

Polish Heritage

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ACPC 62nd Annual Convention in South Dakota

To all our members and friends who for some reason or other were unable to attend the 62nd Annual Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, we express our deep regrets that you could not join us. This year's annual convention whose theme was "Carving a Dream" drew over sixty participants from various parts of the country. On arrival at the convention site, the Radisson Hotel in downtown Rapid City, each conventioneer received a straw cowboy hat and a red bandana at check-in. Business meetings were held in the hotel and bus tours to the various locations were a short distance away. The convention co-chairs, Debbie Majka and Richard Wiermanski made sure we visited all the

tourist possibilities in the area. Every one of our conventions is unique and this one was especially so. It connected us to the American side of our Polish/American Heritage. The locals out West were most friendly and for those of us from the Washington, DC area they seemed to be very patriotic, reflecting the goodness and willingness to serve that made this country great.

We also had great reason to be extremely proud of our own Pol/Am, Korczak-Ziolkowski and his family. When visiting the Crazy Horse Monument we learned of his myriad accomplishments not only with the monument but in addition to it. He appears to have been singularly blessed to do all the things he did and to

keep his strength and resolve through it all. He was also blessed with a wife and children who cared to continue his dream and some good friends who support it.

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Co-chairs Richard Wiermanski, left, and Debbie Majka set the convention's Western theme



Conventioners at Crazy Horse Monument

From the President

Debbie Majka



We have often heard it said that a picture's worth a thousand words! So I trust that by looking at the pictures in this edition of the Polish Heritage, which were taken at this year's convention in Rapid City, SD, you'll begin to understand what an absolutely fantastic experience it was. If you were there, you know; if you weren't, you missed an extraordinary experience. The dream of Lakota Sioux Chief Henry Standing Bear to show the world that "the red man has heroes, too" comes to life in the monumental work of the sculptor, Korczak Ziolkowski. His wife, Ruth and their ten children are continuing his legacy to "carve the dream". Our convention in the Black Hills of South Dakota presented the perfect opportunity for a blending of our American and Polish-American heritage in the West. Congratulations to all whose vision and determination made this convention a reality.

And while we attempted to maximize sightseeing at Mt. Rushmore, Bear Country USA, Deadwood City and Crazy Horse, we did manage to squeeze in some ACPC business. Two items of import of the many that were discussed during our business sessions are a Pulaski scholarship challenge and the establishment of a small grants program to aid our affiliated organizations. This year, the Pulaski Scholarship Committee was able to award only one \$5,000 scholarship from the endowment earnings. And, it appears that we will be able to afford only one \$5,000 grant in 2011. Our treasurer, Greg Biestek and his wife, Monica, who were unable to attend the convention, issued a challenge to all members of our affiliated and supporting organizations, as well as individual members and all sympathetic members of the community, to match their \$500 challenge gift to encourage contributions and gather sufficient funds for at least a second \$5,000 scholarship to be awarded in 2011. In the words of Greg and Monica, "join us in our challenge and help another young person complete his/her advanced education. We await your response".

I am proud to announce that the ACPC board has taken an important step forward to assist our affiliates and has approved the proposal made by Recording Secretary, Marcia Lewandowska, to establish an affiliate small grants program. This matching grant, up to \$500, would enable affiliates to sponsor programs in their respective communities, which they might not otherwise be able to undertake. The criteria and application will be mailed separately to each affiliate. The deadline for applying is September 30, 2010. The Council is pleased to assist our affiliates to maintain visibility in their respective communities, to expand their outreach with a view toward increasing and strengthening their membership and to enhance their profile in the area of Polish arts and culture. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

And as I write of affiliate sponsorship of cultural programs, I'm reminded of several important anniversaries in our Polish heritage calendar, which occur this year and which present a golden opportunity to share information about our heritage and culture in our respective communities: the bicentennial of the birth of Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin; the 150th anniversary of the birth of pianist, composer and statesman, Ignacy Jan Paderewski; the 75th anniversary of the death of the great coloratura soprano, pianist and violinist, Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich; the 600th anniversary of the defeat of the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald; the centenary of the first performance of the hymn *Rota*, the Oath, music composed by Feliks Nowowiejski to the poem authored by Maria Konopnicka. We have a glorious heritage; let's keep up the good work of fostering an interest in our heritage and culture.

