



# Polish Heritage

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## PULASKI TABLET TO BE DEDICATED

Thanks to the generosity of Ray Okonski, who has been working with the Friends of Polish Art in Detroit and the ACPC Savannah General Pulaski Committee, a tablet to honor General Pulaski will be placed on the battlefield where he fell. This project is being coordinated with the Georgia Coastal Heritage Society (GCHS) which administers the site.

The tablet will be officially dedicated on Monday, October 9, 2017 on the 238th anniversary of the battle. The ACPC Board has decided to hold its Autumn meeting in Savannah during that weekend with members remaining through Monday in order to participate in the ceremonies (details are posted on the web site). All members of the ACPC, friends and admirers of the General are invited. Prominent Polish-American Historian Edward Pinkowski, now 100 years of age and living in Florida, has always had an interest in Pulaski. It is hoped that he and his son Jack will attend the event.

This is not the first time the ACPC has been involved with the battlefield in Savannah. In 2003, the City of Savannah purchased the battlefield and began to work with archaeologists of the GCHS who located the original Spring Hill Redoubt in August, 2005. Now that site features a reconstruction of the earthworks, to show visitors what the redoubt would have looked like. To honor those patriots who died or were wounded during the battle, 800 Georgia granite tablets were installed at the site. The stones are arranged in ranks of ten and represent the attacking columns. Five such columns attacked British enemy lines.

When the renovations on the site were in progress, the ACPC was invited by the GCHS to sponsor a stone tablet for the Poles who fought at Savannah. The stone would have the country POLAND and the name of sponsoring organization. Our late friend and member Paul Bosse led the successful fund raising effort. Similar stone tablets were funded by ethnic organizations for the countries which sent soldiers to the battle: France, Haiti, Germany, Scotland, Ireland and Sweden. These are located in a prominent place near the entrance to the park.



*The "Poland Stone" near the Spring Hill Redoubt of the Savannah Battlefield which was funded by the American Council for Polish Culture. Featured in the photo is the late S. Paul Bosse during a visit to the commemorative marker.*



*General Kazimierz Pulaski  
Mar. 6, 1745 - Oct. 11, 1779  
A Polish cavalry commander, he fought bravely in the American War for Independence. Fought at Brandywine, Germantown, Cooper's Ferry, Haddonfield, Egg Harbor, and Charleston. Organized the cavalry-infantry Pulaski Legion. Fell at Savannah rallying troops to renew attack. Remembered as the Father of the American Cavalry.*

*Friends of Polish Art, Detroit, MI  
Ray Okonski*

*The wording on the tablet.*

*Text contributed by Peter Obst.*



# From the President

Greetings fellow members! I want to thank our Editor, Dave Motak, for his continuous pursuit of excellence in producing a top quality newsletter that is appealing and informative, as well as our regular contributors who write stimulating articles. Thanks also go out to our Philadelphia affiliate for going out of their way to make our Spring Board productive and entertaining. We are blessed to have a splendid group to convocate, accomplish plans to advance our culture, and to enjoy great camaraderie. Please consider hosting us in your city for future ACPC Board Meetings, it is a great opportunity for Board members to meet local affiliate members and share ideas and learn commonalities. If you have a Fall event that needs support, consider hosting our Board meeting at the same time – it will only complement and enhance your event weekend.

Summertime brings many activities. It is a time of vacations, family reunions, weddings, and many outdoor activities. Many of our Board members consider our Summer Convention as a convergence of vacation in a nice locale, reunion with other Board members from other cities, guest speakers, special awards for deserving awardees, and thrilling news of advancing special cultural projects.

