



# Polish Heritage

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## WARSZAWSKA JESIEŃ

### ACPC 2019 Convention to be held in Warsaw

**Y**ou are invited to savor Autumn in Poland as we hold our annual convention in **Warsaw** from **September 6 through September 8, 2019.**

Autumn is a great time to visit Poland - the temperatures are cooler and the tourists have returned home.

Situated on Krakowskie Przedmieście, just a short walk to Old Town, our convention headquarters, the beautifully restored Neo-Renaissance Hotel Bristol, which provides elegant and luxurious accommodations. The stately Bristol was the site of many historic events in the Polish capital and its guest logs are filled with the signatures of many famous visitors, including American Presidents Herbert Hoover, Richard Nixon, and a young John F. Kennedy, French President Charles DeGaulle, Queen Elizabeth II, Jackie Onassis, film stars Douglas Faibanks, Mary Pickford, and Marlene Dietrich and many others.

Perhaps the most prominent individual associated with the Hotel Bristol was Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The renowned Polish pianist and statesman was a partner in the original corporation that built the Bristol, which, prior to World War II, was Warsaw's most luxurious hotel and is still highly very regarded. After Poland gained independence in 1919 and Paderewski became Prime Minister, he held the first session of his government in the newly built hotel.

Warsaw has been chosen as it offers attendees many cultural and historic attractions. It is centrally located, providing easy access for those who may wish to visit family or friends in other parts of Poland at the conclusion of the sessions, explore travel to other parts of Poland on their own, or join a sightseeing tour.



*Chopin Monument - Łazienki Park*

In making Convention arrangements, we are being assisted by Wanda Grzesik of Chopin Tours. Several of our members may recall that Wanda assisted us in planning our 2017 Convention in Toronto, Canada. She has extensive experience in coordinating trips to Poland and Central Europe. In addition to assisting us with our Convention arrangements, Wanda is also coordinating a 10-day cultural tour of Poland which is scheduled to immediately follow our Convention, September 8 - 18. This tour is open to all ACPC members and friends, whether or not you will be attending the Convention.

Dubbed the "Many Tastes of Poland" this tour is not a typical, pre-packaged travel offering, but has been especially created with unique activities focusing on Poland's cultural and culinary attractions which may be of interest to the ACPC membership. A special feature will be a short drive over the Polish border to visit to the city of Lwów in Western Ukraine. This visit has been arranged in response to requests

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# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

HARTFORD

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

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford (PCCGH) concluded its 2018 business year at the Annual Meeting held on November 15, 2018. The election of a new slate of Officers for 2019/2020 took place as follows: Lilia Kieltyka (President); Ursula Brodowicz (Vice President); Frances Pudlo (Recording Secretary); Raymond Kowalski (Treasurer); and Virginia Pudlo (Historian/Archivist).

The holiday season opened on November 17 with an extended exhibit at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, CT called "Christmas in Poland." Several members of our Club were involved. One of the highlights was a custom-built Polish country cottage, complete with thatched roof and decorations, in which a table set with traditional foods for Wigilia was displayed. The Main Market Square and Sukiennice in Kraków were replicated, along with the monument of Adam Mickiewicz surrounded by about thirty szopki, typical of that city's Annual Szopka Competition. Several szopki from well-known artist David Motak were included in this display. Member Marek Czarnecki gave two lectures on Polish Christmas customs, one to the staff of the K of C Museum and another for the general public on December 15. The Moniuszko Choir of Hartford, under the direction of Maestro Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz, performed a concert of *kolędy* on January 13 to a record capacity crowd. This was followed by a reception for the Choir and Club members. The Museum reported that "Christmas in Poland" had the largest attendance of any previous annual Christmas exhibit. Polonian pride was definitely at its highest.

The 38th Annual Szopka Festival and Competition held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on November 25 was once again a beautiful showcase for the stunning szopki made by young area students. *Pierogi* and baked goods were sold at the Country Kitchen booth. The *Kawiarnia* was very popular with its offerings of *pączki* and other Polish treats, and the vendors selling various wares

added a unique holiday shopping experience for the hundreds of guests who attended.

Christmas cheer was in the air on Friday, December 7, when the Club's annual Wigilia Celebration brought together members and guests who enjoyed a traditional meatless meal, *kolędy*, and a lovely evening of renewed friendships and camaraderie.

President Lilia Kieltyka hosted a table at the Winter Wonderland Wine Tasting fundraiser at Sacred Heart Church in New Britain on February 23, where the Club's newly published cookbook, *FAVORITE RECIPES – Featuring Traditional Easter and Christmas Eve Specialties* was debuted along with samples of food prepared from a selection of the recipes. The cookbook continues to be well received and can be purchased for \$16.00 each or 2 for \$30.00, plus \$4.00 per book for shipping and handling. Checks are payable to "PCCGH" and should be mailed to: Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., P.O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138-0699.

