



# Polish Heritage

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## FROM WILLIAMSBURG TO TEXAS: NCSS PROJECT BRINGS “POLISH PERSPECTIVES” TO EDUCATORS

*Submitted by Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki*

**A**fter a very successful representation in Williamsburg, Virginia in 2018, the American Council for Polish Culture sponsored *Polish Perspectives* in Austin, Texas on November 22, 2019 for the convention of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). This was the 99th year of NCSS hosting a social studies convention, and the 19th year for ACPC’s participation. There were 287 exhibitors and over 4,000 educators in attendance at this conference.

The exhibit focused on the 400th Anniversary of the House of Burgesses setting up a representative Government in the Jamestown Colony. The focus of the exhibit was that the Polish Craftsmen staged a civil rights action for the right to vote. The right to vote was given to the Polish Craftsmen on July 21, 1619. To commemorate that event, the Governor of Virginia Mr. Ralph Northam, granted the American Council for Polish Culture a Proclamation that the Poles received the right to vote on July 21, 1619. They were also the first to set up an apprenticeship program in the new colony of Jamestown. In addition to the proclamation, the Virginia Department of Tourism accepted 10,000 leaflets about the Polish Craftsmen in Jamestown in 6 welcome centers near the Jamestown site.

There were many types of educators who attended and these attendees were more varied than in previous years with many more department heads than the past. We distributed over 1,500 bookmarks to school district directors. These will be distributed to fourth grade American History classes in their districts. Many of the department administrators requested additional materials and more than 35 educators registered for additional materials from our exhibit booth.

Hundreds of educators were presented with CDs about Notable Poles as well as the newly developed Jamestown CD which was specifically with information about Jamestown and the historic role of the Polish craftsmen. This included lesson plans, posters, bookmarks and a specially prepared *PowerPoint* presentation developed by Henrietta Nowakowski.

Free-of-charge publications were available at the ACPC booth. These included hard cover books about World War II which were graciously supplied by Aquila Polonia Publishing Company as well as various printed materials supplied by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D. C.

At this particular event, there were considerably more educators who were of Polish descent than in any other parts of the country where we had exhibited. Several attendees expressed their pride that we were represented at this convention. They were pleased and definitely intended to augment their American history curricular with information about the Polish craftsmen gaining the right to vote by staging a civil unrest. There was a great deal of excitement expressed by these history teachers who now realize that the Polish craftsmen had a significant part in the establishment of a representative government in North America in 1619.

*Top photo: Town Crier, Squire Frederick Taylor (center) discusses his Polish heritage with Raymond Glembocki and Marcie Taylor-Thoma of the Maryland Council for Civic and History Education at the regional Williamsburg NCSS conference in 2018.*

*Second photo: Raymond Glembocki with one of the many attendees at the NCSS Austin, Texas event.*

*Third photo: At the Austing gathering, an NCSS attendee accepts materials from Cecilia Glembocki and Debbie Majka.*

*Bottom photo: Cecilia Glembocki presents Professor Teresa Wojcik from Villanova University with materials for her student teachers.*





*PAMSM, ACPC and the Minneapolis chapter of Alliance Francaise jointly sponsored a two-month long exhibit of the works of Polish American impressionist painter Antoni Beltowski last year.*

## Minnesota Physicians' Group Joins ACPC

ACPC is delighted to welcome the Polish American Medical Association of Minnesota as our newest Supporting Organization. This three-year-old professional society of independent physicians and scientists has quickly become very active in promoting the historic and current achievements of Polish and Polish American doctors, nurses and biomedical scientists in a state that is home to world-class medical institutions. These include The Mayo Clinic, great hospitals, leading university research centers and an array of medical equipment and health care companies.

PAMSM's President Dr. Katarzyna Litak, a pediatric psychiatrist, attended ACPC's spring 2020 board meeting in Chicago in March to discuss the Kaleidoscope Oral History Project in Minnesota, an effort that partners with Grzegorz Lityński, a renowned photography professor in Katowice, to document the life histories of several dozen Minnesota Polish immigrants from multiple generations

PAMSM members practice medicine in variety of specialties including developmental pediatrics, internal medicine, cardiology, addiction medicine, integrative psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, nephrology, child neurology, radiology, pathology, molecular genetics, synthetic neurobiology, molecular biology, pharmaceutical chemistry and magnetic resonance research.

On March 5, Vice President and Treasurer of PAMSM, Dr Pawel Mroz of the University of Minnesota, was elected President of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, our 140-member ACPC affiliate in Minneapolis. In the past 18 months, PAMSM has helped support Polish culture through sponsoring and co-sponsoring multiple Minnesota events, including:

- *Minnesota, Monet & Homeland -- A Celebration of the Life's Work of Polish-American artist Antoni Beltowski* at Alliance Francaise, Minneapolis in June and July 2019
- An ATOM String Quartet Concert at the Minneapolis Orchestra Hall in early 2019
- *The Story of the Gray Samaritans – How YWCA Women Aided Poland After World War I* -- A history presentation and discussion in May 2019
- A 100th Anniversary of Polish Independence Celebration concert and reception at the Minneapolis Institute of Art in November, 2018.

