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# POLISH-AMERICAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED



IN 1934

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All members and friends of Polish-American Engineers Association are cordially invited to attend our meeting.

- DATE:** Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- TIME:** Doors Open 7:30 p.m.; Business Meeting begins 8:00 p.m.
- PLACE:** Copernicus Center  
Kings Hall  
5216 W. Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois
- SPEAKER:** Dr. Jan Płachta
- TOPIC:** “Artysta Betonu i Stali – Mosty Rudolfa Modrzejewskiego” / Artist in Concrete and Steel – The Bridges of Ralph Modjeski
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## Dr. Jan Płachta

Dr. Jan Płachta worked for over 30 years for the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Chicago District Office. He graduated with a civil engineering degree from the Technical University in Vienna, Austria. He has MS degree in Structural Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a PhD degree in Soil Mechanics

from Politechnika Krakowska in Kraków, Poland.

He worked on a great variety of Chicago District flood control projects, performed Dam Safety Inspections and other Corps of Engineers major civil works projects, like Lock and Dam structures

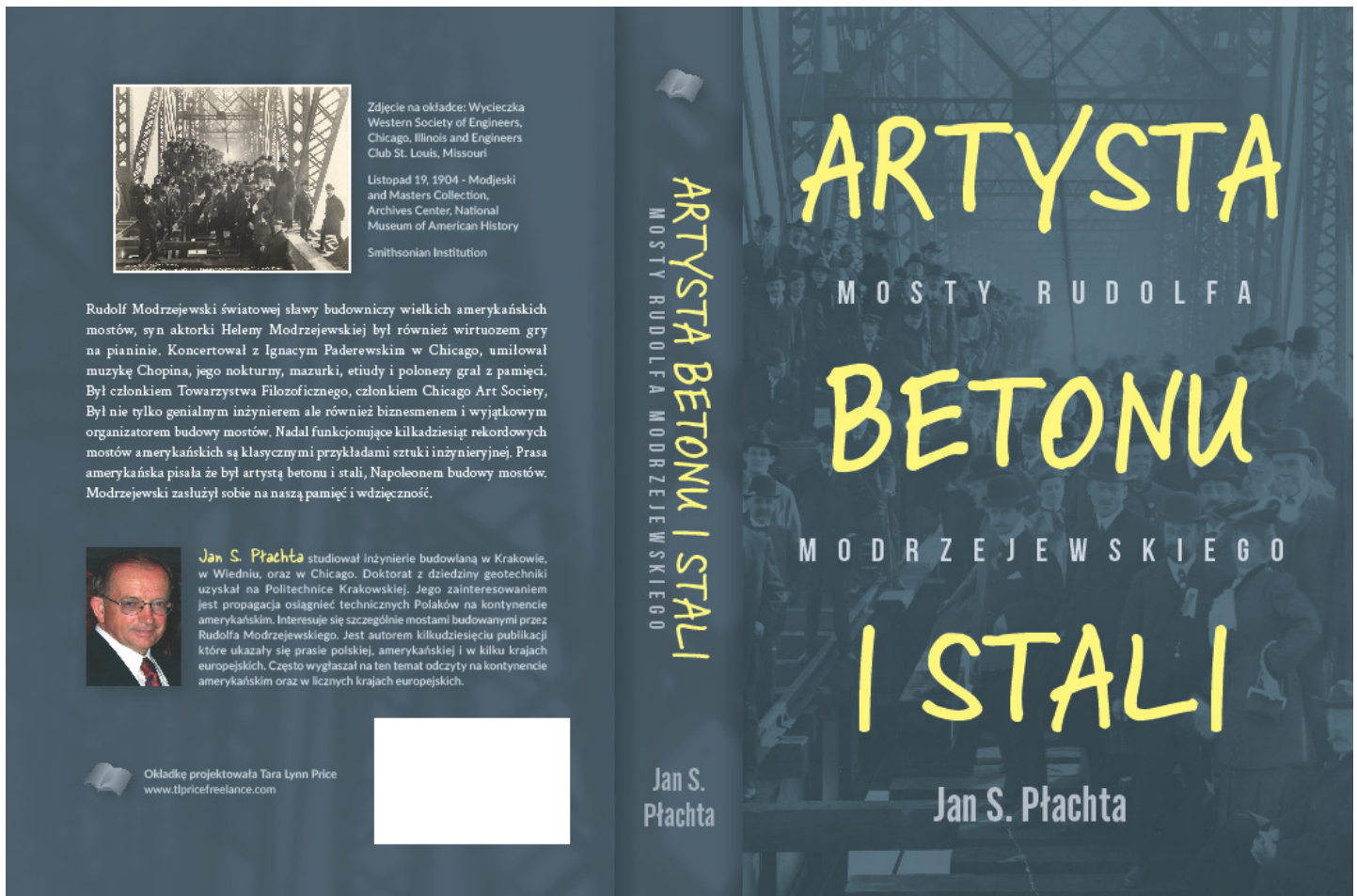
on the Mississippi River, Ohio River and Illinois River.

