



Polish Heritage

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In Praise of Polish Beauty

by David J. Motak

Throughout their history, style and personal appearance have always been a key concern to Poles and Polish women in particular have long had a legendary reputation for their physical beauty. Certain Poles, such as Kraków born Helena Rubenstein, have made significant contributions to the world of fashion. The names of two other Poles, Appolonia Chałupiec and Maximilian Faktorowicz may be less prominent but these individuals also greatly influenced the way American women dressed and looked for decades. They are probably better known as film star Pola Negi and cosmetician Max Factor.

Maximillian Faktorowicz was born in 1877 in Zduńska Wola near Łódź, Poland, then part of the Russian Empire. One of ten children born to a poor Jewish family who worked in the Łódź textile mills, Maximillian was reared by his siblings and had very little formal education. To help support his family, at the age of seven he was tasked with selling concessions in the lobby of Łódź's Czarina Theatre. Here he became exposed to Polish theatrical life and to the actors and actresses who made-up Poland's vibrant cultural scene. This was a period which he later called his "introduction to the world of make-believe." At the age of eight, Maximillian began working as an apothecary's assistant, learning some chemistry and, at the age of nine, he became an apprentice to the city's leading wigmaker and cosmetician. The young apprentice learned how to appreciate beauty and how to enhance it, devising ways to help customers achieve some of the glamor that he had first seen on the Polish stage.

After serving four years of compulsory military service in the czarist army, Faktorowicz opened his own shop in the town of Ryasan near Moscow, selling hand-made rouges, creams, fragrances and wigs. His big break came when a traveling theatrical troupe wore his makeup to perform before members of the Russian Royal Family. This resulted in his being appointed the official cosmetic expert to the Romanovs and to the Imperial Russian Grand Opera.

The Russian imperial court paid well, but demanded his undivided attention and the Romanov court had strict control over his life. He was constantly on-call and was not permitted to leave the court unescorted. He was also not allowed any private life but he managed to marry secretly and fathered three children during the next five years.

As he recalled in later life, in order to escape the "golden clutches" of the Romanov court, Max concocted a clever scheme. Soon, members of the royal family began to notice that the young Polish cosmetician was appearing increasingly pale and sickly. And he began walking with a pronounced limp. Czar Nicholas himself ordered that Max be examined by the court physician. Taking one look at the young man's yellowish skin, the doctor immediately prescribed three months at the health spa in Karlsbad, Bohemia, which was a favorite remedy of the Russian aristocracy. But guards from the Royal Court were assigned to "accompany" him. As they arrived in the Karlsbad town square, the guards took a cigarette break as Max hobbled to the center fountain. The guards were unaware that, huddled behind the fountain were Max's wife, Esther and their three children.

In the blink of an eye, Max and his family sped out of the square, ran through the town and into a nearby forest. The sickly, yellow complexion was simply makeup and the limp was merely a theatrical fabrication. These were the disguises that the clever young Polish cosmetician had successfully concocted to fool the Russian Royal Court.

If the young Pole's talent at cosmetics could fool the Czar and Czarina what opportunities would his talents bring in the New World? So Max and his family made their way to the German seacoast where he bought passage on a steamship to the United States. He had plans on making a new start at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair where he sold his rouges and creams, operating under the newly re-spelled name which he received from the immigration officials at Ellis Island: "Max Factor." Seeing an opportunity to provide cosmetics and wigs to the growing American film industry, Max moved his family to Los Angeles in 1908.

Although greasepaint was the accepted makeup for the theatrical stage it could not be applied thinly enough to look appropriate on film. So early film actors and extras made their own makeup, concoctions that included odd mixtures of Vaseline and flour, lard and cornstarch or cold cream and paprika. The more adventurous even mixed-in ground brick dust to achieve a more realistic, flesh-colored look. Such pastes formed a mask that cracked under the

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Retracing Our History on the "Via Polonia"

by Mark Dillon
First Vice President



Some of the 20 boxes that former ACPC archivist Paul Rog of Minneapolis compiled since 2001 from multiple sources had not been touched in years. Most still had original packing and wrapping material from Michigan and elsewhere that included styrofoam peanuts, panty hose and grocery bags. I did not know quite what to expect when I first saw the files last fall.

To my delight, leaping out from the pages of our past was original handwritten correspondence, concert tickets, dinner menus and convention programs dating back as early as 1940. Hidden from view were nearly 75 years of memories that illustrate the enduring impact of an organization that has made a huge impact on American Polonia.

Beginning the Monday after Easter, the American Council for Polish Culture will embark on a 1,700-mile, nine-state Goodwill Tour road trip to share these treasures as they journey to a welcome resting place and accessible research archive at Central Connecticut State University.