The Spring, 2020 Board Meeting which was held on March 6-7 in Chicago was organized by Jarosław Golembiowski and hosted by the Chicago Chopin Society. The opening session and the evening reception were held at the Polish National Alliance headquarters building on Cicero Avenue. Among the subjects under discussion were: the scholarship program, a new booklet promoting ACPC membership and the Marcella Sembrich vocal competition.

On the following day the meeting continued at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Skokie, Illinois. The discussion included: creating a new position - Director of Development, revisions to committees, promoting the Jamestown Poles, and the next National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) to be held in Washington D. C. this year (Dec. 4-6). Marie Hejnosz was elected to a position on the board.

Dr. Katarzyna Litak gave a very interesting presentation on the Kaleidoscope Oral History Project in Minnesota, where statements of World War II survivors are being collected. It was illustrated with *PowerPoint* slides and photographs of the individuals giving testimony. Ted Mirecki reported that several changes to our constitution and bylaws will up for approval during the next convention. Peter Obst answered questions about the ACPC web site and requested assistance in updating some old pages like those with the ACPC accomplishments and mission statement.

He also mentioned that two more tablets will be dedicated on the Savannah, GA battlefield (where Pulaski received his mortal wound) on October 9. There is also a project initiated by the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) to create an updated version of the *Polish Heritage Travel Guide to the U.S.A. and Canada*. Assistance is sought in providing information about Polish sites in North America. Details can be viewed on our ACPC web site under "Ongoing Projects."

After the deliberations closed, the board members and local guests gathered for a concert organized by Jarosław Golembiowski. Featured were Chopin's art songs sung by soloists soprano Marlena Dzis and tenor Michal Sadowski accompanied by pianist Daniel Majcher. This was followed by the American premiere of Ignacy Jan Paderewski's *Suite in G* performed by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra conducted by Philip Simmons with composer/pianist Jarosław Golembiowski. A delicious banquet rounded out the evening.

Many thanks to Jarosław for making this successful meeting happen. It gave us an opportunity to move the business of the organization forward, socialize in the off-time and also spend time in Chicago. A few people managed to make it over to the Polish Museum of America, which has an exhibit of items from the Polish Pavilion at the 1939-40 "World of Tomorrow" Worlds Fair.

Please note that plans for the ACPC Convention were discussed but the convention was later cancelled because of the COVID-19 crisis.



# From the President



*President  
Raymond  
Glembocki*

Dear Friends and Members:

I am writing during a stressful time in our country because of the coronavirus pandemic. I encourage all of you to comply with federal and local regulations regarding the effort to slow the spread of this virus. We as a society have made dramatic changes to our planned activity practically relating to activity with large groups of people. Our ACPC activities must also change to provide our members the benefits of avoiding contact with large groups of people.

On March 16, 2020 with the approval of our Executive Board we cancelled our 2020 ACPC Convention scheduled to be held in Washington, D. C. This decision was based on the prohibition of any meeting of 50 or more persons in the District of Columbia and the nationwide recommendation that persons avoid groups of people in particular for persons over 60 years of age.

Celia Larkin, the ACPC Convention Chairperson, and Tom Payne, member of the ACPC Meeting Committee, were authorized to terminate any agreements and activities relating to the Convention and to report to the Board the results of such termination. Also, they should recommend when and where the next Convention should be scheduled.

Mark Dillon the 2nd Vice President is responsible for producing the ACPC chapter activity report normally presented at the Convention. Mark has suggested that he will contact the appropriate members and will compile the report. Please begin to prepare your report so we can complete the activity document promptly.

We continue to expand our communication efforts. Rick Lapham has agreed to be Print Communications Director. He will compile email addresses of newspapers and distribute

information on our activities. Tiffany Loomis will be our Social Media Director and will expand our social media presence. In college and in her professional activity she has used this media. Together with David Motak at the *Heritage* and Peter Obst managing the web site we have an excellent team who will communicate our activity; now it is our job to provide them with the information to communicate to our clubs and to the public.

We are pleased to welcome Marie Hejnosz who will fill the remaining open Board position. Congratulations, and thank you for your many years of work for - and your commitment to - Polish causes, which has been recognized by the ACPC board.

I am pleased that we have made substantial progress on the two leaflets we planned to produce. The leaflets will be used by the NCSS team at the convention and will be available for clubs to distribute at their events. Mark is finishing the scholarship leaflet and Debbie and David are completing the membership leaflet. Thanks for your efforts in completing these important projects.

Jarosl w Gołembiowski, 1st Vice President, had once again arranged a great program, this time it was for the Spring ACPC meeting. We had our meeting and were guests at the Chicago Chopin Society dinner. A first class event as usual Jarosl w !