South Dakota Convention continued

The opening ceremonies on Wednesday, July 14, consisted of the Welcome by President Debbie Majka who also led the meeting in singing the Polish Anthem.

The Lakota Flag Song was sung by Whitney Rencountre (Tatanka Najin, Standing Buffalo in Dakota language). He is Hunkpati Dakota from Crow Creek Sioux tribe of South Dakota. The Flag Song was written by Ellis Chips and reflects the participation of the Lakota Indians proudly serving in the U.S. Army in several battles.

He was followed by Stephen Yellow Hawk who sang the American Anthem.

Father Canon Philip Majka gave the invocation after which the Mayor of Rapid City, Alan Hanks, greeted all the conventioners and extended a very warm welcome and invited all to return anytime.

Pres. Debbie Majka asked for a moment of silence to honor and remember those who died in that fateful airline crash in Russia on April 10, 2010 that claimed the lives of Poland's President, his wife and many other Polish dignitaries on their way to ceremonies at Katyn. Richard Wiermanski, convention co-chair, greeted all and introduced the Keynote speaker, Consul General of the Republic of Poland from Chicago, Zygmunt Matynia. Consul



Jasmine Pickner, Hoop dancer



Invocation by Father Majka

Matynia took his cue from the theme for the convention "Carving a Dream" and adapted it to Poles' carving their dream of a democratic Poland. At the close of the ceremonies, Jackie Droleski and Barbara Lemecha presented a bouquet on behalf of the Council in expressing pride in Debbie Majka's appointment as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland for the Philadelphia area. Consul Matynia then invited all to attend the Chopin/Paderewski Concert in Chicago later in the month.

A delicious luncheon followed. During the lunch, Jasmine Pickner, from the Crow Creek Sioux spoke about the traditional hoop dance which she was taught by her adoptive father, Dallas Chief Eagle. She has taught and performed the dance all over the world. The hoop dance was originally performed by men and she is one of a growing number of women performing the intricate dance. She has won numerous competitions and is a leader in the field. At the end of her perfor-

Cowboys entertain

Business session



Opening ceremony singers Whitney Rencountre and Stephen Yellow Hawk

mance she was joined by her two children, daughter Savannah Rose and son Caydo. She then had them join a few volunteers from the audience to learn a few hoop movements. It was a most enjoyable luncheon.

On Thursday, after the morning business session, lunch followed with guest speaker, our own member, Jaroslaw Golembiowski, well known composer and musician. Mr. Golembiowski spoke about the Chopin/Paderewski centennial celebrations world wide and encouraged all to attend one or some of them. After lunch, buses left for Bear Country, a wildlife preserve. From Bear Country they proceeded to Mt. Rushmore. At Rushmore, dinner in their restaurant was followed by a patriotic ceremony and light show. The visitors returned to the hotel tired but pleased.



Welcome from Mayor Alan Hanks

Jaroslaw Golembiowski discusses world wide Chopin/Paderewski centennial celebrations



On Friday, after lunch, the bus departed for Deadwood, a replica of the old mining town where Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane are buried on Boot Hill. Conventioneers had time to tour, shop or gamble. The bus then took them several miles up the road to the Circle B Ranch where a Chuck-Wagon Dinner (Bar BQ Beef, Buffalo and Chicken with baked potato and beans, biscuits and drinks) just like the fare cowboys had on the trail was served. After the meal the owners and two of their sons entertained the audience singing familiar cowboy songs. Their professional talented singing enthralled the listeners who joined in on familiar songs.

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Author Doug Jacobsen's presentation captivates audience



Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski reporting on our part in the National Social studies Convention

Saturday's final business session included the elections conducted by Jacqueline Kolowski, Nominations Chair person. At lunch, a very interesting talk by Doug Jacobsen, the author of "Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two" delighted the guests. He recounted the background for his book and for the events that inspired him and why he chose a Polish setting.