At the affiliate level, I think we do not do enough to promote the convention among our affiliate members who have never attended an ACPC Convention. I will use myself as an example. I joined Polish American Arts Association of Washington D.C. in 2001 and began serving as a Board member. During this time, I would hear some talk about ACPC Board meetings and conventions, but never grasped what went on at those conventions and never realized that I could attend without being a member of the ACPC Board. There was never any extended discussion about the merits of attending even if not an elected ACPC Board member. In my mind if it was just another meeting like one of my affiliate's meetings and it required travel, why would I want to go? This level of consciousness continued until 2010, when as a newly elected President of an affiliate, I was told that I was a de facto member of the ACPC Board. I honor any obligations that come with any commitment that I make, so I made plans to attend the 2010 Convention in Rapid City South Dakota.

I felt that I had entered an amazing new world at that Convention. I can use a lot of adjectives to describe the fellow attendees whom I met for the first time: friendly, fun-loving, unselfish, dedicated, intelligent, talented -- OK do you get my point? Why had someone not taken me aside sooner and told me what I was missing? Like a converted non-smoker, I am a zealous advocate of this organization's aims. In the same manner by which America has made itself great by attracting the best and the brightest from foreign lands, the ACPC is stronger than the sum of the individual affiliate parts by also attracting the best and brightest contributors from its affiliates. I recall telling a former ACPC president that I was not sure if I could serve effectively because I am very busy in a lot of other things, and he told me that busy people always find a way to accomplish more and that they actually make the best Board members.

In addition, to any elected ACPC members or appointed ACPC committee members, an affiliate is allotted one additional voting delegate for every 20 affiliate club members. So it is likely that any convention attendee will possess the same privileges as far as voting and opinions are always welcome from attendees.



Thomas Payne

Therefore I hope to collaborate with my fellow Board members to develop a presentation that can be made annually at your affiliate meetings, so that your local members have a good understanding of ACPC and perhaps provide impetus to join us at our Conventions as a delegate. I also commit to accepting any invitation to attend your affiliate meeting to explain our purpose and describe our conventions.

This year's Convention will be held August 9-12 in Toronto Canada. Why is the American Council for Polish Culture holding its Convention on foreign soil? Our Convention theme is *Crossing Borders to Promote Polish Culture*. We hope to share our ideas and accomplishments with our Polish-Canadian brethren and see how things are done north of the border. And there is precedent since we held our Convention in Toronto in 1997. We will be staying at a lovely European-style hotel, Old Mill Toronto, and I think that outside of our meetings, there will be a lot of time strolling the garden-like patios or hanging out in the charming lounge or dining areas. Other surprises are in store, so make sure that your passports are updated, and reserve your room right away, as room availability is limited. I hope to see familiar and new faces in Toronto!

*Thomas Payne*  
Sincerely,  
Thomas Payne  
President



*Dear ACPC Members:*

*For several years a Polish Christmas tree has been displayed at the former Pope John Paul II Cultural Center now the John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C. The tree is beautifully decorated with Polish handmade decorations*

*donated by individuals from ACPC clubs. Time is taking its toll and some of the decorations need refurbishing or replacement. Therefore, we are making an urgent plea to all for donations of appropriate decorations either hand made or imported from Poland.*

**Please send them to: Mary Flanagan,  
1733 Kirby Rd.#1109, McLean, VA 22101-4831  
email: mflan90753@Gmail.com**



# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

## POLISH CULTURAL CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD, INC.



Over thirty dozen *paczki* in a variety of flavors were sold by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford (PCCGH) at “Pączki na Karnawał” on February 26, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This event commemorates the Polish pre-Lenten custom of *Thusty Czwartek* (Fat Thursday).

On March 23, 2017, a capacity crowd enjoyed a lecture and slide presentation on the 100th Anniversary of America’s National Parks conducted by Dr. Richard Benfield, Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University. The program concluded with a tempting array of Polish and American desserts.

Club member, Mark Milewski, who reached the summit of 29,029 foot Mt. Everest on May 20, 2016, has been sharing the story of his 50 day-long expedition in area lectures by placing Mt. Everest into the context of the Golden Age of Polish Himalayan Climbing of the 1980s and 1990s. Interestingly, during this period, Poles dominated the 8,000-meter Himalayan peaks with numerous winter and first ascents. In addition to his own personal account, Mr. Milewski has been relating the stories of Jerzy Kukuczka, Wanda Rutkiewicz, Krzysztof Wielicki, and many others – tales of adventure in high places that lift the human spirit and constitute a chapter of Polish history that is little known outside of international climbing circles.