Sincerely,  
Raymond Glembocki



*On the evening of the spring board meeting, ACPC board members enjoyed the American premiere of Ignacy Jan Paderewski's Suite in G performed by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra conducted by Philip Simmons with composer/pianist Jarosl w Gołembiowski.*

*photo: Celia Larkin*

## Editor's Note:

*We are experiencing difficult times. However, our country has overcome difficulty before, and, as Americans of Polish descent, we are no strangers to adversity. As history shows, Polish people are resilient. Ordinarily, since other Polish-American publications tend to cover the subject, I usually prefer not to include material on various Polish holiday traditions - but these are not ordinary times. As spring is a time of renewal and Easter is a time of hope and rebirth, I have included a center section on Polish Easter customs which, I hope, will be a comfort to our members as we are forced to limit our outside activities. May this "virtual Polish Easter" help comfort us as we continue dealing with our current circumstances. Wesolego Alleluja!"*

Dave Motak



# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

The year 2019 was a busy one for the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D. C, members. In addition to an array of our regular programs, we hosted the ACPC Board Meeting and in the fall, a number of us went to Warsaw for the ACPC Convention.



By the end of the year, we also started making preparations to host the 2020 Convention. But that was before our plans were put on hold early this year by the pandemic which is changing long laid plans as well as everyday lives all around. All of a sudden, the freedom of daily routines as well as special events, something we so naturally take for granted, looks like a special gift for which we should be thankful every day.

And so, we are grateful for the beautiful PAAA Wigilia held on December 8, 2019, at the Arts Club of Washington. As usual, we observed the age-old traditions of sharing *opłatek*, and sang our beloved *kolędy*. In the artistic program, we heard our well known PAAA artists, soprano Laura Kafka-Price, pianist Alvin Smithson, and the husband and wife duo Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk, leading the *kolędy* singing. Young soprano Rosalinda Sherman performed solo and in a duet with her teacher, Laura Kafka-Price. We look forward to continuing this tradition come next December.

On February 23, the PAAA held its annual Chopin Concert, featuring renowned pianist Thomas Pandolfi who played with his usual virtuosity. It was his second appearance for the PAAA and it was a special treat to hear him perform the music of Fryderyk Chopin, Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Leopold Godowsky. The concert, held at the Arts Club of Washington, benefited the PAAA Scholarship Fund.

*submitted by Celia Larkin*



*Photo captions:*

*Top: PAAA Wigilia at the Arts Club of Washington.*

*Middle: The beautiful three foot high szopka was the main raffle prize and its smaller versions adorned the tables.*

*Bottom: After the PAAA Chopin Concert at the Arts Club, left to right: PAAA Scholarship Chair Mary Beth Sowa, Music Chairman Ted Mirecki, President Celia Larkin, Pianist Thomas Pandolfi, and Arts Club of Washington President Henry Sienkiewicz.*



Spring is here and the Friends of John Paul II Foundation would like to share in celebrating the 100th Birthday of St. John Paul II.

John Paul II was born on May 18th, 1920 as Karol Józef Wojtyła, in a small city near Kraków known as Wadowice. In October, 1978, Karol was elected to the Papacy and became Pope John Paul II. Almost 40 years later, on April 27th, 2014, Pope John Paul II was Beatified to Saint John Paul II.

Since the start of his Pontificate on October 16, 1978, Pope John Paul II completed hundreds of pastoral visits outside of Italy, presided over hundreds of Beatification Ceremonies and Canonization Ceremonies, and has officially blessed thousands of followers and faithful alike. We must also remember the numerous government personalities he encountered during his visits including meetings held with heads of state, prime ministers, queens and kings.

No other Pope has been able to connect with as diverse of an audience as had Pope John Paul II.

We say "Sto Lat!" to the Great St. John Paul II. The Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington D.C. Chapter, and the world, are observing the Centennial anniversary of St. John Paul II's Birthday during 2020.

In celebration, we have created for our members a 2020 Calendar celebrating the 100th Birthday of St. John Paul II. There are also plans for a reception in his honor to be held at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington Virginia later this year.

In September our foundation plans to hold a Kraków szopka building Workshop. It will feature the traditional style of szopka from the Kraków Region near John Paul's II home town of Wadowice.

In October, 2020 we also host a Pilgrimage, to include receptions at the Vatican Embassy and the John Paul II National Shrine.

Best wishes to everyone and good health in the days ahead.

Happy Easter - WESOLEGO ALLELUJA!

Mrs. Marianna Eckel  
President,  
Friends of John Paul II Foundation  
Washington, D. C. Chapter



## 2020 ACPC Annual Convention Cancelled

The Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) was in full swing of making plans for the 2020 American Council for Polish Culture Convention in Washington, D. C., this summer and we were looking forward to being the host for the 72nd annual gathering under the banner "Celebrating Polish Culture in the Nation's Capital." At the same time, while proceeding with necessary advance preparations, we were anxiously watching the news, mindful of the guidance from medical and government authorities due to the coronavirus pandemic and increasing restrictions on public gatherings. By mid March, ACPC Executive Committee decided that instead of postponing from month to month and adding to uncertainty, it would be best to cancel this year's convention.

