



Polish Heritage

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SPRING BOARD MEETING

Preparations are underway for the ACPC Spring Board Meeting to be hosted by the Orchard Lake School in Orchard Lake MI on March 20 -21, 2015.

We will begin our meeting at 7:00 pm at the Kingsley Inn, 39475 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. A reception will follow at 9:00 pm. The next day we will begin at 9:00 am at the same location. Afterward, we will have a working lunch at the hotel and then receive a tour of the Orchard Lake campus facilities. We expect to have a group dining event that evening.

On Saturday, March 21st, 2015 there will be a special commemoration of the life of St. John Paul II (4 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel). At the conclusion of Mass, we will invite everyone to join us in the Galeria for a concert and film presentation *Missa Cracoviensis* presented by one of our talented colleagues from Chicago, Ill., Dr. Jaroslaw Golembiowski and composer Marek Wilczynski. This being the 10th year since the Pope's passing from this life, we want to take this time to especially remember his everlasting love of Poland and the Polish people. See details under "events" at the ACPC web site.

The Detroit Airport is the closest for air transport. It is a good distance from Orchard Lake, so there is no hotel shuttle service. If you are flying in, please communicate with me your itinerary, and we will arrange for someone to pick you up at the airport.

The Kingsley Inn is a nice lodging facility with deli and restaurant and is offering rooms at \$85 per day, not including taxes. You may contact them at 248-644-1400 and indicate that you are with the ACPC group.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend, so that we can ensure that necessary support arrangements are in place. I look forward to seeing all of you once again.

Regards,
Tom Payne, Board Meeting Chairman
tel: 301-717-0662
e-mail: Thomas.payne@centurylink.com



2015 ACPC ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 67th Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture will be held in the Windy City of Chicago from August 5 to 8, 2015. Hosts for the convention will be the Chicago Chopin Society. The theme: *Polish Emigrant Composers and Musicians* is intended to recognize forgotten and honor living artists who, through their individual paths promoted Polish culture abroad.

We will salute such prominent emigrant composers as: Jerzy Fitelberg, Leopold Godowski, Roman Haubenstock-Ramati, Jozef Hofmann, Tadeusz Kasern, Piotr Lachert, Wanda Landowska, Roman Maciejewski, Andrzej Panufnik, Ignacy Paderewski and Stanislaw Skrowaczewski among others, whose music promoted Polish culture and enriched our lives abroad.

We would like to offer you the experience of the rebirth of Polish composers and musicians and delight you with a taste of Polish music.

Please add your name to the distinguished list of our guests, by attending the whole convention (see registration form on page 11). Information about attending just the musical events – concerts and lectures TBA. Contact Dr. Jaroslaw Golembiowski ccs@chicago Chopin Society, call home: 773-262-9699 or cell: 773-988-3663.

EMBASSY SUITES O'HARE-ROSEMONT is located 1.5 miles from O'Hare airport Complimentary O'Hare airport shuttle 4 AM -12 AM every 20 minutes Walking distance to the MB financial/entertainment district Chicago premium outlet mall.

Sincerely,
The Chicago Chopin Society

*Please see Convention Schedule on Page 10
and Registration form on Page 11*



From the President



Mary Ellen Tyszka

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. Wishing you, your families and your Polish organizations a 2015 brimming with wonderful ideas and successful activities to promote Polonia.

The Board of the American Council for Polish Culture is a very dedicated group of people who work diligently on various projects, some with a national impact and others benefiting the member affiliates. The website has detailed information regarding ACPC programs. (www.polishcultureacpc.org) Thanks to Peter Obst, Web Manager for maintaining the site.

One of the most important and effective programs ACPC is involved in is the National Conference for Social Studies (NCSS). I wholeheartedly encourage you to support this effort. The 2014 NCSS Conference in Boston was very successful. The co-chairs, Cecelia and Raymond Glembocki from Washington D.C., created a fantastic program preparing the booth and obtaining material to share Polish history and achievements with social study teachers. ACPC Members from three affiliates assisted at the conference with the distribution of the material and providing information; Dr. Andrezej Pronczuk from Boston, Hon. Debbie Majka from Philadelphia and Jason Franzen from Minneapolis. The next Conference will be in November 2015 in New Orleans, LA. The Glembocki's are always seeking new ideas and material to share with the teachers.