ACPC also aims to showcase America's "Via Polonia" – an area from the banks of the Mississippi River across the Great Lakes to the Delaware and Hudson Rivers. We hope to reconnect with old friends and make new ones as we spotlight a post-COVID 19 path for Polish American cultural tourism and historical pilgrimage.

"It's time to think beyond day-to-day challenges, not be discouraged and focus on a better future. This is an opportunity to display our shared heritage in a positive, informed way," says ACPC president Raymond Glembocki.

Another reason to do a tour now is that by promoting our own history, we reduce the risk of it becoming lost. If we come together, we can retell our story ahead of ACPC's Diamond Anniversary in 2023 so that Poles coming to the U.S. these days can better appreciate our several generations of accomplishments across many artistic and cultural disciplines.

For example, in preparing for a story about Minnesota poet and pioneer ACPC officer Victoria Janda in 2020, I could not get access to Janda's original writings because of COVID-19 restrictions at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center, which has her personal papers.

Two years on little has changed, as the publicly-funded center still will allow in-person research only for folks paying tuition or on the school's payroll.

Our two-week Goodwill Tour journey will begin April 18 in Winona, MN, home of the Polish Cultural Institute and Museum and America's epicenter of Kashubian Polish heritage. This year marks 45 years since founder Rev. Paul Breza purchased the former offices of the Larid-Norton Lumber

Company and began transforming the three-story building into a multi-facet museum campus, gathering hall and research hub to celebrate the region's Polish connections.

Next stop will be Milwaukee, where I have been invited to speak to members of Polanki, a women's Polish cultural club that was one of ACPC's founding members, and a group that hopes to rekindle ties. In 1963, Milwaukee hosted ACPC's convention at Marquette University in partnership with The Slavic Institute. We were called the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs back then.

That year, in its annual report to Milwaukee convention delegates, another women's group and ACPC founder, the former Polanie Club of Minneapolis, reported marking its Golden Jubilee. Activities included an Arabian horse show and sponsor support for the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, then led by legendary Polish conductor Stanislaus Skrowaczewski who had fled then Communist Poland just three years earlier.

Our ACPC tour will go through May 3, and also include Chicago, South Bend, Indiana and Ohio, where the Polish American Community of Toledo is building a 19,000 square foot cultural center. The tour will then progress to Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse in New York and New Britain and Hartford, Connecticut, then Trenton and other cities in New Jersey, followed by Philadelphia and ending in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Buffalo was the site of ACPC's second convention in August 1949 and that year included a literary symposium, Chopin centennial concert, boat excursion to Niagara Falls and visits to Fort Niagra and the training grounds for the Polish Blue Army in France.

Among states, New York currently has the most self-declared Polish Americans (about 900,000) while Wisconsin and Michigan have the highest concentration of persons of self-declared Polish heritage as a percentage of overall population, according to the US Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey, the latest available data show.

Path of Our Ancestors

The planned 2022 Via Polonia trip route passes through many historically Polish communities along Interstates 80, 90, 94 and 95, and the New York State Thruway. (See map). From the former textile and rug mills along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal to the factories and mills of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, to the stockyards of Chicago, this is where Polonia was born. It was the road our ancestors courageously took on foot, and by horse-drawn wagon, rail, auto and ship, often at great risk.

There is much that ties this Polonia together – architecture, performing arts, history, literature, visual arts, cuisine, language, scholarship, a love of science and faith. At a time when so many forces divide, segment or sideline Polonia and Poland, or make it hard for people to travel easily by



air, we can still go on the road to learn more about what connects us and celebrate what we have in common.

President Ronald Reagan's message to convention delegates meeting in Hartford in August 1988 sums up what makes ACPC special. Reagan wrote that 'by faithfully carrying on the joyous traditions of your ancient land, you (ACPC) add to the strength and character of our nation and weave even more beautiful strands into the colorful tapestry of peoples and cultures that is America.'"

Eight years earlier as ACPC held a first-of-its-kind conference for American Youth of Polish Descent in San Antonio and Panna Maria, Texas, in a letter dated July 1, 1980, President Jimmy Carter lauded ACPC's long support for visual and performing artists and role "as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas and information."

Timing coincides with 1950 Census data release

ACPC's 2022 Goodwill Tour will occur a few weeks after the U.S. Census Bureau's expected April 1 release of detailed data from the 1950 U.S. Census, a time when a large wave of immigration by Poles to the U.S. occurred by persons displaced by both World War II and the onset of Stalinist communism in Central and Eastern Europe.

The 1950 U.S. census was the last to ask respondents about their citizenship. A National Archives press release in December said that the data set for 1950 will be about 10 times larger than the 1940 US Census data set and include new individual name and community search engine functions to be released later in 2022. The agency says these functions are designed to make it easier for people to discover more about the individual life circumstances of their ancestors 72 years ago.