“An Exclusive Sunday at the Museum” featuring the grand premiere of two Polish folk art exhibits, was held on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, MA. This event was in collaboration with the PCCGH. One exhibit showcased 32 exquisite original costumes representing various regions of Poland, which are the gift of Krystyna Słowikowska Farley, a Club founder and member. A lecture on the costumes was presented by Staś Radosz, Executive Director of the Polish Center. Krystyna was present as the special guest of honor. The second exhibit is a recent acquisition from the estate of Bernard Pajewski, a former Club member, showcasing one of the largest privately owned collections of Polish folk art in the U.S. Noted iconographer and historian, Marek Czarnecki, offered commentary on Mr. Pajewski and his extraordinary Polish artifacts. As part of the ceremonies, Mr. Radosz received the Polish Cultural Club’s “Distinguished Service Award” paying tribute to his many years of devoted service to the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning and his tireless work on behalf of Polonia. Guests were able to view the entire Museum, which is a jewel, and also enjoy a wine, *hors d’oeuvres*, and dessert reception.

### Photo Captions:

Top left - Carvings from the folk art collection of Bernard Pajewski.

Top right - Sample of costumes donated by Krystyna Słowikowska Farley.

Middle (below) - (l to r) Lou Maglaty and Anna-Mae Maglaty with a *paczki* customer, Henry Wiszniak.

Bottom - One of several *szopki* donated by Bernard Pajewski.



Submitted by Frances T. Pudlo and Patricia A. Kaczynski, Co-Presidents



DETROIT

## Friends of Polish Art

### 80th Anniversary and Świąconka

text & photos: Sebastian Szczepanski

The Friends of Polish Art from Detroit (FPA) was among the awardees at the Installation Ceremony and Awards Presentation Banquet of the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division (PAC-MI), Saturday, April 8, at the PNA Hall in Hamtramck, Michigan.

It is a long tradition that, during its Installation of Officers ceremony, the Polish American Congress Michigan Division presents awards to Polish American organizations celebrating its milestone anniversaries, as well as individuals that in outstanding way contribute to the Polish American community of Michigan.

This year, PAC-MI presented one of its awards to the Friends of Polish Art. While introducing FPA, Sebastian Szczepanski (member of FPA Board of Directors), who served as Master of Ceremonies for the banquet, recalled the humble beginnings of FPA's activities. It was 80 years ago (1937) when a group of Detroit citizens led by Miss Florence Cassidy, Secretary of the Nationality Committee of the Detroit Council of Social Agencies, organized under the name Friends of Polish Art. They were inspired by the enthusiasm created by Miss Marya Werten's lectures and exhibits on Polish folk art and costumes. The initial goals were very specific including making examples of modern Polish wood cuts available for use in Detroit; to act as a central bureau through which teachers and social workers could purchase Polish materials; to arrange for loan exhibits of modern Polish art and folk art; to raise funds for the purchase of Polish art objects for the Detroit Institute of Arts, and to stimulate a general interest in Polish art. Ann Bankowski, the President of the Polish American Congress presented the award to the current FPA President, Richard Lapham.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, April 23, the FPA joined Polish National Alliance District X Women's Division to celebrate the Easter Season. A joint Świąconka took place at the PNA Hall in Hamtramck, MI, and featured a traditional Easter dinner, entertainment and a basket raffle.

Marcia Lewandowski, Christine Kryszko and students of the Kazimierz Pulaski Polish School made presentation of the meaning of Easter Basket as well as the traditions of Polish Easter holiday. A Special Easter blessing was conducted by Fr. Miroslaw Frankowski, pastor of St. Florian Parish in Hamtramck. Later in the program, lively performances by the local PNA-sponsored dance groups took place, including Łowicz Dancers, Polish Alliance Dancers and Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble. A delicious traditional Polish Easter dinner was served including *zur* soup, vegetable salad, ham, *ćwikła*, and other items.

