 14, 2012
Annual Meeting and
election of officers

Speedy Recovery to
Michaeline Drust
Henriette Rocks
Terri Sinkowski

Deepest condolences
to the family and friends
of our member
Geraldine Les on the
death of her husband
Richard.

Deepest condolences
to the family and friends
on passing of our mem-
ber Lorraine Castelli.

Deck the Halls for Our Christmas Luncheon!

The annual PWCC Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, December 4 at Rosewood Restaurant**, 9421 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont, IL. Tickets are \$55 per person.

Festivities start at 11:30 a.m. with cocktails and a social hour. Our scholarship recipients will be joining us in festive hats, so make sure to say hi to them! Be ready to join in singing with the PWCC Christmas Choir and special guest Kathleen Burzycki, a graduate of Northwestern University's Music program who is returning from a limited engagement at the B.B. King Blues Club in New York. She will be accompanied by

Tom Burzycki. The duo will perform Polish and English Christmas Carols. Booklets with the words to the carols will be available on each table.

Also, one of our past recipients, Angelika Piwowarczyk will be exhibiting her art work. Her bio is included below.

This luncheon will be one of our best ever, with fabulous raffles and wonderful prizes. This year's committee is headed by Geraldine Balut Colman, who has been preparing by decorating baskets, choosing the centerpieces, and putting the program together.

The gold raffle includes a Christmas Tree with gift

cards valued at \$200 as ornaments, a Coach purse, a Fitz & Floyd Christmas platter, and "Cottage Mirror" 45 piece flatware service in a Reed & Barton Flatware Chest. The tickets for the gold raffle can be purchased at the event.

We will be selling oplatki, a yearly tradition.

If you have additional prizes, gift cards, or funds to donate for the raffle, we can still use them!

Make sure to join us on Sunday, December 4th to catch up with friends, support the PWCC, have a chance at winning some great prizes, and kick-off the Christmas season. RSVP today!

Artist Bio: Angelika Piwowarczyk

Angelika Piwowarczyk is a Polish-born artist living in the Chicago area. Her art revolves around her interest in people, history and cultures. Angelika's interests lie in history, storytelling and the universality that links us all. As an interdisciplinary artist, Angelika works with bookbinding, drawing, printmaking, painting, collage and photography. Her artistic inquiry is an exploration of human hardship and

struggle; how we respond to tragedy and misfortune, and how it affects us collectively, as well as individually. Angelika was a 2010 Polish Women's Civic Club Scholarship recipient and graduated from DePaul University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts and Spanish. For more information, please visit her website at angelikapiwowarczyk.com.

Submitted by Angelika Piwowarczyk

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Contact us at pwcci@msn.com

Visiting Trzęsacz



Trzęsacz is visited by crowds of people every year. A lot of them are summer holidaymakers enjoying the sea and the

sandy beaches, while others come here to see the remains of the Gothic church of St. Nicolas, erected in the 15th century and the ruins of which are the postcard symbol of Trzęsacz. This part of the coastline is a spectacular example of the erosive power of the waves, and visiting the ruins picturesquely located on the cliff gives you a clear idea of just how mighty the sea is.

The church in Trzęsacz was originally erected 2 km away from the sea; however, during the course of time the sea has eroded and devoured the land. In the 19th century a decision was taken to close the church for safety reasons, and the first wall fell in 1901 with the next soon after. The final collapse took place in 1994 and at present all that remains is just one brick wall standing alone

on a sandy cliff covered with concrete for protection against the powerful waves. Nevertheless, predictions say that before long nothing will be left of the church: after over 100 years it will certainly succumb to the destructive power of the sea. Nevertheless, today the ruins continue to draw tourists and are a much-photographed site.

In summer you can get to Trzęsacz from the town of Gryfice on board a train on the old narrow-gauge railway. A stay in the village at this time of the year gives you the opportunity for plenty of water sports and especially for paragliding from the take-off point on one of the cliffs. The local 19th century palace nowadays houses a hotel and horse stables.



John Paul II's Watch Sold...



The buyer paid PLN 400 thousand for the watch belonging to John Paul II. The charity auction of watches belonging to famous people, organized by watchmaker company Strojny, took place on in the Juliusz Slowacki Theatre in Kraków.

The Pope's watch, handmade in a German workshop, was commissioned by the Knights of the Order of Malta for the 80th birthday of Pope

John Paul II. The watch does not have hands but a small pearl that shows the moving passage of time. A gold coin minted to commemorate his birthday was used for the clock face.