He has published numerous technical articles in professional periodicals documenting the accomplishments of engineers of Polish heritage and has made numerous presentations at the Corps of Engineers Conferences, the ASCE, SAME and PAEA meetings.

## ABSTRACT

Dr. Jan Płachta, distinguished Member of the PAEA, will discuss his recently-published book entitled “Artysta Betonu i Stali – Mosty Rudolfa Modrzejewskiego” (currently only in Polish) about the patron of the PAEA Scholarship, Ralph Modjeski (presentation in English). The book describes 40 existing bridges designed by Ralph Modjeski that to this day remain as classical examples of bridge engineering. They are spread all over the North American continent. Copies will be available (again, only in Polish at this time).

Ralph Modjeski, a piano virtuoso, who performed with Ignacy Paderewski in Chicago, among others; received numerous awards and honors for his notable achievements as an engineer combining the principles of strength and beauty.



Zdjęcie na okładce: Wycieczka Western Society of Engineers, Chicago, Illinois and Engineers Club St. Louis, Missouri

Listopad 19, 1904 - Modjeski and Masters Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History Smithsonian Institution

Rudolf Modrzejewski światowej sławy budowniczy wielkich amerykańskich mostów, syn aktorki Heleny Modrzejewskiej był również wirtuozem gry na pianinie. Koncertował z Ignacym Paderewskim w Chicago, umiłował muzykę Chopina, jego nokturny, mazurki, etiudy i polonezy grał z pamięci. Był członkiem Towarzystwa Filozoficznego, członkiem Chicago Art Society, Był nie tylko genialnym inżynierem ale również biznesmenem i wyjątkowym organizatorem budowy mostów. Nadal funkcjonujące kilkadziesiąt rekordowych mostów amerykańskich są klasycznymi przykładami sztuki inżynierskiej. Prasa amerykańska pisała że był artystą betonu i stali, Napoleonem budowy mostów. Modrzejewski zasłużył sobie na naszą pamięć i wdzięczność.

**Jan S. Płachta** studiował inżynierie budowlaną w Krakowie, w Wiedniu, oraz w Chicago. Doktorat z dziedziny geotechniki uzyskał na Politechnice Krakowskiej. Jego zainteresowaniem jest propagacja osiągnięć technicznych Polaków na kontynencie amerykańskim. Interesuje się szczególnie mostami budowanymi przez Rudolfa Modrzejewskiego. Jest autorem kilkadziesiątu publikacji które ukazały się prasie polskiej, amerykańskiej i w kilku krajach europejskich. Często wygłaszał na ten temat odczyty na kontynencie amerykańskim oraz w licznych krajach europejskich.

