



Polish Heritage

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1948 - CELEBRATING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY - 2023

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2023 CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

It is with anticipation and commitment that the American Polish Cultural Society is preparing for the 75th Anniversary Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture, under the motto, "Celebrating the Rich Past - Looking to a Bright Future."

Our 2023 convention will include our regular business sessions as well as other activities which we hope will enrich your visit to Michigan. These activities include a visit to the beautiful grounds of Orchard Lake Schools and an evening performance by the winner of the Sembrich Vocal Competition in the newly renovated Galeria of the Orchard Lake complex.

En route to Orchard Lake, we shall make a short stop to visit newly dedicated monuments erected for the

"Halerczyzy," the brave men who fought in World War I as part of General Józef Haller's Blue Army and who later fought for a Free Poland.

Every year, we conclude our convention activities with an annual Awards Banquet where we honor distinguished individuals who merit acknowledgement for their accomplishments or their contributions in promoting our Polish heritage. This year, our convention will have a special aspect as we are celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the our organization and the 75th convention gathering. So we will have a special reason to celebrate.

Our banquet will take place at the beautiful American Polish Cultural Center where we have a chance to visit the only Polish American National Sports Hall of Fame Museum in the country. Truly a sight to see. And once again, we will enjoy the music of an exceptional orchestra and dance to our heart's content.

We would encourage you to plan extra days as there is so much more to see: the beautiful Detroit Riverfront (<https://detroitriverfront.org>) with a view of the Ambassador Bridge, (Ralph Modjeski contributing architect) Henry Ford Village, the Detroit Institute of Arts Institute and Edsel and Elenore Ford House (<https://www.fordhouse.org>) just to mention a few. Several of "must see" Detroit cultural sites are listed in more detail on page 14 of this issue. The convention registration form is included on page 15.

We graciously invite you to join us and be a participant in this monumental anniversary. Come see what we have accomplished and to help lay the plans for our exciting future.

As our Holy Father St. John Paul II said:

"Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence."

*The "Spirit of Detroit" Monument by Marshall Fredericks located at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit, Michigan.
(Photo: Nicholas Domingo)*

Further 2023 convention information is featured on pages 14 and 15.



DWA BRATANKI

by David J. Motak



When I was a child, in my family home - alongside the usual polka music - we also had our share of Śląsk and Mazowsze albums, but the only classical recording was Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody*. For some reason, this was my grandparents' favorite, and, over time, it became my own. I really didn't understand why we had Hungarian music as part of our entertainment repertoire, but, as I grew older I began to appreciate its significance.

Like many of my generation, growing up in the 1950s and 60s were bleak times to be Polish American. Polish jokes were everywhere; our heritage was consistently mocked and ridiculed. This cruel ethnic humor did not make growing up any easier.

All this changed for me one night thanks to a most unsuspecting source. I was permitted to stay up and watch *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, who came out at the beginning of the show to do his usual monologue. Many popular comedians such as Don Rickles, Joan Rivers, Carol Burnett and many others built their careers on the backs of Polish Americans. So did Johnny Carson. On this particular night, Carson went on his usual tirade. I can remember the twist in my stomach as I realized that, yet again, Polish jokes were part of his opening routine. He was relentless. And, of course, the audience roared their approval. But I didn't realize that that evening's program would change my young life as Carson introduced his first guest, Zsa Zsa Gabor.

Say what one will about the Gabor sisters. They certainly were flashy, loud and somewhat brash and lived rather unconventional lives. But, that night, Zsa Zsa was in rare form. She glided out onto the set, sat down next to Carson's desk, slowly pivoted her pretty blonde head towards him and hissed: "Why do you constantly pick on the Poles? They are some of the bravest, intelligent and most cultured people in the world." Carson was stunned. "Warsaw was the Paris of the East," the Hungarian star continued, "Why do you continue to make disgusting jokes at their expense. This just shows how unsophisticated you Americans are. How dare you tell those kinds of jokes on television." For once, the great Johnny Carson was left speechless. And his studio audience cheered his embarrassment. They had turned sides and now applauded Zsa Zsa's comments. And, as I lay on the living room floor that evening, I found a new hero.

When all seemed hopeless, when we seemed outnumbered, here was this ravishing Hungarian celebrity defending Poland and taking pot shots at Carson and the entire entertainment establishment.

From that moment, Zsa-Zsa, the Gabor sisters and - by extension all Hungarians - became one of my fascinations. So much so that, during the two years that I was a student at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, I spent an inordinate portion of my stipend at the Balaton Restaurant on Grodzka Street where I grew to love Hungarian food, wine and music.



Stefan Batory



Queen Jadwiga

One of the few good restaurants in Kraków at time, I am happy to report that the Balaton is still in operation.

Needless to say, Hungarian restaurants remain extremely popular in Poland and every major city has several good ones; in recent years Hungarian cuisine has also crept into Polish cooking.

The Poles have an old saying "Polak, Węgier, dwa bratanki, i do szabli, i do szklanki" ("The Pole and the Hungarian are two brethren - both to the sword and to the glass.") The Hungarians have a similar saying about the Poles. Certainly, the affection that I felt as a boy for all things Hungarian is not without precedent; it seems that the two peoples simply adore each other.