The PAAA offered to pick up from where the ground work has already been laid and start making plans for 2021. We have already started correspondence with potential advertisers for the convention book and had a few responses, scouted out venues, contracted a hotel and meeting venue and expressed our interest to our contacts at the Polish Embassy in holding an event at the Ambassador's residence. We negotiated favorable terms with the Lombardy Hotel, located in a great area not far from the White House and near historic Georgetown. In addition, the Arts Club of Washington, next door to the hotel, offered us the use of its premises for meetings as well as for one evening event. Both are willing to work with us when we move on to next year.

The ACPC Awards Committee has already selected recipients for the Distinguished Service, Cultural Achievement and Founders Awards for 2020. They will be honored for their accomplishments and service at the awards banquet at next year's convention, along with the 2021 awardees yet to be nominated and selected. The Marcella Sembrich Competition is postponed till next year but potential candidates will be encouraged to work on their submissions now and enter by the deadline that will be set for spring 2021. As approved at the 2017 Convention in Toronto, we will consider whether a Second Prize will be warranted based on the quality of submitted material.

The PAAA is excited to continue with the plans to celebrate Polish culture in the Nation's Capital in 2021.

submitted by Cecilia Larkin

# Colorful Polish Easter Traditions

Blending a centuries old religious heritage and an extraordinarily rich folk culture, Poland offers some of the world's most unique and colorful holiday traditions. This is particularly true of the Easter Season. Here is a sampling of some of these Polish Easter customs.



The Polish language does not have one general word for "Easter egg." Instead, colored eggs are usually referred to according to the methods used to decorate them. Although several of the Easter egg decorating techniques are popular throughout Poland, certain specific techniques are found in particular regions of the country.

Intricately designed *pisanki* are especially beautiful ("pisać" = to write). These are made by applying designs with a special beeswax-containing stylus, a straight pin or toothpick dipped in liquid beeswax and then dyeing the eggs. After each design is applied, they are dipped in progressively dark-colored dyes and more designs are applied with the wax. After they are removed from the final dye bath and dried, the wax is removed with a cloth soaked in cleaning fluid or by simply heating a clean cloth and rubbing off the wax.

Bee's wax can be applied in a number of methods. One popular method is to insert a straight pin into a cut-off pencil or wooden dowel. Heating the pin in a flame, the pin is then dipped in the wax and quickly applied to the egg in a drag-down, "tear-drop" method.

Another popular method is to purchase a stylus, which are commercially available at specialty import or craft stores. The stylus features a copper reservoir into which unmelted bee's wax is set. The reservoir is then heated and the hot, melted wax is applied to the egg.

Prior to the advent of commercially produced egg dyes, the most common egg-coloring technique was to use onion skins which gave the eggs a reddish-brown hue of varying intensity. Red beets, on the other hand, provided a deep red color.

Another popular Polish egg decorating technique is *drapanki*, known in Silesia as *kroszonki*. These are created by first dyeing the egg a solid dark color; black, navy-blue, violet and deep red give excellent results. Then, the desired design is etched on the egg shell with a sharp, pointed instrument. In many Silesian homes, beautifully crafted *kroszonki* are regarded as family heirlooms.

*Malowanki* (from "malować" = "to paint") are eggs on which designs, images or inscriptions are applied with a tiny artist's paint brush. This method is often most used on wooden eggs that are sold in tourist shops.

Reeds and/or colored yarn are glued onto an egg to produce *oklejanki*. ("klej" = "glue.")

*Wyklejanki* are similar, except that tiny wycinanki (folk-style paper cuts) are pasted onto the egg. This decorating method is found

most commonly in the Łowicz region. *Wyklejanki* are often fashioned into tiny pitchers featuring bird and floral motifs.

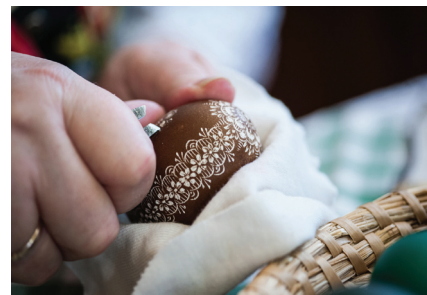
An image or inscription of choice may be applied to an egg in the *pisanki* (wax "writing") style or by the *kroszonki* (etching) technique. A favorite image is the Easter Lamb with the banner of Resurrection and the particular year may also be added. A cross is another common symbol, as are the words "Wesołego Alleluja" or simply "Alleluja."