As spring approaches, momentum in the PCCGH will continue, along with the hope for another successful year.



*Photo Top Right: PCCGH members at the Winter Wonderland Wine Tasting.*

*Bottom Right: Virginia Pudlo, Historian/Archivist; Raymond Kowalski, Treasurer; Lilia Kieltyka, President; and Frances Pudlo, Recording Secretary. Absent: Ursula Brodowicz, Vice President.*

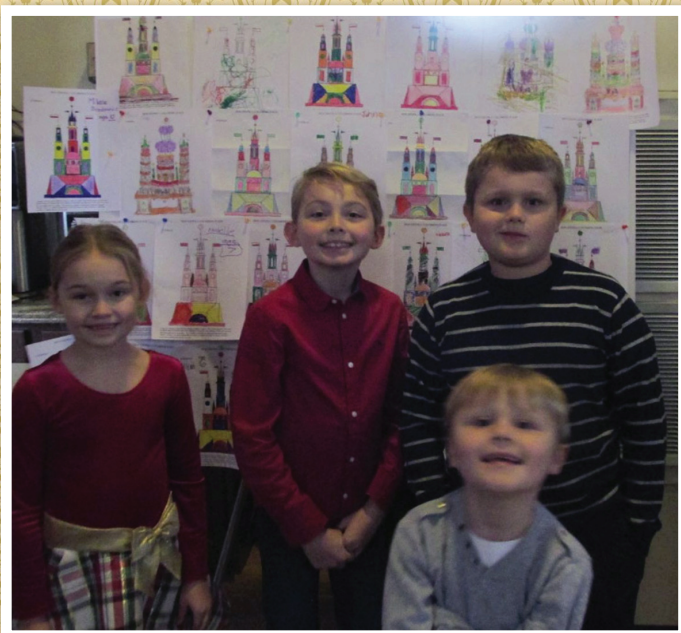




# From the President



*Pani Dubiel and Gretchen Kowal enjoying the Wigilia celebrations.*



*Szopka Coloring Page Artists.*



*Szopki on Display at Szopka Festival and Competition.*



*Thomas Payne*

I send greetings and salutations to fellow ACPC members.

ACPC is springing forward this year, commencing with our Board Meeting in McLean, VA this March, with special commemoration activities surrounding the 400th Anniversary of the Jamestown Work Stoppage (more to follow), Convention in Poland (I can't wait!), and Fall Board Meeting in Syracuse to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Polish Home of Syracuse.

Unlike today's uncontrollable wave of immigration into the United States, the first Poles to arrive in America in 1609 came in response to a request from the Jamestown Colony due to the skills that these Polish craftsmen possessed. This was essential to establishing the Colony economically viable as a producer of glassware, pitch, and tar, not to mention the Poles' first act of digging a well to provide potable water for the residents. Despite their contributions, these Poles soon realized that they were not on equal footing with the English citizenry; they did not have the right to vote on matters affecting the welfare of the colony. Therefore, they took an action that had never been done in America, but laid the groundwork for future democratic movements throughout American history – they engaged in an act of Civil Disobedience by refusing to continue their valuable industry until they were granted the right to vote. In 1619, the Assembly granted these non-Englishmen this important right.

This can be hailed as a victory for representative democracy and the precedent for future civil actions to gain basic rights for workers. Some of our ACPC members have been working very hard producing research to establish and validate these historical facts, because historians and educators demand supporting justification to amplify such deeds. Henrietta Nowakowski has been a champion for this cause for years and she has produced a quality presentation on this development that can be shared with your club members, educators, and other interested parties. Cecilia Glembocki likewise has developed a wide array of media material in various forms such as bookmarks, posters, electronic media, etc., that has already been effectively used with educators and legal scholars to enlighten them on the contributions of these early Polish settlers. She can share this with your club or consult with you if you would like to similarly carry the torch in your local area.

This is all in the name of making you proud of your Polish heritage. Please join us in communicating this great anniversary; none of us will be around for the next centennial.

It is always an honor to serve you as ACPC President, thank you for your support and encouragement.

*Thomas Payne*

Thomas Payne





# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

PHILADELPHIA



## Chopin Concert - 2019

This year's Chopin Concert held by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia took place on March 10 at the Settlement Music School in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Jean Joka, president of Polish Heritage greeted the audience. Paul Krzywicki, a retired member of the Philadelphia Orchestra, gave a short commentary on the involvement of Josef Hofmann, in the founding of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Debbie Majka of the Republic of Poland for Southeastern Pennsylvania, introduced the soloist Wei Luo, a talented student at the Curtis Institute.