The Chopin Society of Chicago is hosting ACPC's 2015 Annual Convention in Chicago, IL. This year's convention will emphasize contemporary and classical Polish composers. The Convention is open to all members of ACPC, either as individual member or as a member of an affiliate. It is a exciting opportunity to meet others who promote Polish culture. Please plan on attending.

The Orchard Lake Schools will host the Spring Board Meeting. The Board will be meet at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21. In addition to the meeting, a tour of Orchard Lake Schools campus, which includes the Grotto, Chapel, Polish Archives, Polish Library, Polish Genealogy Center and the Panorama display. Lodging will be available at Orchard Lake Schools or at the Kingsley Inn. See the article on page one and the ACPC website for further details. Please remember that affiliate president's are voting directors of the Board, so please attend.

As Easter approaches I wish you all Happy Easter – Wesolego Alleluja!

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Tyszka
President

SKALNY SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) is pleased to announce it is seeking applicants for the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies.

The two, \$3,000 scholarships are intended for students pursuing Polish studies (major may be in other fields) at U.S. universities.

Third- and fourth-year college students, as well as post-graduates, are encouraged to apply. Polish descent is not mandatory. Scholarships are awarded for the fall term. Complete application requirements are available online at www.polishcultureacpc.org

For the past 16 years, the Rochester, N.Y.-based Louis and Nellie Skalny Foundation has donated to create a fund for this purpose and selected the American Council for Polish Culture as the scholarship administrator. The deadline for scholarship application is May 15, 2015.

For more information, applicants can reach Debbie Majka at (215) 627-1391 or via email at dziecko2@comcast.net.

FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to gratefully thank all those whose contributiond who have helped to make Polish Hertiage a success.

I would also like to calify the policy in accepting materials for publication. Priority will be given to those submissions that concern news and information from or about ACPC affilitates. Space permitting, consideration will also be given to those submissions of topics related to Polish art, culture and history.

Any submissions that do not meet these criteria, such as articles of a personal nature, will be passed along to Peter Obst for consideration for posting on the ACPC web site in a special section devoted to this purpose.

We would love to print all submissions, however, space in this publication is somewhat limited. We hope that this policy will provide adequate coverage for all materials.

Dave Motak



Photographs: Peter Obst

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

ANNUAL POLONAISE BALL AND AWARDS BANQUET

by Jean Joka, Communications Director

On Saturday, November 8, 2014 the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia held its annual Polonaise Ball at the Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia.

This year, the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus was the recipient of the annual Polish Heritage Award. This fine chorus is the pride and joy of Philadelphia Polonia. This year they won the top prize as a Female Chorus at the national convention of the Polish Singers Alliance of America in Dearborn, MI. Proceeds from the Polonaise Ball benefits the Polish Heritage Society Scholarship fund.

The Belvedere Ballroom of the Associated Polish Home was transformed into an elegant venue, which consisted of floral decorations surrounded by roses and a global light of LED lights which sparkled the room. Marie Hejnosz, President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia presented a tribute. Debbie Majka, President of the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus accepted the award on behalf of the chorus and the two directors, Janusz Sporek and David Zagorski. Flowers were also given to the Chorus members. After the performance by the Chorus, they led the audience in the Polonaise, a Polish tradition.

The ever-popular Chinese Auction continued throughout the evening, and many nice items were donated by members of the Polish Heritage Society in addition to local businesses.

All in all, a wonderful evening was enjoyed by everyone.



Top Photo: Janusz Sporek and the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus this year's Award recipients.

Bottom Photo: David Zagorski addresses Ball attendees.



OPŁATEK SUPPER

On Sunday, January 11, 2015, Marie Hejnosz, President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, hosted an "Oplatek Supper"

at the Associated Polish Home.

The invitation was extended to the Executive Board and general membership. It was a time to review some of the events from 2014, a year that was very good for the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

The afternoon was a happy and festive occasion, we celebrated the birthday of Felicia Malinowski, VP; we all sang *Sto Lat*. In addition congratulations were extended to Jim Malinowski, Director and his new bride, Erin. We wished them much happiness.

