

The Link

Polish American Association

Resources for Changing Lives

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Thank You

...Chef Michael Baruch, Oak Mill Bakery, and Marcin Januszkiewicz for their generous donations to the Brunch . . . Bozena & Arie Zweig and Bogna & Walter Solak for generously hosting events at their homes to benefit PAA . . . to all those who supported PAA's 2003 Chairman's Brunch, The Musical Interlude hosted by the Zweigs and The Vienna Café & Benefit Concert hosted by the Solaks, and those who made generous donations to the Miracle Fund, especially A.D. Medical, Ltd., Archdiocese of Chicago, Archer Gold Jewelry, Bank One, Edward Bleka, Kazimiera Bober, Bost Corporation, Dr. Ewa Buch, Grazyna Buda, Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' L. U. 130, U. A., Chicago Society, P.N.A., Casimer Chlebek, St. Constance Church, Michael Faron, Five Holy Martyrs Church, Magda & Marek Gawrysz, Edmund Gronkiewicz, Integra Communications Inc., Natasza & Mike Isaacs, Dr. Jerry Jakimiec, Sue & Stanley Jozefiak, Kasia's Deli, Inc., Dr. Louis Keith, Jerzy Kenar, Judy & Roger Kovack, Krzysztof Koziol, Drs. Krystyna & Bogdan Kroczeck, Christopher Kurczaba, Michelle & Dr. Henry Kurzydowski, LaSalle Bank, Lawnware Products Inc., Legion of Young Polish Women, Gerry & Harold Lichterman, Bishop Jerome Listecky, Krystyna & Bogdan Lodyga, Thaddeus Makarewicz, Beata & Slawek Maneykowski, Grazyna & Marek Maneykowski, Marion, Inc., Andrzej Markow, Ted & Barbara Martin, Anna & Edward Mazur, Greg Mikolajczyk, Lucyna Milkowski, Leo Niemiec, Northwest Metropolitan Urology Associates, S.C., Oak Mill Bakery, Barbara Bury Olendzki, Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Polish Women's Alliance of America, Polish Women's Civic Club, Inc., Karen Popowski, Leon Popowski, Progressive Driving Schools, Kasha & Mario Puharich, Quantum Foods, Inc., R. A. Zweig, Dr. Jadwiga Roguska-Kyts, Dr. Izabela Roman, Dan Rostenkowski, Stanley Rybacki, Sara Lee Corporation, Joanna Sawicka, SBC, Rev. Edmund Siedlecki, Barbara & Stanley Siembida, Sisters of the Resurrection, Anna & Dr. Mark Sobor, Bogna & Walter Solak, Florence Sowa, Jeanne Sowa & Craig Mitchell, Drs. Aleksandra & Mark Stobnicki, Ted Szywala, Barbara Truszkowski, Dr. Grzegorz Turowski, Zdzislaw Tyszler, U.S. Financial Ltd., Donald Versen, Sr., Frances & Mitchell J. Wiet, Bryanna Wilczynski, Ernest Wish, Wish Residential Management, Barbara Witkiewicz, Dr. Wieslaw Wojnarski, Ron & Krystyna Wolosewicz, Leslaw Wozniak, Kathleen Wytmar, Dr. Witold Zajewski . . . Oak Mill Bakery, Bart Pituch, Kasia's Deli, and Stawski Distributing for their generosity to the Vienna Café . . . to all those who helped make PAA's Youth Art Show such a success, especially Ewa & Christopher Kamyszew & 1112 Gallery, Maria Lassak & Szalas Restaurant, Frank Bobak & Bobak's Restaurant, Sandy Anderson, Andrew Lorseck & The Great Frame Up, Ewa Boryczko, Magdalena Bednarek, Idalia Blaszczyk, Ewelina Dobiesz, Juliusz Dobiesz, Monika Gutkowska, Andrzej Helegda, Krystyna Hryszko, Przemyslaw Jurczyk, Maria Krzeptowska, Jakub Luczkiewicz, Izabela Mazur, Monika Misiorowska, Zofia Misiorowska, Kelly Pelka, Joanna Regucka, Kathy Ross, Lidia Rozmus, Kacper Skowron, Elzbieta Sobon-Raszyk, Milosz Sowa, Karolina Suszynska-Wolak, Renata Vaughn, and Piotr Wolodkiewicz . . . to the foundations that provide support for our programs: Benjamin B. Green-Field Foundation, First Data Western Union Foundation, The Foundation for Health Enhancement, Kraft Employee Fund, Inc., Polk Bros. Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts. . . to Daniel & Brenda Jarke for their kindness . . . and to all those not mentioned here, but who have given to PAA in time, money or prayers, Dziękujemy bardzo!