Wei Luo is the recipient of the 2018 Gilmore Young Artist Award and winner of numerous competitions in China. She also claimed first prize in the 11th Chopin International Competition for Young Pianists in Poland and of the 2nd Rachmaninov International Piano Competition for Young Pianists in Frankfurt, both in 2010. Among her awards is the 2016 "Salon de Virtuosi"

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## POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA



*Top Photo (left to right): Liz Whitman, Diana Blichasz, Tiffany Loomis, Barbara Nowicki, Dolores Szymanski, Debbie Majka, Paul Krzywicki, Wei Luo, John Wisniewski, Jean Joka, Irene Musman, Peter J. Obst, Marie Hejnosz.*



*Photo above: Paul Krzywicki, Debbie Majka and Wei Luo.*



*The Folk Dance Group "Ojczyzna" were featured performers at the 2018 Polonaise Ball. At center of photos are (left to right) Marie Hejnosz, Aleksandra Ziolkowski-Boehm, and Jean Joka, President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.*



## Chopin Concert

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Career Grant in New York. She made her orchestra debut at age ten with the Shanghai Philharmonic under artistic director Muhai Tang and opened the 2011 season by performing Prokofiev's *Concerto No. 3* in the Shanghai Oriental Art Center. Over the years, her piano recital has been broadcast world-wide on classical radio channels such as WWFM (New Jersey) and WQXR (NYC).

At the Philadelphia concert Wei Luo performed selections from the works of Schubert, Shchedrin, Mozart and naturally, Chopin. Her playing was both vigorous and sensitive. It was quite apparent that she was feeling the music as she interpreted the emotional content of these works. As her encore she played *Nocturne in C sharp Minor* (no. 20), which was followed by a standing ovation.

After a light reception and time for socializing the guests retired with the satisfaction of having heard a wonderful concert performed by an outstanding young virtuoso.

## Annual Polonaise Ball 2018

The Annual Polonaise Ball held by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Rebirth. The guests were greeted by Polish Heritage Society president Jean Joka and the ceremonies were conducted by Ball Committee Chairperson Marie Hejnosz. Fr. Edward Volz gave the invocation. Teresa G. Wojcik led the singing of the national anthems.

This year's honoree was Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm who for a long time worked with the expatriate Polish writer Melchior Wankowicz. Eventually she became his biographer. In addition she has written number of books on other topics: travelogues, interviews with famous Americans and Polish-Americans and even one about her feline friend Suzy. Her works have been published in many languages in various countries.

Dance music for the event was provided by the Rick Gaza Band. The evening's entertainment was supplied by the very professional folk dance group, the Ojczyzna Dancers from Baltimore, MD. There were over a dozen dancers who went through three costume changes to perform traditional dances from the Kraków, Łowicz and Cieszyn regions. Not only did they provide a splendid visual experience but also led the audience in the traditional *Polonaise*.

The evening ended with a drawing for a number of prizes that included wines and liquors, theatre tickets, and ornamental household items. Several thousand dollars were raised for the Polish Heritage Society's scholarship fund. The Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, provided a felicitous venue and served an excellent dinner, pleasing the guests and anticipating their return for next year's event.

*Honoring Poland at the Pennsylvania State Capital were (left to right): Debbie Majka, Honorary Consul of Poland; Matt Franchak, Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack; and Mateusz Gmura, Vice-Consul at the Consulate General of Poland in New York.*



## STATE RECOGNITION

On November 14, 2018, a group of Polish-Americans from Philadelphia headed by Poland's Honorary Consul Deborah M. Majka headed for Harrisburg Pennsylvania to take part in the commemoration of Polish Independence Day in the Eastern Rotunda of the state capitol. Among them were Andrzej Wisniewski, president of the Associated Polish Home; Tadeusz Antoniak, *Gazeta Polska*; Helen Riker, Dorothy Szychulka and Krystyna Cimoch, Patricia Wisniewska from the Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Chorus; Teresa Kozłowska, of the Adam Mularczyk Theater; Barbara Nowicka from Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and Peter Obst from the Poles in America Foundaion.

The group was invited by Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Mike Stack to witness the reading of an official proclamation to mark the 100th Anniversary of Polish rebirth. Representing the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in New York was Mateusz Gmura. Also present were Marcia Geary Wolnicki, President, and Margaret Zaleski, Board Member, of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation as well as members of Harrisburg area Polonia led by Tom Duszak.

