



# Polish Heritage

Published Triannually by the American Council for Polish Culture

Fall, 2019

Vol. 70 No. 2



## 71st Annual Convention in Warsaw



*Reconnecting with Our Heritage*

This year's convention took place at the stately and historic Hotel Bristol in the old town part of Warsaw. Participants, of whom there were 21 (see group photo above), started arriving at mid-day on Friday which was a beautiful warm day more reminiscent of June than of September. Walking into the lobby one could see the Glembockis, Ted Mirecki, Matt and Carolyn Meleski, Barbara Lemecha and Tom Payne. Some of our members then ventured out to explore the old town and buy some knick-knacks at the souvenir shops. Later, a bus took the entire group to the Stary Dom Restaurant for an excellent meal. Located on Pulawska street, the restaurant has interiors modeled on the wooden manors that the Polish *szlachta* would build on their country estates.

The following day started with introductory greetings and singing of national anthems led by Debbie Majka. Then a number of reports were given, including one by Cecilia Glembocki about the next National Conference for the Social Studies to take place in Austin, TX on Nov. 22-24, 2019. Dr. Adolf Juzwenko gave an interesting talk about the Ossolineum Library and Archive in Wrocław, and plans for its development. At lunch we were joined by our old friend Boguslaw Winid who now serves as an advisor to Polish President Andrzej Duda.

At the evening awards banquet we were served roast duck and entertained by a duo of young cellists, Mateusz Błaszczak and Wojciech Bafeltowski. They were superb (so was the duck!). Awards were presented to: Jolanta Kessler Chojecka (DeRosen Award), Prof. Marta Ptaszynska (Cultural Achievement Award), and Marianna Eckel (Founders Award).

On Saturday morning light rain swept over the capitol and

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## 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Savannah

by Peter Obst

Early on the morning of Wednesday, October 9th, even before the sun rose, historical re-enactors and friends of the American Revolution gathered in the parking lot of the Savannah Visitor's Center. Once formed up, the column proceeded to the nearby battlefield accompanied by bagpiper Shane Parris. Leading the march were two mounted soldiers: Gen. Pulaski (portrayed by Edward Krolikowski) and Lt. Litomski (portrayed by Russell Dobson). Behind them followed soldier-reenactors, dignitaries and the general public. As they reached the battlefield sounds of cannon fire were heard.

Emily Beck of the Coastal Heritage Society, which organizes this annual event, greeted the arrivals and introduced the speakers. Among them was Congressman Earl Leroy "Buddy" Carter who represents Georgia's 1st Congressional District. This year, four new commemorative tablets were dedicated on the field. Several speakers followed.

Charles Sieracki, past-president of the Polish-American Society of Charleston, introduced the tablet for Captain

*continued on page 3*

*Photo above: (left to right) Monika Pinkowski, Peter Obst, Jack Pinkowski, Edward Krolikowski, Russell Dobson.*



# From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

This is my first opportunity to write to you as the President of the American Council of Polish Culture. To be elected was an honor and it will be a pleasure to work with all of you. Thank you.

In addition to myself, the following persons were elected as officers: Jarosław Gołombiowski, 1st Vice President; Mark Dillon, 2nd Vice President; Tom Payne, Treasurer; and Marcia Lewandowski continues as the Recording Secretary. We also elected five Members of the Board of Directors, with one position remaining open, which will be filled at the upcoming board meeting.

Rob Synakowski, who just finished his two-term tenure as the ACPC's 1st Vice President is the President of the Polish Heritage Club of Syracuse, NY, host of the ACPC Fall Board Meeting on October 18-19, 2019. A note of congratulations to Rob and members of our Syracuse affiliate on the 100th Anniversary of the Syracuse Polish Home, which was celebrated at a festive dinner on October 19. Many of us who attended the ACPC meeting joined the over 200 local members and dignitaries in attendance. What a turnout!

All of us who were in Warsaw for the 71st ACPC Convention in early September remember a wonderful event which included our meetings, presentations, awards dinner preceded by a recital by two talented young Polish cellists, and the side visits we made. Debbie Majka and Tom Payne and all those who helped are to be congratulated on organizing a successful convention 4,000 miles away.

Those who were there have their own memories and stories; let me share my own with you. Cecilia and I were going for a walk and as we left the hotel, across the street we saw a building with a large ornate gate, perfect for a picture. The plaque next to the gate said "Ministry of Culture," so we decided that - since we do educational cultural events for the ACPC - to go in and tell them about what we do. We visited with Jan Tyszowiecki, Main Specialist in the Department of International Relations at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. Our visit lasted two hours. We reviewed our accomplishments regarding the history of Poles in Jamestown and mentioned other materials on notable Poles and our educational CD. He asked us to provide whatever material we can. He especially enjoyed the book on Polish traditions, custom and history sponsored and published by PAAA of Washington, D.C. We will be sending him books and updates. He stated several times that this work must be displayed in a Polish museum. We thank all our affiliates and members for your support of these projects.