Approximately 140,000 people from Poland immigrated to the United States between the end of World War in 1945 and 1968, according to a 1969 report from the Polish Vet-

erans Association and researcher Danuta Mostwin (Source: *Polish American Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 2).

While ACPC's trip and mission are cultural and not religious, many Roman Catholic, Eastern Rite and Polish National Catholic parishes and shrines are along the planned Via Polonia travel route. For example, some 26 parishes and shrines in the Northeast and Midwest are named after the Marian shrine and Black Madonna icon at Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, Poland – Our Lady of Częstochowa.

American Council for Polish Culture Goodwill Tour of Polonia

- Monday, April 18: Winona, MN and Milwaukee, WI;
- Tuesday, April 19: Chicago and South Bend, IN
- Wednesday, April 20: Ohio
- Thursday, April 21: Pittsburgh
- Friday, April 22: Buffalo, NY
- Saturday, April 23: Rochester, Syracuse and Utica, NY
- Sunday/Monday April 24: Amsterdam/Saratoga/Albany, NY
- Tuesday, April 26: Hudson Valley
- Wed./Thursday, April 27-28: Hartford and New Britain, CN
- Friday/Monday, April 29-May 2: New Jersey and Philadelphia area
- Tuesday, May 3: National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, Doylestown, PA



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stress of facial expression. From his experience in Polish and Russian theaters, Max realized that this did not matter in the theater, where audiences were some distance from the actors, but in film close-ups even hairline cracks were highly visible.

Max soon perfected the first makeup specifically formulated for motion picture use and it worked like a charm. With this major achievement to his credit, the young Polish immigrant quickly became the reigning authority on celebrity makeup and movie stars and starlets were clamoring through his shop doors. Film celebrities were eager to sample his “flexible greasepaint” while movie producers sought Max’s human hair wigs. At the time, the film industry used cheap substitutes for wigs, such as straw, mattress stuffings or Spanish moss. Max persuaded famed film director Cecil B. DeMille to use his carefully made wigs for several silent Westerns. These were hand knotted from human hair with over 130,000 individually knotted strands going into a typical Max Factor wig. When DeMille balked at paying the asking price, Max allowed the wigs to be rented, on the condition that his sons be given bit parts in the director’s Westerns. While working on the set as extras (usually as Indians) the boys would keep an eye on their father’s expensive merchandise.

Max then went on to market with a range of cosmetics to the public in the 1920s, insisting that every American girl could look like a movie star by using Max Factor “makeup,” a term that he coined, based on the verb “to make up” (one’s face).

He then created many looks to establish Hollywood actresses, such as Clara Bow, Claudette Colbert, Joan Crawford, Jean Harlow and many others. And not just actresses. Max was approached by Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. who was known for doing his own stunts and whose fine physique was legendary and helped to cast him in many starring roles as a swash-buckling hero. Although Fairbanks was always up to the task, the physical demands of stunts would cause the star to perspire profusely. So Max invented the first perspiration-proof body makeup for Fairbanks and other stars. When MGM filmed the 1925 silent epic, *Ben Hur*, they found that the scenes previously shot on location in Italy did not match the scenes that were currently being filmed in Southern California: the American extras were much paler than the Italian extras. Solution? Max produced over six hundred gallons of light-olive makeup to turn the pale local extras into bronzed Italians.



When Rudolph Valentino was repeatedly typecast as a villain because of his naturally dark Mediterranean complexion, Max created a yellow toned makeup for Valentino’s skin. With his new, paler features, Valentino soon became a romantic lead and the heart-throb of millions of adoring female fans. Valentino also attracted the attention of a newly arrived Polish starlet, with whom he would go on to make Hollywood history.

Out of gratitude, many of Max’s celebrity clients appeared – at no cost – in beautiful full page, color magazine ads to promote Max Factor cosmetics, so the brand soon became world-renowned. But one of the most difficult actresses with whom Max had to contend was Valentino’s newest love interest and Max’s fellow Pole, Appolonia Chalupec, better known as Pola Negri.

Born in Janowa, Poland which was then part of the Russian Empire, on December 31, 1894, Barbara Appolonia Chalupec’s family were middle class, patriotic Poles. Her father, a furrier, was arrested for his anti-Russian sympathies and was exiled to a Siberian prison camp where he died.

Appolonia and her mother became penniless. Often called by the nickname “Pola,” the young girl initially wanted to become a ballerina, but her poverty and a bout with tuberculosis changed her focus from dancing to acting. After spending some time in a sanatorium in the Tatra Mountains, Pola was accepted to the Warsaw Imperial Academy of Dramatic Arts on funds that her mother managed to save. Pola began her professional career as a stage actress playing important roles in Warsaw’s Imperial Theater, including starring in Aleksander Fredo’s *Śluby Panieńskie*. It was during this time that she adopted the pseudonym “Pola Negri” after the Italian poetess, Ada Negri.