After lunch, the bus left for the Crazy Horse Monument. On arriving at the monument grounds, visitors were shown a film about the history behind the monument. What has been accomplished so far was overwhelming. Korczak had to be divinely inspired and blessed with the drive and stamina to accomplish so much. It made all the attendees very proud of this really great man who claimed his Polish heritage and did so much for others and their heritage. During the time after the film, members of the tour visited the museum which included Korczak's home and workshop and gift shops. According to Ruth Ziolkowski's letter, the ACPC Post-



Irena Mirecki reports on the success of the 2010 Youth Leadership Conference



Carol Surma presents token of appreciation to co-chairs Majka and Wiermanski for organizing a fabulous convention

Newly Elected Officers

Board of Directors:

Ilona Frederic, Rochester, NY
 Marie Hejnosz, Philadelphia, PA
 Mary Heslin, Hartford, CT
 Florence Landridge, Hartford, CT
 Carolyn Meleski, Detroit, MI
 Walter Wojcik, Philadelphia, PA

Auditing Committee

Alice Laning, Washington, DC

Nominating Committee

Edyta Dudek, Minneapolis, MN
 Ed Pawlowski, Washington, DC

Credentials & Grievances Committee

Alicia Dutka, Chicago, IL
 Matthew Meleski, Detroit, MI
 Irene Musman, Philadelphia, PA



Newly elected board members are sworn in by Canon Philip Majka

humorous Jan deRosen Award is displayed in their library. Dinner in the newly built Restaurant, reminiscent of Zakopane architecture, followed with the presentation of our Annual Awards.

The Founders Awards were presented to: Jaqueline Droleski by Mary Ellen Tyszka, 2nd Vice President of ACPC and to: Mary Heslin by Bernadette Wiermanski, 1st Vice President. The ACPC Special Achievement Award was presented to all those who work to carry on Korczak's Dream by ACPC President, Deborah Majka and accepted on behalf of the group by Korczak's daughter, Jadwiga.

When the sun set, a laser-light show titled "Legends in Light" dramatically lit up the monument with varying lights, Indian symbols and story telling graphics. No part of the monument has been government funded. Everything was paid for by private donations from school children to benefactors. The light show was made possible recently, by a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Kroc, whose husband, Ray, the founder of McDonald's was a close friend of Korczak.

Sunday morning, a Mass was celebrated by Father Canon Philip Majka in the hotel at 8 am for those who were not already on their way home and wished to attend. It was a fitting end to a wonderful convention.

M.F.



Awards Chair Mary Flanagan opens the awards ceremony



Mary Heslin receives Founders Award from Bernadette Wiermanski, 1st VP



Jaqueline Droleski receives Founders award from Mary Ellen Tyszka, 2nd VP



President Debbie Majka presents Special Achievement Award Jadwiga Ziolkowski

Footnote:

Sixteen girls and five boys from the Dakotas, Alaska, Oklahoma and New Mexico started classes this summer at the first Summer University Program at Crazy Horse Memorial. The Ziolkowskis envisioned a university and medical training center shortly after dedicating the nonprofit Memorial in 1948 to honor and help American Indians. On her 80th birthday, Ruth, the sculptors wife, wished for a dormitory and classroom facility for which well wishers

came up with funds for planning and engineering designs. Other philanthropists funded the construction and provided an endowment to provide the educational program's ongoing operating costs.

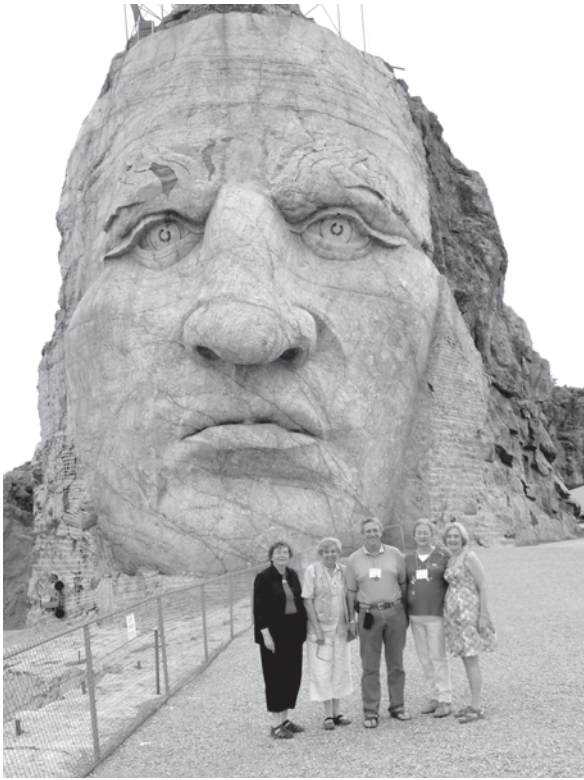
The Crazy Horse classes are aimed at college preparation and freshman-level English, Algebra and American Indian Studies. The students earn up to 12 college credit hours, including time working in paid internships at the Memorial's visitor complex.