I have had the opportunity to read in detail the reports presented by our member organizations and I must say there is a level of activity in the community that shows a commitment to our ACPC goals. We also have a commitment from our members to contribute to current and future activities whose purpose is to promote the awareness of Polish culture and historical accomplishments.



President  
Raymond  
Glembocki

We are fortunate to have a creative and professional communication team; David Motak leads the publication of the *Polish Heritage* newsletter, Jackie Kolowski gets information out to the Polish community with her newspaper sources and Peter Obst produces the web site which tells the world about us. It is our job to supply this team with information to support their efforts. If you need assistance in developing an article, Celia Larkin is an excellent writer and editor and will help. Celia is also taking on the leadership of the Music Committee which administers the Marcella Sembrich competition for young singers and other programs promoting Polish music. Our scholarship administrators work hard to select excellent students for grants to assist in their further education. We provide matching grants to affiliates to support their cultural activities, including a specific one for a literary competition. What a great ACPC team!

I plan to outline some new ideas at our next board meeting. I look forward to working with all of you.

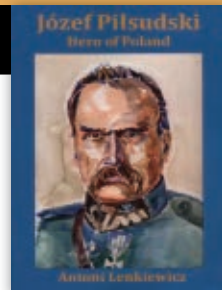
Sincerely,

Raymond Glembocki

## BOOK REVIEW

### Józef Piłsudski: Hero of Poland

A new biography by Dr. Antoni Lenkiewicz



Just off the presses is a translation of Dr. Antoni Lenkiewicz's biography of Józef Piłsudski. This book presents a concise vision of the Great Marshal's life, being, as the author intended, a starting point for further reading and discussion, rather than a final and definitive analysis of a sometimes controversial life led amid turbulent events in Polish history. Written in 1989, as an underground book before the fall of Communism in Poland, this work was meant to introduce a new generation to a topic which the authorities distorted and often used for their own political ends. Circulated in typed manuscripts, and later clandestinely published, it had the distinction of having segments read out on Radio Free Europe. Dr. Lenkiewicz's clear treatment uses Piłsudski's own writings to illustrate many points. Publisher Vincent Rospond of Winged Hussar ([www.wingedhussarpublishing.com](http://www.wingedhussarpublishing.com)) calls the 296 page book "Piłsudski Light" in opposition to the voluminous (and dry) works produced in the past. Available through Amazon. Translation by Peter J. Obst.



## 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Savannah

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Feliks Miklaszewicz a Polish-Lithuanian nobleman who aided the American Revolution as a privateer. This tablet was sponsored by Mr. Raymond Okonski of Detroit. Mr. Okonski, 93, could not be present as he had recently suffered a severe health setback.



Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski

Peter J. Obst, from the Poles in America Foundation, introduced the tablet for Capt. Fryderyk Paschke, an officer in the Pulaski Legion. This tablet was sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D. C.

Stephen McCutchen spoke on behalf of the families who sponsored tablets for John McCutchen and Thomas Snelson, who had also taken part in the American Revolution.

Various patriotic organizations placed wreaths on the field to honor the men who fought in the battle. These included various chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Polish Embassy, the Friends of Polish Art in Detroit, the Savannah Gen. Pulaski Committee, Daughters of the American Revolution and others. Among the honored guests were Jack Pinkowski, president of the Poles in America Foundation with his wife, Monica. It should be noted that Jack became a Polish citizen this year, on the basis of a decree issued by the office of Poland's President, Andrzej Duda.

The ceremonies concluded with a firing of a musket salute by an honor guard. The Coastal Heritage Society, the Savannah General Pulaski Committee, the participating re-enactor groups and patriotic organizations did a tremendous job in organizing and carrying out the event. They deserve our grateful appreciation. Afterward, all visitors were invited to breakfast at the Visitor Center. The commemoration ended with an upbeat note with everyone looking forward to next year's ceremonies.

## Leonard Skowronski Polish Studies Scholarships Awarded 2019

Two, \$3,000 scholarships have been awarded to the following outstanding students who are pursuing Polish studies. The Scholarship committee includes Ursula Brodowicz, M.S.; J. Droleski; Carolyn Meleski, M.S.; Deborah M. Majka, M.S., Chair.