During her short screen career in Warsaw, she gained much popularity, acting with many of the most renowned Polish film artists of the time. She debuted in the early Polish silent film *Slave of the Senses (Niewolnica Zmysłów)*, the title of which could have been a harbinger of her future life.

With the German occupation of Warsaw in 1916, the Polish theater industry was virtually shut down, so Pola emigrated to Germany, then the leading European film-producing country. She completed her best work with the famous film directors Max Reinhardt and Ernst Lubitsch.

Hollywood soon beckoned and, after marrying, then quickly divorcing a Polish count, Pola left for America in 1922, where she became an exotic attraction.

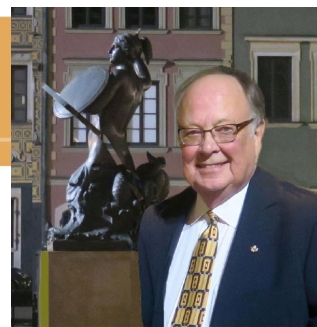
One of the first Hollywood “mega” stars, Pola Negri was



Pola Negri

*“You are not born
Glamorous -
Glamor is created.”*
Max Factor

President
Raymond
Glembocki



Dear Members
and Friends:

As I write this message, the world is witnessing the catastrophic events in Ukraine, which have shocked and saddened us all. We salute the people of Poland as they unselfishly open their homes and hearts to the hundreds of thousands of refugees from the East who are seeking shelter in their homeland. As our initial response to this tragedy the ACPC is contributing \$1,000 to the Polish American Congress "Polonia for Ukraine" Campaign to support humanitarian efforts to help ease this suffering. We will also be issuing a letter supporting Ukraine which will be published on our web site and on Facebook. I know that several of our Affiliates are taking an active part in similar efforts and we urge all members of Polonia to support the Ukrainian people through prayers, deeds and especially through financial support. May the sufferings of our Ukrainian friends soon be over.

Now that it seems the COVID pandemic is declining we are hoping to return to our normal activity.

Our Convention Committee, Tom Payne and Debbie Majka, will announce details of the 2022 ACPC Convention in San Antonio and Panna Maria Texas on June 26 - 29. The official announcement and related details are featured on page 11 of this newsletter. The Committee has worked with the Panna Maria leadership, John Cebrowski, Dave Krupinski at Visit San Antonio, and the staff of the St. Anthony Hotel (which has provided an exceptional room rate) and is a National Historic Landmark opened in 1909. All of these people have worked to arrange a special event where we will conduct our business and acknowledge the historic accomplishments of the Panna Maria community. They have done their work, now it is the responsibility for the ACPC membership to do our part and attend this event.

Mark Dillon, First Vice President, will load a van with ACPC historical records in Minneapolis and will deliver them to our depository at Central Connecticut State University. On his trip which he is personally partially funding he will include visits to several ACPC Clubs to pick up material and in other visits he will invite the local club leaders to become more active in the ACPC.

I will attend a celebration at the Polish Arts Club of Trenton where Debbie Majka will receive an award for her years of service to the Polish American community. Several members on the ACPC will attend the Savannah General Pulaski Committee's Pulaski Celebration. Lilia Kieltyka, Chair of the ACPC Label Pin Committee, has had a committee meeting and is progressing on the design of a pin.

We will have a Virtual Board Meeting in April, details will be provided shortly.

Happy Easter and "Wesołych Świąt" to you and your family.

Sincerely,
Ray Glembocki

extraordinarily attractive to Americans. Her beauty and vibrant sexuality had a magnetic appeal to a country in the throes of the Roaring Twenties, and the young Polish actress become one of the era's most stunning sex symbols, the first Hollywood "femme fatale." With her voluptuous demeanor, captivating looks and striking eyes – as well as her widely acclaimed romantic liaisons with such stars as Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino, Pola Negri put the "V" in "Vamp," a fashion style which she popularized and which soon became the rage. And, of course, her stunning good looks were enhanced by her countryman, Max Factor.

Pola made quite an impact on style during her reign as "Goddess of the Silent Screen," and Max was at her side to help this process along. Under his tutelage, she began the trend of painting fingernails and toenails a bright red; she was the first actress to wear mascara and false eyelashes (which Max invented) and her "Vamp" look set the standard for American women's fashion for decades and it has since become an iconic element in American cultural history.