Okladkę projektowała Tara Lynn Price  
[www.tlpricefreelance.com](http://www.tlpricefreelance.com)

Jan S. Płachta

ARTYSTA BETONU I STALI  
MOSTY RUDOLFA MODRZEJEWSKIEGO

ARTYSTA  
MOSTY RUDOLFA  
BETONU  
MODRZEJEWSKIEGO  
I STALI

Jan S. Płachta

## PAEA Announcements

### 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

As approved in our January meeting, dues for 2017 have increased to **\$70 per year, senior citizens and students \$35 per year**. This was necessary to have a better balanced Budget in order to better fulfill our mission of mutual support, providing Members with educational opportunities as well as Scholarships for our young technologists. Please see our January Bulletin for specific Budget figures.

As always, if personal circumstances prevent payment of (full or partial) dues, we encourage continued participation (and even searching out support from within our organization).

We ask that everyone pay their dues as soon as possible. Membership Cards will be provided to all those who paid their dues.

Questions? You may inquire at the meeting or send an email to: [administration@polishengineers.org](mailto:administration@polishengineers.org)

You may send your dues directly to our Treasurer:

Mrs. Diana Kukawski  
940 Beau Dr., Apt 209  
Des Plaines IL 60016

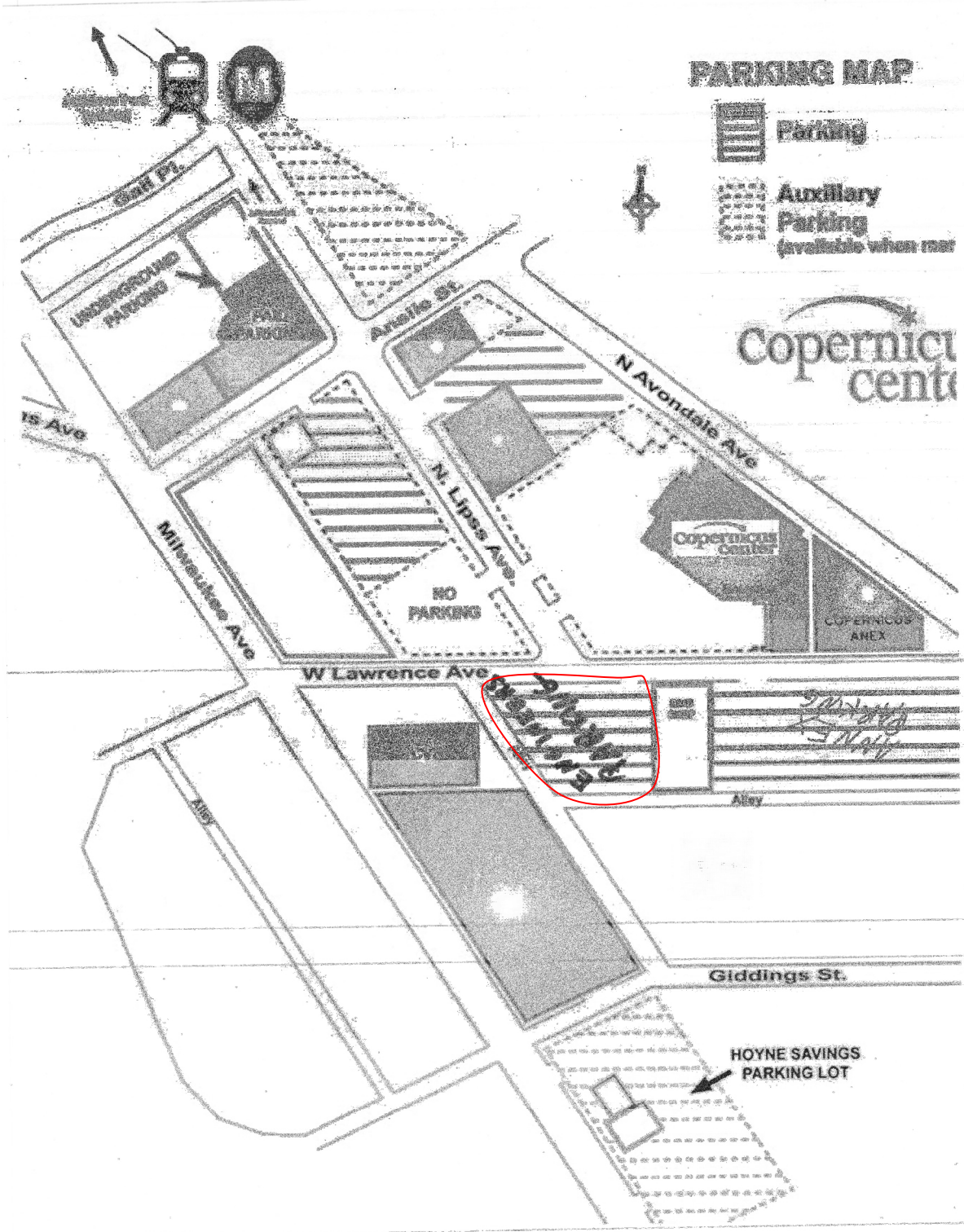


In the 1/20/17 Bulletin it was incorrectly written that Walter Rymza attended the Rudolf Modrzejewski (Ralph Modjeski) Plaque Dedication December 1, 2016 in New Orleans, LA. In fact, Mr. Rymza was not able to attend.

We apologize for any confusion created by the above errors.

### Notice About Parking for this Friday's Meeting

PLEASE NOTE: due to a concert at the Copernicus Center this Friday, please park in the West Lot (next to the CVS Pharmacy)- see the map below.



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## **Special Interest**

### **Chicago Chopin Foundation Chopin Birthday Celebration – Space Concert**

Saturday, February 25, 2017 @ 5pm, Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

The Chicago Chopin Foundation invites all PAEA Members and sympathizers to their celebration of the 207th Anniversary of Chopin's birth- in Space! The event begins at the Polish Museum of America, February 25th, at 5pm.