The Proclamation was read by the PA Secretary of State Robert Torres. The Lt. Governor's proclamation praised not only the natural beauty of Poland but also mentioned our shared devotion to democracy. Poland is a valuable partner of the United States, and currently ranks 50th among the countries which trade with the U.S.

Vice-consul Mateusz Gmura received the proclamation. Also speaking were David Briel, Executive Director, Center of Direct Investment, Department of Community and Economic Development and Thomas Mainzer, Agricultural Trade Specialist, PA Department of Agriculture. At present, the state imports four times as much agricultural products from Poland as is exported to Poland from Pennsylvania.

Wilfred Muskes, Honorary Consul for the Netherlands, represented the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia at this event. Hon. Consul Deborah Majka summed up the proceedings by mentioning the shared history between Poland and Pennsylvania.

After Secretary Torres' closing statement guests went to sample Polish cakes and received colorful brochures courtesy of the Polish Tourist Office.





# AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C., (PAAA) members and friends enjoyed a traditional Polish Wigilia, held on December 9, 2018 at the Arts Club of Washington. In the beautifully decorated rooms of the historic Monroe mansion, guests shared *oplatek* blessed by Father Philip Majka while exchanging wishes, and then feasted on *barszcz* with *uszka*, herring salad, and other traditional Polish dishes. The Wigilia meal ended with poppy seed cake and delicious dried fruit compote.

Dinner was followed by a performance of Polish and American Christmas songs by tenor David Cook, recipient of a PAAA scholarship and first runner-up in the 2017 ACPC Sembrich Competition. He was accompanied by pianist Alvin Smithson who also treated the audience to one of his own compositions called *Thunder Canyon*. This was followed by *kolędy* singing by all, led by Stasia Skrypczuk with her husband Olek playing the violin. Young soprano Rosalinda Sherman, Laura Kafka-Price and Celia Larkin joined in with their separate *kolędy* renditions.

The PAAA was the host of the spring 2019 ACPC Board Meeting at the Hilton Hotel in McLean, Virginia on March 22-23. The visitors were invited to stay an extra day to attend the PAAA Chopin Concert on Sunday, March 24 at the Arts Club of Washington. The concert, which benefits the PAAA scholarship fund, featured Washington based and internationally known pianist Martin Labazevitch. In 2018, Mr. Labazevitch founded, jointly with Kosciuszko Foundation, a Chopin Piano Competition for young artists, and this year followed this with a program of Master Classes, called *Chopin Academy*. The faculty in the program included prominent pianists Piotr Paleczny, Krzysztof Jablonski and Jeffrey Swann. Students ranged in age from 12 to 25 and came from all over the country.

The PAAA Festival of Wreaths, known as *Wianki*, is awaited throughout the year and this year will be held during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival at the end of June and early July. The theme of this year's festival is the "Social Power of Music" and in keeping with it, musicians, dancers, instrument makers, and other cultural practitioners, representing different nationalities, will engage visitors through daily workshops, master classes, panel discussions, and performances. The PAAA *Wianki* is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 29 at the Lincoln Memorial. In addition to performances by groups like *Ojczyzna* and *Krakowiaki* from Baltimore and *Polskie Kółko Międzykolegialne* from Philadelphia, there will be wreath-making demonstrations culminating in a procession of young girls in white robes or national costumes, taking their flowery crowns to the waters of the Reflecting Pool. It would be worthwhile to plan a trip to Washington during that time.

*submitted by Celia Larkin*



*Front Row (left to right): Soprano Rosalinda Sherman, tenor David Cook, Wigilia Chairman Renata Greenspan, PAAA President Celia Larkin, pianist Alvin Smithson, Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk; Back Row (left to right): Krystyna Ahrens, Michaela and Robert Neel, soprano Laura Kafka-Price.*



*Guests at tables set in the Arts Club Gallery.*



*PAAA President Celia Larkin with the Head of the Consular Section of the Polish Embassy, Zygmunt Matynia and Bozena Matynia.*





## Wadowice on the Potomac



Friends of Polish Art

### Friends of the John Paul II Foundation Washington D. C. Chapter

The Friends of John-Paul II Foundation, Washington, D. C., hosted a splendid gathering at the Apostolic Nunciature on Sunday, November 18, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pope St. John-Paul II's inauguration to the papacy.

The annual event, known as *Wadowice-on-the-Potomac*, is named for is the birthplace of Pope St. John-Paul II, who was born Karol Józef Wojtyła. It is a major fundraiser for the Friends of the John Paul II Foundation with profits going to support the Foundation's ongoing work. This year's guest of honor was His Excellency Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland.