Among the guests we spotted Gena Falkowska, a FPA member who recently celebrated her 101 birthday! For more information about FPA activities (including special events celebrating the organization's 80th anniversary), please visit [www.friendsofpolishart.com](http://www.friendsofpolishart.com).

Photo captions - from top to bottom:

- Top: Łowicz Dancers perform at Świąconka.
- Second: Jaqueline Kolowski, Helena Zmurkiewicz, Richard Lapham (FPA President) and Ann Bankowski (Polish American Congress Michigan Division President)
- Third: Marcia Lewandowski (l) and Christine Kryszko present a short lecture about Polish Easter traditions.
- Fourth: Gena Falkowska, eldest guests at the event.
- Bottom Two: Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble performs at Świąconka.





## Polish American Arts Association

### Annual PAAA Chopin Concert

On March 5, 2017, the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) of Washington, D. C., held its Annual Chopin Concert, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. After a few breaks from solo piano recitals in 2013 (Andrzej Stec, tenor), 2015 (the Borovsky siblings on violin, cello and piano), and 2016 (Krzysztof Zimowski, violin, accompanied on piano by Jarosław Golembiowski), the audience was ready to hear a full program of piano pieces performed on the Embassy's Steinway once owned by Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The concert, which benefits the PAAA Scholarship Fund, was performed by the young but already highly accomplished pianist Tomasz Robak (photo at right). A doctoral student at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Tomasz was the recipient of a PAAA scholarship grant in 2016.

Tomasz's recital, which included music of Fryderyk Chopin, as well as other Polish composers, can easily be called a revelation. The high point of the program was Chopin's *Ballade in G minor, Op. 23*, rendered in bravura style that is inherent in this musical form, invented by Chopin. Other Chopin works were the *Waltz in E Minor* and the "Heroic" *Polonaise in A-flat*, played at a fast tempo, but with absolute accuracy and dazzling technique, yet with emotional depth.

Works of lesser-known Polish composers were a welcome addition to the oft-heard repertoire of Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski – especially the variations on a Ukrainian folk tune by Franciszek Lessel, a predecessor of Chopin who studied with Haydn in Vienna. The *4 Etudes, op. 4*, by Karol Szymanowski completed the program.

### PAAA Wianki on the National Mall

For thirty-five years now, on a Saturday in June closest to the St. John's Eve, both Polish and non-Polish visitors to the National Mall in Washington, DC, including tourists from all over the world, stop and listen to Polish melodies and feast their eyes on colorful traditional costumes of dancers as they spin and leap in lively dances from various regions of Poland. As the night falls, girls in white robes carry freshly made floral wreaths to the water of the Reflecting Pool near the Lincoln Memorial.

This is the Festival of Wreaths, known as *Wianki* which the PAAA produces annually. It is a sight to behold so if you are in or near Washington on June 24 of this year, make sure to come to the Mall and enjoy the festivities. You can find more information at <http://www.paaa.us/index.html>



## Friends of John Paul II Foundation

The Friends of JP II Foundation, Washington D.C. Chapter, honored Monsignor Czarnecki and did outreach at a local university Catholic Student Center. The Honoree at the annual "Wadowice-on-the-Potomac" celebration in October 2016, was Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki, Rector of St. Joseph Basilica in Webster, MA. The Parish, founded in 1887, is the oldest Polish American Catholic community in New England. The Pope elevated the Parish to a Basilica in October, 1998.

Monsignor Czarnecki served for many years on the International Committee of the Vatican JP II Foundation established by Pope John Paul II and helped to organize several chapters of the Foundation in the United States including the New England JP II Foundation. He was instrumental in establishing the JP II Cultural Center in Washington, DC, which was acquired in recent years by the Knights of Columbus. Monsignor Czarnecki continues to work closely with the Knights of Columbus to promote the legacy of John Paul II and his National Shrine.

