



Polish  
American  
Association

# The Link

Serving Polonia Since 1922

Volume XV, Number 4, December 2000

## New Southwest Side Home

On the side of the newly rehabbed building at 6276 W. Archer Avenue, the name “Polish American Association” in English and in Polish shines brightly in bold, silver letters. On October 13, the sky was blue, and American and Polish flags waved gently in the fall wind, marking the day of the official ribbon cutting at PAA’s new southwest side office location in Garfield Ridge. Spacious, clean, and bright, the new office provides a warm atmosphere for PAA clients, welcoming them in and making them feel at home. Easily accessible by public transportation and with ample parking available, the new PAA office location hopes to be a great asset to the Garfield Ridge area and the Polish community.

Since 1988, PAA has had a presence in the southwest side, renting small offices on a month-to-month basis, and most recently at Five Holy Martyrs, to provide services for the Polish community in need. Near to the suburbs, the new office location will continue to serve an established and continuously expanding Polish population, providing services that Polish immigrants cannot access elsewhere. Garfield Ridge is one of the most heavily populated Polish communities in southwest Chicago. It is located approximately one mile from the city border, thereby making the new office convenient to residents of the surrounding suburbs which are reporting a growing number of Polish residents.



The need for PAA’s continued and extended services on the southwest side is evident. Parishes and schools on the southwest side have reported an increased demand for additional Polish language masses while the number of Polish-speaking students enrolling in schools has also significantly increased. Local Polish businesses have also grown to include law offices, doctor offices, banks, and markets providing services catering to the Polish community.

Greeted by woven wall hangings from Poland, clients smile as they enter the new office, and feel that they are at home. The new 4000 square foot location is equipped to offer PAA’s wide range of services to the Polish community, such as English as a Second Language classes (ESL), citizenship classes, literacy tutoring, senior assistance, counseling for victims of domestic violence, homemaker services, health prevention outreach, youth services, and interpretation services. The new location also houses the Maria Piwowarczyk Learning Center which contains two comfortable classrooms for students attending classes and taking



Officially opening our new office: (L to R) House Speaker Michael Madigan, Consul General Ryszard Sarkowicz, State Rep. Robert Bugielski and PAA Chairman Stanley Jozefiak.

advantage of PAA’s wide range of services.

ESL and citizenship instructor Victor Urban commented that many of his students are pleased with the

atmosphere of the new location and the classrooms, especially since they are comfortable and the environment is more conducive to participation in learning. The new building provides social services clients, seniors in need of assistance, youth groups, and students receiving tutoring with a cheerful comfortable, confidential environment.

Seniors Case Manager Helen Torres says, “Anyone who is interested in learning more about our services is welcome to stop by the new location. Since our move, we have seen a 30% increase in the number of clients PAA serves on the southwest side, while the number of students taking English as a Second Language classes has doubled. We have members of the community on waiting lists for classes now. We want our new home to be known as a place of help and home—a place of Polish pride for the community.”

*Our deepest appreciation to Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan, who persuaded the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to issue a grant for \$500,000 for purchase and rehab of this facility. A very special thanks to our long-time supporter State Representative Robert J. Bugielski, for his encouragement and assistance in this process.*

## From the Chairman ...

I grew up in Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood and entered kindergarten speaking only Polish, even though I was a third generation Polish American. I was forced to learn English quickly and to become more "Americanized". It was only when I returned home each evening that I felt comfortable again, speaking my first language and among the customs of a Polish home. I understand what most of our clients feel when they turn to the Polish American Association for help. It's a familiar place where the language spoken is that of home and their questions are answered by people who know where they come from and how to help them.

For over 78 years The Polish American Association has continued to provide that sense of *dom* and *rodzina*—home and family—to newcomers to this country. As the nation's only comprehensive bilingual, bicultural social service agency serving the Polish community, we provide that sense of home to over 3,000 people each month who come to us for help through our over 30 programs.

In this coming year, we ask that you join with us in our Miracle Fund, to help us continue providing services that aren't offered anywhere else in the country. It's a way for you, whether near or far, to give that feeling of *dom* and *rodzina*, through your contributions.

From all of us, Board, staff and most importantly, clients, the best of 2001 to you and yours—*dom* and *rodzina* !

Szcześliwego  
Nowego Roku!

*Stanley Jozefiak*



## Polish and Jewish Teens Building Bridges

December 2-3 at Camp Duncan in Ingleside, IL, was the weekend for PAA youth to "Build Bridges" with other youth from Am Shalom and the Interfaith Coalition to honor Polish rescuers. 54 Polish and Jewish youth joined together to participate in the event which included specific objectives focusing on providing a quality learning experience about cultural and religious diversity, by establishing commonalities among the youth.

Focusing on discussions, special guest speakers, games, activities, and food, Building Bridges was a success in

creating awareness, understanding, and friendship between youth. Teens from Polish and Jewish backgrounds developed a stronger sense of openness and trust among other teens from different religious, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Building Bridges aimed to destroy stereotypes and rebuild an open line of communication between the youth. Most importantly, Building Bridges focused on promoting a positive self image and the development of one's potential while learning how to respect others in the process and build bridges to reach new experiences and personal growth.