We shared the "opłatek" and then were treated to a delicious Polish supper consisting of pierogi, bigos and gołąbki, and many delicious desserts.

The evening ended by introducing a few items for 2015, especially our Annual Polonaise Ball, wherein we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Submitted by Jean Joka



FPA's newly elected Officers Front row, left to right: Mary Ellen Tyszka, Zofia Duniec-Dmuchowski, Carol J. Surma, Brian Malski, Deborah Siegel. Back row: Henrietta Nowakowski, Henry J. Tyszka, Ewa Greenbaum, Dr. Alina Klin, Janet Ann Hedin,

FRIENDS OF POLISH ART

by Carol Surma

It has been a busy time for Friends of Polish Art. The 8th Annual Szopka Competition took place in November, 2014. This year there were entrants in both the youth and adult category. All of the entries were proudly displayed for approximately one month in the store front windows of the Polish Art Center located on Joseph Campau Avenue in Hamtramck, Michigan.

The youth category had four entrants who were 6 years old and extremely proud of their szopki. The szopki were made as part of a class project at Charlotte Mason Community School in Detroit. The teacher, Bonnie Schow, took a class at the Polish Art Center and thought this would be a good experience for her students. Because of all their hard work, each of the students won a prize. The winners were: First Place - Bruce Hunt, Second Place - Makaio Cato, Third Place - Light Rock and Honorable Mention - Shiloh Stevenson. The adult category had two entrants whose work was exquisite and detailed. First place was awarded to Amielia Albanna. Her winning szopka was based on Sweetest Heart of Mary Church located in Detroit. Second place was given to Alfred Prizlo from Rochester Hills. Mr. Prizlo started work on his szopka at David Motak's workshop in Rochester, New York in 2007.



8th Annual Szopka Competition

On December 13, 2014 FPA celebrated its annual Wigilia at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy. A traditional Wigilia meal was shared by members and friends. The szopki were also proudly displayed for all to see and enjoy.

As the new year began, FPA held its annual election of officers and board of directors in January. Carol J. Surma continued in her last year as President. The following were elected: First Vice President – Zofia Duniec-Dmuchowski, Second Vice President – Brian Malski, Treasurer – Deborah Siegel, Financial Secretary – Mary Ellen Tyszka, Corresponding Secretary – Henry Tyszka, Recording Secretaries – Janet Ann Hedin and Henrietta Nowakowski, Directors – Ewa Greenbaum, Alina Klin, Rick Lapham, Daniel Misteravich and Walt Stasinski.



Some of the attendees at the FPA's Wigilia Celebration on December 13.

FPA is very pleased and proud to announce that they are working with the Michigan Opera Theater to raise funds to produce the opera "The Passenger" at the Detroit Opera House this November. It will only be seen in three US cities this year. "The Passenger" is an opera by Mieczysław Weinberg to a libretto by Alexander Medvedev. The worldwide premiere in 1968 featured a reworked libretto in German, English, Polish, Yiddish, French, Russian, and Czech. Mr. David DiChiera, founding general director of the Michigan Opera Theater, will have the opera performed in all of the original languages. It promises to be very exciting.

photos: Jackie Kolowski



Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

submitted by Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo, Co-Presidents

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. (PCCGH) hosted three successful events during the last quarter of 2014. First, on September 27, Staś Radosz, Executive Director and Founder of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College in Chicopee, MA educated and entertained his audience with an "Introduction to the Legends and Tales of Poland." Associated with this program was a coloring contest for children featuring the Wawel Dragon of Kraków. Prizes of a Lego set and stuffed dragons were awarded to six youngsters followed by refreshments, the highlight of which was a very large "dragon" cake.

On November 30, the PCCGH staged its 34th Annual Szopka Festival at the Polish National Home in Hartford. Carol Oleasz, Szopka Contest Chair, did an exceptional job in working with students and accepting and displaying over thirty colorful entries for judging. Over 180 dozen pierogi, made by Club volunteers, were available for sale, as were home baked delicacies sold at the Kawiarnia and Country Kitchen booths.