The Wadowice award, a custom-designed crystal image of himself with Pope John Paul II, was presented to the Monsignor by President Bozenna Buda and Director Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak.

In March 2017, the JP II Friends again sponsored a Polish dinner for students (Catholic Terps) at the University of Maryland Catholic Student Center. This outreach to the community to promote the legacy and teachings of St. John Paul II was met with much enthusiasm and appreciation. President Bozenna Buda, new members Mr. Nirmal Gomes and Dr. Stephen Holowenzek, along with members from JP II Friends participated by preparing and serving Polish food and speaking with students about St. John Paul II.



## Polish Arts Club of Chicago



## 80TH EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

The Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture is the premiere event of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago. Since its inception in 1933, the exhibition has showcased Polish-American artists. Emerging artists have the opportunity to exhibit their works to the public, while established artists use the exhibition to showcase how their talent has evolved.

This year, the 80th Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture was held at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. The Exhibition opened on Saturday, April 22, with a gala reception. Approximately 150 guests attended the reception, admiring the works exhibited while enjoying gourmet hors d'oeuvres generously provided by Montrose Deli. The exhibition featured a total of 11 sculptures and 133 paintings, in a wide range of media including oil, acrylic, and watercolor. These represented the works of 39 artists, amateur and professional, young and not-so-young, from a variety of backgrounds, training, and expertise. All shared a love and dedication to art.

According to the Club's President H. Anne Oerke, "It is very important to show the past and present, the contemporary and traditional; painting or sculpture, art is inspirational and creates discussion among the people in our communities." The Exhibit was open to the general public from April 20 through May 20. The Exhibit was partially supported by an Affiliate Grant from the American Council for Polish Culture, for which the Club is extremely grateful.

This year's featured artist was Jan Śliwinski, an artist of unusual sensitivity who undertakes his artistic vision in a straightforward and honest manner, pursuing painting and drawing. He works energetically and suggestively enchants the world into the language of pictorial art. His work is clear, bright and his emotionally packed forms, color and structure exemplify his paintings.

*Photo captions:*

*Top Left - President H. Anne Oerke admiring one of the exhibited paintings.*

*Top Right - One of the paintings by Jan Sliwinski.*

*Second left -Teresa Gierwielaniec Rozanacki with her painting "Horizon I."*

*Third left- Artist Jakub Wiechnik with his paintings.*

*Bottom left - Artist Anna Winska Bajena with her sculptures.*

*Insert above - One of the various sculptures on exhibit.*



*Philip Simmons, Founder and Music Director, conducts the American Musical Festivals orchestra.*



*Photo by Andrzej Marek Urbani*

*Jaroslaw Golembiowski, Program Manager, American Musical Festivals.*

## **Chicago Chopin Society**

## **Kupala Night opens “Cultural Exchange Festival 2017”**

American Music Festivals and the Chicago Chopin Society are partnering for a three concert Festival of cultural exchange and community collaboration beginning with “Kupala - A Celebration of Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Belarussian, and Polish Music” Sunday, June 11, at 5 :00 p.m. The concert will be held at St. Barbara Catholic Parish, 2859 S. Throop, Chicago. The concert will feature the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, St. Barbara Holy Name Society Choir, and composer/pianist Jaroslaw Golembiowski performing classical and folk music celebrating Slavic and Baltic culture and the summer solstice. Philip Simmons conducts the LCO in a diverse program including works by Lysenko, Čiurlionis, Moniuszko, Ogiński, and Howard Hanson.

