

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Polish Social Club.

Idalia Rappe, or Lila, as we call her, was a member of the Club.

For many years, she acted as its President.

She, as the leader, guided us by sharing with us her commitment, great hospitality, respect for others, compassion, natural kindness and life wisdom.

Her virtues developed in a traditional Polish family home, her youth in just regained independent Poland, her religious faith, her hard first years of life in Canada, and at the same time during her terrible war experiences.

I will concentrate on her one aftereffect.

Then she was 22 but had already gone thru German repressions, the brutality of war, miserable life in labour camps.

Let me read what Lila wrote in her memoir: my translation from Polish.

“Year 1945! The end of war!? Return to free Poland is impossible.

Disappointed, hopeless, disgusted, despairing, like ants from a broken ant-hill, the Poles began to look for new ways and places where they could start a new life ...

They believed that even in the most distant corners of the world, they could help Poland...

They clung to each other, united by the recent experiences and the need for mutual support in the new country of settlement.” End of quote.

Lila and her husband Zbigniew came to Canada.

They co-founded the Polish Social Club and propagated Polish culture, tradition and history.

At the same time, Lila did not isolate herself from people, institutions, organizations here in Canada.

With her firmness and respect to others, kindness and wisdom, she found her niche, her own place in our society.

She taught us all her virtues, and we are proud of her achievements.

Families and friends, Lila was a great, unforgettable persona to us.

We will all miss her.

May she rest in eternal peace.