Good relations between the two nations date back well beyond the 14th century, as the two countries were linked by personal union multiple times. One of Poland's most beloved queens, the young and beautiful Saint Jadwiga was, in fact Hungarian. When she was elected monarch of Poland, Jadwiga agreed to marry the much older Jagiello, Grand Duke of Lithuania, thereby bringing the last pagan people in Europe to Christianity. It was young Queen Jadwiga who bequeathed her jewels to endow the Jagiellonian University and, consequently, she has been regarded as the patroness of Polish students ever since. Floral bouquets and student badges usually adorn her alabaster sarcophagus in Kraków's Wawel Cathedral, as do wreaths bearing the Hungarian national colors.

In the 16th century, the Poles elected Stefan Batory of Hungary as king. King Stefan's reign was extremely successful; he extended Poland's eastern borders and established a Polish Baltic fleet. He also created Poland's legendary hussars and imported Poland's first saber-makers from Transylvania. In Poland, the "szabla" (saber) became known as the *szabla węgierska* (Hungarian saber) or *batorówka* after King Batory. The Hungarians also had several Polish kings, so the "royal exchange program" between the two peoples was fairly robust.

Poles and Hungarians considered themselves brothers in war and peace. Both countries shared a similar political structure - a "nobles' republic" in which the state and king were controlled by a non-aristocratic noble class. The Polish word "rokosz" (a gathering to resist royal authority) derives from the Hungarian "rákos," a field near Pest which was the medieval venue for mass meetings of Hungarian nobility.

Both countries' noble classes had similar lifestyles and employed similar military tactics and weaponry. And both noble classes enjoyed wine which was imported to Poland from Hungary beginning in the Middle Ages.

Over succeeding years each nation helped the other in their quests for national identity and independence. During the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, Polish General Józef Bem became a national hero of both countries.

This closeness continued after Poland regained its independence. During the Polish-Bolshevik war (1919-21), Hungary offered to send 30,000 cavalry to Poland's aid, however the Czechoslovak government refused them safe passage across its territory. But, despite this, hundreds of Hungarian volunteers managed to fight on the Polish side during the war with some opting to stay in Poland after the war's conclusion.



Monument to the victims of the Katyń Massacre in Budapest.

Later, although Hungary was an ally of Nazi Germany, the Hungarians angered Hitler in 1939 by refusing to allow the German army to attack Poland through its territory, noting that it was a "point of honor." Hungary then opened its borders to over 100,000 Polish refugees and even established Polish language schools for refugee Polish children. And, during the Warsaw Uprising, while Poland's western allies stood immobile, Hungarian troops further infuriated the Nazis by giving their weapons, munitions and medical supplies to the Polish insurgents and some even defected to join their Polish brothers. Hungarian soldiers also assisted in the evacuation of civilian families during the Uprising.

After the war, despite the fact that Poland and Hungary were both occupied by Soviet troops, when Soviet tanks

continued on page 13



Sophia Chacko, Dr. Kazimierz Brzozowski, Jackie Kolowski and Harunobu Hirono.

October is Polish American Heritage Month and traditionally the American Polish Cultural Society in Troy, Michigan organizes a cultural event named Chopiniana. It is with great pleasure that we publicize the Society has celebrated the 10th anniversary of bringing Chopiniana under its wings.

This musical event which pays tribute to Frederic Chopin's genius and virtuoso piano performances was created in 1993 by the late Noreen Sinclair. It was a private event then and took place annually at the American Polish Cultural Center. We are happy to report that for past ten years, it has been a cultural event sponsored by the American Polish Cultural Society, organized and chaired with success and a great sense of satisfaction by Ms. Jacqueline Kolowski.

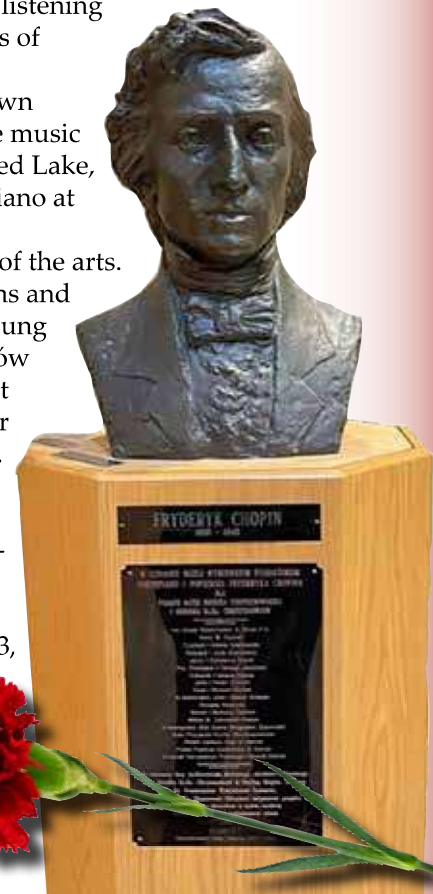
For the 2022 Chopiniana, young performers Sophia Chacko and Harunobu Hirono were joined by their music teacher Kazimierz Brzozowski. It is hard to believe that the young pianists Sophia and Harunobu are both only 14 years old. They performed at such a very high professional level and full of such expressive interpretations that the audience had no doubt that they were listening to two future professional pianists winners of the world's great piano competitions.

Dr. Kazimierz Brzozowski is a well known pianist. He and his wife Tomoko Mack are music educators who run a music school in Walled Lake, Michigan. Dr. Brzozowski also teaches piano at Wayne State University in Detroit.

The Brzozowskis are also great patrons of the arts. They have been educating young musicians and organizing workshops and concerts for young pianists from all over the world in Nałęczów and Kazimierz Dolny in Poland for the last 25 years. This is a popular, annual summer music celebration in that region of Poland.