*Straight pin method*



*Using a Stylus*



*Scraping kroszonki with a sharp blade*

## POLISH EASTER EGGS



Kroszonki



Oklejanka



Malowanka



Eggs made with a stylus

# Polish Palms

One of the most unusual of Polish Easter customs is the creation of elaborate "palms" which are taken to church in celebration of Palm Sunday. These palms consist of branches to which dried and paper flowers are attached along with festive ribbon and greenery. Although originally small - approximately 14 inches in height - Polish palms are now constructed to unusually long lengths - measuring from 8 to 20 feet or more. The palms of all sizes are taken to church on Palm Sunday, with the larger palms carried by teams of a dozen or more volunteers. In many regions, the large palms are hoisted in the market square or tied to columns inside the church, tied to columns and displayed. Several towns and villages conduct palm competitions in which the longest (tallest) and most beautiful palms are awarded. You can watch the hoisting of palms in Limanowa in a *YouTube* video by visiting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKoZq75Nx1k>



Top: A vendor sells traditional "palmy" in Lublin. Middle: Colorful Polish palms come in a variety of sizes. Bottom: Carrying a gigantic palm in Lipnica Murowana.



Top: Palm makers wait to enter church on Palm Sunday. Bottom: Villagers in traditional folk costumes carry palms during a Palm Sunday procession in the Kurpie region.



# Polish Easter Foods

On Holy Saturday, Poles take baskets of traditional Easter foods to church to be blessed. The basket is usually covered with an embroidered white cloth. After the blessing, the food is usually set aside until Easter morning when the head of the house shares the blessed egg, symbol of life, with family and friends. Having exchanged wishes, all continue to enjoy a hearty meal. These items include: bread, butter (usually in the shape of a buttered lamb), *babka* (sweet Easter bread), horseradish (often with grated sweet red beets called *chrzan*), hand-decorated hard-cooked eggs, *kielbasa* sausage, smoked ham and bacon, baked pastries such as *makowiec* poppyseed roll and various other sweets. Favorite prepared foods include a white barszcz (*żurek*) consisting of a sour rye soup base with ham, *kielbasa* and eggs.



Wyklejanki

Pisanki made with straight pins

Top: Polish butter lambs are created from hand-carved wooden butter molds. Middle: (l) Makowiec poppyseed roll; (r) a traditional Polish Easter babka. Bottom Left: A typical Polish Easter basket. Bottom right: Traditional "Żurek" or Easter barszcz.





# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

HARTFORD

## NEWS FROM THE POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.

The PCCGH was pleased to have one of its members receive the Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the United Polish Societies of Hartford (CENTRALA) at a banquet at the Polish National Home on Sunday, October 27, 2019. Frances Pudlo was honored for her work on behalf of the Club as former Co-President and active Board member for twenty years. She was also cited for her many contributions to SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Hartford.

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, the PCCGH, the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, and the Polish National Home of Hartford collaborated to present a special film presentation of *Mission of Honor*. The movie depicts the true story of the heroic Kościuszko Squadron No. 303 fighter pilots who helped the British Royal Air Force win the Battle of Britain during World War II. An exhibit of original items from the curated collection of the 303 Kościuszko Squadron memorabilia was also on display.

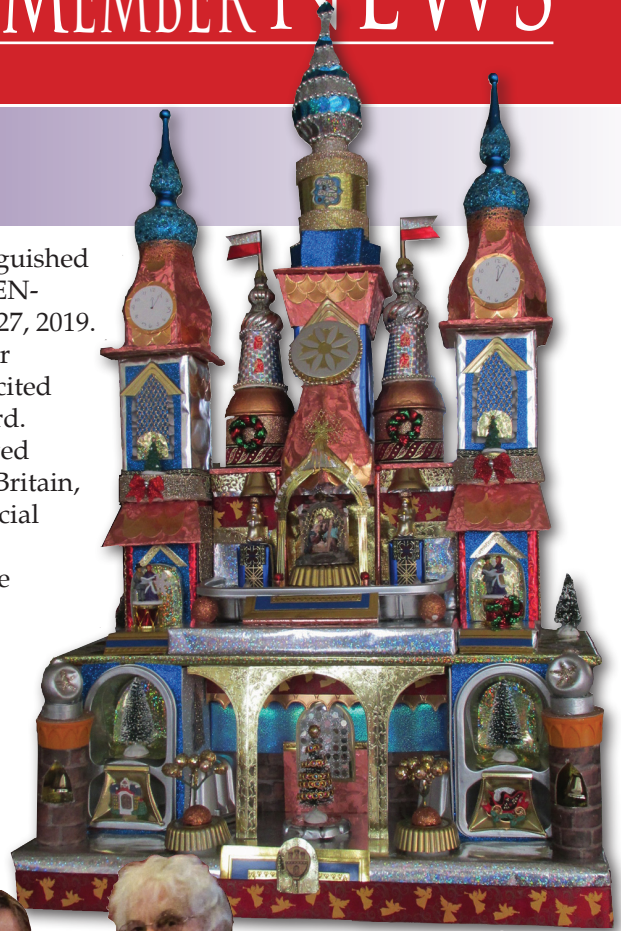
The day of our 39th Annual Szopka Festival and Competition, December 1, dawned with the threat of a serious winter storm. However, with typical Polish stoicism, everyone carried on as usual and our vendors, szopka-makers, and guests enjoyed a unique and successful Polish Christmas Holiday Fair. More than twenty young artists, working in teams, participated in the szopka-making competition, resulting in twelve stunning entries to be judged.