### Skylar Clark

University of California-Berkeley,  
B.A. English Literature

Although not of Polish descent, Skylar's personal involvement in promoting an appreciation of Polish history, culture and language within the mainstream community centers entirely around her involvement with the Learning Enterprises Poland Program, a not-for-profit organization that connects English speaking volunteers with underserved host communities for education and cross-cultural exchange in ten countries around the world. As a first time traveler to Europe, Skylar joined the program as a volunteer English teacher and traveled to Poland without any knowledge of the language or culture. Rather than being intimidated, she became so enamored that she said, "all I wanted to do was learn more about everything that Poland had to offer."

After that first stint in Poland, Skylar enrolled in Polish language classes at Berkeley. And, after her initial run as a volunteer, she was promoted to the position of Program Director for the entire Learning Enterprises Poland Program. Her expanded responsibilities of recruiting volunteers for the program, planning logistics, assigning volunteers to host families, cooperating with Polish schools, providing a brief introduction to the Polish language and culture all serve "to bring more people into the loop regarding the awareness of and direct access to Poland's culture through the mutual benefits of cross-cultural exchange."



### Kathy (Kasia) Wiech

University of Florida, B.S. Physics

Kasia is a unique student who is able to blend her Polish studies with her major coursework in Physics. She has completed two semesters of Polish Language and Culture and two years of Independent Polish Studies. Her inspiration and motivation is Marie Sklodowska-Curie. The Independent Studies program provided an opportunity to hone her vocabulary in her chosen field of study, physics, by focusing on other fields of science, in addition to physics and optics. Her essay, *Groundbreaking Poles: Polish Contribution to Science and Discovery*, deepened her knowledge of Polish scientists and inventors whose names are not always known or remembered in Poland and even less in the U.S. The value of the project was not only the knowledge gained by researching Polish scientific work but also in the fact that it was self-motivated, which increased enthusiasm and efficacy of the project.

Kasia successfully saw the recertification of POLSA, the Polish Studies Association on campus, which had been inactive for many years. As President, she has organized many events on and off campus to promote an awareness of Polish culture, heritage and history such as "Pisanki Painting" and Polish Night. This past semester, the Center for European Studies collaborated with Kasia and POLSA to co-host the round table discussion "Women in Science: A comparative Perspective." This event brought together female science faculty from various disciplines to discuss their experiences in the field in Poland and in the United States. Kasia is another example of a student able to blend their area student interests, in this case, Poland, with a non-traditional field, showing the interconnections and overlaps.



### POLISH ARTS CLUB OF CHICAGO

**K**asia Szcześniewski a Polish Arts Club of Chicago member who also serves on the Board of Directors is a very prolific visual artist who has shown her work at a variety of exhibits over the years across the United States and throughout the world. This summer was no exception.

This spring Kasia was invited by the Italian art curator Salvatore Russo to participate in the "3rd Bienal de Arte Barcelona"

which took place at the Museum of Modern European Art in Barcelona, Spain, where she was awarded the "International Prize Velasquez," for having contributed to the development of contemporary art in the world."

Then this summer the Museum of the town of Żywiec, Poland showed her solo exhibition "Garden Contemplations," which then traveled to other locations in Poland.

In the words of the artist, "I think, that art without viewers becomes just a self-therapy for the artist, an interesting occupation, but it loses one of the most important values, which is being capable of touching people, connecting with them through visual ideas. Therefore, I am very happy to have this opportunity to show my works to the Polish public."

"We live in a society bombarded with colors and shapes all the time. People are becoming tired and more selective, competition for spectators is enormous! I'm convinced, that contemporary artwork techniques and materials cannot be the same as ones from the past."

"I use symbolism in my works, but its thread weaves in and out, sometimes closer to the surface and other times deeply beneath. I refrain from explaining it because I want to leave the interpretation of my creations up to the viewer, knowing that each art piece resonates in different ways and on various levels with every person."

Our most sincere congratulations to Kasia on her artistic accomplishments, and all of us in the Polish Arts Club of Chicago wish her continued and even greater success!!

You go, girl!