The Chicago Chopin Society, which promotes Polish music and history around the world, and American Music Festivals, which regularly partners with numerous communities throughout Chicago and internationally, have already presented successful programming together. Their base of operations is Chicago’s Copernicus Center, and “Cultural Exchange Festival 2017” will include two concerts at the Jefferson Park venue, a “Polish-American Friendship Concert” on September 2 (at Taste of Polonia), and “Christmas Spectacular” on December 17. Jaroslaw Golembiowski, Founder and President of the Chicago Chopin Society, has accepted the newly created position of Program Manager of American Music Festivals, which is a volunteer position.

“Kupala Night - A Celebration of Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Belarussian, and Polish Music,” will welcome in the sum-

mer solstice. Known throughout Europe as “St. John’s Day,” For generations Kupala brought Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Belarussians, and Polish people together in joyous celebration. The concert will explore cultural connections, shared history, and friendship.

On Saturday, September 2, at 4:00 p.m., at *Taste of Polonia*, the Cultural Exchange Festival will continue with the “Polish-American Friendship Concert: Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Death of Thaddeus Kosciuszko.” The American Revolutionary War hero will be remembered Labor Day weekend in music, story, and film for his many humanitarian contributions around the world. Kosciuszko’s music will be performed, alongside patriotic works by Chopin, Kurpinski, Vieuxtemps, John Philip Sousa, and a new work by Jaroslaw Golembiowski. Soloists will be violinist Violetta Todorova and soprano Justine Izewski.

The Festival concludes with the second annual “Christmas Spectacular,” also at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence in Chicago. This family program will feature a sing along Messiah and carols, letters and music from Chopin to his family for the Holidays, and the orchestral debut of six year old vocalist Penelope Simmons, daughter of American Music Festivals Artistic Director Philip Simmons. Harpsichordist Danuta Kuzminska will also perform.

Tickets to the June 11 concert are \$20, available at St. Barbara Catholic Parish, Rich’s Deli (857 N. Western), and online at [www.americanmusicfestivals.com](http://www.americanmusicfestivals.com). For more information call 773-262-9699.



# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

PHILADELPHIA

## Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

On March 10 -11, the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia (PHSP) hosted the ACPC Board meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in north eastern Philadelphia. The initial meeting on Friday was at the Vistula Lounge of the Associated Polish Home and ended with a reception. Among the subjects discussed was the annual Convention scheduled to take place in Toronto, Canada, August 9-12. The award recipients are: Founders Award - Florence Langridge, Cultural Achievement Award - Jaroslaw Golembiowski, Distinguished Service Award - Anthony Bajdek. The Autumn Board meeting will be in Savannah, GA. It will begin on Saturday Oct. 7, with attendees staying through Monday Oct. 9 to attend dedication ceremonies at the site of the Battle of Savannah where a stone tablet will be unveiled in memory of Casimir Pulaski.

Among the reports was one given by Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki on ACPC participation in the next National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) to take place over November 17-18 in San Francisco. Another matter under discussion was that of the Polish paintings hanging on the walls in the library of Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY. The board voted to support the Polish government's efforts to have these interesting historical painting returned to Poland. The seven paintings were on display at the 1939-40 World's Fair in New York and never returned to Poland because of WWII.

After the meeting concluded on Saturday, attendees returned to the Associated Polish Home for a delicious Polish style dinner. Entertainment was provided by the Polish American String Band, some of whose members "dropped in" dressed in their splendid New Year's finery from Philadelphia's Annual Mummings Parade. Later, Marika Szczepiek performed operatic and popular songs for the group.

Some board members remained in Philadelphia for the annual Chopin Concert on Sunday, March 12. The pianist was Eric Lu, a very talented student at the Curtis Institute of Music. Eric was the 4th place winner of the Annual Fryderyk Chopin Competition in Warsaw 2015. He played with great feeling and emotional engagement in the musical selections. It seemed he was channeling the essential spirit of Chopin. Those who frequented the concert over the years agreed that his was one of the very best performances they have had a privilege to hear.

On a sadder note, we bid farewell to Walter



Wojcik on March 21. He was a retired engineer, on the PHSP Board and a key member of the Polish American String Band. Walter was a dedicated father, a joyous individual and a heartfelt Polonian. He will be much missed in our group.