Vendors selling Polish wares, jewelry, and holiday items enjoyed a steady flow of customers and did a brisk business. Święty Mikołaj was on hand, of course, to greet the children of all ages and provide a Polish Christmas photo. This Szopka Festival could not be undertaken without the leadership and efforts of Szopka Chair, Edward Farley, and his extensive team of Club volunteers and friends. All proceeds from the Szopka event benefit the Club's Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to college students of Polish heritage.

Lastly, our "Wigilia" vigil supper on December 12 celebrated the Christmas season with a warm and gracious evening of camaraderie and gaiety. From the sharing of the opłatek to the singing of kolędy, everyone enjoyed a lovely evening among friends. Two PCCGH members, Krystyna Słowikowska Farley and Mary Mazurek Heslin, were surprised with a presentation of the ACPC "Polish American Achievement Award" conferred by Marion Winters on behalf of the ACPC. This year marked the election of new Club Officers for 2015-2016, and an installation ceremony took place with the gavel being passed from outgoing Co-Presidents, Clifford Archie and Anna-Mae Maglaty, to new Co-Presidents, Patricia Kaczynski and Frances Pudlo. Other Board Officers are: Edward Farley - 1st Vice President, Lilia Kieltyka - Recording Secretary, Raymond Kowalski - Treasurer, Clifford Archie - Assistant Treasurer, and Historian - Patricia Kaczynski. Special appreciation awards were given to Patricia Archie and Louis Maglaty for sharing their Co-President spouses over the past two years; Edward Farley, Szopka Chair, and his supportive wife, Krystyna Farley; our three pierogi "Dough Boys" - Cliff Archie, Ed Farley, and Lou Maglaty; and Maria Brodowicz, who ensures that our events uphold Polish traditions that are authentic and accurate.

On a sad note, we announce that Eleanor (Lottie) Pozniak passed away on January 6, 2015 at age 97. As a co-founder and honored matriarch of our Club, Lottie exuded a beauty of soul, mind, and spirit. From the very beginning, she instilled, guided, and inspired Connecticut Polonia of all ages and epitomized the ideals of her beloved heritage. It is with admiration and devotion that our Club will continue to kindle and sustain her inimitable soaring Polish spirit.



Event chairs Fran Pudlo and Pattie Kaczynski with the Wawel Dragon cake



Above: Św. Mikołaj (aka Cliff Archie) presenting the Szopka contest awards. Below: Installation of new officers.



Krystyna Słowikowska Farley and Nelson Gottier in Polish dress



Relics of St. John Paul

by Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, Ph.D.

When I attended St. Casimir Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio, I thought of relics as ancient bones of legendary saints. However, at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington DC, this concept is challenged. Tennis shoes, skis, and ostrich-plumed headdresses are all relics. The presence of a real, modern man imbues this space. The ultimate treasure is a vial of St. John Paul II's blood, suspended in a gold reliquary, surrounded by 24 rubies. (photo at right) The presence of St. John Paul II is so deeply felt throughout the Shrine, that when the staff refers to the blood relic of this "People's Pope", they refer to it intimately and personally, as "Him."

Relics are classified by their intimate proximity to the saint. Thus, a first class relic is part of the saint's body, a 2nd class relic has been touched or worn by the saint, and a 3rd class relic has been touched to a first class relic. The Shrine has two first class relics – the vial of blood, and a piece of the bloody cassock worn by the Pope during the 1981 assassination attempt (photo at right). According to Museum Curator, Bethany Bromwell, most of the articles, called second class relics, were sent to the Shrine from the Vatican by the Pope's life-long friend and Secretary, Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz. These vary from pages of the Pope's writings, to his skis and tennis shoes, to vestments worn during his many international trips. Some articles were donated by private donors, such as the Pope's shaving brush. Mass and veneration of the blood relic is held daily. Visitors can bring rosaries and holy cards, which, when touched to the vial of the Saint's blood, then become third-class relics. A visit to the Shrine is an inspi-



Relic of St. John Paul II's bloody cassock (left) and relic of the Saint's blood (right) at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D. C.

ration experience.

Under the care of the Knights of Columbus, the building is being enlarged with the addition of a church to seat over 200, a reliquary chapel to house the first class relics on permanent display, a collection center for additional relics, a Winter Garden to host public events, and a gift shop. Thus, the building is becoming transformed from the former John Paul II Cultural Center of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, to an edifice of international status. During the construction, the paintings and gifts of the former John Paul II Cultural Center are in storage, and will become circulated throughout the various temporary exhibits at the Shrine. The completion date for the St. John Paul II National Shrine is set for the beginning of 2016.