The Master of Ceremonies Raymond Glembocki began by introducing soprano Laura Kafka-Price who led in singing the Polish and American national anthems. The current president of the Friends of JPII Foundation, Sharon Brzostowski, asked for a moment of silence in honor of our most recent president Richard Wiermanski who passed away in September. She thanked all those present for their support and then asked the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre, to offer the invocation before the luncheon was served. Guests were seated at tables covered in gold and red linen tablecloths and decorated with colorful Polish memorabilia centerpieces. The delicious meal ended with John Paul II's favorite Polish dessert called *Kremówka Papieska* (Papal Cream Cake).

The afternoon's honoree Ambassador Piotr Wilczek spoke eloquently about the influence Pope St. John-Paul II has had on his homeland and how the impact of his papacy helped bring about dramatic changes in Poland and throughout the world. President Sharon Brzostowski presented the Ambassador with a crystal plaque bearing his image along with that of His Holiness John Paul II. As a special tribute, on October 16, 2018, two United States flags were flown over the U.S. capitol in remembrance of the day when Karol Wojtyła was elected Pope in 1978. The flags were presented to His Excellency Piotr Wilczek, and His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre. After the presentation of the flags, Vice President Marianna Eckel gave highlights of the past and future activities of the Washington Chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation.

The after lunch entertainment included some favorite songs of Pope St. John Paul II performed in Polish by the well-known soprano Laura Kafka-Price, accompanied by pianist Eileen Cornett. Both artists are on the faculty of the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Those present joined in singing the Pope's beloved *Góralu czy ci nie żal* and *Barka* before the final blessing by Rev. Canon Philip Majka.

On Saturday, December 15, the 2018 Friends of Polish Art (FPA) Wigilia Celebration returned to the American Polish Cultural Center and by all measures was a success. The FPA family enjoyed camaraderie, renewed old acquaintances, made new friends, exchanged the time-honored *oplatek* and enjoyed a delicious traditional Polish meatless dinner, superbly prepared by the Center's Chef Mikołaj and staff.

A cultural program preceded dinner. Entitled "At an Old Polish Christmas Table," the narrative presented glimpses of Polish Christmas customs long ago: weeks of preparation leading up to the Christmas Eve supper; various practices, beliefs and superstitions connected with the Christmas vigil and the great variety of dishes served during the meal, depending on which region one called home. Of note was the fact that in old Poland *oplatek* was of different colors: yellow, red, blue, green or purple, depending on the region and purpose for which it was used.

The *kolędy* sing-along lyrics were printed in Polish and English so that everyone could sing or follow along with the translation. Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland Richard Walawender, a long-time FPA member, attended with his lovely wife Brenda and spoke highly of FPA's activities. Afterwards the guests surprised him with a hearty rendition of "Sto Lat" in honor of his December 14 Birthday. Another surprise awaited as the FPA President awarded our Szopka Competition First Place monetary prize to Karen Wiśniewski of Dearborn. Mrs. Wiśniewski thanked everyone; then donated the prize back to FPA! What a lovely gesture and fitting conclusion to a beautiful event with which to close the 2018 Year!

At our January 2019 Annual/Election meeting, a modest but dedicated number of members in attendance voted to elect our Officers and Directors for the ensuing year. Chaired by member Leonard Zabawski, the resulting vote brought several new faces to the Board. Five new persons graciously accepted from the floor to run for different or expired positions. We thank and welcome them and all the re-elected members of the 2019 Board.

This year again FPA was a sponsor of the 12th Annual Folk Dance Festival at the American Polish Cultural Society on March 9th, featuring twelve dance troupes from Michigan and Canada. As emcee, Barbara Lemecha introduced each group in turn, from youngest tots to more advanced dancers during the four-hour show, the atmosphere became supercharged with the most positive energy. The FPA booth drew many visitors, expressing great interest in information fliers on scholarships, our Szopka Competition, complimentary copies of the *Tygodnik Polski* (Polish Weekly) and, of course, favors and Polish sweet treats.





person social contacts and inside information to make the story authoritative. Jones admits that the CIA was short on operations officers with the necessary language skills. For that matter, few - if any - of the American journalists on the scene in Poland, with the notable exception of Andrzej Nagorski, had the language skills and were often manipulated by their translator-interpreters.

The confluence of events during the 1980s was favorable to the Polish Solidarity underground. First and foremost was the presence

Seth G. Jones' book "A Covert Action: Reagan, the CIA and the Cold War in Poland" certainly lives up to its name as a summary of the CIA involvement in assisting the Solidarity movement in whipping communism out of Eastern Europe. Though some may dismiss it as the CIA's attempt to join the "We-Too" chorus of persons, entities and organizations who lay claim to making contributions in the West's victory over Soviet Communism, the book is fair and measured in giving credit where it is due.