After the concert, Fr. Bernard Witek, Rector of Orchard Lake Seminary, delivered an invocation which was followed by a Champagne Dinner.

Next year, Chopiniana will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on October 15th, 2023, and we invite you to join us for this special occasion.



submitted by Jackie Kolowski

NEW TABLETS DEDICATED ON THE BATTLEFIELD IN SAVANNAH

by Peter J. Obst



*General
Kazimierz
Pułaski*

On the evening of October 8, 2022, nearly one hundred persons gathered at The Club at Savannah Quarters in Pooler, Georgia for a banquet organized by the Savannah General Pułaski Committee of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). The event was coordinated by Glen Ball, Anthony Hejka, Camille and Edward Krolikowski, head of the committee, who was also master of ceremonies in his Colonial Dragoon's Uniform. All the guests enjoyed a tasty meal and after dinner socializing. The banquet was preceded earlier that day by our ACPC fall board meeting.

First among the guests were Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki, president of the ACPC. Among the other distinguished guests were Krzysztof Szczerski Poland's Ambassador to the United Nations, Katarzyna Rybka-Iwanska Head of Public Diplomacy and Culture at the Polish Embassy in Washington, Leszek Sieluk from the Polish National Foundation in Warsaw, and former Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, president of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. One of the larger groups represented were members of the Gazeta Polska Clubs including Aneta and Tadeusz Antoniak, chief Commander of the Polish Veterans Association; and Tomasz Sakiewicz editor in chief of *Gazeta Polska*. Also representing their respective societies were Jadwiga Bankowski and Commander Stanisław Bankowski from the Pułaski Cadets of Perth Amboy, New Jersey; Maciej Smusz President of the Atlanta Georgia Polish Club; and Charles Sieracki, past-president of Charleston, South Carolina, Polish-American Club. From Ft. Lauderdale in Florida came Monica and Jack Pinkowski, president of the Poles in America Foundation, which has supported the observance on the battlefield in Savannah for many years.

Early on the next morning people assembled at the Savannah History Museum and, to the sound of a drumbeat, marched to the battlefield, now known as Tricentennial Park. Aaron Bradford, a member of the Coastal Heritage Society, dressed in a colonial soldier's uniform, did a fine job of explaining the troops' maneuvers as they neared the battlefield.

The ceremonies on the field were organized by the Coastal Heritage Society and Emily Beck was the coordinator. She introduced a number of guests who spoke about the individuals memorialized on the tablets to be dedicated that day. Among these were the leaders of the above mentioned societies and Hungarian Ambassador Szabolcs Takacs who was not able to join the previous night's banquet. Ambassador Takacs eloquently described the career of Colonel Mihaly Kovacs and the long standing friendship between Poland and Hungary.



Above: American Council for Polish Culture members with re-enactors from the Coastal Heritage Society.

Edward Krolikowski with his mount.



Left: Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary Szabolcs Takacs delivers remarks at the plaque dedication ceremonies.

Right: Peter Obst with Katarzyna Rybka-Iwanska, Head of Public and Cultural Diplomacy at the Polish Embassy.





The re-enactors fire a ceremonial salute.

The plaque honoring Col. Kovacs was funded by the Pulaski Cadets, as Col. Kovacs was a friend of Casimir Pulaski and fought alongside him in both Poland and America.

Ms. Elizabeth Jeanty of the Haitian American Historical Society, Savannah, spoke about the Haitian soldiers, under the French, who participated in the battle. She also mentioned the difficult conditions in today's Haiti and the unstable political situation that has led to a humanitarian crisis.

Among the Honorary Consuls present at the ceremony were, Deborah Majka, the Polish Republic representative based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Valerie Kuhn Granzow, representing France, based in Rincon, Georgia.

After the ceremonies everyone enjoyed an excellent breakfast sponsored by the Polish National Foundation of Warsaw, Poland.

The tablets that were dedicated at the ceremony:

Seaman Józef (Joseph) Gabriel

c. 1744 - August 14, 1829

Born in Poland, came to the American colonies and served in the U.S. Navy. Fought at Savannah during the American War for Independence as well as afterwards on the U.S.S. Vixen and the U.S.S. Congress. Served in the War of 1812 and was wounded during fighting at Baltimore.

Died in a New York City almshouse.

Sponsored by "Gazeta Polska" Clubs in America
- Kluby Gazety Polskiej

Agrippa Hull

1759 - 1848

A free black volunteer assigned to military engineer Gen. Thaddeus Kościuszko as an orderly. Became his comrade in arms, guide and friend. Caused Kościuszko to later champion abolition. After the war, settled in Stockbridge, CT, where he married a formerly enslaved woman Jane Darby. Became a prominent citizen and landowner.

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation

Mihaly Kovacs

c. 1724 - May 11, 1779

A Hungarian Nobleman, who served as cavalry officer in Hungary and with the Bar Confederation in Poland. He came to America in 1778, Commissioned Colonel of

Cavalry in the Pulaski Legion. Trained American Cavalry, Fought at Osborne Island, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey and Charleston South Carolina, where he fell in battle.

Sponsored by the Pulaski Cadets, Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Lt. Karol Litomski

An officer who fought in the Bar Confederation, Poland, and the American War for Independence.

Gen. Pulaski's aide-de-camp, who helped carry the wounded Pulaski from the Savannah battlefield onto the *Wasp* and later witnessed his burial on land. Returning to Poland, he fought in the Napoleonic wars, and eventually settled in Brazil.