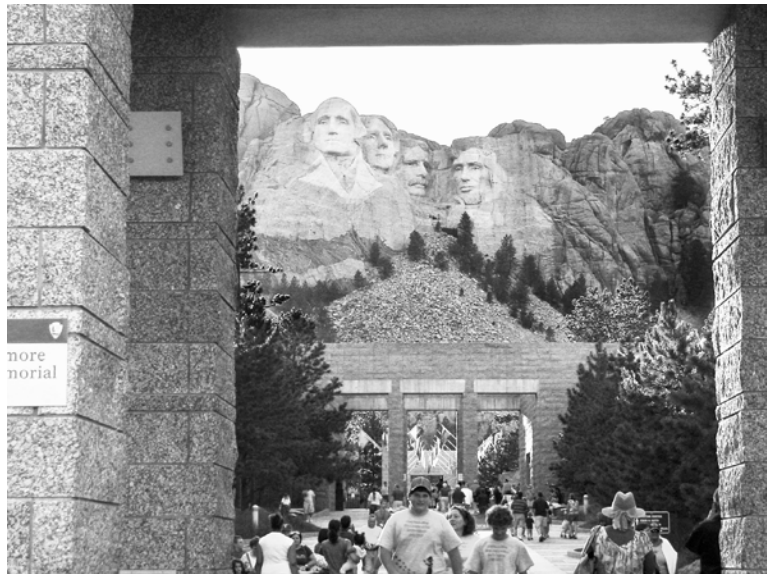
Deborah M. Majka, President of ACPC, has been appointed as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Philadelphia. She was presented flowers on behalf of the conventioners by Jackie Kowolski



Boot Hill visitors at the grave of Wild Bill Hicoek . Calamity Jane is buried in plot next to him



Atop Crazy Horse



Mount Rushmore entrance



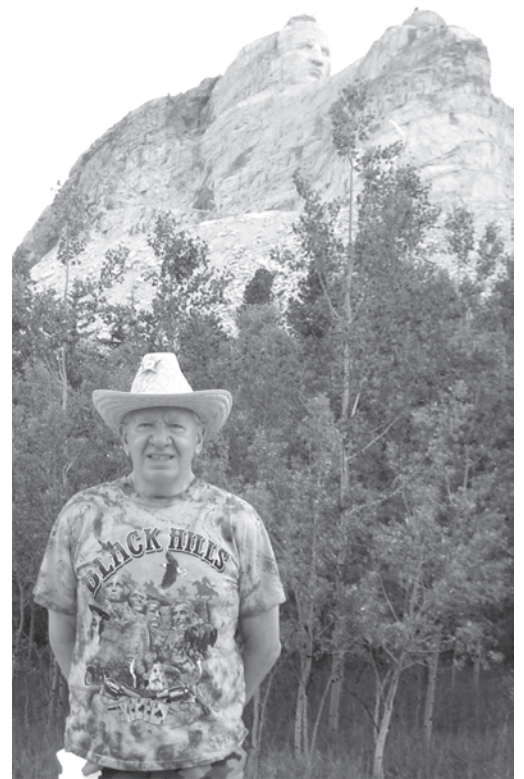
Bear country



Hoop Dance lesson



Deadwood scenes



Below Crazy Horse

The 2010 Youth Leadership Conference *By Ted Mirecki*

The Youth Leadership Conference organized by the American Council for Polish Culture is a week-long program in Washington DC in which young persons of Polish descent meet persons of Polish descent in leadership positions in politics, business, media, academia and arts. This year, the Conference was held on June 20 to 26. Housing was in a dormitory of George Washington University in downtown Washington. The 13 participants ranged in age from 17 to 23, and came from various cities, mainly on the East Coast.

The program was organized by Irena Mirecki, YLC Chair, and her husband Ted. Janet Beane, a Board member of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington (an ACPC Affiliate) was chaperone and dorm mother to the group.