Although the Shrine is not yet finished, the permanent exhibit illustrating the life of St. John Paul II is ready for viewing. It is modern, colorful, and interactive. Along

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Left: Father Andrzej Totzke, Holy Rosay Parish, Baltimore with the silver reliquary holding a drop of the blood of St. John Paul II.
Center: The Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Concert in St. Stanislaus Church, Cleveland.
Right: St. Stanislaus Church, Buffalo with a reliquary bearing a drop of St. John Paul II's blood at bottom right of the Saint's statue.



Dożynki, de Rosen, Highlight Special Journey

text and photos by David Motak

This fall, I was privileged to organize a cultural tour to Poland to participate in the National Harvest Festival or *Dożynki Prezydenckie* hosted by Polish President Bronisław Komorowski in the resort town of Spała, west of Warsaw. In planning this excursion, I was also able to integrate into the itinerary a day trip to Lwów in western Ukraine, a city with a deep Polish cultural and architectural heritage. I was surprised to find that no one has ever offered a tour that featured the *Dożynki* and, working with Chopin Tours from Toronto, Jack Samuels and I produced the *Polish Harvest Tour* this past September.

There were 25 people in our group, comprised of members of the Polish Cultural Council as well as the ACPC Board of Directors including Carolyn and Matt Meleski and Debbie Majka. I had booked an excursion for our group to Lwów from Lublin and, although we had only a day in Lwów, we were able to visit several key landmarks of Polish Culture in this traditionally multicultural city, including the Armenian Cathedral. Despite substantial abuse during the Soviet period, the interior of the Cathedral still features the striking frescos of Polish painter Henryk de Rosen and ceiling murals by Józef Mehoffer. This particular visit was rather poignant for we members of the ACPC as we were familiar with the book on Henryk de Rosen *With Paintbrush and Sword*, published by fellow ACPC Board member Mary Flanagan. Painted in by de Rosen 1929, the murals are being restored by the Polish Ministry of Culture. Of particular note were the evocative frescos of the Last Supper behind the main altar and "The Funeral Procession of St. Odilon". Photos of both of these are featured on the right.

After visits to the magnificent Renaissance palace of the Krasicki family in Krasiczyn, to Zakopane and to Krakow, our group stayed at Odrowążów Palace and Resort Spa in Chlewiska, in central Poland. Odrowążów was restored as an initiative of the Mazowsze Provincial government and is one of the most luxurious spa resorts in Poland. We then traveled by vintage steam locomotive to the *Dożynki* celebration in Spała.

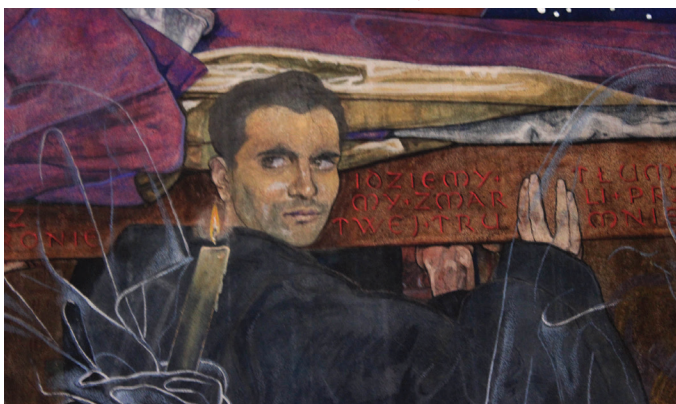
The celebration of the harvest or *dożynki* in Poland dates back to ancient pre-Christian times when Slavic tribes celebrated the fertility and abundance of the earth with special harvest festivities. Throughout Polish history, *dożynki* has been the time to express gratitude for the abundance of the harvest and appreciation for the labor and toil that brought it from the fertile earth. Traditionally, the lord of the manor would welcome his villagers to his home for a harvest celebration that would include mass, feasting and merriment. It was customary for the local farmers to present their lord with a large loaf of bread which he would reverently kiss. The farmers would also create a large, ornate *wieniec* or crown incorporating a variety of grains, flowers, nuts, fruit and adorned with colored paper or ribbon. Still made today, these structures are immense, often 10 or more feet in height and are carried during processions and blessed



Last Supper mural, behind main altar, Armenian Cathedral, Lwów.