Sponsored by the American Council for Polish Culture, Savannah Gen. Pulaski Committee

Capt. Comm. Jan K. Mieszkowski

Mar. 30, 1744 – Feb. 27, 1819

Born in Karczew to a noble Polish family, he joined a French legion organized by the Duke de Lauzun. In America, promoted to Captain Commander of the Second Squadron of Hussars in Lauzun's Legion. Fought with great distinction at Yorktown against notorious Gen. Banastre Tarleton. Returned to France, survived the French Revolution and died at Vassy.

Sponsored by the Polish National Foundation, Warsaw, Poland

A sixth tablet for Francis Johnson Dover, was funded by Lamar W. Davis and Sara W. Davis.





Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

Several members of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia (PHSP) took part in the annual conference of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) which took place in Philadelphia at the Marriott Hotel on January 5-7, 2023. PHSP president Peter Obst arranged for PAHA members to visit the Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial, a museum devoted to the national hero of Poland and America. Normally closed during the winter season, it is operated by the National Park Service and located in the historic quarter of Philadelphia at 3rd and Pine Streets. Afterwards, the group was treated to lunch at the Polish American Cultural Center located just behind historic Independence Hall hosted by center president Michael Blichasz.

On Saturday, January 7th at the Awards Banquet of the Polish American Historical Association in Philadelphia at the Associated Polish Home a number of deserving persons and organizations were presented with awards in recognition of their accomplishments. The PHSP received the Skalny Award for its mission of fostering interest in Polish history and culture, and spreading an awareness of the accomplishments of Poles and Polish-Americans, most especially in the United States. In recent years the Society sponsored three Historical Markers, approved by the Pennsylvania Historical

Photo at right: Attendees at the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) awards banquet on January 7.



Left: PAHA group at the Kościuszko House in Philadelphia.

and Museum Commission (PHMC).

It should be noted that, at the general meeting of PHSP on Sept. 21, 2022, president Peter Obst made an informative presentation about the Polish-themed historical markers in Pennsylvania. He stated at the time that he had submitted new applications for markers to the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. In mid-December the commissioners issued letters of approval for two markers. These were for:

- **Edward Piszek** (1916–2004), Springfield Township, Montgomery County, Piszek, founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, a pioneer businessman and innovator in producing and marketing frozen "heat-and-eat" convenience seafoods. A strong advocate of our Polish American heritage, his philanthropic efforts supported the establishment of the Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia and a major anti-tuberculosis campaign in Poland in the late 1960s.

- **Hilary Koprowski**, M.D. (1916–2013), Philadelphia. Koprowski was a Polish American virologist, immunologist and director of the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, 1957–1991. A pioneer in the use of monoclonal antibodies, he developed the rabies vaccine and an early polio vaccine. His work is recognized by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and domestic and foreign medical organizations.

The Polish Heritage Society will install the Piszek marker at the Piszek Nature Preserve in Fort Washington, PA. The one for Dr. Koprowski will be placed near the Wistar Institute on the University of Pennsylvania Campus in Philadelphia by the local Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation. Dedication ceremonies will most likely be scheduled later in 2023. More information on will be forthcoming and interested parties should check the website: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html>

The first general meeting of PHSP on January 22, 2023, included a lecture on European Archeology,



*President
Raymond Glembocki*

Hello ACPC Members:

I wish to extend my best wishes to you for a Happy New Year. This will be a special year for the ACPC as we celebrate our seventy fifth year with a convention/celebration.

I am pleased to inform you that Richard Tarnicki, President of the American Polish Cultural Society, Troy, Michigan, has confirmed that the APCS will be the official sponsor of the 2023 ACPC Convention from July 27 to July 29, 2023 in Detroit. Thank you Richard and the APCS members for this decision and thanks to Jackie Kolowski and Barbara Lemecha for their effort in promoting the convention. Jackie Kolowski and Barbara Lemecha will keep us updated on the planning progress.

This will also be an officer election convention so, if you are interested in an office, get the word out or begin to think about persons whom you may want to nominate.

Debbie Majka and Marcia Lewandowski are working on a 75th Anniversary Book which will include highlights of your organization's activities during the last 25 years. They sent one notice and will send another notice encouraging your participation. If you are the president of a member organization and want to participate I would contact Debbie or Marcia as soon as possible. These histories will require some effort to the research and compile.

I wish to thank Edward Krolikowski for his invitation to Savannah to have our Board meeting there in the fall. We also enjoyed participating in the Pulaski Commemoration and dinner.

We are also refreshing some of our committees. We recently had a meeting with the scholarship teams. They are doing a great job but we discussed if there were ways we could promote all of our scholarships in one form and use it in print, school and electronic formats. Also have an annual financial appeal for our scholarships.

At our last Board meeting we discussed refreshing the form and content of the ACPC web site. If you are interested in joining the Web Refreshment Committee, please send me or Peter Obst a note and we will include you in our invitation. Please remember that you do not have to be a computer guru; if you enjoy writing, we need help updating the text of our site. We will also review the format of the site.

Finally, I would like your opinion on a proposed policy which would require that, when we receive a proposal which requires a financial allocation, it should be accompanied by a marketing plan. We have multiple external communication committees so they would submit a plan how their committee would promote the specific proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this message. I and our meeting planning committee will begin to consider when to have our Spring Board Meeting. If any Organization would considering hosting the meeting please contact me or the committee.