The participants arrived on a Sunday afternoon and settled into their dorm rooms; the program began with an orientation meeting and pizza dinner that evening. The rest of the week was filled with sessions and presentations by a variety of speakers, a summary of which follows.

Monday's program began with the keynote address, entitled "The Essence of Leadership," given by Peter Podbielski, a retired Army colonel who had served in diplomatic military posts abroad, including a term as Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation, US Embassy Warsaw, Poland. His presentation was not a dry lecture, as he elicited discussion from the participants on the points he presented.

The next point of the program was at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, where Ambassador Robert Kupiecki met with the group. We were pleasantly surprised that he found the time from his busy schedule to spend over half an hour with us, as the participants introduced themselves. Among the Embassy staff who gave presentations was a young diplomat who

Embassy of the Republic of Poland. From left, Stuart Simon, Max Korzan, Amb. Robert Kupiecki, Jan Stefanski, Jean de Dalmas



had taken part in YLC over ten years ago, so the current participants could readily relate to him. We ended by having lunch there. The Embassy program was organized by Minister Marek Konarzewski and Dr. Grazyna Zebrowska of the Science, Education and Technology Section.

That same day, Monday, our next session was at the Institute of World Politics, a graduate school of national security and international affairs, whose web site (www.iwp.edu) states that it is "dedicated to developing leaders with a sound understanding of international realities and the ethical conduct of statecraft, based on

Library of Congress. Title page of a commemorative album from the people of Poland to those of the United States, signed by government officials and 25,000 school children



Stephanie Cimoch from Philadelphia presents the Conference T-shirt to ACPC President Debbie Majka, who came to the last session and the closing dinner.

knowledge and appreciation of the principles of the American political economy and the Western moral tradition." We heard several presentations, concluded by a talk by author, history professor and IWP academic dean Marek Chodakiewicz, whose two-hour ad-lib presentation was brilliant - the participants hung on his every word as he ranged over a variety of topics, including some from Polish history and others of the present, particularly the Iraq war.

On Tuesday, the day began with a presentation at the Library of Congress by Regina Frackowiak, Head of the European Reading Room. The LOC staff brought out several rare items relating to Poland, including an album of signatures of Polish school children on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of US independence, and also in thanks to the people of the United States for their support of Polish independence after WW I, and food assistance after that war. Next was a tour of the US Capitol building, arranged by the office of Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland.

In the afternoon, the group met with Dr. Andrzej Raczko, outgoing Alternate Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, in the IMF group of countries that includes Poland. The day ended with a tour of Arlington National Cemetery, with stops at the Kennedy gravesite, the Tomb of the Unknowns for the changing of the guard, and Arlington House, the mansion once owned by Robert E. Lee and confiscated when his land was nationalized to provide a burial ground for Civil War Union soldiers.



At the International Monetary Fund. From left: Jean de Dalmas, Patricia Wnek, Ted Mirecki, Alexandra Wojdakowska, Saundra Malanowicz, Pamela Migalska, Janet Beane, Stephanie Cimoch, Dr. Andrzej Raczko of IMF, Agata Maczuga, Peter Roman, Max Korzan, Alexander Hejnosz, Martyna Rybak, Jan Stefanski, Stuart Simon.

The 89th National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS).

"Dream and Deeds" was the theme of the 2009 conference in Atlanta, Georgia, which took place November 13-15. Once again we took advantage of this great opportunity for our "Polish Perspectives" to interact with teachers, provide them with historically accurate facts and highlight Polish contributions to American and World history that are not readily available in American textbooks.

This 89th Annual Conference that gathered 4000 educators. We presented Polish perspectives on World War II and Polish contributions to the Allied victory. Since 2009 marked the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of WW II and the 20th of the Solidarity Movement's success in expelling communism, we prepared materials that highlighted those accomplishments. We invested in a new display unit and filled it with invaluable educational posters that we created especially for this year's exhibit. A poster, *Poland First to Fight*, was our main focus supported by posters featuring Irena Sendler's heroic deeds, the Battle of Monte Cassino, Solidarity and other historical facts.