For the collectors, Pope's watch is an absolutely unique item. It was given to Kraków in early 2003, along with a photograph signed by the Pope. At the express request of Pope John Paul II, the profits from its sale will go to benefit St. Teresa's School for blind children in Rabka. The facility is run by the Society for the Blind and the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters, Servants of the Cross. The auction winner wishes to remain anonymous. The buyer did not say what he or she intends to do with the Pope's watch. Sisters running the primary school and gymnasium in Rabka said that the money will be used to complete the major renovation of the facility.

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**Contact information for
Ann Burzycki**

**E-mail:
pwcci@msn.com**

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The Memorial Mass at St Monica's Parish was very emotional and moving. It was a day to reflect on the past and honor our recently deceased members and mothers of our members as a united organization. Our Cantor, Valerie Glowinski, sang beautifully. She was accompanied by Jon Callahan on the organ. Two priests said the Mass with the sermon in Polish—a first for the PWCC. Father Andrew Lzyk delivered a moving homily on the gospel reading for the day. He emphasized that those mothers who are deceased are preparing our spots in the next life, so we should not be saddened by their loss but excited to be reunited with them in the future. I was so pleased to see many of the members who had not been able to attend previous meetings were at this one! We had a large turnout for lunch at the White Eagle. Many thanks to Karen Kozlow and Muriel Banach for being co-chairs, and all of the other ladies who pitched in to make this luncheon such a great success.

The Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 4 at the Rosewood Restaurant, 9421 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont, IL. Information on the Luncheon is on the first page.

Dziennik Zwiazkowy publicized PWCC as an organization that plays a vital role in the Polish community in Chicago. Our scholarships help to finance the education of students of Polish descent. Our support helps them finance their education and become a part of the workforce with less financial burden. They also gain an appreciation for the importance of non-profit organizations like the PWCC.

The cost of education is becoming more cumbersome for students who want to attain their goals and dreams but who do not have the means of paying for it. We are an organization that helps to support the education of these college students without obstacles such as having to repay any of the money, or forcing them into membership in our organization. The PWCC work force is all voluntary. The funds donated by our members, friends and contributors are restricted for use of scholarships. PWCC is one of the few organizations where 100% of the funds donated go to our mission. The membership dues support our business activities such as mailings, insurance, fees and donations to other Polish organizations. Your support PWCC is important for future generations of students of Polish descent.

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.*

We need more members to attend our functions. Plan ahead and attend! *If you have any suggestions for future functions or speakers let us know; we want more members to be actively involved in PWCC.*

You can find PWCC on both the web and on Facebook. This year's scholarship applicants were able to download and print their applications and supporting materials; that saved the PWCC money in both printing and postage. The web makes us more flexible to change forms as needed without going through the expense of reprinting. 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!

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Ronald Reagan Statue Unveiled in Warsaw

Former Polish president and anti-communist leader Lech Wałęsa unveiled a statue of Ronald Reagan on an elegant Warsaw street, honoring the



late U.S. President for inspiring Poland's toppling of communism.

Though Reagan's legacy is mixed in the U.S., across much of central and eastern Europe he is considered the greatest American leader in recent history for challenging the Soviet Union.

"I wonder whether today's Poland, Europe and world could look the same without President Reagan," Wałęsa said. "As a participant in those events, I must say that it's inconceivable."

The 11.5-foot bronze statue depicts a smiling Reagan in a historic moment — as he stood at a podium at Berlin's Brandenburg gate in 1987 and said the famous words, "**Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.**"

It sits across from the U.S. Embassy on Aleje Ujazdowskie, a street lined with embassies and manicured parks in the heart of the capital.

"Reagan gave us hope," said Janusz Dorosiewicz, the president of the board of the Ronald Reagan Foundation in Poland. He conceived of the monument and struggled for six years with bureaucracy to secure the prized location for the statue.

Several statues of Reagan have gone up this year, the centennial of Reagan's birth. Most notably, monuments to him have been erected in London and in Budapest, Hungary, and yet another is to be unveiled later this week in the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

"We've been joking that there are so many statues that we should do a coffee table book," said Linda Bond, a representative of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, who was in Warsaw for the ceremony.

Polish Arts Club of Chicago Christmas Luncheon

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago will celebrate the season with a Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at the White Eagle Restaurant, Vivian Room, 6839 North Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL. Reception at 11:30 am., lunch at

12:30 pm.

The tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased by calling Mrs. Alice Tondryk at 773.775.7554.

Deadline for reservations is December 1, 2011.

Alliance of Polish Clubs Traditional Christmas Eve

Alliance of Polish Clubs in U.S.A. cordially invites you to attend its traditional Polish Christmas Eve Dinner "Wigilia" on Saturday, December 17, 2011, at 6:00 pm. The event will be held at the Jolly Inn

Banquets, 6501 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL. Tickets are \$40 per person/cash bar. R.S.V.P. by December 11th by calling A.P.C. at 773.745.7799 or Teri Buckner at 773.612.1740.

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