*The artist Kasia Szcześniewski at work in Żywiec.*

*Submitted by Ted Wiecek*

### Three ACPC Affiliates Receive Grants

*Submitted by Marcia Lewandowski*

The Affiliate Grants Committee is pleased to announce that the following ACPC Affiliates in good standing have been successful in applying for \$750 matching grants for special projects during the 2019-20 fiscal year:

- The Polish Arts Club of Chicago for their 82nd juried Art Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture on May 24, 2020, at the Polish Museum of America – designed to disseminate and enhance awareness of Polish-oriented art in Chicago, the Midwest and the United States.
- The Polish Heritage Club, Inc., Syracuse, NY, to establish a formal historical program and archival repository. The project will preserve their oldest and most fragile records; identify historical records with long-term historical value; arrange, describe and create finding aids for the records and house them in appropriate archival containers on dedicated shelving units.
- The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia for their annual Chopin Concert in March 2020, featuring Polish-born Martin Labazevitch who, in addition to stellar international performing credentials, is co-artistic director of the Puerto Rico International Piano Festival, the Turek International Bach Competition in NYC and the founder / artistic director of the Kościuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition in Washington, D. C.

The Affiliate Grants Committee is proud of the fact that since 2010, we have given back to ACPC Affiliates \$9,750 in matching grants.

### Wachtel Literary Awards

*To all ACPC Affiliates and Supporting Organizations:*

As you plan activities for the coming year, please keep in mind the availability of matching funds for a literary competition sponsored by your organization. ACPC will match a first place prize up to the amount of \$750.00. Thus, there is the potential of an award valued up to the amount of \$1,500.00. Specifics and directions regarding a Wachtel Literary Award can be found by connecting to [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) and then clicking onto "Competitions and Awards".

The late Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD established the Literary Awards as a tribute to her father who was active in Polish theater as well as Polish radio. Estelle's and Mr Wachtel's biographies may be found on this same ACPC website. Please consider utilizing the availability of this funding.

We look forward to your participation in this program.

Carolyn L Meleski  
Chair, Literary Awards



# NCSS Update

Submitted by Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki

The American Council for Polish Culture has been exhibiting at the National Council for the Social Studies conference for the past 18 years. Topics have varied through the years. In 2019, all our promotional efforts have been focused upon the 400th anniversary of the first representative government that was established in the Jamestown Colony in Virginia.

The exhibit and promotional efforts cooperatively with the American Evolution Project in celebrating the first Africans and women who entered into the colony. The Poles had a history prior to those events. The Polish craftsmen arrived in 1608, established a business of making tar, pitch, potash and establishing a glass house. They realized that as the House of Burgesses were trying to establish a representative government, but the Poles were denied the right to vote. In protest, they staged a civil unrest and created a work stoppage. On July 21, 1619, they gained the right to vote in the Colony. They also were the first to establish an apprenticeship program so that their talents would be passed on to future generations.

Project chairs Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki were successful in having the Hon. Ralph Northam, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, issue a proclamation pertaining to this fact. (see copy of proclamation on right). The Department of Tourism distributed 10,000 leaflets that Raymond Glembocki developed to tell the complete story of the Jamestown Polish craftsmens' efforts. State welcome centers now have historical facts in six of their kiosks that are the closest to the Jamestown settlement. Virginia Humanities placed the facts about the arrival of the Poles in their *Virginia Encyclopedia* site and made a virtual tour of the glasshouse with facts about the trade and how the original glass makers prospered. Thousands of bookmarks were distributed to children as well as posters, leaflets, and videos and a number of radio segments covered this historic occurrence.

The Polish Perspectives Exhibit featured the first civil unrest as well as the first right to vote exhibit during the Virginia Conference for Social Studies in Virginia on October 23 in Williamsburg. The exhibit also featured the fact that the Poles were the first to establish an apprentice program. ACPC sponsored canvas tote bags with the original historic marker stating that the Poles arrived in 1608. There was also a full page ad featuring the proclamation and a power point presentation for educators.

The Center for Education for the Rule of Law is also recognizing our Polish craftsmen holding a work stoppage for the right to vote. This organization targets young attorneys with information on how our system of government was first established.

While in Warsaw for the ACPC convention, we presented our educational materials to Jan



Governor Northam's proclamation.

Tyszowiecki, Main Specialist, Department of International Relations at the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. He was so pleased that he requested copies of all the educational materials that we developed for the Jamestown Project. It was a very productive and information meeting.

The next APCP National Council for the Social Studies gathering will take place in Austin, Texas on November 22, 2019. There will be 4,000 educators there to celebrate our 400th Anniversary of the First Representative government, the first Polish craftsmen to gain the right to vote and the start of the first apprentice program in the new colony.

*More information on the Jamestown Project can be found on page 9.*



Cecilia and Ray Glembocki in Warsaw present Jan Tyszowiecki, of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage with an ACPC 2019 convention tote bag.

One of the attendees at the Virginia Conference for Social Studies in Williamsburg with the ACPC's tote bag featuring the historic maker honoring the Poles' arrival in Jamestown.





# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D. C.

### *Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D. C. and the Arts Club of Washington*

It has been five years since the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA), started holding meetings and other events at the Arts Club of Washington starting with the May, 2014 membership meeting. The historic mansion, home of former President James Monroe, has truly become a home for the PAAA gatherings and our relationship is getting stronger. We are happy to have as the new President of the Arts Club, Henry J. Sienkiewicz, a distant relative of the great Polish novelist and Nobel Prize winner. He is enthusiastic about our activities and we are now talking about mounting some joint Polish-themed events in the months to come. We look forward to our future collaboration

ACPC Spring Board Meeting: The PAAA was proud to host the American Council for Polish Culture Spring Board Meeting on March 22-24, 2019, at the Hilton Hotel at Tysons Corner, Virginia. Our own board and guests from other organizations welcomed the out-of-town visitors on Friday at an evening reception at the home of the PAAA President Celia and Dick Larkin. As old friends reconnected and new acquaintances were made over a buffet dinner, ACPC Music Chairman Jarosław Gołombowski and PAAA's Alvin Smithson entertained on the piano. After all a full day of business sessions on Saturday, visitors and local guests enjoyed a dinner at the hotel at which Andrew Och, author of the two volume book *Unusual for Their Time: On the Road with America's First Ladies* was the featured speaker.

The weekend's highlight event was the annual PAAA Chopin Concert which took place Sunday afternoon at the Arts Club of Washington. During an introduction, PAAA President Celia Larkin paid tribute to Verna Lopatkiewicz



*Young participants wearing wianki at the Reflecting Pool.*



*After the premiere of Szklana Góra: pianist Alvin Smithson, composer Sal Ferrantelli, poet Danuta Kosk-Kosicka, soprano Laura Kafka-Price, actress Hanna Bondarewska, PAAA President Celia Larkin.*

*Author Katrina Shawver, seated, with members of the PAAA.*



who established the PAAA Scholarship twenty years ago and who recently passed away. The featured artist was Polish born, Washington based and internationally known pianist, Martin Labazevitch, who played a beautiful program of music by Fryderyk Chopin, Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Karol Szymanowski.

### **Premiere of a New Song**

The premiere of the song *Szklana Góra* (Glass Mountain) on May 5, 2019, was certainly the highlight among all of the PAAA activities during the past year. Written by composer Sal Ferrantelli to the words of the renowned Polish poet Lidia Kosk, the new song was performed at the Arts Club's Monroe Gallery. The poet's daughter, Danuta Kosk-Kosicka, also a poet as well as translator, talked about the meaning and impact of *Szklana Góra*, which has been translated and published in 22 languages. Actress Hanna Bondarewska recited the poem in Polish and English and then the song was performed by soprano Laura Kafka-Price and pianist Alvin Smithson. The two artists subsequently made a recording of the song.

### **Wianki**

Despite the construction on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in preparation for the 4th of July festivities, the crowd gathered on Saturday, June 29, by the Reflecting Pool was as jubilant as ever in anticipation of hearing Polish music and seeing colorful dance performances in the PAAA's annual Wianki Festival. Following a beautiful rendition of the U.S. and Polish national anthems by soprano Laura Kafka-Price, a full repertoire of songs and dances from different parts of Poland was performed by Ojczyzna Polish Dancers from Baltimore and the Polskie Kółko Międzykolegialne or PKM from Philadelphia. The Brothers-in-Law Band with Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk and Richie Popso provided music and song entertainment throughout. The evening was rounded off with the traditional procession of girls who placed their freshly made wreaths at the edge of the Reflecting Pool.

### **Meeting with an Author**

Our September 22 membership meeting featured as speaker an award winning writer Katrina Shawver, author of *HENRY: A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America*. This true story is both a witness to the Holocaust through Polish eyes and the story of how a Polish (Catholic) competitive swimmer survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps during World War II by his wits, humor, luck, and friends. Ms. Shawver spoke about the friendship she developed with Henry Zguda and her discovery and appreciation of Polish history. To read more about the author and the book, visit: <https://katrinashawver.com/press>

submitted by Cecilia larkin



### **POLISH PRESIDENT PRESENTS BISHOP EMERITUS YANTA WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**

At a welcome reception at Our Lady of Częstochowa Parish in Houston, Texas, on June 13, 2019, Polish President Andrzej Duda (top right) and First Lady, Agata Kornhauser-Duda, visited with Texas Polonia and personally honored the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta (top left) with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. The decoration is awarded to non-citizens and Poles living abroad for distinguished contributions to international cooperation.