Going from extreme poverty in Warsaw to the heights of glamor in Hollywood must have been a very heady trip for the young Polish starlet, who soon became the richest woman in Hollywood, earning an astounding \$10,000 a week (about \$160,000 in today's figures). She ensconced herself on a palatial estate in a mansion styled after the White House.

She rode the streets of Beverly Hills in a shimmering chauffeur driven white Rolls Royce upholstered in matching white hand-tooled leather. Waving a long cigarette holder, she would arrive at exclusive Beverly Hills *soirees* dripping with diamonds and costly jewelry, covered in expensive minks and ermines. When she wasn't seen at cocktail parties on the arm of her dashing lover Rudolph Valentino, the Polish film star could be seen walking her pet cheetah on a leash up and down Sunset Boulevard.

A very temperamental diva, Pola would throw a fit for no apparent reason and her most notorious tantrums were reserved for the movie set and for public events, but she also threw them at home. She would often explode at her household servants, especially when she found that her mansion floors were not strewn with fresh orchid petals. Like the character of Norma Desmond in the classic film *Sunset Boulevard* (a role that Pola later turned-down and which was actually modeled after her,) Appolonia Chałupiec wanted to be noticed.

Such stories about Pola's affectations may or may not have been true, or perhaps they were just the result of an over zealous studio publicist, but there were so many of these stories that they have become Hollywood fact. Soon, her temper was as legendary as her great beauty. She could, at



Rudolph Valentino

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Left: Guests of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia enjoy the annual Christmas Gala at the Associated Polish Home in Philadelphia.

Right: Recipients of the Polish Heritage Scholarships with President Marie Hejnosz and Scholarships Chairperson Dr. Teresa Wojcik.

POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY: Celebrating the Season and our Scholarship Winners

By Teresa N. Wojcik and Teresa G. Wojcik

On Saturday, December 4th, the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia hosted its annual Christmas Gala. The event offered an opportunity to get into the holiday spirit while also honoring and celebrating the achievements of nine scholarship winners. The beautifully decorated Belvedere Ballroom of the Associated Polish Home in Philadelphia provided a festive setting for guests to enjoy the music of the Rick Gazda Band, tasty appetizers, a complimentary glass of wine, and a delicious catered dinner of Polish foods and deserts. Beautiful centerpieces of fresh flowers adorned with Christmas décor, which had been donated by past President Jean Joka, added to the elegance of the evening.

After dinner, President Marie Hejnosz and scholarship chairperson, Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik, distributed scholarships of \$1,000 each to nine deserving students: Anna Harrower, Brooke Hinkle, Regina Jelski, Edward Kahn, Eliza Karpiak, Emily Karpowicz, Janusz Kowalski, and Sabrina Pusey. Whether first generation or fourth, this year's scholarship winners trace some part of their ethnic ancestry to Poland. They are studying to be artists, musicians, environmental and mechanical engineers, actors, and nurses, and a future US Army officer. Although they represent different geographic areas and are pursuing diverse majors of study, they are bound by a common commitment to scholarly excellence, active involvement in extracurricular endeavors, a selfless engagement in volunteer efforts, and an appreciation for their Polish ancestry. They are sure to become the leaders of tomorrow! The scholarship winners and their families shared how much they enjoyed the Gala and learning about the Society's activities in promoting Polish culture in the Philadelphia area.

Following the award ceremony, everyone danced the traditional Polish polonaise. Since the group of participants was so large, the dancers filled not only the dance floor, but the entire hall. Dancing continued throughout the evening to a mix of music crafted to the likes of the young and a little older. The polkas, obereks, and waltzes connected us to our Polish ancestors. As guests took photographs near the Christmas tree, it was clearly evident that they were enjoying themselves.

Another special and important component of the Gala was the Chance and Silent Auction. Auction Co-chairpersons Diana Blichasz and Margaret Zaleska, ensured that the auction was well-organized and inviting for the guests. The auction provided an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping while also helping to raise funds for next year's scholarships. A variety of gorgeous articles – Polish pottery, cultural artifacts, books, baskets of cheer – were available to win.

Thanks to the efforts of all those who volunteered their time and talent, the Annual Christmas Gala of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was a great success! Over \$7,000 was generated for the Scholarship Fund. The smiles on the faces of guests as they were leaving this elegant affair demonstrated that wonderful memories had been made. With this gala, the Society greeted the Christmas season in style and also marked its annual scholarship program, an initiative that represents the organization's commitment to investing in the development of future leaders. Particularly in a year that brought financial uncertainty to many families, the Society's scholarships provide support and hope that, despite difficulty, the lamp of learning will continue to shine brightly for these very deserving young people.



The Wojcik family.



Left: Polish Heritage Society Vice President Jean Jolka (second on right) with representatives of Turner Construction, Bob Divaccaro, Barbara Sliker, Kathleen McCartney.