On Sunday, April 2, 2017, the PHSP hosted a general meeting (including Board elections) at the Associated Polish Home, Vistula Lounge. Guest speaker Donna K. Danielewski, past President of the PHSP, and author of *Journey: A Memoir*, presented on her parents' trek through war torn Europe (1939-47), from Vilnius to America.

*Photo captions: Top - Pianist Eric Lu in concert. Middle - The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia Board and friends pose for a group photo with Mr. Lu. Bottom right - One of the Mummings from the Polish American String Band. (photos by Celia Larkin)*





# PULASKI SCHOLARS

Five student scholars have been chosen for the 17th annual Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships. The scholarship program is a result of a sizeable endowment by the Conrad R. Walas family with continuing support from Polonia. This year, long-time

chairman Marion Winters retired from the committee and was replaced by Dr. Stephen Medvec. Serving with him on the Pulaski Scholarship Committee for 2017 are Alicia Dutka; the Hon. Deborah M. Majka, MS; Carolyn Meleski, MS and Peter J. Obst, MA.

A record number of applications were received this year. The exceptional qualities of scholarly work and research plus dedicated community services performed by the applicants made the final selection process quite difficult. The Committee felt that most of the applicants deserved recognition for their outstanding achievements and honestly wished that funding was available which could have allowed for several more awards.

The Pulaski Committee selected the following students for the 2017 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies grants of \$5,000 each:



**Amanda Plazek Bruce** is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Music History and Literature at Youngstown State University, Ohio. She is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. During her undergraduate studies, she worked as a full-time director of music, organist and choir director. Her thesis deals with orchestral and film music of the Solidarity period in Poland. Her faculty advisor calls it "an important contribution to the field of Polish music and Cold War studies."

Another teacher commented on Amanda's great respect and interest in her Polish heritage. A natural leader, in 2014, she was a recipient of the Simply Slavic Scholarship in Youngstown, Ohio.



**Michael Anthony Chrusciel** is studying medicine and library science at Wayne State University, Michigan. Behind him is an extensive agenda of travel that includes (among other places) Poland, Afghanistan and Cuba. He is active in Polish-American life and, in April 2011, he conducted research on attitudes in Poland toward cell and organ transplantation. The reports he submitted with his application were

outstanding. In addition to Polish, he is also proficient in French. His faculty advisor states: "I believe Michael exemplifies the ideal qualities of a Pulaski Scholarship recipient, maintaining his involvement in the Polish-American community despite the rigors of medical school. For example, he regularly attends screenings of and lectures about contemporary Polish films at Wayne State University and recently delivered a presentation of his research on Poland's footprint in Afghanistan and Moldova this past fall (2016) to the Friends of the Polish Art organization."

**David Liebers** is at Harvard University's Medical School, specializing in Psychiatry (with interest in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder). He is a graduate of the University of Rochester (New York) and Cambridge University, Trinity College, UK. In 2014, he was recruited by Undersecretary of State Jadwiga Emelewicz to advise the Polish government in the creation of a publicly funded center for biotechnology and healthcare innovation.



As a Fulbright Scholar (2010-2011), he supported victims of political repression in Belarus and Ukraine. He is active in the Polish Club at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is also an amateur boxer.



**Gabriella Szewczyk** is studying at the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, in Chicago. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Michigan. Her interest is focused on Oral Medicine, including deadly mouth cancers. Gabriella wants to be a dental educator and researcher. She is involved in Graduate Women in Science and the Dental

Charity Foundation. Her research mentor writes: "As a graduate student, Gabriella is making substantial progress on her projects, and we are quite excited about one lead in particular. The ongoing research theme in my lab is dedicated to understanding cell-to-cell communication processes of bacteria. Gabriella has devised a plan to investigate chemical signaling used by a primary oral pathogen, called *Streptococcus mutans* and how signaling may contribute in relationships with other microbes and lead to exacerbated disease."