Mural: Funeral Procession of St. Odilon



Detail, Funeral Procession of St. Odilon.

during the harvest mass. Even though modern *dożynki* has become a Christian tradition, it is still common practice to place a large stone slab in the bottom of the *wieniec*, which replicates the stone altars used by our pagan Slav forefathers.

The *Dożynki Prezydenckie* (Presidential Harvest Festival) was established 80 years ago as a national event hosted by the first President of Poland Ignacy Mościcki at his presidential retreat in Spała from 1927 to 1938. This was the first time that delegations from villages and provinces throughout Poland came together to celebrate the harvest; prior to that time it was more of a local or regional event. During the communist era, the national *dożynki* festival was moved to a large stadium in Warsaw and assumed a very political nature. After the return of democracy to Poland, *dożynki* was moved back to Spała, reassuming its original, more homespun character.

As I am a member of an international committee established by the Polish Parliament (Sejm), I was fortunate to secure personal printed invitations from President and Mrs. Komorowski

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Left: One of the many "wieniec" creations paraded through the streets of Spala.

Center: Four of the performers from the Lany Student Ensemble of the Poznań University of Life Sciences.

Right: President Komorowski kisses the ceremonial Dożynki Harvest Bread.

photos: Dave Motak

Dożynki & de Rosen *continued from page 7*

for each person on our tour to be their special guests at the Presidential Harvest Festival events. There were numerous representative groups from every region of Poland, each dressed in their local folk attire. The day's activities began with an outdoor mass attended by President and First Lady and members of the Polish government. To enter the VIP section, which is where our group's seats were reserved, members of our group had to pass extensive security screening, much like at major airports. With the international situation with Russia a constant worry, the Poles were taking no chances and there were police and secret service everywhere.

After the mass, a parade proceeded through the streets of Spala comprised of many quaint horse-drawn carriages, marching bands and colorful folk groups, each carrying (or pulling) a large *wieniec* constructed from the fruits of their labor. An honor guard of *ułani* or Polish Calvary on horseback escorted the presidential couple in their carriage, which presented a scene reminiscent of old Poland.

The dożynki events included folk dancing, the presentation of both the regional *wieniec* creations and the traditional large loaf of harvest bread to President Komorowski who ceremonially kissed it. After the ceremony members of our group were invited to attend a special private reception hosted by President and First Lady.

Participating in this event helped us to appreciate the abundance of the Polish harvest, to witness first-hand how our Polish heritage is kept alive through the colorful traditions and ceremonies of our ancestors and to take pride in how Poland has now become a progressive and prosperous nation.

- For photos of our *Dożynki* experience and other activities and information, please visit our tour web site at **www.janddtours.net** .
- The book on artist Henryk de Rosen *With Paintbrush and Sword*, published by ACPC Board member Mary Flanagan, is available at **www.amazon.com** .

Relics *continued from page 7*

curved pathways, a visitor will spend over an hour on a compelling voyage into Karol Wojtyła's life and work, from his birth in Wadowice, Poland on May 8, 1920, through his death in Rome on April 2, 2005. On huge curved screens, the impact of St John Paul II on Solidarity and on the Catholic Church is vividly displayed. The great man's message regarding the dignity of the individual and the importance of life is embodied in the media.

The Board of the ACPC has been uniquely privileged to have visited several first class blood relics, donated by Cardinal Dziwisz to various Polish churches where John Paul II said Mass. Most recently, the 2014 ACPC Convention in Buffalo took the Board to St. Stanislaus Church, where a gold cross reliquary holding a drop of the Pope's precious blood stands under his majestic statue. (photo on page 7)

At the 2013 ACPC Convention in Baltimore, the Board visited the Church of the Holy Rosary, where Father Andrzej Totzke brought out a silver reliquary, which holds a drop of blood, for our veneration. (photo on page 7) During the 2011 ACPC Convention in Cleveland, the Marcella

Kochańska Sembrich Concert was held in beautiful St. Stanislaus Church, where another reliquary bearing a drop of St. John Paul II's blood is housed.