Even the "coolest" members of young Polonia enjoyed the banquet.

HARTFORD

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. (PCCGH) closed out its year with a spirited Wigilia celebration on December 11 at the Polish National Home in Hartford. Forty guests were happy to put aside pandemic worries for one night and welcome in the holiday season in true Polish fashion.

The outstanding menu of traditional and regional home-made Wigilia dishes was accompanied by keyboard music, Christmas carols, and *kolędy*. To close out the evening, a slide presentation showing photos from past Wigilia events brought smiles and warm memories.

A new fund has been established in memory of Krystyna Słowikowski Farley, one of our Club founders, who passed away on November 19, 2021 at the age of 96. It will be used to support the activities of Polish youth.

We look forward to having an active spring with the Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition taking place, as well as the awarding of Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarships. The "Little Poland Festival," the largest Polish-American festival in the Northeast, returns once again to New Britain on June 5 after a hiatus of two years. All of Connecticut Polonia is ready to party and display their Polish pride, including our Club which plans to host a booth. Happy Summer to all!



Above: Members pay tribute to Krystyna Słowikowska Farley.



Right: Musician Eugene Kozlowski and PCCGH President Lilia Kiełtyka, enjoy the Wigilia events.



In Praise of Polish Beauty

by David J. Motak

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the drop of a hat, create a tremendous scene at a cocktail party or wreck havoc on a movie set which she did with increasing frequency. Being the highest paid actress in Hollywood had its privileges and those around Pola were often forced to accept her tantrums as commonplace. Stage crews feared her. Directors were petrified. No one dared to put her in her place. No one except Max Faktorowicz.

The story goes that, one day Pola was particularly cranky on set and Max was called-in to adjust her make-up. Diminutive, not even five feet tall, Max Factor was a small, soft-spoken man. His heavy accent made him somewhat reluctant to communicate verbally, so his hand and his art did all the talking for him. The Polish starlet had just exploded and everyone around her trembled, not knowing how to respond. For some reason, Pola found Max's services that day particularly annoying and screamed into his face. Max stood there, paused, pulled his small frame up into his full four foot, eleven inches, stuck out his chest, looked Pola straight in the eye and screamed back at her – in Polish. No one else understood what he said, but Pola immediately changed her demeanor. From that day forward, Pola Negri was putty in Max Factor's hands.

Despite her vast fortune and seemingly endless popularity, Pola soon faced extremely hard times.

First came the sudden death of her great love, Rudolph Valentino. She and Valentino were Hollywood's first "power couple" and fans adored them. Valentino's untimely death stunned America and women young and old went into hysterics at his death; an estimated 100,000 unruly mourner's are said to have filled New York's streets for the funeral events.

Pola's public spectacles at the funeral alienated many of her fans. Dressed in an expensive, flamboyant mourning outfit, Pola posed dramatically for the photographers and – when cameras were rolling – threw herself across Valentino's open coffin sobbing and fainting. This incited the enormous crowd to riot and break into the funeral parlor.

As she returned to Hollywood on the train carrying Valentino's casket, when it stopped at every major city, Pola positioned herself on the train's rear observation deck crying and fainting on cue for reporters. When the photographers sometimes missed a shot, Pola obligingly became overcome with grief once again and repeatedly reenacted her mournful antics. For Valentino's

Hollywood funeral, she ordered an astonishing \$18,000 bed of 1,000 red roses (\$32,000 in 2022 dollars) with the gigantic letters P-O-L-A spelled out in white roses in the center, large enough to be clearly seen on newsreel footage.

Then, almost as incredibly, she lost her entire fortune in the Stock Market crash of 1929.

Just as Pola's fans turned on her and she became penniless, along came "talking pictures" and Pola's strong Polish accent was ill suited for the screen. This was followed by the implementation of the Hays Code for movie censorship that prevented her from using her sensual acting techniques, which were her trademark. Pola soon left for Europe an impoverished and defeated "Vamp."

But Max's career had only just begun. In 1928 he developed make-up made specifically for use in black-and-white films and he was awarded an early Oscar for this innovation. He also invented lip gloss (1930), "television make-up" (1932); liquid nail enamel (1934); and Pan-Cake Make-up – the forerunner of all modern cake make-ups which was originally developed for color films in 1937.

The year 1931 marked the peak of Max Factor's career. He gained tremendous attention for his makeup of Boris Karloff for the role of the Frankenstein monster in James Whale's popular horror film. That same year, a public scandal broke out when actress and cabaret dancer Sally Rand appeared in public wearing only a drawing of a zipper which was created by Max.