The award acknowledges the Bishop's many initiatives in the Polish community, most notably his vision and leadership in founding the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. Bishop Yanta is the great-grandson of Polish immigrants who were part of the founding of Panna Maria, the site of the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in the U.S. dating from 1854. In addition, the Heritage Center was one of nine Texas Polonia organizations individually honored with the presentation of a Polish flag by President Duda.

The reception was co-hosted by Robert Rusiecki, Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston, and Fr. Waldemar Matusiak, pastor of Our Lady of Częstochowa. Many high-ranking Polish government officials were in attendance, along with over 300 representatives from Texas Polish communities, churches, and organizations. President Duda congratulated Texas Polonia for steadfastly promoting Polish culture, honoring many who have made a considerable impact in preserving their Polish heritage.

The Polish Heritage Center, a \$14 million facility currently being completed, will tell the stories of the Polish immigrations and settlements in Texas beginning in Panna Maria and spreading to numerous other communities. This high tech, state-of-the-art 16,500 sq.ft. Center, will be a unique destination for families, educational groups, scholars, researchers, and history buffs. The Center's estimated opening date in is scheduled for early 2020.

Please visit their web site, [polishheritagecentertx.org](http://polishheritagecentertx.org) for more information or contact John Cebrowski, VP-Director of Development at [jcebrowski39@gmail.com](mailto:jcebrowski39@gmail.com) or (210-370-3953).

photo: Jakub Szymczuk





# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

HARTFORD

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

Spring and early summer were a busy period for the PCCGH. Christine Waszynski, daughter of member Mary Marek Hartz, lectured on a popular and relevant health topic: "Sleep Hygiene: 101," on April 25, 2019.

On May 11, the PCCGH hosted "A Taste of Polonia" event at the Polish National Home in Hartford to celebrate the publication of the Club's cookbook, *FAVORITE RECIPES – featuring Polish Easter and Christmas Eve Specialties*. PNH's Chef Jeff Thompson offered a selection of recipes from the book, with desserts (also from the cookbook) being provided by members of the Club. Tastings of Polish beer and liqueurs and lively keyboard music rounded out the evening for the 75 guests who attended.

For the first time, the PCCGH participated in the largest gathering of Poles in Connecticut – the Little Poland Festival held in New Britain on Sunday, June 1. Thousands of Poles and non-Poles enjoyed traditional food, music, and culture. Our booth was a popular destination as we displayed and sold numerous items. These included copies of the Club cookbook, a hand-made pierogi ornament for the Christmas tree called "A Pillow for Baby Jesus" crafted by member Gini Pudlo, a colorful Christmas card painted by member Ursula Brodowicz, and a large quantity of apple *szarlotka*. It was a wonderful experience, and we look forward to future participation.

Our annual Scholarship Presentation and Reception was held at the Polish National Home on June 19. Four talented scholars of Polish heritage were awarded a check for \$1,000.00 each: Olivia V. Dybinski who plans to attend the University of Connecticut-Storrs, majoring in applied mathematical sciences with a goal of becoming a math teacher; Bruno L. Wieckowski who will continue his studies at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT, majoring in accounting; Jessica M. Witkowski who will continue her studies in political science at Pace University-Dyson College Arts and Sciences, New York City; and Karol Wroblewski who will continue his studies in pharmacy at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Albany, NY. We congratulate these outstanding representatives of Polonia.

Sadly, our Club experienced two major losses on June 21 with the passing of Clifford G. Archie (our beloved Św. Mikołaj) and Mary Mazurek Heslin. Both were former Presidents of the Club, active members of long standing, and most importantly, living examples of what their Polish heritage embodied – an inspiration to all. May God grant them eternal peace.

On Sunday, September 22, 2019, Andrzej Duda, the President of Poland, and his wife, Agata Kornhauser-Duda, made an unprecedented visit to New Britain, CT, an area known as "Little Poland." Thousands of Polonians were on hand to welcome the couple. Lilia Kieltyka, as President of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, was honored with a seat in the reserved VIP section during President Duda's speech in Walnut Park.



*Greeting the public at the Little Poland Festival were (left to right) members Maureen Sylvester, Fran Pudlo, Gini Pudlo, Jazdia Kieltyka, and Lilia Kieltyka.*



*At the Taste of Polonia were members (left to right) John Majdan, Lilia Kieltyka, Gene Kozlowski (musician), Gini Pudlo, and Carol Phelan.*



*Scholarship recipients (left to right) Bruno L. Wieckowski, Jessica M. Witkowski, and Karol Wroblewski. Missing from Photo: Olivia V. Dybinski.*

*submitted by Frances Pudlo*





# JAMESTOWN 400TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

Submitted by Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki

The American Council for Polish Culture's Polish Perspective exhibit had the opportunity to join in the celebration of the Jamestown's 400th Anniversary Celebration of the First Representative government in the Jamestown colony of Virginia.