St. John Paul II's National Shrine in Washington, DC is a perfect site for group visits by Polish organizations, church groups, families, or individuals. To plan a visit or pilgrimage, go to www.jp2shrine.org. You will be enormously proud of this Polish heritage, and feel intimately blessed.



Wanda O'Brien-Trefil with a relic of St. John Paul II at the National Shrine in Washington, D. C.

\$5,000 PULASKI SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies program, initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas Family, is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Qualified applicants must send all of the materials described on the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org so that it is all received on or before March 15, 2015 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the Chairman and duplicate copies to the other four Pulaski Scholarships Committee members: Mr. Marion V. Winters, MA, Chairman; Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS; Dr. Stephen E. Medvec, PhD; Mrs. Carolyn L. Meleski, MS; Mrs. Alicia Dutka (addresses are listed on the website).

Five \$5,000 scholarship grants are available for the 2015 competition. Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters at mvwinters@charter.net or tel. 508-949-0160.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the American Council for Polish Culture and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned documents will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review.

All applicants for the Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies are invited and encouraged to become involved in the programs of the American Council for Polish Culture and to share their talents and expertise with the Council. The Council and its Affiliate and Supporting Organizations across the United States have been engaged in cultural and educational programs for more than six decades. Association with the ACPC and/or any of its 32 established organizations may prove to be of value in the career development of applicants; the direct participation of Pulaski Scholarship applicants in the cultural and educational programs of the Council and its Affiliate/Supporting groups may further strengthen our mutual missions. For further information about the Council, you are invited to visit its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.



SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND

Letters have been sent to all ACPC presidents and supporting organizations to submit names of college students in your area who you consider deserving of this scholarship. Names of candidates should be mailed to me as soon as possible before April 1, 2015:

Alice Lech Laning,
6534 Parkway Circle, McLean, VA 22101.

ACPC
*American Council
for Polish Culture*

Marcella Kochańska Sembrich

Vocal Competition

for singers of Polish descent



- **First Prize \$2,000**
- **No audition**
- **No application fee**
- **Men and women to 35**
- **Singers in early stages of career development**
- **Not under professional management**
- **Submit DVD/CD**
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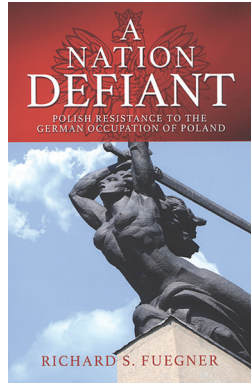
Details and Application on ACPC website
www.polishcultureacpc.org
Deadline April 15, 2015

Submit 30 minute recording of singing in several languages including Polish

Advertised on yaptracker.com



A Nation Defiant - Polish Resistance to the German Occupation of Poland

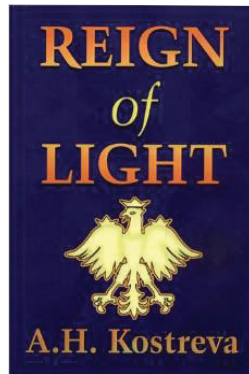


by: Richard S. Fuegner
Beaver's Pond Press, Inc.
7108 Ohms Lane,
Edina, MN 55439-2129
www.BeaversPondPress.com
Soft Cover, 274 pages
\$24.95 USD

Most of the memoirs and histories written about World War II give detailed, first hand accounts of a single section, place or event during the war. Richard Fuegner has done extensive research not only about the Polish Resistance but on related German, Russian and allied plans and their expectations.

Reading his account, the reader gets the whole picture, descriptive accounts of the invasion, battles, mind sets and the subsequent results. It is a historian's view and a man's admiration for an undaunted people who faced bitter oppression with no real support from their allies. After so many years following the war it is well to be reminded of the bravery and sacrifices of those embroiled in a terrible, calamitous conflict.