## Society of Young Polish Professionals Celebrate Polish Heritage Month

On October 17, 2000, another chapter in the Polish American Association's story began. That evening at the Chopin Theater, the Society of Young Polish Professionals (SYPP) held its first get together to celebrate Polish Heritage month and to raise money to benefit the programs of the Polish American Association.

SYPP is composed of young Poles, both Polish and American born, their friends, and anyone who feels an affinity for the Polish people and their culture. Attended by 180 people and hosted by Paul Konrad of WGN-TV, the comment most frequently heard throughout the successful evening was, "When's the next party? We can't wait to bring our friends!" The party celebrated the sophistication of the current generation in an atmosphere reminiscent of a 1950's nightclub, at a venue with a long Polish history. The Chopin Theater, named for the Polish-born composer Fredrick Chopin, has become a mainstay of Chicago's cultural scene and is at the

crossroads of one of the original Polish neighborhoods, Milwaukee-Division-Ashland, "the Polish Triangle" and near the first home of the Polish American Association. Paul Konrad, weatherman at WGN-Morning News, was the hit of the evening with the "Know Your Polish Culture" quiz and donating himself for the "Breakfast with Paul" prize.

SYPP's creation is a new effort for PAA, to involve young professionals and bring PAA's message to a new generation who may consider themselves Polish but have no involvement with any Polish groups. Although the main purpose of SYPP is social in nature, it is also a fundraising tool to help PAA's programs and clients.

SYPP plans on having at least two major events each year that will celebrate Polish culture in a unique way. If you are interested in joining the SYPP mailing list to learn of upcoming events or in being active in the group, please call 773-282-8206 x 308 or email: [paa@polish.org](mailto:paa@polish.org)

*The Link is a publication of the  
Polish American Association.*

*Editor: Audrey Hillyer  
Contributing: Anne O'Doherty-Kamykowski  
Production/Design: Lukasz Grzesik*

*A Special Thank You to  
Tracy D. Hargrove at Vigil Printing*

## *Traveling "Home" with a Message of Hope*

Marek Prejzner knew what the most difficult part of being invited to Poland to present workshops on domestic violence would be: confronting the stereotypes of a patriarchal society and showing society how families and relationships are influenced by patriarchy, and by providing options to change the male partnership.

Invited by the Commission of Education on Alcohol and Drug Addiction of the Stefan Batory Foundation to present workshops focusing on the components of PAA's Partner Abuse Intervention Program, Marek was honored to participate. From August 26th to September 10th, Marek conducted three separate 2-day workshops in Warsaw, Krakow, and Poznan, a short lecture in Warsaw, and also a one-day, eight-hour seminar at a prison in Ridom. More than 280 social workers, police officers, prison staff, therapists, probation officers, addiction counselors, judges, women's advocates, and counselors throughout Poland attended the workshops. Based on the Duluth Model that PAA effectively uses, Marek presented the Partner Abuse Intervention program and outlined a short history of the devastating impact domestic violence has had on family and society.

The purpose of presenting the workshops was to provide the Polish



participants with a model to support people who work with offenders of domestic violence and focus attention on deconstructing the behavior of domestic violence offenders. Marek noted that an important part of the workshop was reinforcing the idea that to solve the problems of domestic violence, professionals from public and private institutions and women's advocates must work together thus attacking the problem as an interdisciplinary task. As a result, participants attending the workshops learned about a solid model that could be applied to efforts to reduce incidents of domestic violence. One judge attending one of the workshops stated his belief that everything we are able to accomplish in U.S. law regarding the rights of victims of domestic violence is also possible in Poland—there are only minor differences in the laws that need to change.

participants with a model to support people who work with offenders of domestic violence and focus attention on deconstructing the behavior of domestic violence offenders. Marek noted that an important part of

For Marek, the trip back to Poland had special, personal meaning. "This was my first trip to Poland as a U.S. citizen. It was the first time I traveled with a U.S. passport—I felt that I was helping Poland, my home country, with something that I had learned here in the U.S. This was important because I felt like I was bringing something back to Poland—hope. Domestic violence is a personal topic, as I grew up in a society that was strongly influenced by violence—it was a Communist government. Violence is still present in Poland, inside and outside of the family. Domestic violence is a subject to recognize and try to understand, because, as a man myself, I have learned the reasons why violence happens in relationships. I felt it was very important to present this information in Poland, where patriarchal stereotypes are still alive and men are still in power."

Marek has recently been invited back to Poland as a facilitator of more workshops. A conference is currently being planned in late winter. Here in Chicago, PAA assists approximately 500 clients annually with domestic violence serviced, including mental health counseling for victims, group counseling for offenders of domestic violence, court escort services, and art therapy for children from violent homes.

## *A Time for Giving and Receiving: Questions and Answers*

Grazyna Zajackowska, PAA's Director of Immigration Services, collaborated with Polish American Congress Illinois Division President Christopher Kurczaba to organize an informational and educational forum focusing on immigration issues. More than 350 people from the Polish community attended the December 6th session. "The event was a great success," Zajackowska said. "Frustrated members of the Polish immigrant community were finally able to ask questions and get the answers they needed. The forum was very well received in the community."