The Polish Perspectives exhibit has been traditionally present at the National Council for Social studies annual convention. This exhibit attracts 4,000 educators from various parts of the country. Our theme for this year's long celebration is to focus on the Jamestown Colony. Not only did the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the first representative government in the world but they also celebrated Africans and women coming to the new colony.

The Polish craftsmen came in 1608 to establish a business of glassmaking, wood, tar, pitch and potash. The Polish craftsmen also staged a work stoppage for the right to vote. They obtained the right to vote on July 21 of 1619. They also established the first apprenticeship program in the new Jamestown Colony.

Since we live in Virginia, we were successful in obtaining a proclamation from Governor Ralph Northam proclaiming that the Polish craftsmen gained the right to vote in 1619. That was a milestone for us as it allowed us to work with the Department of Tourism and placed 10,000 leaflets explaining the story of Poles in Jamestown in Welcome Centers in Virginia. The Department of Labor will feature the Poles as establishing the first apprenticeship program in the new world in November of 2019.

By exhibiting at the Virginia Conference for Social Studies in 2018, we established relationships that gained us placement on many educational websites. Mike Pace, an attorney at The Educational Center for the Rule of Law placed our information on their website. They have courses in educating young attorneys as to how our system of government began.

Virginia Humanities has inserted the Significance of the Polish Craftsmen gaining the right to vote in the State of Virginia Encyclopedia. The Virtual Tour of the Glass House and a recreation of a Public Radio segment on the significance of the Poles in the Jamestown Colony is included on their web site.

For the second year, the Polish Perspectives presented a

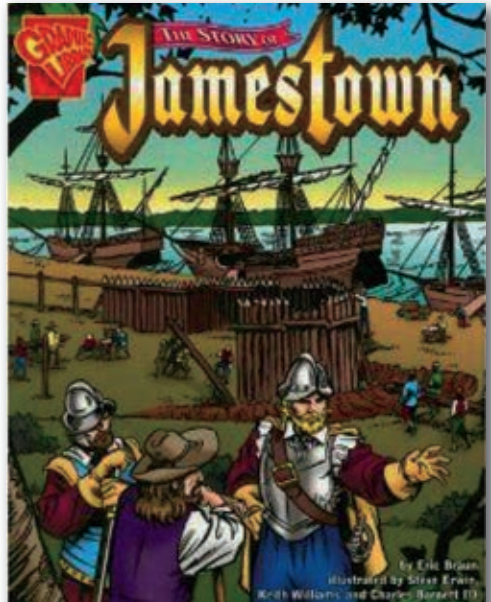


Example of one of the handouts that Ray Glembocki has prepared.

PowerPoint presentation for the VA NCSS conference in Williamsburg on October 23-24. There were 460 teachers in attendance. We designed canvas bags for all social studies teachers featuring our Historic Marker "The Poles Arrived" (see photo on page 5).

The Polish perspectives exhibit- Jamestown Project has received a grant from the American Council for Polish culture for \$10,000 for the 2019 event. The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Poland also granted us \$1,000 specifically for the Jamestown project and \$2,200 for the National Social Studies conference in Austin Texas on November 22-23, 2019.

The Jamestown theme will be the focus for this year's exhibit booth. Social studies teachers are pleased to gain a new insight into the new Jamestown facts.



Standard educational materials, such as this Graphic Library publication, ignore the important role played by the Poles at Jamestown.





*Photo captions  
(from left to right photos)*

*Ted Mirecki presents the DeRosen Award to Jolanta Kessler Chojecka.*

*Cecilia Glembocki (l) with Founders Award recipient Marianna Eckel.*

*Cultural Achievement awardee Prof. Marta Ptaszynska.*

*Text by Peter Obst / Photos by Mark Dillon, Cecilia and Richard Larkin.*

most of the convention attendees went to mass. The Church of St. Joseph of the Visitationists had a wonderful mass on its main gilded baroque altar accompanied by organ music. Later that day, Mark Dillon presented a program on the Gray Samaritans: *How YWCA Women Aided Poland after WWI*, and Hanna Bondarewska told us about her play about Helena Modrzejewska entitled *Lady* (based on the Shakespearean play *Macbeth*).