There is no doubt, that the people of Poland, in and outside of Solidarity, did the heavy lifting. Among those mentioned was Cecilia Larkin, a member of our own organization. The CIA, in the crucial time after Martial Law was declared in 1981, supplied vital equipment, funds and moral support to keep the Polish underground resistance alive. This aid could not be ignored or reliably hidden and was an open secret among Polonia, the Polish community abroad.

One could say the massive systemic change in the Soviet bloc, from a CIA point of view, was purchased at a bargain-basement price. It was the Poles who paid the true costs. Lech Walesa, somewhat put off by Vaclav Havel's instant celebrity as a political reformer, remarked: "The Czechs think it takes 10 days to make a revolution. It took Poland 10 years, Hungary 10 months, and East Germany 10 weeks. Poland was first."

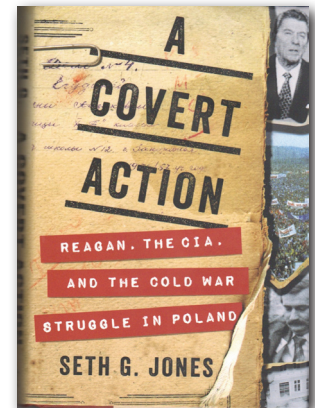
In some ways this book is a continuation of *The Poles* by Stewart Steven which ends in 1982 at the beginning of the Martial Law period. Steven wrote a penetrating account of how the Solidarity movement started and was then suppressed by Poland's communist leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski. In comparison, Jones' work seems rather dry because he relies mostly on declassified CIA and other government documents to fill-out the story details. The chart of confiscated equipment on page 307 is typical. There are few first person anecdotes to illustrate the activities he describes. A lot of the "meat and grit" in the book is quoted from other works including Lech Walesa's own biography.

This is where Steven had an advantage, a secret weapon in fact, in his Polish wife who provided the necessary first-

of President Ronald Reagan, a staunch anti-communist and his CIA chief William Casey. Both had an axe to grind with the Communists and reinvigorated existing assets in their arsenal, namely the émigré magazine *Kultura* and Radio Free Europe. When Gen. Jaruzelski clamped down on Poland with a declaration of Martial Law just before Christmas 1981, Reagan brought his acting experience to bear with the television program *Let Poland Be Poland*. Friends of Solidarity and its foes alike knew then how the sides would line up.

This and the well known story of CIA informant Col. Richard Kuklinski are presented in the book in some detail. Another important part of the struggle, the underground free press in Poland of the 1980s is given ample treatment. The morale building effects of visits by Pope John Paul II in his homeland are described as is the involvement of U.S. Ambassador John R. Davis. In general, the book charts the CIA's role in the changing history of Poland leading to the Round Table Accords and the first free elections in its post-war history.

It is unfortunate that Seth Jones did not seek out sources in Poland and Polonia to fill out this fascinating story. There are many questions to be answered. What role was played by the U.S. millionaire the "Fishcake King" Edward Pizek in supporting the Solidarity movement? How, while Poland borders were practically closed, did a female Philadelphia Daily News reporter bring back the story of the notorious Wujek Mine massacre during the first days of Martial Law? Why was a Polish-speaking information officer of the U.S. embassy (a CIA operative) so easily identified and detained by the Security Service while taking a load of computer diskettes to his Solidarity contacts?



*continued on page 9*





## PACIM EVENTS

submitted by  
Edward J. Rajtar, President

To many, the record amount of snow in Minnesota would be a deterrent. The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) embraced the opportunity and welcomed the beginning of winter in December with the annual Wigilia celebration where a traditional Polish Christmas Eve meal was served and followed by the singing of Polish Christmas carols that brought about a true feeling of Christmas. This event was followed by a visit from Św. Mikołaj – who spent time with children in the PACIM library helping celebrate St. Nicholas day with treats and games.

January brought about our ongoing language and cooking classes and saw the growth of more attendees in our Polish Conversation group. The literary committee brought Polish author Jacek Dehnel to the metro area for a book signing and reading. Previously, we have hosted Polish authors Olga Tokarczuk and Filip Springer as well as Polish-American authors James Conrad and Anthony Bukoski.

In February – the PACIM office and library moved across the hall from its current location and have a new updated facility for people to use and enjoy.