Dance the Night Away . . .

Please save the date: Saturday, November 8, 2003 for PAA's Annual Gala & Benefit Auction at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare. The recipient of PAA's Presidential Award, who is being honored at this year's event, is Kazimiera Bober, president of Kasia's Deli, Inc. For early reservations, please call 773/282-8206 ext.308. We look forward to enjoying the evening with you!



Polish
American
Association

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Serving Polonia Since 1922

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Collaborations—Two Way Streets Paved With Caring

A Polish-speaking victim of domestic violence is taken to a shelter by the police. She is scared, alone and, worst of all, can't communicate because none of the shelter staff speaks her language. An elderly woman suddenly learns her husband may have Alzheimer's disease. She is referred to take him to a specialist, but she doesn't speak English well, has no other family, and the doctor doesn't speak Polish.

This is where the collaborative relationships that PAA has cultivated with a variety of other professional organizations in Chicago help us serve those who we may have never known needed our help, and those who need more help than PAA alone has the means to provide.

Even with unlimited resources, no organization can specialize in everything. That's why human services organizations work together to provide the best service for their clients by sharing their experience and resources. Together the organizations can bridge gaps in service, help fix fragmented systems, and be more effective in helping those who need them. These relationships are particularly important for organizations working with clients who face language and cultural barriers that other agencies are not prepared to handle.

PAA is fortunate to have collaborative relationships with organizations such as the

Coalition for Limited English Speaking Elderly (CLESE). Together with CLESE, PAA and other ethnic agencies in the Chicago area are working on an Alzheimer's Disease project to increase appropriate assessment, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease among limited English speaking elderly; provide necessary home and



community-based services; and support caregivers. Through this network, PAA may be called on to translate at doctor's appointments and help Alzheimer's sufferers and their families find appropriate care and support.

There are no women's shelters in Chicago with Polish-speaking workers. However, working with the Illinois Department of Human Services Ethnicity and Domestic Violence

Committee, PAA and other ethnic agencies have helped create awareness among city shelters and other organizations about cultural and other differences that make immigrant women more vulnerable. These shelters also call our staff to help with the case management and counseling of Polish-speaking victims.

Through our cooperation with the IL Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), an alliance of more than 100 organizations advocating on behalf of immigrants and refugees throughout Illinois, PAA's voice can be heard louder in advocating for our community. Led by the ICIRR, PAA and other ethnic organizations helped urge state legislators to maintain funding for interpretation and outreach services to the most needy and vulnerable members of immigrant communities. Together, we were able to help all our communities.

The examples of wonderful organizations with which PAA collaborates are numerous, but the reason remains the same. Through collaboration Polish American Association is able to offer a broader range of services to its clients, and in turn other agencies are better prepared to assist Polish-speaking clients. Together we provide "resources for changing lives."

Working Together to Treat the Whole Person

PAA's range of services gives us many opportunities to collaborate internally, as well. This "one stop" resource is what many people need for their changing lives. Here is one family's story.