Reign of Light



by A.H. Kostreva (Kostrzewa)
Available from
bookstandpublishing.com
or Amazon
371 pages, Soft cover \$23.95

Although this historical biography of one of Poland's greatest kings is written with young adults in mind, it is nevertheless a great read for everyone who loves history. It has great appeal in that it not only records the life of King Casimer (sic), it vividly describes the 14th century in Europe. Ms Kostreva gives in great detail the religious attitudes, the dress, food and customs of the time.

At first the Americanization of the Polish proper names is a bit disconcerting but she has done so for the readers who may not be familiar with the Polish language.

She pictures King Casimer as a very astute politician, law giver, a kind and generous monarch who understands his people and wanted to bring his kingdom of Poland into a more just, free and modern (for the times) country. In that sense he was a visionary who moved his country toward the freedom loving Poles who later wrote the Constitution of May 3, 1791. The title "Reign of Light" is so very appropriate. He brought Poland from the Middle Ages to the beginnings of the Renaissance, a time of enlightenment, education and respect for all. Of note, of all their kings, the title of Great was given by the Poles only to King Casimer.(sic)

2015 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

American Council For Polish Culture
67TH Annual Convention - August 5 -8, 2015
Hosted By The Chicago Chopin Society
Polish Emigrant Composers And Musicians

EMBASSY SUITES O'HARE-ROSEMONT
5500 N. River Rd. Rosemont, IL 60018

Program Schedule:

Wednesday

- 4:00-6:00 pm Registration
- 6:00-8:00 pm Board Meeting
- 8:00- 9:00 pm Reception

Thursday

- 8:00-9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am-12:00 pm Opening Ceremonies
Business Session
- 12:30-2:00 pm Lunch with Speaker
*Tadeusz Zygfryd Kasern (1904-1957) -
a Polish Composer in Exile* presented by
pianist Slawomir Dobrzanski
- 2:30-6:00 pm Tour of Chicago Sights
- 7:00-8:30 pm Concert:
*Music of Polish Emigrant Composers -
performed by Violinist Krzysztof
Zimowski and Pianist Slawomir Dobrzanski*

Friday

- 8:00-9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am-12:00 pm Business Sessions
- 12:00-1:30 pm Lunch with Speaker:
History of the Polish-Emigrant Symphony
presented by Jaroslaw Golembiowski
- 2:00 am-5:00 pm Business Sessions n Groups
(or Free Time)
- 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Dinner
- 8:00-9:00 pm Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich
Concert

Saturday

- 8:00-9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am-1:00 pm Business Session
- 1:00-2:30 pm Board Meeting
/Working Luncheon
- 1:00-2 pm Lunch on Your Own
- 6:00-7:00 pm Cocktail Hour
- 7:00-8:30 pm Awards Banquet
- 8:30-9:00 pm Presentation of Awards
and Installation of National
Officers



American Council ACPC for Polish Culture

EMBASSY SUITES O'HARE-ROSEMONT
5500 N. River Rd. Rosemont, IL 60018

Hotel Reservations

Make room reservations by Friday, July 3 2015 to secure the reduced group rate.

847-928-7648

Please reference the name of the event: *ACPC 67th Annual Convention* or the group code: *ACP*,
EMBASSY SUITES O'HARE-ROSEMONT 5500 N. River Rd. Rosemont, IL 60018

Embassyohare.com

Rate \$139 king suite, \$149 double /double

Rate includes full cooked to order breakfast buffet and evening managers cocktail reception
Reduced self parking of \$13 per day

For further information contact: Jaroslaw Golembiowski
home: 773-262-9699 cell: 773-988-3663 ccs@chicagochopinsociety.com

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE 67TH CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Cost

- \$450-arrive Wednesday
- \$400-arrive Thursday after lunch
- \$350-arrive Friday after lunch
- \$100-guest Award Banquet x ____
- Total _____

Friday's Dinner - choice

- Sliced Roast Sirloin
- Chicken Florentine

Saturday's Dinner choice

- Salmon Fillet Tapenade
- Prime Rib of Beef

All package prices include a mandatory ACPC
registration fee of \$50

- Please remit full amount or deposit \$200
- Amount Submitted: _____

Make check payable to: The Chicago Chopin Society and mail to: *Jaroslaw Golembiowski*
The Chicago Chopin Society 1427 W. Greenleaf Ave. #3N Chicago IL 60626-2870

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