**Virginia Whealton** is at Indiana University in Bloomington, a Ph.D. Candidate in Musicology. She maintains her musical proficiency as principal second violinist and sectional coach for the campus orchestra. Her dissertation is entitled: "Travel, Ideology, and the Geographical Imagination: Parisian Musical Travelogues, 1830-1870." Among her publications is an article in the



*Journal of the American Liszt Society* about Chopin and Liszt (2012). Her research took her to London, Warsaw and Stockholm. She is proficient in French and a freelance academic translator. Her faculty advisor wrote: "Virginia's scholarly work has intellectual depth and elegance. She has all the qualities that make a superb scholar." Virginia is also a 2017 scholarship award recipient from the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D. C.,



# ACPC 2017 CONVENTION

Under the banner, "Crossing Borders to Promote Polish Culture," ACPC travels to dynamic Toronto and environs for our annual convention. If you have never visited, now's the time to do so. And, if you attended our first convention in Toronto, then you are due for a return visit to see how much Toronto has changed!

The highlights of our convention include the Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich awardee's recital, and we are planning for a truly elegant and charming venue.

Also, our conventions present the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of those who selflessly give of themselves to promote our heritage and culture.

The **Distinguished Service Award** will be presented to two individuals this year: **Anthony J. Bajdek**, founder of the America Association of the Friends of Kosciuszko, who annually honor the memory of Kosciuszko and his military and engineering skills and to **Ray Okonski**, for his work with the Friends of Polish Art in Detroit and the ACPC Savannah General Pulaski Committee to honor General Kazimierz Pulaski.

We will be pleased to present our **Cultural Achievement Award** to **Jaroslawn Golembiowski**, composer, performer, conductor, educator, concert organizer, lecturer, teacher, music publisher, accompanist, music competition judge.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to ACPC, we will present the **Founder's Award** to **Florence Langridge** of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, CT.

Our conventions also present an opportunity to have fun, enjoy each other's company, perhaps make new friends and certainly renew past acquaintanceships. Nothing like enjoying some refreshment in the evening after the business sessions with your fellow delegates! We will honor the memory of those who perished at Katyn with the placement of a wreath at the Katyn Memorial.

We will tour Toronto and especially Roncesvalles. Culturally, the area is known as the center of the Polish community in Toronto with prominent Polish institutions, businesses and St Casimir's Catholic Church located on Roncesvalles Avenue. And we might also have a special Polish dinner at one of the fine restaurants on Roncesvalles.

And you might want to take some extra vacation time to spend in Toronto at the conclusion of the convention, or before. Check out the CN Tower, visit Niagara Falls, Niagara on the Lake and don't forget to try poutine!

We invite you to join us in Toronto from August 9-12, for what promises to be a most rewarding and fun convention!



## TORONTO 2017



### The Old Mill Hotel, Toronto



For further information on the 2017 Convention, including Convention Agenda, please check the ACPC web site:  
<http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>



AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE

69<sup>TH</sup> Annual Convention August 9-12, 2017

Old Mill Toronto

Hosted by American Council for Polish Culture

**Hotel Reservations**

Make room reservations directly with the hotel on or before July 1, 2017. Convention rate is \$195.00 (Wed-Fri) & \$215.00 (Sat) plus tax for single or double. Room rate includes complimentary premium continental breakfast. Rates are in Canadian dollars. \$12 parking & incidentals also applies.

Identify yourself as part of American Council for Polish Culture group. Limited number of rooms available, so make your reservations as soon as possible.

Telephone 866-OLD-MILL (866-653-6455)

**Costs**

**Arrive Wednesday                      \$450.00**

**Arrive Thursday after lunch        \$425.00**

**Arrive Friday after lunch            \$375.00**

**Guest Banquet Ticket                \$100.00**

**Please remit full amount or deposit of \$200 per person by July 1, 2017**

**Balance due upon arrival**

**Please no credit cards**

**Make checks payable to ACPC Convention**

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