Our tables were filled with printed material and books such as; "A Question of Honor", "Null and Void", "Warsaw Uprising", "Enigma", "Night of Flames", "The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt" and perennial favorites "Zegota" and "Legacy of the White Eagle" among others. We also had for distribution, a smaller version of the

posters on display, book marks, World War II documentary DVD's, and our own custom-designed CD containing many resources hyperlinked to web sites of all of the supporting organizations as well as other pertinent resources

Another very important addition this year was the World War II brochure "For Your Freedom and Ours", reprinted by ACPC. with permission from the Polish Combatants of Canada. All 4000 registrants received a copy in their NCSS convention tote bag. Some of the teachers looked us up because of that brochure. It was a grand idea, very well received and truly money well spent.

As we report every year, this Annual Conference is the largest of its kind where professionals from all over the United States and across the globe attend and we, the American Council for Polish Culture, are part of it for the ninth year. This conference offers teachers an opportunity to find new materials to use in their classroom and we were there ready to proudly present Polish Perspectives. We are determined to inspire teachers to engage their students to explore, investigate and learn about Polish physicists engineers, chemists poets composers and other brilliant minds of Poland. This was probably our best year thus far, not only because of our display and its content but because, for the first time,



Barbara Lemecha

the American Council for Polish Culture was presenting, before a live audience, a program entitled "World War II: Perspectives on Fear". We were selected as Presenters by the NCSS Conference Planning Committee out of 900 applicants. The presentation dealt with the psychological factor effecting individuals' response to wartime tragedy.

Meg Heubeck, from University of Virginia Center for Politics with Emily Grannis, her intern, and Henrietta Nowakowski spent months gathering information, translating eye witness accounts, personal biographies, and other documents for this power point presentation. The result was a very powerful program. It was held in a large meeting room with Meg Heubeck as the main speaker and over 150 teachers in attendance. The presentation was augmented with visual historical military and concentration camp artifacts. We were very fortunate to have them on loan from the World War II Museums of the, Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan for the 3 days in Atlanta.

After the presentation, an invigorating 'question and answer' segment followed with interesting exchanges of historical facts. Many teachers after the session came directly to our booth to see what else we

had on display, full of questions and interest in our exhibit. Incidentally this same presentation will be published in the National Council for the Social Studies' official journal "Social Education" which Meg Heubeck prepared.

Now for the "icing on the cake" if you will. Among many teachers that came to see our exhibit directly from the presentation, curious to see what else we had to offer, was a man from Long Island, NY with very interesting feed-



Henrietta Nowakowska

back. He was very well informed about Poland and Polish WW II history. He came to see our exhibit in past years and treasures the books we gave him, especially the Forgotten Holocaust. This non-Pole learned much about the history of wartime Poland and how it fought against the Germans from start to finish. He was so very complimentary about our efforts to bring our whole story to light, and said, "so many facts are so little known and so little is written about Polish contributions". Out of this productive exchange came an invitation to present our program at the New York State Conference for the Social Studies on March 4 & 5, 2010 in Rye, NY. There, we reached a much younger group, not the same crowd that attends the national meeting, a totally new audience. We repeated the five presentation and also arranged a display table with WWII materials.

This vision, which started with Irene Szewiola and Wally West, continues to grow and make an impact. At the core of this success are organizations and individuals that are financially committed to this effort. For this commitment, we thank you!

This year the 90* Annual NCSS "Vistas, Visions and Voices" will be in Denver, Colorado on November 12-14, which will give us another opportunity to "Keep This Heritage Alive".

National Conference for the Social Studies

There aren't many of us who would celebrate our birthdays at the New York State Regional Social Studies Conference, but that's exactly what Barbara Lemecha did Thursday and Friday, March 4 & 5 along with Henrietta Nowakowska. This is the first time that ACPC was represented at a regional conference, this one held in Rye Brook, NY,

Approximately 800 social studies teachers from New York State participated. They participated in workshops and visited the many booths represented there. Although smaller than the National Conference on Social Studies, ACPC continued featuring the theme of the 70th anniversary of the start of WWII, highlighting Poland as the first to fight as well as featuring the heroine who saved 2,500 Jewish children, Irena Sendler. By distributing the handouts which show all the battles where Poles participated, we work to dispel the misconception that Poles collaborated with the Nazis. Meg Heubeck, of the UVA, in behalf of ACPC, gave the presentation, given last Fall in Atlanta at the National Conference, entitled "perspectives of fear" through which she attempts to give a sense of what the atmosphere was like in Poland during the War, a unique situation given Poland having two enemies—the Nazis and the Soviets.