Our annual Wigilia event held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 was enjoyed by 80 members and guests. From the sharing of the *oplatek* to the traditional meatless meal to the singing of *kolędy*, it was an evening of warm camaraderie and joyous celebration.

Sadly, our Club experienced another major loss on January 25, 2020 with the unexpected passing of Anna-Mae Maglaty, a pillar of Polonia and the Hartford community. Anna-Mae embodied many attributes that were admired by all who knew her – staunch faith, wise counsel, diplomacy, loyal friendship, and an undaunting strength in the face of adversity. She served in many Club capacities, as well as on the ACPC Board, and will be greatly missed.

The Polish Scouts of Hartford, led by PCCGH member, Zosia Bieniek, organized and hosted a gathering of over 200 Polish Scouts from the Eastern region for "International Thinking Day" on February 23 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church and the Polish National Home. It was a day of ceremony and fun for this amazing group of Polish youth. The PCCGH supplied *paczki* as a supporting gesture.

submitted by Frances Pudlo



One of the impressive szopki exhibited in the 39th annual Szopka Festival and Competition.



At the Distinguished Service Award presentation were: Ursula Brodowicz, Frances Pudlo, and Florence Langridge.



Anna-Mae Maglaty

left: Kawiarnia Chair Jadwiga Kordowski, with a selection of tasty paczki.





## POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

### Celebrating Christmas in Philadelphia

On December 7, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation and the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia (PHSP) held a combined Christmas Gala at the Spring Mill Country Club in Ivyland, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia.

Over one hundred members of the two organizations and their friends shared *opłatek*, dined and danced in the beautifully decorated ballroom of the club. Music was provided by the Krysztof Medina band who also accompanied the singing of traditional Polish *kolędy*. Hanna Wewiora, Board Member of the Kościuszko Foundation Chapter and Jean Joka, president of the Polish Heritage Society, greeted the guests. The other members of the Organizing Committee were: Diana Blichasz, Marie Hejnosz, Deborah Majka, Peter J. Obst, and Margaret Zaleska.

A beautifully printed color event program featured greetings from Tom Wolfe, the Governor of Pennsylvania; James F. Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia, and Deborah Majka, Honorary Consul of Poland for SE Pennsylvania. It also mentioned the anniversaries that marked the year 2019, including the 400th anniversary of the Labor Strike by Polish Workers at the Jamestown Colony; the 100th anniversary of Polish and American Diplomatic Relations; and the 90th anniversary of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia, built by civil engineer Rudolf Modrzejewski. Each guest could take home a copy of Modrzejewski's biography and read about his accomplishments, and those of his mother Helena, who was a popular, internationally famous actress; the 40th anniversary of the Adam Styka Art Exhibit and Chopin Concert organized by the PHSP. Last but not least was the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation.

This year, the Chapter celebrated with a lecture entitled: "The first two modern written constitutions: U.S. and Polish Constitutions of 1787 and 1791" at the Museum of the American Revolution on Oct. 27, 2019. The presenters were Elizabeth M. Zechenter J.D., Ph.D. and Marian A. Kornilowicz, Esq.

The event ended with a chance auction. There were desirable prizes donated by individuals and businesses in the Philadelphia area. Proceeds from the event benefited the scholarship programs of both organizations.

Many of the guests are already looking forward to a repeat of this sociable and enjoyable party in 2020.

Both organizations, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation and the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, may be found on Facebook. We encourage you to take a look

*submitted by Peter J. Obst*



(left to right) Jean Joka, President Polish Heritage Society; Diana Blichasz, Marie Hejnosz, Margaret Zaleska, Peter Obst, the Hon. Consul for the Republic of Poland Debbie Majka (and Santa).



### Edward G. Pinkowski

A leader in Philadelphia Polonia and founding member of the Polish Heritage Society, Edward G. Pinkowski, passed away on January 12, 2020 at 103 years of age.

Born in 1916 to an immigrant family who earned their living working in the coal mines around Mount Carmel, PA, Pinkowski began writing while still in high school and became an historian, author and journalist. During WW II, he was a journalist in the U.S. Navy and gained the rank of Chief Specialist (X).

As an historian for the Polish American community, he discovered the home of Gen. Thaddeus Kościuszko, which became the general's official memorial and museum under the U.S. Park Service in 1976. He also documented the final resting place in Savannah, GA of Casimir Pułaski, Polish American hero of the American Revolution and founder of the United States Cavalry. He was a founding member of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and president of the Spring Garden Civic Association in Philadelphia. He was also chairman of the Ethnic Council and vice president in the Philadelphia 1976 Bicentennial Corporation.