Best regards
Raymond Glembocki
Raymond Glembocki
President



PAHA Awardees honored at the banquet.

including much about Poland, by Peter Bogucki associate dean for undergraduate affairs of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University. He is the author of many scholarly articles and several books including his latest *The Barbarians* which explores the societies that existed outside the bounds of the Roman Empire and left us no written record. This book received two prestigious awards from American Archeological societies. (Please see review on page 13.)

The next major event hosted by the PHSP is a Chopin Concert on February 26, 2023. It will feature young pianist William Yang, a student of the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He will perform at the hall of the Settlement Music School in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. More information is available on the PHSP website, address given above.



After the Presentation at the Polish Home were (left to right) Dr. Casimir Czarnecki, Stephen Medvec, author Peter Bogucki and Peter Obst.



(left to right) Stephen Medvec, Tiffany Loomis, Peter Bogucki, Debbie Majka, Liz Whittman.



Polish American Arts Association Resumes Tradition of **Wigilia**

submitted by Matthew Stefanski

In the pantheon of Polish traditions, Christmas Eve reigns supreme in the hearts of many. Filled with religious symbolism and steeped in customs handed down generation to generation, Wigilia is more than just an annual gathering of friends and family, it is a manifestation of our faith, values, customs and more. Our organization has been hosting an annual Christmas Wigilia gathering for many years, and members and friends were eager to resume this

festive gathering that had been paused for the past three years by the pandemic and last year by a fire at the Arts Club.

On Sunday, December 18, over fifty PAAA members and friends gathered for our traditional Wigilia dinner and to celebrate Polish culture and togetherness. The President of the Arts Club of Washington, Henry Sienkiewicz welcomed all to the stately Cleveland Abbe House as guests took their seats. PAAA President Matthew Stefanski delivered welcoming remarks and introduced special guests including Col. Romuald Lipinski, a Veteran of the Polish II Corps who fought at the Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II and previously served as PAAA Vice President, as well as representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Vice Consuls Ewa Pietrasieńska and Edyta Hołdyńska. Wigilia, whether held around one's familial dining table or at an organized function, always begins with the sharing of the *opłatek*. Here it was no different, as Father Philip Majka blessed and distributed the Polish Christmas wafer and attendees exchanged well wishes for the coming year. Following dinner, which featured Wigilia staples such as *barszcz*, herring, fish, *pierogi*, *kapusta*, and *makowiec*, attendees were treated to a beautiful artistic program organized by PAAA artistic advisor and board member Dr. Laura Kafka-Price.

This year's program featured music from Ukraine as a symbol of our ongoing solidarity with the Ukrainian people. To the Ukrainians now living in Poland, and other welcoming countries and to those huddling in their bombed-out cities and villages or facing the enemy in battle, we send most fervent wishes that *Shchedryk*, the bountiful evening, be soon celebrated in their free homeland.

The masterful Skrzypuk Duo led attendees in singing and even some dancing as guests were encouraged to embrace the joy of the season. Many guests left the evening carrying gift baskets with Polish treats won during the raffle donated by PAAA board members, but all guests left with their bellies full and their spirits filled with Polish Christmas charm.

We thank all who joined us for our Wigilia, and especially recognize our dedicated Wigilia committee chair and members Margaret Butler, Celia Larkin, Rose Kobylinska, Ewa Szczepanska, Stasia Skrypczuk and Laura Kafka-Price.



Top photo: PAAA President Matthew Stefanski hangs a Polish ornament on the Arts Club tree with Vice Presidents Celia Larkin and Rose Kobylinski.

*Middle photo: Sharing of *opłatek*.*

Bottom photo: Wigilia performers Laura Kafka-Price, Rosalinda Sherman and Stasia Skrypczu with Alvin Smithson and Olek Srypczuk on stage.



Wigilia Chair Margaret Butler with Matthew Stefanski and Arts Club President Henry Sienkiewicz.



Vice Consuls of the Republic of Poland Ewa Pietrasieńska and Edyta Hołdyńska,

In February, the PAAA and the National Philharmonic are partnering to promote Polish music and scholarship for our youth. Thanks to the generosity of Maestro Piotr Gajewski and the National Philharmonic Board of Directors, all tickets purchased for the February 25 concert "An Evening With Chopin" – featuring pianist Brian Ganz, cellist Carter Brey and violinist Laura Colgate – using PAAA's special code GANZ23 will benefit the PAAA Scholarship fund. We invite and encourage PAAA members and friends to not only enjoy the music of Fryderyk Chopin performed by top-notch artists in a great hall of the Strathmore Music Center, but also help us to continue to provide scholarship grants to Polish American students. Visit www.paaa.us/ events to learn more.




ACPC
Marcella
Kochańska
Sembrich
2023
Vocal
Competition

Winner of the 2022
 ACPC Sembrich Award
 Matilda Smolij

Sembrich Vocal Competition 2023

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR 2023 ACPC VOCAL COMPETITION

The ACPC Music Committee seeks your assistance in identifying young vocal artists of Polish descent to apply for the 2023 Marcella Kochońska Sembrich Vocal Competition. The competition is being conducted online. All singers up to the age of 35, U.S. citizens or permanent residents of Polish descent, who are not under professional management, are encouraged to apply. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2023. The first prize in the competition is \$3,500.

The ACPC Sembrich Award was established in 1971 to support the career development of a young singer of Polish descent, to honor Marcella Kochońska Sembrich (1858-1935), a Polish coloratura soprano with a long career at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, after which she taught at the Curtis Institute and the Juilliard School of Music.