The Chicago Chopin Foundation is presenting the film "Chopin – the Space Concert," which was inspired by and documents this event. The film presents awesome imagery of Earth, choreographed to Chopin's music. It earned "Best Film" at the 2012 Angel Awards, Monaco International Film Festival.

During the break, there will be cake and champagne for everyone.

There will be a live jazz concert. The entertainer is TeeJayMac and his group "Peace, Love&Music and Fun for All," featuring:

Tad Janik - piano

Pamela Fernandez- vocal

Wo Romanowski -percussion

Tickets \$25; children \$15.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-chopin-foundation-chopin-birthday-celebration-tickets-32037072747>

All proceeds benefit the Chicago Chopin Foundation, whose mission is to build the Chopin Garden at 11th & Michigan Avenue in Grant Park. Chopin Garden will be a live tribute to Frederic Chopin, with live music and cultural events, in the heart of Chicago! The CCF invites all to join in this mission- "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

### **Chopin IN the City – Festival Promoting the Music of Frederic Chopin**

February 22, 2017 – March 1, 2017, Multiple Venues across Chicago

Grazyna Auguscik and the Sounds and Notes Foundation invite all PAEA Members and sympathizers to the Chopin IN the City festival, taking place across Chicago, from February 22nd through March 1st. For more information and tickets, please see:

<http://soundsandnotes.org/one-page/chopin-in-the-city-festival-schedule/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1356844341053450/>

### **Pulaski Day at the Polish Museum of America**

Monday, March 6, 2017 @ 10am, Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) have the pleasure to invite all PAEA Members & sympathizers to the annual official State of Illinois observance of Casimir Pulaski Day on Monday, March 6, 2017, in the PMA Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall, located at 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The ceremony will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Following brief speeches by public officials and Polonia leaders, we will salute the Polish and American patriot with a wreath laying ceremony that will take place at the base of the wall-size oil painting by Stanislaw Batowski (1866-1946). This painting, donated to the PMA by the Polish Woman's Alliance of America, depicts General Pulaski on horseback in the Battle of Savannah, where he was mortally wounded while fighting for American freedom.