Anna was so excited when she got the long-distance call from her husband in Chicago. He had work authorization, a job, an apartment . . . she would now fly out to join him and start a new life in America. What did it matter if she didn't know English yet? She would learn, as Janusz was learning. One month later Anna arrived at O'Hare. The basement apartment was small, and poorly furnished, but one needs to start somewhere. Within a short time, the American economy worsened, and Janusz was laid off. He and Anna had tried to save a little, but it wasn't even enough to cover one month's expenses. Anna

started working at the corner market part time, but Janusz couldn't find another job. Then, they learned she was pregnant.

Desperate, Anna confided in one of her co-workers. The woman said she had heard good things about Polish American Association. Janusz and Anna agreed that they needed to find some way to survive and make sure that the baby was healthy. Still, they were very nervous when they showed up for their appointment. They had never known anyone who had to ask for help like this. Would people look down on them?

Anna and Janusz left PAA with an appointment at a free clinic that would monitor her pregnancy, and an application for temporary health insurance for herself and her baby. Further, the counselor had

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From The Chairman . . .

As the new chairman of the Polish American Association's Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and thank Stanley Jozefiak, PAA's chairman for the past three years, for the outstanding job he has done.

Under Stan's leadership, PAA has doubled the size of the Board and significantly increased the level of participation by its directors; a new South Side facility was opened; the organization has created a strategic plan to help meet the changing needs of the diverse Polish immigrant population; and most importantly, PAA has continued to provide high quality services to the seemingly endless number of people who show up on its doorsteps seeking help every day.

On behalf of the entire board and staff, we are very grateful for Stan Jozefiak's effective leadership and commitment, and look forward to working with Stan as he continues his service on the Board.

Having served on PAA's board since June 1999, and before that from 1987 to 1990, I am looking forward to my new responsibilities as chairman and continuing our work of helping PAA remain a critical resource for the many people who need its services. One of my main goals as chairman is to follow through on the objectives established in our strategic planning process two years ago. We have postponed many of the plans we made when times were better to deal with current economic realities. However, we want to be sure that we don't stop looking forward. Therefore, the board is having a retreat on September 27 to develop a list of strategic priorities to shape our future direction as we continue to progress.

This financial year will be even tougher than the last due to continued government and corporate budget cuts. Our immediate goal is to continue to offer quality services to our clients, who need them even more now than they have in years past. In order to do this, we will need to maximize our fundraising efforts. With your continued support, we can weather these difficult times without cutting services to those who have no other place to turn. I am heartened that a number of board members are already leading the way by pledging \$25,000 as a challenge grant to be met by other board members for a total of \$50,000 to jump-start the fundraising process.

I look forward to the many opportunities to work together to inspire hope and strength in the hearts of those dealing with obstacles and hardship, and to help prepare them with the resources they need to lead productive, healthy lives in their new homeland.

Mitchell J. Wiet

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Painted Vacation

PAA's increasingly popular summer day-camp, *Malowane Wakacje* or *Painted Vacation*, was once again a thrill for its more than 50 participants, 11 teen assistants, and PAA's youth program staff. For six weeks, the children painted, learned songs, danced, made new friends and much more. The program culminated with a talent show, where the children were thrilled to show off all they had learned.

The opportunity to express themselves through the arts is invaluable for children, especially those who are shy or limited-English speakers. The arts have a lasting impact on learning to express feelings and emotions.

PAA is especially grateful to Rev. Steve Pajak, pastor of St. Ladislaus Parish for his generosity in allowing PAA to use parish facilities for the summer program.



As their parents beamed with pride, many of the youngsters made their stage debut at this talent show. From the ease with which they performed their hard-studied songs, dances and poems, it quickly became apparent that the adults seemed more nervous than the eager young performers.

Working Together...

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arranged for them to apply for a month's rental assistance, and sent them home with a package of food. They hadn't wanted to take it, but she insisted that they were eligible, and they shouldn't let their pride keep them from eating right. They also learned that they could enroll in an evening or weekend English class for free, and Janusz made an appointment with PAA's employment counselors. They had job opportunities that would work with the limited amount of English he spoke. Two months later, he found a job with similar pay and full benefits.