Please visit the ACPC website for further information and details regarding the ACPC Marcella Sembrich Vocal Competition 2023:

http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/sembrich/Sembrich_Rules.html

Please share our post on ACPC Facebook and download and distribute the poster found on the ACPC website. We appeal to ACPC Affiliates and Supporting Organizations to publicize the competition on their social media and in print. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Celia Larkin
Chair, ACPC Music Committee

AFFILIATE NEWS

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

Submitted by Lilia Kieltyka and Fran Pudlo

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. (PCCGH) hosted two major events during the holiday season. The "Holiday Bazaar with a Polish Flair" was held on November 19 and 20 and was co-sponsored with the Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford. Open to the general public, it included vendors showcasing Polish arts and crafts and other items; Polish Girl Scouts and the Hartford Polish Saturday School; Polish food and baked goods; Szopka entries from previous competitions; and an extensive display of Polish import goods and artifacts for sale.

Eighty guests joined together on December 10 to share in the Club's annual traditional Wigilia at the Polish National Home in Hartford. Although it was a joyous occasion and spirits ran high, there was also an element of sadness. This event was one of the last to be held at the Home, which was sold and planned to close at the end of the month – a tremendous loss for Hartford Polonia.

The Club was proud to announce at Wigilia that Carol Bogon Phelan was being honored with its "Distinguished Service Award" in recognition of her many years of outstanding service as Chair of Public Relations. A special presentation was arranged in January.

Another PCCGH member was also recognized for



Enjoying the annual Wigilia were (left to right): Fran Pudlo, Ursula Brodowicz, Lilia Kieltyka and Distinguished Service Award recipient Carol Bogon Phelan (seated.)

Klaudia Beatty (left) and Alexandra Ramoya (right) join honoree Zosia Bienek (center) at the Community Leadership and Service Award presentation held by the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut on November 12.



her volunteerism. On November 12, the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut presented Zosia Bienek, with a "Community Leadership and Service Award" for her involvement and dedication to the Hartford Polish Scouting Organization – ZHP.

Planning for an active calendar of events in 2023 has begun, and our Club expects to enjoy a successful year promoting Polish culture and history.

NCSS PROJECT

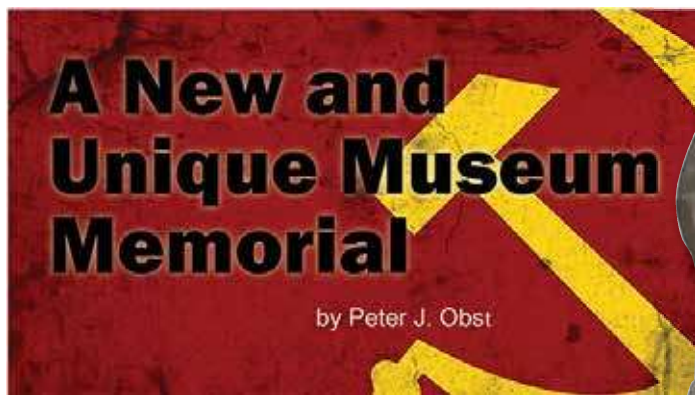
The ACPC was well represented at the 2022 National Council for Social Studies Convention held at the Philadelphia Convention Center, December 1- 4, 2022. With over 3,600 educators in attendance many visiting educators were able to obtain valuable materials on Poland, Polish history and culture from ACPC volunteers. The NCSS Project is managed by Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki.



Tom Payne, Debbie Majka, Peter Obst and Cecilia Glembocki with a visiting educator.



Thomas Jefferson, Betsy Ross, Peter Obst and Debbie Majka.



As part of his lectures on communism, Sociology Professor Jordan Peterson brings out some significant points. Since the beginning of the twentieth century communism has been introduced into nearly forty countries, with differing cultures and populations, but it has never succeeded in bringing forth a promised shining workers' state of economic plenty and justice. Instead, over 100 million persons were killed by communist regimes. State totalitarianism, working through implacable security services, has crushed the spirits and violated the human rights of millions of others.

If one ever needs evidence to prove these points, it may be found in the newly opened Victims of Communism Museum located in Washington D. C. at McPherson Square (900 15th Street NW) just two blocks from the White House. It is to be a memorial to the victims and a warning to those who are flirting with this fallacious ideology which masquerades as democracy but is antithetical to the values that are a part of western culture and civilization.

The museum is operated by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation where the former U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Andrew Bremberg is president and chief executive officer. The Foundation is a non-profit institution dedicated to education and historical research created by an unanimous act of Congress on December 17, 1993. The museum dedicated to the Victims of Communism opened on June 13, 2022 with support from many of the nations who were able to reform their governments after the Fall of the Berlin Wall in November 18, 1989. Among the sponsors is the Polish National Foundation based in Warsaw.

The museum contains three main galleries. The first addresses the creation of communism on the Soviet model by Lenin and its spread before and after the First World War. There is information on how, under Marshal Pilsudski, Poland stopped the Red Army's march to the west. The second gallery has exhibits which deal with the terror inflicted by Stalin, his cult of personality, the "Holodomor" Ukrainian famine and the Katyń Forest Massacre. Finally, a third gallery shows how various countries and societies resisted this ideology with social movements such as the Czech Prague Spring, Polish Solidarity and the Tiananmen Square Protests.