The elections to fill the main positions in the ACPC organization were held. The new president is Raymond Glembocki; Jaroslaw Golembowski is the 1st VP; Mark Dillon the 2nd VP; Tom Payne became the treasurer; and Marcia Lewandowski continues as the recording secretary.

With the rain having subsided, the group then walked to Herbert Hoover Square to place a commemorative wreath. Before he became president of the United States Herbert Hoover headed the great famine relief that came to Poland's rescue from the hunger after WWI and the Bolshevik War in the early 1920s. It was remarked that the stone marker which mentioned this singular event was rather dark and dingy, and that some cleaning effort may be undertaken. A week later one of the conventioners, who happened to be in the area, noticed that this marker had indeed been cleaned!

The convention ended with the group paying a visit to Powązki Cemetery where we paid respects to Polish heroes who fought for freedom of the homeland, among them Ryszard Kuklinski. It is often said wistfully that Col. Kuklinski was the "first Polish officer to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)."

The event that closed the ACPC 2019 Convention was a piano concert at the base of the Chopin monument in Łazienki Park. Though the air was a bit cool with the first stirrings of autumn and acorns were dropping from tree branches, the musical event was a satisfying experience.

The visit to Warsaw gave us an excellent opportunity to reconnect with our Polish roots and say hello to our friends in Poland. Those who had a few minutes of time also visited the Dom Spotkań z Historią (House of Meetings with History) next

door to the hotel. It hosted an exhibit on the American Space program, with many excellent historical photographs and another about Polish American Diplomatic Relations (100th Anniversary in 2019). In this exhibit, one could learn about Philadelphian Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle Jr. who was the American ambassador to Poland during WWII, and the already mentioned famine relief headed by Herbert Hoover.

Those of our members who took the opportunity to combine ACPC activity with a visit to Poland appreciated this chance to travel and get a new perspective on the country of our heritage that never fails to surprise (positively)!



*Mateusz Błyszczak and Wojciech Bafeltowski perform for convention delegates.*

*The Hon. Deborah Majka administers the oath of office to newly elected officers and board members.*







*Above: One of the Convention business sessions.  
Below: Delegates enjoy a group meal at the Hotel Bristol.*



*Debbie Majka, Mark Dillon and Raymond Glembocki lay a commemorative wreath at the monument in Warsaw's Hoover Square.*



## Visit to the John Paul II Home at the University of Lublin

One of John Paul II's pet projects was the establishment of a home and scholarships for students from former communist countries. The Pope's goal was to educate young students who grew up without any Christian education to return after graduation to form a Christian Intelligentsia in their native land.

All the "Friends" groups around the globe participated in the establishment of the Home in Lublin, our group included: Cecelia and Ray Glembocki, John & Marianna Eckel, Mary Flanagan, Jennifer Hammond, George & Rosemarie Lubieniski, Mark Lubienski, and Barbara Lemecha. Therefore, we were anxious to visit the place where we helped the Pope realize his dream.

Since a small group of us are also members and participated in the ACPC Convention in Warsaw this year, we felt it was an opportune time to visit Lublin. Arrangements were made to take a day trip to Lublin to visit the home. There were nine of us on the bus and we arrived around noon at the John Paul II Home. We were greeted by the Director Fr. Jan Strzalka and Fr. Robert Ptak, who took us on a tour of the building. Unfortunately, the 25 year old building was undergoing "Remont" renovations, so things were not as they normally would be. However, we were able to see the first floor and the Chapel which, despite the turmoil, were impressive.

After the tour, we met in the garden to take photos and our Treasurer, Ray Glembocki, presented the Director with a \$10,000 check from the "Friends." (The check was approved previously by telephone calls and mail to the Board). We then boarded our bus and both priests led us to a native Polish restaurant in town. The menu consisted of many Polish favorites and we all chose our favorites that we don't see often at home. (My personal favorite "flaczki" was superb.) After the meal our group walked to the center of town to visit monuments, and other sights. Those of us who couldn't do so much walking returned to the bus to await the others. We returned to Warsaw in the evening. It had been a very pleasant and informative day which renewed our enthusiasm to support the John Paul II Foundation.

*submitted by Mary Flanagan*



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*Polish Heritage* is the official publication of the American Council for Polish Culture, a confederation of affiliated Polish American organizations and individuals in the continental United States, propagating the knowledge and appreciation of the culture and civilization of Poland, and the contributions of Americans of Polish descent to the history and culture of the United States of America. The Council conceived and helped fund the establishment of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, D. C.

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

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Individual Membership in ACPC including Subscription:

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**Editorial Office:** David Motak, 3205 Kennebec Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

**Business Office:** 805 N Hickory Ridge Road, Highland, MI 48357-4126

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