Their baby was delivered, a healthy boy named Eugeniusz. Anna and Janusz have recovered their equilibrium. They've made new friends from their English classes, which Anna says has given her more confidence in taking care of daily business. Where once they feared contacting PAA, both of them have told us that finding PAA was the best thing that could have happened to them.

Polish American Association has always relied on Chicago's Polish community's sense of compassion and justice, in helping their neighbors in time of need. Nobody likes to ask for help. Thank you for making sure that, when someone asks, help is there. We hope we can continue to count on your kindness and generosity.

Recent Events Benefiting PAA

Chairman's Brunch...



Board Member Michelle Kurzydowski (left) and immediate past Board Chairman Stanley J. Jozefiak (right) with Chef Michael Baruch (center) at the Brunch.

Polish American Association (PAA) was pleased to have Chef Michael Baruch, a sixth-generation Pole who grew up on Chicago's Northwest Side, as its featured guest at this year's Chairman's Brunch. The fundraiser, held on April 6 at InterContinental Chicago, attracted many prominent members of Chicago's Polish community and raised funds for PAA. We wish to thank Chef Baruch for his generosity to PAA and for sharing his experiences of publishing his highly acclaimed new cookbook *The New Polish Cuisine*.

Musical Interlude at the Zweigs Home...

Thank you to Bozena and Arie Zweig for hosting a wonderful reception and concert of the highly-acclaimed Motion Trio at their magnificent home to benefit the programs and work of the Polish American Association.



Hosts Arie Zweig (second from left) and PAA Board Member Bozena Zweig (second from right) with the members of Motion Trio.

Vienna Café Benefit...



(from left) Polish American Association (PAA) Executive Director Karen J. Popowski with Golden Link Award recipient Deputy Consul General Mariusz Brymora, and gracious Vienna Café hostess and PAA Board Member Bogna Solak.

The Polish American Association honored Deputy Consul General Mariusz Brymora for his years of distinguished service to Polonia during his tenure as cultural attaché and as Deputy Consul General of Poland in Chicago. The award presentation took place on June 29 at a Vienna Café & Concert to benefit PAA, hosted by Bogna & Walter Solak in the garden of their beautiful residence in Arlington Heights. PAA is grateful to the Solaks for their continued generosity and all those who supported this event.

Hats Off To . . .

. . . PAA's newly elected Board Officers:

Chairman - **Mitchell J. Wiet**, Vice Chairman - **Ernest R. Wish**, Secretary - **Michelle K. Kurzydowski**, Treasurer - **Thaddeus J. Makarewicz**, Moderator **Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki**.

. . . New directors who have been recently appointed to serve on PAA's Board. **James J. Laski** serves as the City Clerk of Chicago and is the highest ranking official of Polish decent in City of Chicago government. **Jeffrey J. Kroll** is partner with Clifford Law Offices and specializes in tort litigation.

. . . **Bishop Jerome Listeki** for his two years of dedicated service on PAA's Board of Directors.

. . . PAA's Director of Immigrant Services **Grazyna Zajackowska**. She was awarded the International Channel Networks' 2003 Vision in America (VIA) Award for her outstanding community service and contributions in Chicago.

. . . **Sr. Rosalita Wojtykunas, C.S.S.F.**, who retired after 13 years as coordinator of PAA's Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) & Rehabilitation Nursing Aide program. We thank her for her commitment and dedication to PAA and our clients.

. . . **to all those who have helped contribute to PAA's success over the years.** PAA was awarded the Silver Statue Award from the Association of Journalists of the Republic of Poland for its outstanding success in serving Polonia.

. . . **PAA's KidCare staff** for their ongoing success and being invited to present at the annual KidCare Illinois conference on Model Outreach and Enrollment Practices.