Among the exhibits is a recreation, by Thomas Marsh, of the Goddess of Democracy statue, erected by Chinese students during the in 1989 protests. A memorial with this theme, The Victims of Communism Memorial, is



located at the intersection of Massachusetts and New Jersey Avenues and G Street, NW, two blocks from Union Station and within view of the U.S. Capitol. Another museum exhibit, is the Gulag Collection of paintings created by Nikolai Getman who spent eight years as a prisoner in this notorious system of labor camps. He graduated from the Khakhov Art College and was a professional artist. He served in the Red Army during WWII but was arrested after his discharge for "anti-Soviet propaganda and agitation." After his release in 1953 he worked in secret to create a record of the camps' horrors. The paintings were not exhibited until 1993. He died in 2004 at age 86 after a long illness.

The museum is working on expanding its outreach and educational programs. Lectures are hosted in its meeting hall and speakers sent out to meet with community groups. The museums purpose is to remember the victims and expose the crimes of communism - past and present - and to inspire all generations to understand and resist the evils of communism.

More information about the museum is available on the website: <https://vocmuseum.org/>



Top left: Recreated Goddess of Democracy statue by Thomas Marsh.

Middle: Logo of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Bottom photos: Portions of the exhibit.

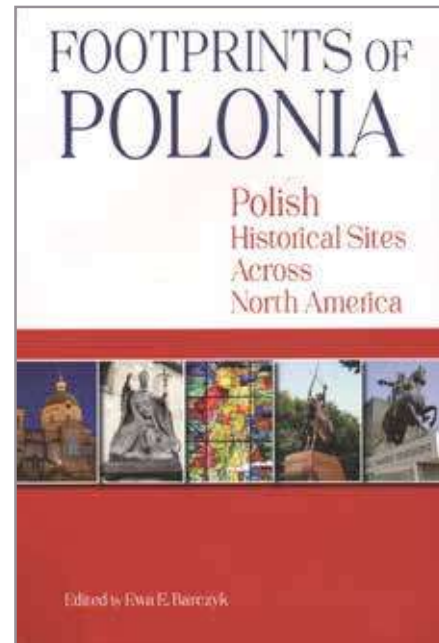
A New Guide to Polonia in North America

Thirty years ago, Hippocrene Books published *A Polish Heritage Travel Guide* compiled by Jacek Gałazka and Albert Juszcak. Illustrated with black and white photograph and having 250 pages, it was a good introduction to places, monuments and mementos placed by Polish immigrants and Polish Americans on the landscape of their new homeland. Though incomplete, it was still a valuable resource for a person wishing to come into contact with the presence of Poles in America. Now, there is an updated version of this book retitled *Footprints of Polonia: Polish Historical Sites Across North America* (320 pages). Thanks to improvements in research and printing technology this new edition presents a more complete listing and illustrates many items with color photographs. It is a real joy to read and difficult to put down. Since this is a survey book, some entries mention additional reference materials and others contain internet addresses for those who may seek to expand their knowledge of a listed site or item.

This handsome book is the result of tireless work by Ewa Barczyk of the Polish American Historical Association. Ewa recruited volunteers across the country, inviting them to provide her with information for the updated edition. Just managing all of the incoming texts must have been a daunting task. The many individuals and organizations who contributed items are listed on pages 290-293.

Because of the way Polish immigrant communities developed on this continent, the book is heavily church oriented. These run the gamut from intimate worship spaces, often built of wood and local stone, to magnificent edifices that mirror their congregations' spiritual ardor as well as their more worldly aspirations. Alongside them are monuments that were set up to honor Polish heroes. Of course, Kościuszko and Pułaski predominate. However, the myriad individuals who appear less frequently on commemorative tablets, reflect favorably on the fact that Poles are represented, and have made significant contributions, in all fields of endeavor: music, the performing arts, film, medicine, science, the military, technology, engineering, social justice, infrastructure, and education, just to name a few. A fine example is the multi-person monument in Denver, Colorado honoring: Ignacy Paderewski, Marie Skłodowska Curie, Casimir Pułaski, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Fryderyk Chopin, Nicholaus Copernicus and Pope John Paul II.

While this edition is a great improvement over the original, the Polish American landscape is ever fluid and changes with time. Even as the book was still on the printing press, a wrecking ball was smashing St. Laurentius

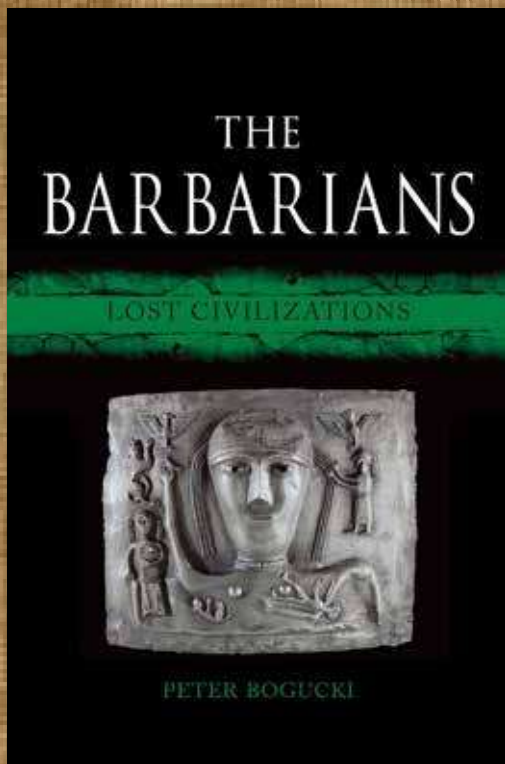


Church in Philadelphia, papers were being signed to return the Le Moyne College paintings from Syracuse, New York to Poland and a new historical marker to Stan "the man" Musial was in process of being dedicated in Donora, Pennsylvania. Thus, unfortunately, this new edition was already obsolescent at its first appearance.

