Dear PAA Friends,

Did you buy a dozen paczki at Oak Mill Bakery on Fat Thursday? Or maybe you came skating with Elsa and Olaf at the Skatium in Skokie last month? Or, perhaps you responded to our Annual Appeal campaign with a generous donation? Or possibly, you enjoyed yourself at Andrzejki and Dyskoteka and got to know our Junior Board? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions it means that you have supported Polish American Association in its mission of providing resources for changing the lives of those in need. Your support is invaluable.

Our reach to you would be significantly limited if it weren’t for the Polish media, which has served as our liaison to the Polish community for decades. This long standing partnership will again be critical for our outreach efforts regarding the events we plan to hold at our South Side location.

And this spring we hope to reignite your interest in the services we provide from our South Side offices at 6276 W. Archer Avenue in Chicago. The offerings include ESL and citizenship classes, open access computer lab, youth counseling and help with public benefits applications. There is also a vibrant Senior Club, which holds their weekly gathering there. A few weeks ago the South Side staff were fortunate to host Governor Rauner who joined us in a celebration of Paczki Day and supported our fundraising efforts. In late May/early June we are planning to hold a big Party and Food truck event on our spacious South Side parking lot. Please join us to help make it a successful community event! Stay tuned to the Polish media and check us out at www.polish.org and www.facebook.com/PAAChicago for the latest on what we are doing.

With appreciation,

Magdalena Dolas
Executive Director
A huge thank you to the sponsors and partners of our winter events!

POLISH & SLAVIC
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Eva Prokop  Ken Berezewski
PAA BOARD MEMBER  PAA BOARD MEMBER

Robert Martwick
State Representative

PORTAGE GROUNDS
Coffee & Tea

WINTRUST

PORTAGE PARK
ANIMAL HOSPITAL & DENTAL CLINIC

Community Savings Bank

Zrzeszenie Nauczycieli Polskich
W Ameryce
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Studies show that 3-4 million children are at risk of exposure to domestic violence each year.

In the U.S., 95% of domestic violence cases involve women victims of male partners. The children of these women often witness violence at home.

Since 2000, the Polish American Association has held a support group for women who have been victims of domestic violence. As of 2018, we are proud to announce that we are also providing a support group for children of the mothers participating in these weekly counseling groups. Every child is welcome, free of charge to this play, social skill building, and support group.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
KATARZYNA OLENDER 773.427.6331
DOROTA FELINSKI 773.427.6333
PAA CLASSES

Registration for ESL (English Second Language), ABE (Adult Basic Education), and Citizenship classes is ongoing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

KASIA KOPTILIN, STUDENT COORDINATOR 773.481.5405
BEATA HRYN, STUDENT COORDINATOR 773.481.5404
MIRA KROLIKOWSKA, ESL, 773.481.5409
JANINA MALEWICZ, CITIZENSHIP, 773.481.5400
SOUTHSIDE OFFICE: (773) 767-7773 EXT. 202

COMPUTER CLASSES

Registration for paid computer classes is open.

Basic Computer Literacy: Saturdays 5 pm-8:15 pm from February 17 to May 19, 2018.

Introduction to QuickBooks: Saturdays 12 pm-4 pm from February 10 to March 17, 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

BIANKA KAMINSKA 773.481.5418
JOB PLACEMENT

Job seekers who are Cook County residents are welcome to visit the employment office at the Polish American Association and enroll in job placement assistance programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

EWELINA KARCZMARZYK 773.481.5412

RESOURCE ROOM

The Resource Room is open to walk-ins from 9-5, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and is free of charge.

Computer Resource Room: 3815 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

BARBARA SOBECKA 773.481.5422

WIOA PROGRAM

Individuals interested in enrolling in a WIOA job placement assistance program should attend the program orientation.

Orientations are held every Tuesday from 11 am - 12 noon in Polish and 1 pm - 2 pm in English. Effective February 2018, orientations will also be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6 pm in Polish and 7 pm in English.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

BARBARA STADNICKI 773.481.5413
MAGDA KRZEMINSKA 773481.5423

CDBG EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The new cycle of the CDBG employment programs for job seekers who are Chicago residents began on January 1.

In order to register, a person needs to bring the following documents: proof of a Chicago address, social security card, alien resident card, birth certificate or US passport and proof of income. Men born after December 31, 1959, need to bring a proof of Selective Service registration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

AGATA STOCHMALSKI 773.481.5419
CECYLIA DUDZINSKA 773481.5421
OUR CREDIT UNION...
MORE THAN A BANK

As a member you are also an owner of our Credit Union!

Our unique understanding of the Polish & Slavic community lets us understand your and your family's financial needs. Our representatives speak Polish and English to serve you better. For forty years we have been providing Polonia with financial products and services such as checking, savings and IRA accounts. We also offer a variety of VISA® credit, debit and gift cards. In the past few years we have significantly expanded our electronic services, giving members access to internet and telephone banking, as well as online bill payment. We also take pride in offering a wide array of residential and commercial mortgages and consumer loans, all at very competitive rates. Please visit one of our branches in New York, New Jersey or Illinois and experience the credit union difference!

Join us today!

1.855.PSFCU.4U | www.psfcu.com
SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR

MARCH 13, 2018 AT 7.00 PM

MARCH 20, 2018 AT 7 PM

COPERNICUS CENTER
5216 W. LAWRENCE.

773 282-1122 EXT. 414

SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR

The Career Center of the Polish American Association invites you to attend two free informational seminars about Social Security benefits.

The first seminar, on March 13, 2018 at 7 PM will be conducted by a Polish speaking representative of a local Social Security office and it will cover:

- Review of the Social Security programs
- Benefit application process
- Forms/services available online
- How to use the available interpretation services

The second seminar will take place on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7 PM

Seminar will be conducted by a Polish speaking attorney and it will focus on:

- The U.S. - Polish Social Security Agreement
- How to apply for U.S. or foreign benefits under this agreement.

FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GRANT PROVIDED BY THE CHICAGO COOK WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP AND BY THE COPERNICUS FOUNDATION. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM.
On International Women’s Day, March 8, 2018, the Polish American Association (PAA) hosted its second ONA gathering; a conversation among immigrant women about the lives and aspirations of immigrant women.

The immigrant community in Chicago is very large, but it also tends to be very insular. Individuals and families engage almost exclusively with members of their respective nationalities and ethnicities, so we asked women from diverse immigrant and refugee backgrounds to come together and talk about their unique experiences, and transcend the language and cultural differences that keep us apart.

Inspired by the women who came and told their stories during our first ONA talk, who opened up to complete strangers and found caring, love and acceptance through a simple meal and conversation, we decided to celebrate the diversity and solidarity of immigrant women by hosting another ONA conversation on International Women’s Day.

The past year has been rife with heartbreaking news and shattering revelations about the status and fate of women and immigrants in the U.S. and abroad. This year, on International Women’s Day we had an opportunity to come together to both celebrate what has been accomplished, and speak up to ensure that our voices are heard within our own communities.

We hope that this conversation will help us break the barriers that have long held us back, in order to create a more understanding, supportive, and inclusive Chicago.

A special thank you to board member Gerry Lichterman and longtime supporter, Michael Traison, who challenged our board and staff to meet their fundraising matches in honor of International Woman’s Day. Because of their generosity, we raised over $5,500 for programs at the PAA! Thank you for your initiative, and commitment to the Polish American community!
For the first time ever, the PAA Junior Board planned and hosted a fundraising event in the south Chicagoland area!

On Saturday, November 18, 2017 Andrzejki took place at Avalon in Palos Hills, IL. Junior Board members worked with the Polish owners of this restaurant and bar to promote PAA on the south side. The event started with the traditional candle wax pouring where guests melted wax and poured it through a keyhole into a bucket of water. Once the wax cooled, it was pulled out of the water and held up to a light source where guests determined what shape the shadow was. Individuals were able to predict their futures based on the shape of the wax. Wrozka Dana and other fortune tellers were also present to provide tarot and palm reading. Everyone danced the night away to Polish music and top 40 hits provided by DJ Tom Miles.

Overall, this successful event promoted PAA’s mission on the south side. Many individuals, new to the PAA had an opportunity to learn about the PAA Junior Board and all of the great events it hosts.
Ela and Olaf were there. Tina Moutzouros and her figure skaters performed. Terry Bailey and his Maine Town Hockey Team taught slick techniques. Families skated together to Disco Polo and practiced their unique ice moves. Old friends including the Adamczyks, and new friends we met through the Polish Teachers in America, came together at the Skatium in Skokie, on January 21, for the PAA’s 2nd Annual Ice Skating Day!

(contd)
Local Cafes; **The Perkolator** and **Portage Grounds** provided hot drinks for everyone, and our sponsors board members **Eva Prokop** and **Ken Berezewski,** **Portage Park Animal Hospital and Dental Clinic,** **Community Savings Bank,** **Ben Franklin Bank,** and **Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union,** underwrote the entire event, keeping the cost for families affordable!

The PAA is well-known and has strong ties to the immigrant community that emigrated to Chicago in the 80s. Many of them used our services, or know of others who did. Through the efforts of the Advancement Department and the Jr. Board, we are reaching out to Millennials. Family Skating Day offers young families with children, who do not know us, the opportunity to meet our team, learn about our programs and become volunteers and supporters of our Mission in the future.

Everyone had fun, especially taking selfies with Ela and Olaf, and many parents wanted to know what else the PAA would be offering to families....

What would you like to do?
On January 27th, 2018, the PAA Junior Board traveled back in time to the 80's and 90's at Dyskoteka to fundraise for PAA's Domestic Violence Victims' Counseling and Youth Services.

Sokol Riders offered two dance floors, one for 80's music provided by DJ Bartek Zielinski and one for 90's music provided by Ulala Productions, guests had endless options to dance the night away. When guests needed a break from the dancing, they headed outside to the bonfire pit to grill and enjoy some kielbasa. The Polish community gathered in great numbers for the 4th annual Dyskoteka, making it a great success!
Fat Thursday, better known in the Polish community as Paczki Day, was celebrated by a hungry and excited gathering at the PAA’s Southside office on February 8.

**Governor Bruce Rauner**, Board members and guests from across the city came together to indulge in Paczki at our annual Paczki Fundraiser.

We also had many supporters order paczki for Fat Tuesday! Thanks to everyone who purchased Paczki; especially **State Representative Robert Martwick**, who took 20 dozen of our paczki to Springfield!!!

Your love of paczki helps support the PAA’s work to serve those vulnerable members of the community who need us most.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

We could not do the work we do without your continued engagement, encouragement and support!

**The Private Bank**

**BUSINESS MEMBER**

A bank that delivers compelling banking solutions that advance the goals of their clients.

**Star-Tech Glass, Inc.**

**BUSINESS MEMBER**

Veteran glass specialists with a range of commercial & residential products plus installation services.

**axence**

**CORPORATE MEMBER**

A software development company that helps manage IT infrastructure, regardless of its size.

**Mesirow Financial**

**CORPORATE MEMBER**

A financial services firm that specializes in investment, risk management and advisory services.

**Polish Film Festival in America**

**COMMUNITY PARTNER**

The Polish Film Festival in America (PFFA) is organized by the Society for Arts, with an objective to promote European arts and film in the United States. It is the most extensive annual showcase of Polish cinema outside of Poland.
TO DO:
Apply for PAA internship TODAY!