During his lifetime he received many awards, including: Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit awarded by President of Poland (2001) and recognition from the Pułaski Museum in Warka, Poland. Edward and his son, Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., founded the Poles in America Foundation, Inc., ([www.poles.org](http://www.poles.org)), to do research and maintain an archive in Polish American History. Edward spent most of his life in Philadelphia with wife Connie (Rosiello), before moving to Florida in 1998. He is survived by two sons, James E. Pinkowski, of Fairfax Station VA, and Jack Pinkowski, of Plantation, FL; and five grandchildren.

# ATLAS AND THE MAKING OF A PROMISING POLISH DIRECTOR

by: Matthew Stefanski

Who has not felt stuck at one point or another in life – trapped by indecision, immobilized by uncertainty, or simply burdened with something that landed in their lap. Those sentiments are no foreign concept to Maciej “Matthew” Kawalski, the budding Polish director who was inspired by his personal experiences to write and direct *Atlas*, a short film about getting unstuck. The serial comedy focuses on a catatonic patient in a psychiatric institution who is a riddle to all around him. He serves as a blank slate for successive interpretations as to the true nature of his condition. A *tabula rasa* on which the viewer, too, is invited to impart their own assumptions, channeled through the various opinions presented by the colorful cohort of characters that are the staff and fellow patients at the facility. As gossip swirls the viewer is taken on a whirlwind tour of personalities that concludes with an earthshaking twist.

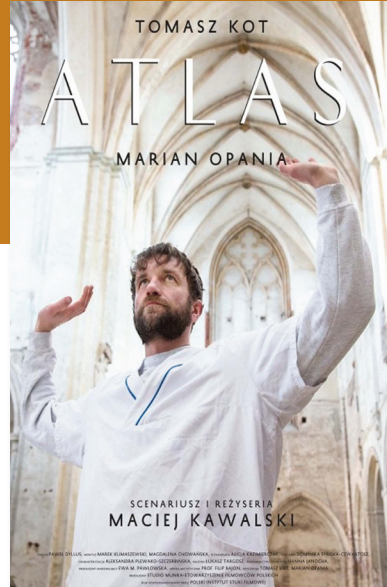
Kawalski wrote the script for *Atlas* during his fourth year of medical studies, when he was still studying both medicine and film directing. It was at that time that he says he felt stuck, torn as to which passion to pursue in life.

A chance encounter with a catatonic patient left a lasting impression on the young medical student, as he realized how quickly others will tell your story, if you are unable to do it for yourself.

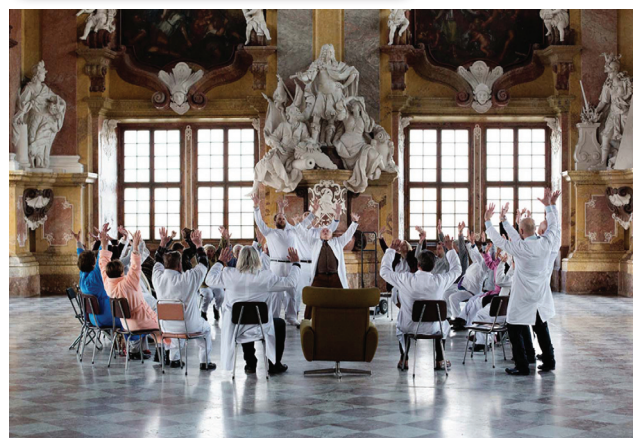
“The world won’t wait for us to write our story – the world will do it for us, that’s why we have to be very adamant in writing our own story, in defining ourselves, because if we don’t someone else will, and it might not be the box you want to be put in” explains Kawalski during an appearance on a morning talk show.

U.S. audiences will recognize *Cold War* star Tomasz Kot who plays the film’s protagonist, known only by his nickname, The Atlas. He stars alongside Marian Opania, a legendary Polish actor who has over 90 film credits to his name. A hidden star of the film’s on-screen magic comes from its setting, the Lubiąż Abbey, which is a former Cistercian monastery in Southwestern Poland that dates back to the 12th century. The complex’s fortress-like walls and the piercing cold that hangs in the air add to the aura of suspense. The fact that the Abbey at one point also served as a mental institution, which was unknown to the production team when selecting the location, is uncanny.

The film is being screened at festivals across the United States. It recently won an audience award at the D. C. Shorts International Film Festival and Judges’ Citation Award at Syracuse International Film Festival. Be on the lookout for this curious and comical tale, but even more so, for this promising Polish director, about whom we will certainly be hearing much in years to come. As Kawalski explains, one thing he learned while working on *Atlas* is that, “I cannot live without storytelling. No matter how difficult it is to make a film, and to make a living from it as well, I know after *Atlas* that it is as essential as oxygen to me. It is both humbling and empowering to learn that.”



left: Poster promoting the Polish short film “Atlas.” Photo below: a scene from the film.



*Atlas* is just one of many Polish productions that have gained recognition and garnered applause from audiences across the United States in recent years. Another one is Oscar nominated *Corpus Christi* directed by Jan Komasa, a gripping drama that follows the unpredictable path of a recently released juvenile delinquent who finds himself pretending to be a local parish priest in a village where faith, forgiveness, and piety are all being tested.

