

Looking through the Window...

by Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski



Dear Readers,

It is the month of May! The month of May does seem to be one long holiday, beginning with the observation of Polish Constitution Day and ending with Memorial Day and featuring in-between First Communion, graduations and most importantly Mother's Day. As another Mother's Day rolls around, we once again get ready to show our moms how much we appreciate them. It is a unique day to honor all the women who have chosen to nurture us and loves us unconditionally. Being a mother is both an amazing and humbling experience. Only as we become moms ourselves do we then understand what our Mom have been through and what we have to face day in and day out. Mother's Day is the perfect opportunity to show our Mom how much we appreciate her, therefore try to spend quality time with your Mom - that alone will make her day! Do not forget to tell your Mom how much you love her and thank her for her words of wisdom, sound reasoning and motherly advice. With our love and gratitude, we wish all Moms a very Happy Mother's Day!

Let us not forget that the entire month of May is dedicated to the most famous Mom, Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Bring flowers to Blessed Mary statues. Flowers will adorn Blessed Mary's head in praise of her life and motherhood. The flowers also symbolize spring and the renewal of nature and each flower represents the pure goodness and virtues of Mary. In this month of May, let us renew our devotion to the Mother of God by dusting off our rosaries and adding a few Marian prayers to our daily ritual.

In an effort to draw attention to the personal sacrifices of the men and women of the armed forces and their families, Congress has designated May as National Military Appreciation Month. The months of May and June host a number of other patriotic commemorations, including Victory in Europe Day of World War II, Military Spouse Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Week, Memorial Day, Flag Day and the observance of the Navy and Army birthdays. Support and honor U.S. military service members and veterans who protect our security and freedom. Offer a special prayer to all men and women in the armed forces.

The last few weeks were very busy. Let me share with you what happened in March and April. On March 17th, PRCUA Secretary-Treasurer Josephine Szarowicz celebrated her birthday. Mrs. Szarowicz, together with her husband, Wally, treated all PRCUA Home Office and PMA employees and volunteers to a very delicious luncheon and cake. Once again thank you and Happy Birthday!



PMA Dir. Jan Lorys and Gen. Office Supervisor Julie Prado (rt) presenting gifts to Secy.-Tres. Joyce Szarowicz

a variety of pastries. The simple, yet very tasty meal was enjoyed by all. Heartfelt gratitude and a special thank you go to the employees who helped with setting up the tables, decorating, serving food and cleaning up - especially to my irreplaceable secretary Mary Jane Robles, Executive Assistant Jenny Crissey, Mrs. Szarowicz's Secretary Kasia Budzyn, General Office Supervisor Julie Prado, IT Assistant Madia Robles and our maintenance man Michael Perzynski.

On Saturday, March 21st, the Annual PRCUA Basketball Tournament was held in Whiting, IN. Special thanks go to all who participated in this tournament, especially those in the youth division. In this tournament, there were no losers - every individual who participated was a winner. The hosts - Our Lady Queen of Poland Soc. #413 - made sure that everyone had a wonderful time. On Friday, in a nearby establishment, hospitality was held and we were welcomed by the Basketball



Controller Emily Kurda, Fr. Stanislaw Jankowski and Alice Robaczewski

Thursday, March 19th was St. Joseph's Day, which traditionally falls during the fasting season of Lent. To Italians and Polish Catholics, St. Joseph's Day is similar to but more subdued than the Irish St. Patrick's Day. It is a beautiful tradition honoring the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph, the patron of workers and guardian of the family. At the PRCUA, celebrating Saint Joseph's Day has been a tradition for many years. The main table in the Social Hall was decorated with white and red tablecloths, a statue of St. Joseph, stalks of white lilies and votive candles. Rev. Stanislaw Jankowski from nearby St. Hedwig's Parish, blessed the food that consisted of meatless dishes such as pasta, fish fruit, vegetables and

Tournament host Rich Sobilo and his committee. It was great to meet the players and all of us looked forward to the next day's games. More about the tournament will be written by Richard Sobilo and published in a future issue of *Narod Polski*. I just want to add my congratulation to Richard Sobilo and his staff who exceeded themselves once again with their great organizational skills and

J. Szarowicz, W. Ozog, Mayor of Whiting, IN- Joseph Stahura, A. Sokolowski, John Ashenbaugh, R. Sobilo, B. Pawlowski at the Tourney



(Left) Young players from Munster, IN



(Below) Polonia players with Miss Paczki and Mr. Pierogi

willingness to work toward the tournament's success. They did a wonderful job, spent lots of hours on it and did a lot of legwork to come up with top notch facilities. The tournament, held in 3 gyms, received a positive reaction from the players because it was very well organized. Much thought went into its planning and execution. Thank you for working so hard to accommodate every team and all the issues that come up unexpectedly. Besides the good facilities, the food was also good and the officiating was professional. The tournament, as a whole, was first-class. It was rewarding both as a competitive athletic event and as a vehicle for basketball players to have fun. Thank you so much for a wonderful weekend! Also present were President Wallace Ozog with his wife Joann, National Vice President Robert Bielenda with his wife Eleanor, Secretary-Treasurer Joyce Szarowicz with her husband Wally, District #9 National Director Elizabeth Grabowski with her husband Konrad and my husband Mark.