That does not decrease its value as a reference work. Any omissions or slight errors are far outweighed by the solid core of information contained on these pages. In addition, Ewa Barczyk realizes that she will need the assistance of readers to complete future editions. In the introduction she writes: "I welcome suggestions from our readers for future sites to include. I apologize beforehand for any errors and would like to hear about them so that future editions could be made more accurate." She also mentions that an on-line electronic version may be a possibility sometime in the future. This certainly would be a great resource and permit more information to be included with each entry. Yet, there is nothing like handling a real printed book and leafing through it just to stop at a random entry and explore the written words.

This book is definitely worth having, or presenting as a gift. It makes a great companion work to James Pula's *Polish American Encyclopedia* and is available from amazon.com.





Lost Civilizations Rediscovered...

When the Romans ventured out of Italy and started their conquest of Europe, they ran into societies that operated under their own laws and customs. These peoples they called "barbarians" which initially meant "outsiders" but in time came to be associated with savagery, brutishness, and lack of culture. Indeed such characterization found its way into Roman written histories. Even back then the Romans were practicing the maxim attributed to Winston Churchill. "History will be kind to me, for I will write it myself."

In ancient times there was brutality enough to go around, with the Romans meeting out quite a bit themselves as they "civilized" the Gauls. Julius Caesar could send glowing reports on his victories to Rome, but the unfortunates that fell to his legions had no written language in which to tell their side of the story.

Peter Bogucki, in his book *The Barbarians: Lost Civilizations* tells us much about these people on the basis of archeology. Through the exploration of burial sites, remains of abandoned settlements and pre-historic industrial works (yes, there were mines and foundries in the "barbarian world") he reconstructs a vision of how these people lived, traded and achieved economic success.

While the book is a survey of European archeological sites, it also includes places in Poland that revealed traces of local civilization and culture.

The best explored of these places is Biskupin, a wooden, fortified, lake shore settlement from the late bronze age, discovered in the 1930s.

The text puts the archeological discoveries and artifacts into a context of cultures that developed outside the Roman sphere of influence but often maintained a lively, if contentious, border relationship.

This book is an excellent starting point for learning about these cultures, which are just beginning to be understood. The writing is lively and draws together many themes that create a coherent portrayal of life, as it may have been in the pre-historic societies of western and northern Europe.

This book received the prestigious Society for American Archeology book award and the Felicia A. Holton Book Award from the Archeological Institute of America. Peter Bogucki is associate dean for undergraduate affairs in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University and an archeologist. He is also the author of *The Origins of Human Society* and editor of *Ancient Europe*. The book is available from Amazon.



Biskupin

DWA
BRATANKI

by David J. Matak

continued from page 3



rolled across the Hungarian border during the Hungarian Uprising of 1956, the Poles immediately declared their support for the Hungarians. Nearly every town in Poland had stations set up where tens of thousands of Poles donated blood for wounded Hungarian freedom fighters the donation stations were soon overwhelmed by the outpouring of public support. The Polish Red Cross sent medical supplies by air as well as by train and truck convoys. In fact, the level of support that Poland gave to the Hungarians far surpassed anything given by any of the western democracies, including the United States, France or Great Britain.

On March 12, 2007, the Hungarian parliament unanimously

declared March 23 as the *Day of Hungarian and Polish Friendship*; the Polish sejm reciprocated four days later.

One can certainly point to a long mutual history to explain this strong affinity between both peoples, but an even more provocative rationale may also be shown through science. Recent genetic research has proven that both the Poles and Hungarians share an extremely rare genetic trait: they both have the highest frequency of the R1aY gene in Europe. It seems that two people will have the same Y chromosome marker only if they descended from the same father. The Poles are Slavs and the Hungarians are not, but they both seem to share the same rare genetic makeup. And, as the old saying goes, we are truly brethren.

So, on March 23, we should all celebrate this unique relationship between two remarkable peoples.

Planning Your Trip.....

Detroit is a dynamic city with much to offer and there are many interesting sites and experiences that await you at our 75th Annual Convention.

These include:

1. *The Spirit of Detroit Monument in downtown Detroit*
2. *Kościuszko Monument along Michigan Avenue*
3. *The majestic Sweetest Heart of Mary Church (Najsłodsze Serce Marii)*
4. *The annual Sembrich Recital*
5. *American Polish Cultural Center - the site of our convention banquet*
6. *The Polish American National Sports Hall of Fame*
7. *The Somerset Inn - our convention hotel*
8. *The "Halerczycy" Memorial*
9. *The Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake*



Definitely worth a visit...

When planning your trip to the Convention, consider allowing extra time to experience some of the rich cultural offerings that can be found in Detroit and the surrounding area.



The Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

This landmark complex showcases unique exotic flowers and tropical plants from around the world and is located on beautiful Belle Isle which offers breathtaking vistas of the Detroit riverfront and nearby Windsor Canada.



The Detroit Institute of Arts

Located in Midtown Detroit it has one of the largest and most significant art collections in the United States with over 100 galleries of art including works by Bruegel, Cezanne, Degas, Von Gogh and many others.



Greenfield Village

A history museum complex in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn. Its collection contains many historic artifacts and 83 authentic historic buildings, including Thomas Edison's laboratory, the courtroom used by Abraham Lincoln during his career in law and the Wright Brothers workshop, among others.



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