*Corpus Christie* is the fourth Polish production this decade to be nominated for an Oscar in the category of Best International Feature Film, a stunning feat indicating that Polish cinema may very well be currently in the midst of a golden age. The list of recent Oscar nominations grows much longer when we include such achievements as Pawel Pawlikowski’s Best Director nomination or Lukasz Zal’s Cinematography nomination. In 2015 Pawlikowski’s *Ida* won the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

Fans of good cinema in general, and Polish productions in particular, are lucky to live in the Washington, D. C., area. From the world-class festivals such as the AFI Docs and the European Union Film Festival, to the quarterly Polish film screenings at the Avalon Theatre as part of the Polish Embassy’s *CinePolska* initiative, there is no shortage of opportunities to see the best in cinema, from Poland and beyond. Hopefully PAAA members are taking advantage!

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This article is reprinted courtesy of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D. C. (PAAA). The author, Matthew Stefanski is a former PAAA scholarship recipient.

## ACPC PRESENTS PULASKI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Four winners of the 19th annual \$5,000 Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships were announced recently by Dr. Stephen E. Medvec, Chairman, Pulaski Scholarship Committee, American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). A number of applications was received this year. The scholarship program was initiated 19 years ago as a result of a sizeable endowment by the Conrad R. Walas family with continuing support from Polonia.

When long-time chairman Mr. Marion Winters retired from the committee, his place was taken by Dr. Stephen E. Medvec. Serving with him on the Pulaski Scholarship Committee for 2019 are Mrs. Alicia L. Dutka; Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS; Mrs. Carolyn Meleski, MS; and Mr. Peter J. Obst, MA.

The Pulaski Committee selected the following students for the 2019 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies grants of \$5,000 each:

**Kaylee Luck** - A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kaylee is pursuing her degree of Doctor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, specializing in Urology. She wishes to join Doctors Without Borders, and, in March 2016, Kaylee worked at a hospice facility at Christ for the City International in Tijuana, Mexico. Her paternal grandfather, to whom Kaylee was very devoted, served in the U.S. Marine Corps in both World War II and Korea. She abides by the heritage of Marie Sklodowska Curie, "You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement."

**Adriana Messyasz** - A native of Brooklyn, New York, Adriana has her BS in Biology with a minor in Communication Studies from Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. At present, she is pursuing her Ph.D. in Environmental Science at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis. Her research entails the effects of viruses and bacteria on coral reef health and how environmental impacts affect coral-viral interactions. Adriana is active in beach cleanups and promotes Special Olympics Oregon. She was awarded the Provost Award for Academic Excellence at OSU. In addition, Adriana wishes to work to encourage more Polish-Americans to consider environmental research.

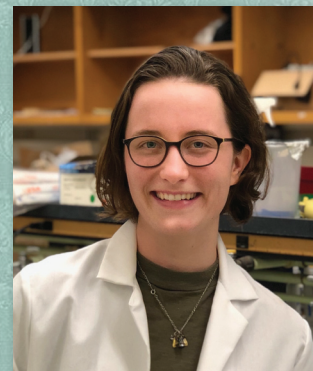
**Gerald R. Nowak III** - Having earned a master's degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, Gerald will enter Michigan State University in Fall 2019 to pursue his Ph.D. in Sociology with the aim of becoming a Sociologist. He has contributed to manuscripts that were published in *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly*, and *The American Sociologist*. Gerald's master's thesis, which is entitled "The Effect of Servers' Race on Consumer Appraisals in Full-Service Restaurants," employs extensive usage of experimental design and quantitative methodology. Gerald was also honored by The Friends of Polish Art in 2017 when he was awarded the Frank Filipek Scholarship.

**Anna Rogalska** - Born and raised in Chicago to Polish parents, Anna is in her third year of medical studies at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago in Biology with minors in Studio Arts and Bioethics, Anna intends to work to advance the cause of humanity in under-resourced communities, including with the Polish-American population. In 2012, she was in Study Abroad in Rome, Italy and also pursued Study Immersion in Tunis, Tunisia. She also organized nine brigades to Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Ghana in 2014. Her advisor wrote, "Anna is exactly the kind of person most people would wish to be their physician."

*submitted by Stephen Medvec, Ph.D.*



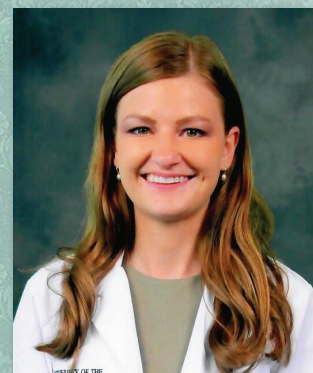
*Kaylee Luck*



*Adriana Messyasz*



*Gerald R. Nowak III*



*Anna Rogalska*



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**Additional photographic contributors: Cecilia Glembocki, Mark Dillon, Cecilia and Peter Obst.**

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