In March we hosted an outstanding musical performance at the Minneapolis Orchestra Hall, the ATOM Jazz String Quartet from Poland. The Concert Series is PACIM's new initiative that brings the accomplishments of Polish and Polish American musicians and composers to Twin Cities audiences. We start 2019 with an exciting ATOM String Quartet jazz concert. The Atom String Quartet is regarded as one of the most intriguing string quartets in the world and one of the best jazz performers in Poland. The band combines the possibilities of a string quartet (meaning two violins, violas and cellos) with widely understood improvisation. The quartet combines jazz motifs with inspirations from Polish folklore, music from various regions of the world, as well as contemporary and classical music.

PACIM is gearing up for the Festival of Nations the first weekend of May, where we will once again host a Polish Café, as well as create the Cultural exhibit booth. PACIM has been involved with this festival for over 30 years.



Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota



*Top photo: Establishing an international reputation, members of Poland's ATOM Jazz String Quartet perform in Minneapolis Orchestra Hall on March 5, 2019.*

*Bottom photo: Members of the ATOM Jazz String Quartet include (left to right) Dawid Lubowicz, Michał Zaborski, Krzysztof Lenczowski and Mateusz Smoczyński.*



*continued from page 8*

One thing that the author gets right is his assessment of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski. Toward the end of his life the General tried to enhance

his image by insisting that he picked the "lesser evil" of Martial Law over that of a Soviet military intervention.

This claim is hollow. His reputation has been indelibly splashed over by the blood of the miners murdered at the Wujek mine. In truth - he was a doctrinaire committed communist who, only by circumstances and the will of the

Polish people, bowed to accept the verdict of history and pragmatically got aboard the change toward democracy, and away from the non-functioning Communist government.

This true history, more absorbing than any LeCarre novel, is definitely worth reading, especially by the younger generation. Our basic freedoms are always under attack. Here is an example how they were won back - inch by weary inch.





# Many Tastes of Poland Tour September 8 - 18

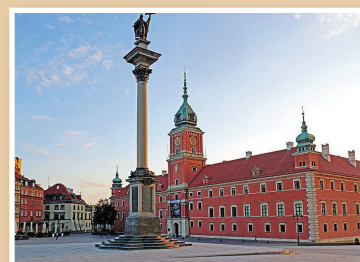
**Immediately following  
the ACPC Convention**

**Warsaw - Kazimierz Dolny - Zamość - Lwów  
Rzeszów - Łańcut - Zakopane - Kraków**

- Accommodations in fine hotels
- Personalized Service
- Transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Professional English speaking guides and experienced Tour Escorts
- City Tours of Warsaw, Zamość, Lwów (Lviv), Zakopane and Kraków
- 20 meals: 10 full breakfasts at hotel, 3 lunches and 7 dinners in upscale restaurants
- Folklore evenings in Lwów and Zakopane
- Polish Vodka Tasting event in Warsaw, Nalewki (cordial) Sampling in Kazimierz Dolny, historic Brewery Tour in Lwów and Polish Wine & Cheese Tasting event in Kraków
- Take a nostalgic journey to Lwów (Lviv) with its rich array of beautiful Polish architecture and cultural landmarks.
- Visit to 16th Century Zamość, regarded as the finest example of Renaissance architecture in Northern Europe
- Explore the quaint streets and art galleries in Kazimierz Dolny, dating back to the 13th century
- Tour of Łańcut Castle, one of Poland's most beautiful aristocratic residences.
- All entrance fees and taxes



**Hotel Bristol**



**Historic Old Town**



**Chopin Evening**



**Warsaw Uprising Museum**

**Land only price: \$2,799 pp  
based on double occupancy  
Single room supplement \$700**

For those ACPC members who are attending the 2019 Convention and staying at the Hotel Bristol in Warsaw, we are happy to offer an additional discount of a **\$130** (double room) or **\$220** (single room). This offer will be good only until **APRIL 25, 2019**.

**For full Itinerary, Tour Map,  
Hotels, Registration Form and other  
information please visit:**

**[www.janddtours.net](http://www.janddtours.net)**

**Or contact Wanda Grzesik  
at 1-800-533-0369**

**or**

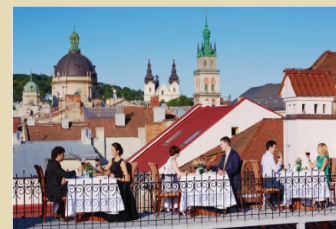
**Dave Motak 412-835-0539  
djm713@yahoo.com**