We have received two additional invitations—next year's New York regional in Rochester and to the Long Island social studies conference in October—all it'll take is manpower. The National Conference will take place in Denver, CO.

Sto Lat, Basia. Thanks to you and to Henrietta for your willingness to travel to NY to have ACPC represented there. To all ACPC Board Members: Please note that Basia and Henrietta will not be continuing to handle this project and new Chairs are needed. They've given seven years of their respective lives to this project and have done an outstanding job of getting our message out to the teachers about the accomplishments of Poles and Polish Americans. Please think about getting involved in this project; there's such satisfaction from interaction with the teachers. All volunteers are welcome. This is a most worthwhile project. Whenever I travel to these conferences, I'm continually amazed at how little is known about us and how gratifying it is to bring in many cases this new information to the teachers who will share it with their students. DM

"Vistas Visions and Voices" is the theme of this year's National Conference for the Social Studies in Denver, Colorado on November 12-14, 2010. As every year for the last 10 years, we are actively preparing to present our Polish Perspectives exhibit. We are pleased to report that Ceil and Ray Glembocki will chair the project this year. It is a pleasure to watch Ceil embrace this event with enthusiasm that's reflected in her visions and proposals of new ideas for our Polish Perspectives.

We at ACPC are very pleased with the success of this project and realize its importance. The proof of this is the financial support we received at the last ACPC Convention in Rapid City. Delegates and guests enthusiastically supported this annual project with pledges of financial support and we actually collected over \$1,300.00 during our presentation. As the outgoing chairs of this annual exhibit we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of our friends who faithfully supported us in our commitment to this event and helped us grow.

ACPC accomplished a lot in the last 10 years at this gathering of educators and curricula writers, but there is a lot more to do and we are committed to continue this worthwhile project in Denver this November. Again, we need you to continue your help by providing materials, books and as always we invite all organizations and individuals to support this rewarding project with a financial commitment. Thank you again,

*Barbara Lemecha and
Henrietta Nowakowski*

To "Keep Our Heritage Alive", please make checks payable to ACPC/NCSS and mail to: Cecilia Glembocki

911 Saddleback Court
McLean, VA 22102-1317



The new NCSS coordinators Raymond and Ceil Glembocki

Pride of Polonia



Marion Winters

Congratulations to Marion V. Winters, former President of ACPC who was chosen to receive The Pride of Polonia Award. The award was created by the Executive Board of the Polish Apostolate and is presented annually to honor individuals who have made a unique contribution to the life of American Polonia. Its first recipient, in 1992 was John Cardinal Krol.

Past recipients include Walter Zachariasiewicz and Blanka Rosenstiel both former ACPC presidents, and Polish American Congress President Edward Moskal and historian Edward Pinkowski.

The award presented on Sunday August 29, 2010 at the conclusion of the 12:30 pm Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA. was followed at 2:20 pm by the official opening of the Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibition at the Shrine by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

We are proud to count Marion and Jo Louise Winters as our members and pleased that Marion has been given the recognition he so richly deserves.

ACPC Affiliate & Supporting Member News

The Chopin Fine Arts Club

At the Anniversary luncheon held at the Tippecanoe Place scholarships were awarded to: Hannah Osborne - Fine Arts - Adams High School; Mariah Doublas Liberal Arts - Marian High School. Also outgoing officers: Joan Jaworski and Mary Ann Kwiecinski were thanked for their service and the new officers: Lori Bettcher, VP and Bernadette Sutton, Secty. were welcomed.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated for the Polish President and the Dignitaries who died in the plane crash near the Katyn Forest at St. Patrick's Church on April 17.

In May a Chopin Festival was held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Frederik Chopin.

Calendar of events:

September 19

a card party at the Falcon Hall

November 6,

Mass for the living and deceased members at St. Stanislaus B.M. Church.

Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford

Jerzy Karwowski, President of the Society in Stamford has informed Membership Chair Anna-Mae Maglaty that at the society's annual meeting and election of officers the membership voted to drop its membership in ACPC. It was with a heavy heart that they leave ACPC but their membership is both aging and declining and thus, their decision.

