

Looking through the Window...

by Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski



Dear Readers,

With Thanksgiving just behind us and Christmas just around the corner and with all the preparation and shopping for Christmas, do not be tempted to push Advent aside. May you find some time during this busy season of shopping, baking and visiting to be quiet with God and reflect on the great mystery of the Incarnation. Let's turn our hearts and minds to its true meaning of Christmas and wait in joyful expectation for the coming of our Savior. Waiting does not always come easy. It takes effort to discipline the body, heart, and mind so that we can listen to God's voice and not be caught up in the worldly preparation of our Christmas celebration. Let's keep Christ alive in our world and our lives and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Advent will soon bring us Christmas. Have a very special and prayerful Advent Season.

No matter where you live, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is, was and probably always will be, a family day, full of traditions. Christmas is such a meaningful time for us to honor our heritage and customs. As you know, for Poles, the traditions of Christmas are magical. Enjoy the Christmas celebration with your loved ones and yes, the good food. To help you with a good menu that will offer your family and guests many pleasures of Christmas meals, how about our PRCUA cookbook! Whether you will be cooking your first Christmas dinner or are an experienced cook, the PRCUA cookbook is full of tasty recipes, easy to understand directions, well-organized, all of the recipes in this cookbook are simple to prepare, using everyday ingredients that you probably have on hand - recipes your family and friends will love! You can create a delicious and traditional Christmas menu and the only thing that you will need to do is to light the candles, gather your family and share a happy Christmas meal. How about ordering more than one cookbook? They are ideal for Christmas gifts. Just send us a check for \$15.00 for each book (shipping and handling included) payable to PRCUA Cookbooks and send it to us at: PRCUA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622 and we will send it to you.



PMA representatives with Honoree (l-r) Anna Sokolowski, Joyce Szarowicz, Jenny Crissey, Honoree Maria Ciesla, Jan Lorys and Julita Siegel



Award recipients (l-r) Lidia Filus, Geraldine Balut-Coleman, Lucja Mirowska-Kopec and Maria Ciesla

Loyola Academy Jesuit College Preparatory High School, who is also PMA Life Member; Special Award recipient Lidia Filus, Professor of Mathematics, Northeastern Illinois University; and Alumni in Education Award - Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, Principal, Arthur E. Carty Elementary School.

After the award ceremony, the 10th anniversary cake was served. For entertainment the PRCUA Polonia Dance and Song Ensemble beautifully performed two dances - Oberek and Suite from the Region of Warmia. After their performances the dancers received tremendous applause - congratulations and thank you to our dancers.

On Saturday, October 27th, the annual fundraising Dinner Dance organized by the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School was held. Also in attendance were District #8 National Director Krystyna Lech with her husband, Ted. It was so nice to see many acquaintances and friends at this event. I was even lucky enough to win some raffle prizes!

On Tuesday, Oct. 30th a special Memorial Mass for Z. John Ordon, Polish National



Maria Konopnicka Dinner Dance (l-r) Marzena & Ryszard Staron, Anna & Mark Sokolowski, Barbara & John Frankowicz, Tadeusz & Krystyna Lech (seated, l-r) Stanislaw & Alina Skubisz, Anna & Marek Brynda

Alliance National Secretary was held at the PNA Headquarters in Chicago. John Ordon died on Oct. 26 in his hometown of Buffalo, NY. Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Paprocki and attended by PNA employees, friends and acquaintances of John Ordon, many representatives of Polish organizations, including the RP Acting Consul General Pawel Pietrasinski.

On Fri. evening, Nov. 1, the Opening of the Festival of Maps of Chicago



PMA Festival of Maps of Chicago (l-r) Anna Sokolowski, Joanna Bojarska, Anna Kotanska, Wallace and Joann Ozog

was held. It is citywide celebration that joins over 30 cultural institutions and scientific institutions in a unique collaboration to display humanity's greatest discoveries and the maps that record our wayfaring from ancient to modern times. The Polish Museum of America, as an integral part of the cultural landscape of the city, was invited to participate in this event. Incidentally, The Historical Museum of Warsaw has just completed an exhibition devoted to Warsaw cartography. Since Warsaw is Chicago's first Sister City, the exhibition at the PMA concentrates on the period when both cities were in existence (roughly 1830 to the present). The documentary display on loan from Warsaw includes photographic panoramas and depictions of important buildings, which illustrate the changing architectural styles in the city. Displayed alongside is a selection from the permanent collection of the Polish Museum of America of antique maps of Poland, Warsaw, and the surrounding region.

Special guests at the opening were: Joanna Bojarska, Director of The Historical Museum of Warsaw and Anna Kotanska, Director of the Department of Iconography. This event cannot be missed, even if you are not a historian, cartographer or map aficionado, please visit the PMA and see this beautiful exhibit.

On Saturday, November 3, I visited the St. Rafal Kalinowski Polish Language School in Munster, IN. It was a very special ceremony officially welcoming the new first graders to the school. These first graders made a special promise that they willingly attend and learn Polish language, history and geography at that school. After the oath-taking ceremony, a small reception was held for the students, parents, teachers and invited guests. We congratulate these young students and we know that they are going to make us proud. We are counting on them to lead us into the future as well educated persons and the leaders of tomorrow.

On Monday, Nov. 5th I attended a dance practice of Candidates for the Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball. Under the watchful eye of the demanding and very talented choreographer Misia Jaminski, they worked on their waltz technique. All were learning the correct way to dance, count the music beats, precise footwork, proper body contact, proper leading and following techniques. (Cont. on page 7)