**Special Tour Feature:**

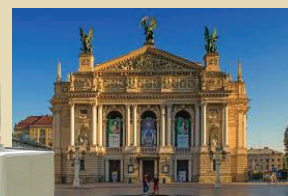
**Nostalgic Lwów -**



**Jan de Rosen Murals**



**Hotel Leopolis**



**Grand Opera House**



**Łyczakowski Cemetery**

**Adam Mickiewicz Monument**





# 2019 CONVENTION

*continued from page 1*

from several ACPC members who expressed their wish to visit Lwów, which has a strong sentimental attraction for Poles and has been in important Polish cultural and historic center until the end of WWII. Lwów boasts many Polish cultural and architectural landmarks, many of which have recently been restored by the Polish Ministry of Culture as well as Polish private corporations doing business in Western Ukraine. This includes the moving Łyczakowski Cemetery, which features the Cemetery of the Defenders of Lwów the "Orleńa Lwowskie" the young patriots who defended the city in conflicts with the Bolshevik Army and Ukrainian insurgents shortly after the First World War.

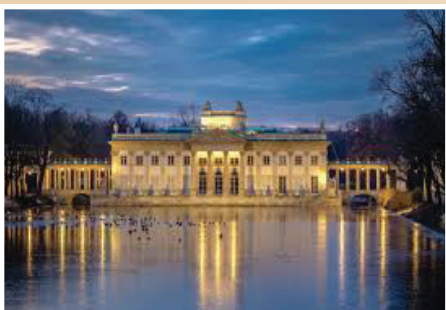
The *Many Tastes of Poland Tour* is being escorted by Polish Heritage editor Dave Motak., who has been hosting cultural tours to Poland since 2004. Further information is featured on the opposite page (p. 10)

Whether you wish to join us for the Convention, extend your stay, or perhaps just opt to join *The Many Tastes of Poland Tour*, you may wish to either make your own travel arrangements or consult a travel agent. As mentioned, in our convention planning, we are working with Wanda Grzesik of Chopin Express who will gladly assist you in your travel needs.

Wanda is also working closely with Dave Motak in organizing Many Tastes Tour, so she is qualified to answer your questions and assist you in making air connections between your gateway city and Warsaw and can also assist you with tour registration if that is your wish. Wanda has reserved a limited number of rooms at the Hotel Bristol for our use, but we suggest that you register soon as we cannot guarantee availability.

Wanda can be reached at:

email: [wanda@chopintours.com](mailto:wanda@chopintours.com) or 1-800-533-0369.



**For additional convention information, including costs and registration form, please consult the ACPC web site at: [www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv\\_2019/](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Conv_2019/)**

**For further questions, please contact President Tom Payne at [thomaspayne52@verizon.net](mailto:thomaspayne52@verizon.net)**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Arrive from USA  
Pick-up at Airport  
Check-in Hotel Bristol  
Group Dinner - Nearby restaurant

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Full Breakfast Buffet in Hotel  
Morning Business Session  
Working Lunch / Hotel Bristol  
Afternoon Business Session  
Dinner and Chopin Concert – Offsite  
Presentation of Awards

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Full Breakfast Buffet in Hotel  
Mass - Carmelite Church  
Business Session - Wrap up / Hotel Bristol  
Afternoon Tour of Warsaw Uprising Museum  
Evening: Optional Welcome Dinner with The Many Tastes of Poland Tour participants.

## AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 2019 WARSAW CONVENTION



**Jan de Rosen Award - Jolanta Chojecka** - Journalist; Film Maker, best known for the documentary, *Casimir Pulaski: Polish and American Hero*; Diplomat, who served as Polish Representative to the United Nations, Cultural Attaché at the Polish Embassy in Berne, Consul, Polish Consulate in Switzerland, former Cultural Attaché, Polish Embassy, Washington, D. C.



**Cultural Achievement Award - Marta Ptaszynska** - composer, percussionist, and professor of composition, born in Warsaw, Poland, is the author of such well-known works as the *Concerto for Marimba*, *Concerto for Saxophone*, *Winter's Tale*, *Sonnets to Orpheus*, and *Moon Flowers*, as well as numerous compositions for percussion



**Founders Award - Marianne Eckle** - outstanding volunteer and past President of the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) in Washington, D. C. She is best known for chairing the popular "Wianki on the Mall," annual celebration of St. John's Eve in the Nation's Capital sponsored by the PAAA.



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**Additional photographic contributors: Jackie Kolowski and Peter Obst.**

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Photos should be submitted in jpeg format, 300 DPI. Mailed photos will not be returned. Please submit all articles as a Word document or imbedded in an email and send to [djm713@yahoo.com](mailto:djm713@yahoo.com). The editorial staff are not responsible for transcription errors for handwritten or typewritten submissions.

**web site: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>**

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