During the 1930s, Max Factor cosmetics reached markets in 80 countries around the world. Max Factor died in 1938 at the age of 61, but the company that he founded was continued by his son. Unlike Pola, Max never forgot his humble origins in Poland and became a

great philanthropist later in life.

After several attempts at re-establishing her career in Europe, including becoming Adolf Hitler's "favorite actress" during a stint in the German film industry in the late 1930s, Pola returned to the United States in the 1940s. Constantly plagued by financial difficulties, she lived a rather obscure life in Texas, where she died in 1987. But, despite the fact that many of Valentino's friends dismissed her actions as a publicity stunt, Pola insisted that he was the love of her life; she kept Valentino's photo on her bedside table until the day she died.



Pola Negri with Rudolph Valentino attending a costume-ball of the Sixty Club at the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles.



FRIENDS OF JOHN PAUL II

Submitted by Marianna Eckel

Friends of John Paul II Foundation Washington, D. C. Chapter is proud to celebrate Mary Witkowska Flanagan née Lubienski.

Mary was born in Detroit, Michigan to Zofia and Stanley Lubienski. She attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. She is also the author of a biography about the Polish painter and muralist, Jan de Rosen. During her employment as a Congressional Aide to Congressman Lucien Nedzi, she became the secretary of the committee to raise funds for the purchase of a pilgrimage home of what would become the John Paul II Home in Via Cassia, Rome Italy. It was a gift to Pope John Paul II from people all over the world.

After the John Paul II Home in Rome was dedicated, Mary and Walter Zachriasiewicz established The John Paul II Foundation, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Inc. She served as a president of John Paul II Foundation and is editor of the John Paul II Foundation newsletter. She is especially proud of the Knight Commander of St. Sylvester Award which was bestowed on her by then Pope John Paul II. She later received the Pride of Polonia Award and the Cavaliers Cross from the Polish Government. In celebration of St. John Paul II's 100th birthday, Mary Witkowska Flanagan received the "Fidelity to the Legacy of St. John Paul II Award" at the 2021 Polonia Day celebrations at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

We take pride in the accomplishments and achievements of Mary Witkowska Flanagan and are grateful to God for all His blessings.



Top right: Mrs. Mary Witkowski Flanagan née Lubienski. Right: Celebrating the 100th Birthday and Anniversary of Pope Saint John Paul II at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania (l to r) Rev. Witold Mrozwowski, Mrs. Mary Witkowski Flanagan, Rev. Fr. Krzysztof Wieliczko, OSPPE and Rev. Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki.

"FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS"

All of us in Polonia have been moved by the dramatic events in Ukraine in recent weeks as the brave citizens of Ukraine defend their homeland, their families and Western democratic values. This level of heroism has not been witnessed since the Warsaw Uprising. We urge members of Polonia to support these efforts through prayer, deeds and especially through financial support.

Easter is the time of trial and suffering, but also of Resurrection and Rebirth. We sincerely hope that the Spirit of the Risen Lord blesses the people of Ukraine during this difficult time.



Wesołych Świąt - Happy Easter



Wesołego Alleluja!

ACPC Member Announces Book Publication

Surviving Genocide: Personal Recollections expands our knowledge of World War II and the attempted genocide of Polish Christians. It will be published this spring by Hussar Publishing and distributed by Simon & Schuster. Donna Chmara, President of the Polish Arts Club of Trenton, describes the loss of her home in Eastern Poland, her family's deportation to a Nazi forced labor camp, and their eventual arrival in the United States. Relying on historical sources, interviews with twenty survivors, and personal experience, the author focuses on the danger of identifying solely with a group or ideology rather than with the fact of our shared humanity.

Exiled from her home as a baby, the author chronicles the aggression against Polish citizens, both Christian and Jewish, by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. For many it will be the first time learning about deportations of thousands to the Soviet Union for forced labor, a topic rarely discussed in school or in the media. Nor do many know about plans to replace Christianity and all religion with deification of Hitler and the Nazi party. The author weaves this type of information into true accounts of survival from 20 eyewitnesses whom she interviewed over the course of ten years.

Most survival accounts describe the ordeal of one person or family. This book is different in that the people interviewed faced diverse and generally unknown hostile environments. For example, a family is exiled to Russia near the Arctic Circle, women toil on the Kazakhstan steppe to produce food for the Soviet army, people in the author's village of birth in what is now Belarus face winter in holes in the ground, single girls are forced to work in German factories and as domestics,

and a Catholic priest is used for malaria experiments in Dachau.

As a refugee, Donna Chmara found the public education system to be pivotal in helping make the transition from war-torn Europe to her new country of America. While attending the College of New Jersey, she was a one-year exchange student at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. After college, she taught English for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey where she maintains many dear friendships. In the United States, for many years, she taught English and composition at the high school and college levels. She has also taught English for shorter periods in countries as varied as Poland and Myanmar (Burma).