(L-r) Joyce Szarowicz, Stella Sobilo and Anna Sokolowski at the tournament

On Thursday, March 26th, in conjunction with the 2009 Southern Graphic Council Conference, the Polish Museum of America presented an exhibition that displayed the evolution of Polish printmaking over 5 decades. This exhibit, entitled "Pressing Matter: A Glimpse at the Polish Print Continuum" was curated by PMA Exhibition Curator Monika Nowak and Beauvais



PMA Pres. Maria Ciesla, Grazyna Auguscik and PMA Vice Chair Anna Sokolowski

Lyons, Professor of Art at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. It was enthusiastically received by almost 300 people who attended the opening night, among them Honorable Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, R.P. Vice Consul Pawel Pietrasienski from Poland, (Continued on page 7)



(L-r) Exhibit Curators M. Nowak & Prof. B. Lyons, Prof. S. Wejman, Dr. M. M. Niespodziewana, R.P. Consul Gen. Z. Matynia & PMA Pres. M. Ciesla

(Continued from page 5) Dr. Malgorzata Malwina-Niespodziewana, Prof. Stanislaw Wejman and artist and exhibition coordinator in Poland Anna Strycharska-Kuhny. A wonderful top-notch Polish-born jazz vocalist, Grazyna Auguscik, entertained us with her beautiful singing. Monika Nowak deserves warmest congratulations for making such an unprecedented, magnificent exhibition possible. Together with the PMA employees and volunteers, they all did a wonderful job. We appreciate your effort in organizing events like this to promulgate our Polish culture.



PRCUA member
Angela Wojnowski -
Miss Congeniality

On Friday, April 3rd the 11th Annual Polish Constitution Parade Queen Contest took place at Jolly Inn in Chicago. This year, 11 beautiful, intelligent and very talented young ladies participated in this contest. The panel of judges had a hard task selecting the Queen and her court, since all of the contestants demonstrated a vast knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, humor and talent that ranged from modern to traditional Polish dancing, singing, painting and photography. Natalie Kukulka was chosen as this year's Queen of the Polish Constitution Day Parade. The audience selected Miss Congeniality; I am so happy to report that Angela Wojnowski, a PRCUA and Polonia Dance Ensemble member, was

overwhelmingly chosen as a winner! Congratulations to all of the contestants! They will all participate in the May 3rd Parade.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Happy Birthday and Sto Lat to all who are celebrating their special day in May. Special Happy Birthday to PRCUA employees: Anna Trush, Membership Dept.; Kasia Budzyn, secretary to the Secretary-Treasurer; Jolanta Zachara and Roberta Brewster, General Office; Danuta Rybska, Accounting Dept.; Claudine Wicker, Treasurer's Office; Mary Jane Cypura, Claims Dept.; and Ardene Kowalski, PRCUA Wisconsin Office. Also best wishes to District #10 PRCUA National Director Thomas Lisiecki. Sto Lat to good friends Alina Rozwadowska, Anna Zmarzlinska and Kazik Myslinski. We wish you all many happy and healthy years to come. Also, Happy Birthday to our daughter Alicia Marron, who will celebrate on May 30th. "Dearest Alicia, enjoy this special day, let joy and laughter fill your future days. May all your dreams and wishes come true. We love you and wish you all the happiness you deserve - Happy Birthday!!!"

CONGRATULATIONS - Congratulations to Kazimierz (Casey) Chlebek, a PMA member, on being elected as President of the PAC Illinois Division. We wish him every success in carrying out the duties of this important post.

THANK YOU - Dear Readers, a "thank you" is in order to all of you who sent us cards and e-mails with Easter greetings. Together with my family, we greatly appreciate all your good wishes. Thank you for thinking about my family and me during this Easter season. Bóg Zapłać!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Illinois-Indiana Women's Division Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the PRCUA Social Hall.

Polish American Day in Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL on Sat., June 6. Tickets: \$27.00, under 2 free!

Polish American Night at the Chicago Sox Park on Tues., June 9 Chicago White Sox's vs. Detroit Tigers.

For discounted tickets for Great America or the Chicago White Sox game, please call the fraternal department 773-782-2600 ext. 2601.

REMINDER - PRCUA is offering scholarships and grants for higher education in the 2009-2010 school year. Information and applications are available at: www.prcua.org under "Member Benefits." Application, essay and an official transcript must be postmarked by the July 1, 2009 deadline.

Have a safe month, get outside and let's start enjoying some better weather. Please send your letters and comments to: 984 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL. 60642 or e-mail to fraternal.department@prcua.org I love to hear from you!