The forum provided the opportunity for attendees to ask representatives from the Chicago Office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) specific questions in regard to their personal immigration application processes that have previously been difficult to obtain.



Bryan Perryman, the District Director of INS talked to those in attendance about the recent changes in immigration procedures. Most emphatically, he cautioned attendees about unscrupulous

people who have falsely promised green cards for those who are undocumented in exchange for hefty fees. Perryman further cautioned the community about other fraudulent activities associated with immigration matters and pointed out that the Polish American Association is the only Polish

organization accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals. Perryman encouraged the community to seek out PAA for assistance with immigration services, another way through which PAA is a resource for changing lives.

# Polish American Association

## *Resources for Changing Lives*

3834 North Cicero Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60641

Phone: (773) 282-8206

Fax: (773) 282-1324

Email: [paa@polish.org](mailto:paa@polish.org)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
**WWW.POLISH.ORG**

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Chicago, Illinois

Permit No. 5789



*Wrapped gifts from St. Constance parishioners are readied for distribution to needy families.*

*Thank You.* . . . to all those who made this year's Holiday Gala honoring Lot Polish Airlines a success, especially Marzena Falkiewicz and Lot Polish Airlines, Dan Boho, Geraldine & Hal Lichterman, Grazyna Maneykowski, Arthur Anderson LLP, Banco Popular, AT&T, Ameritech, Bank One, Commonwealth Edison, Stan & Sue Jozefiak, LaSalle Bank, Frank & Lorraine Parks, Polish Woman's Alliance, Rev. Henry Pozdol and St. Joseph's Church, Rev. Edward Siedlecki, Fran & Mitch Wiet, Ernest & Joan Wish, Kasha Puharic and Integra Communications, Andrew Przybylo and the White Eagle, Bogna Solak and Oak Mill Bakery, , Joan Smuda, Little Polonia St. Hyacinth Dancers of the Northwest Center PRCUA, Fred Rosen and Sam's Wine, and to those who generously donated raffle prizes: Lot Polish Airlines, Sunterra Vacations, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, Archer Gold Jewelry, Orland Park Cyclery, Chicago Bulls, Chicago Cubs, Kane County Cougars, Chicago White Sox, Radio Flyer, Chicago Children's Museum, Adler Planetarium, Queenie Beanie, Mario Tricoli Salon and Day Spa, Opus Restaurant in Oakbrook, Thousand Waves Spa, Hydrangea Café in Wilmette, Smart Jewelers, and Paul Wilczynski... To those who have made generous donations especially: Catholic Charities, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Ernest & Joan Wish, Janet Filipowski, John Bittner, Thomas J. Bonnano & Assoc., Rev. Martin Borowczyk, Edward S. Grabacki, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Jarke, William A. Panek, Daniel & Mary Ann Pankiewicz, Francis & Cindy Pearman, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Platzke, Leon & Paula Popowski, Jean Race, Telza Welding, Women's Health Consultants, Kathleen Wytmar, and Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Zych .... To the members of the Knights of Malta who gave generously to help us meet the Knights' challenge grant: Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., James Fox, Edmond Gronkiewicz, Ted Makarewicz, Art Malinkowski, Mary Ann McMorrow, Dan Meehan, William Morosse, John O'Malley, John Pikarski, and Mitch Wiet.... To the foundations that provide support for PAA's programs: Fannie Mae Foundation, Whitman Corporation Foundation, Kraft Foods, Dr. Scholl Foundation and Illinois State Attorney General Jim Ryan.... To all those who helped make the first Annual Polish Heritage Cocktail Party sponsored by the Society of Young Polish Professionals so successful especially: Zygmunt Drykarz and Chopin Theater, Mario & Kasha Puharic, Eva Darga, Agnieszka Sobczyk, Ula Madeyski, Bob Pietryka, Dan Pikarski, Joan Smuda, Tom Pikarski, Margaret Zapaski, Mark Dobrzycki, Alexander Danel, Dave Witte, Annie McGurk, Frank Fuscald, Tom Kamykowski, Rev. Gowin and Holy Trinity Church, Andre & Mariola Golota, Samantha Strong and Clarity Cloverdale Advertising, Chopin Liquors, CEDC, Stanley Nagorski and European Treasures, Mike Holowinski and Ace Plating, Anita & David Flores, Kasia Bober and Kasia's Deli, Stanley Stawski and Stawski Distributing, Fred Rosen and Sam's Wine, Jordan Kagan and Smart Jewelers, and most especially to Paul Konrad of WGN-TV who hosted the party.... To all those who, at Christmas, remembered the children we serve, especially the parishioners of St. Constance Church, The Chicago Society, and Jewel Stores and Starbucks which also made special donations to help make Christmas brighter for our food pantry clients and to Ira Simon and Simon Uniforms... and to all who are not mentioned here but have given to PAA in time, money or prayers, dziękujemy bardzo!