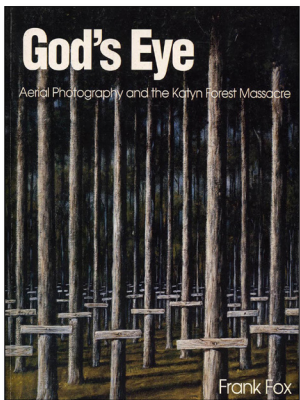
In addition to teaching, she was a public-school administrator, communications director for a professional association of school administrators, and director of the State Board of Education Office. She holds a Master of Arts degree in English with a major in medieval literature from Temple University in Philadelphia. On a personal note, she participates in inter-religious and multi-cultural projects and loves to garden, dance, swim, and learn from other peoples' wisdom.

Pre-publication information is available online by typing in "Donna Chmara's book." *Surviving Genocide: Personal Recollections* can be ordered through the Simon & Schuster site, Amazon, Barnes&Noble, and other outlets. For more information, please contact dchmara@gmail.com

Surviving Genocide
Personal Recollections



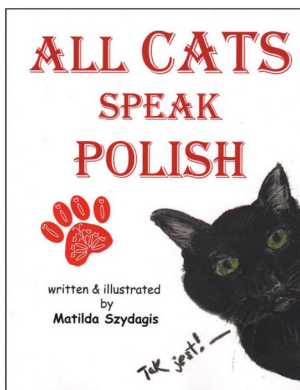
By
Donna Chmara



God's Eye by Frank Fox

This book delves into the Katyn Massacre from a totally new angle - from above. Waclaw Godziemba-Maliszewski, an aerial photo interpreter, found declassified German aerial reconnaissance photographs from before June 1941 in the US National Archives. They were evidence which showed how the NKVD murderers tried to bury the bodies of thousands of Polish officers, soldiers and civilians on a massive scale. Yet, the Russian perpetrators were unable to hide their heinous deeds from the "eye in the sky" which the Germans would send over the lines to spy on their then-ally prior to Operation Barbarossa. Not only did the photographs document Red Army movements, they also captured bare swaths of ground and excavated troughs that would become the final resting place for thousands of Poland's finest sons.

Frank Fox's narrative is an absorbing re-telling of a tragic period in Polish history from a new perspective. It is part history and part biography. Illustrated with 26 photographs. Available from Simon and Schuster.



All Cats Speak Polish by author and illustrator: Matilda Szydagis

This book (32 pages) is fun for children 1-6 and cat lovers of all ages. Matilda Szydagis cracks the code and provides a Rosetta Stone to the inscrutable cat lexicon. Cute illustrations aid in teaching a child some basic Polish vocabulary and phonetic renderings of Polish words help parents to master the pronunciation. Check it out. Available through Amazon.

Matilda Szydagis was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and holds a degree in Anthropology from The University of Chicago. Currently, she is based in New York, and working as an actress who plays Zelda on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.



Stanley and Gertrude Wachtel

Wachtel Literary Awards

Is your organization looking for a youth activity?

Interested in finding a great activity for today's youth? Why not establish a Literary Competition?

The late Estelle Wachtel Torres, MD left funding to foster the endeavors of Polish American Youth in the fields of journalism and literature. The American Council for Polish Culture will match the first place award up to the amount of \$750.00. Thus, a first place prize can potentially be \$1,500.

The Literary Awards was established in the honor of Stanley Zenon Wachtel, Estelle's father.

Mr. Wachtel was a pioneer in Chicago's Polish Theatre and became a long-time producer of Polish Language Radio Programs in Detroit. He was a lead writer as well as an announcer.

To read more of Mr. Wachtel's biography as well as the purpose and criteria of the Wachtel Literary Awards please log onto www.polishcultureacpc.org and click onto "Competitions" and then onto "Literary Awards."



2022 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT



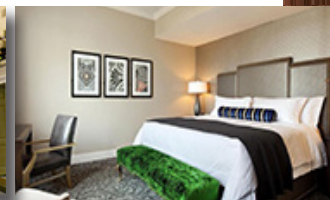
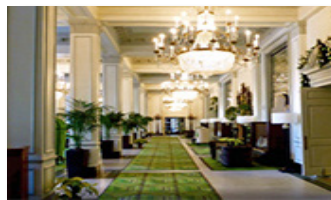
Save the Date!

June 26 - 29, 2022

Annual Convention in person in San Antonio and Panna Maria, Texas.

Sembrich scholarship concert and much more. Details by the end of March on the APC website.

Our convention headquarters will be the luxurious, recently renovated St. Anthony Hotel.



Day trip to the new Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas, the oldest Polish settlement in the United States