For more information and tickets please call: (773) 384-3352 ext. 2111

## **2017 Outstanding Pole Abroad Contest – Deadline March 31st, 2017**

The Foundation of Polish Promotion (Fundacja Polskiego Godła Promocyjnego), in cooperation with:

- The Office of the President of the Republic of Poland
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

announces the 2017 Outstanding Pole Abroad contest!

The purpose of the contest is to:

- promote positive image of Poles living around the world,
- highlight the success they have achieved outside of their native country, and
- demonstrate and reward their accomplishments.

The National organizer in the United States is The Pangea Network, in cooperation with Consulates of the Republic of Poland in Chicago and New York.

For more information or to submit candidates:

Norbert Barszczewski  
(224) 717-9891, [norbert@barszczewski.com](mailto:norbert@barszczewski.com)

<http://www.terazpolska.pl/pl/wybitny-polak-usa>

## **Request for Survey Distribution (not official PAEA Survey)**

In November, the PAEA Administration received a request from Agnieszka Weiner (researcher at the European University Institute in Florence, and member of the Europeans Throughout the World association) to publish a Survey of EU Nationals living outside of EU to our Membership. After review (taking the Survey, determining as legitimate- no identifying personal information was required), we decided to publish the link- see below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CCHP63>

The objective of the survey is to gather factual information about the links of EU citizens with European Union and with their countries of origin while they live outside of the EU. The results will be used for raising awareness at the European institutions and advocating for policy and financial programming to support diaspora organizations.

Please note: this Survey is not directly associated with the PAEA.

## **Request for Support for 25th Anniversary of Holy Trinity School**

Saturday, March 4, 2017 @ 4:00pm, Holy Trinity School, 1118 N. Noble, Chicago, IL

In January, the PAEA Administration received a request from Maria Baran & Chris Bozek from Holy Trinity School for support for their 25th Anniversary Contest “Polish Places in & Around Chicago Worth Knowing,” taking place March 4th at 2pm at Holy Trinity School (1118 N. Noble, Chicago, IL). The goals of the contest are to promote the accomplishments of generations of Polish-Americans; generate interest in local history; as well as encourage the next generation to be active in their Communities. The request was for both financial support for contest prizes; as well as for Judges for the contest.

During our January meeting, thanks to the initiative of Mirek Niedzinski and other generous donors, we raised \$355 for this cause (including a \$100 donation from the PAEA). Those able and interested to be Judges, please contact Mrs. Maria Baran (the School Director- see below).



# POLSKA SZKOŁA IM. TRÓJCY ŚWIĘTEJ

Holy Trinity Polish School

[www.szkolanatrojcowie.com](http://www.szkolanatrojcowie.com)

6 stycznia 2017r.

Pan Michael Niedziński

c/o Polish American Engineers Association

Polska Szkoła im. Trójcy Świętej w Chicago obchodzi 25-lecie istnienia. Z tej okazji organizuje międzyszkolny konkurs "**Polskie miejsca w Chicago i okolicach, o których warto wiedzieć**" przeznaczony dla dzieci i młodzieży ze szkół polonijnych w aglomeracji chicagowskiej.

Celem konkursu jest propagowanie osiągnięć wielu pokoleń Polaków w Chicago oraz zainteresowanie historią lokalną i wdrażanie młodych ludzi do udziału w życiu społecznym. Konkurs ma formę artystyczno-literacką i multimedialną.

Zwracamy się z prośbą o patronat nad tym przedsięwzięciem. Osiągnięcie tego szczytnego celu będzie możliwe dzięki Waszemu wsparciu finansowemu, jak również udziałowi w pracach komisji sędziowskiej, które są przewidziane w dniu 4 marca 2017 o godz. 14:00 w Polskiej Szkole im. Trójcy Świętej, 1118 N. Noble, Chicago.

Prosimy o poparcie naszego projektu i odpowiedź.

Z poważaniem

Maria Baran  
Dyrektor Szkoły  
(847) 322-8910

Chris Bożek  
Prezes Zarządu Szkoły