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

Scholarship Recipients at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

Left to Right: President Teresa N. Wojcik, Staphanie Cimoch, Paula Kwasniewski, Natalia Falkowska, Thomas Przeniczny, Julia Wojcik, Dr. Medvec's assistant, and Vice-President and Scholarship Committee Steven E. Medved, PhD.

The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Inc.

Founder of PHA celebrates 100th Birthday

Stanley Ciesielski founder and first president of PHA was honored at a celebration of the 35th Annual Scholarship Program. A scholarship was given in his honor for dedication not only to the organization but also for promoting Poland's many causes during his lifetime.

In the thirty five years since its inception the Scholarship Program has funded over \$215,000. in grants to further the education of Polish Students.

A lavish reception was prepared by the Hospitality Committee. Happy Birthday Stanley!!!



Stanley Ciesielski, Sylvia Surowiec, recipient of scholarship, Victoria T. Leshinskie, President, Gordon Creamer, Chair, Scholarship Committee.

Polish Heritage Club of Syracuse, Inc.

Ellye Kozak Sluszarczyk, author, poet, news columnist and former elementary school teacher was guest speaker at the April meeting. She read selections from her book: "The Crystalline Eagle", a collection of Polish-themed poetry. She was accompanied by pianist/composer, Sharon Markwardt.

At the May meeting Dr. Julie Dubiel and husband, Steve Kapusniak showed film of their "2000 Polka Poland Tour" hosted by Chicago's finest, Eddie Blazonczyk.

Some members also attended the Chopin Concert sponsored by LeMoyne College.

Polish Heritage Society of Rochester NY

The ACPC happily welcomes the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, NY as a new affiliate. We thank them for being on our Supporting Organization Roster previously. The Society was established in 1919. It preserves and promotes Polish Heritage by producing and sponsoring lectures, presentations, art exhibits, musical performances and scholarships for senior high school students and including a new summer Polish language and Culture Program at Torun University.



Polish American Congress, Washington DC - Taste America By Sandra Malanowicz

The PAC Office in Washington DC presented the interests and perspectives of the Polish American Community during the annual Taste America event on Capitol Hill. The event was titled "Taste America 2010- Protect and Defend". The PAC subtitle was "Poles and Polish Americans in Service to the United States and the World".

During its 19 years of presence on Capitol Hill, the Taste America event has drawn approximately 650-700 visitors annually - primarily members of the House of Representatives and Senate and their families, to whom the event is addressed. Traditionally, the reception is held in the Members' Dining Room of the U.S. Capitol with a rich choice of hors d'oeuvres and a string quartet; today, it is the only public event that is authorized to take place in this historic setting.

The event, an elegant reception with an expo of approximately 12-15 exhibitors, once again invited the Polish American Congress to present its display, the only

'ethnic' exhibit at the event. The preparations for the event were once again conducted under the oversight of Dr. Barbara B. Andersen, Director of Research at the Washington D.C. Office.

Each year the event is organized under a different theme; this year it was Protect and Defend (The PAC suggested the theme to the organizers as a way of highlighting two anniversaries—the centenary of the Kosciuszko and Pulaski monuments in Washington DC, both of which were unveiled on the same day a century ago).

Although the PAC Washington D.C. Office traditionally strives to keep as close to the theme as possible, this year's theme was approached from a much broader perspective - one that emphasized many Polish and Polish American military achievements throughout history and all over the world, while also highlighting accomplishments in the health sciences and the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage.

To create a clear link between the theme of the event and the many books, brochures and handouts on the two PAC tables, the office organized its display into six sections (clearly marked with corresponding signs): Two of the themes were Protect and Defend Historical Awareness primarily included information about the Katyn Massacre and German Nazi concentration camps in Poland. The memory of these tragic events cannot be forgotten.

Protect and Defend Memory of Heroes. Here, the PAC focused on extraordinary individuals, such as the generations of Poles and Polish Americans who have served the United States and the world, as well as Polish Righteous Among the Nations.

With expressions of astonishment, each guest seemed truly amazed to hear that Kosciuszko, a Pole, designed the fortifications at West Point, or that over 20,000 Polish officers and intelligentsia were secretly exterminated in the forests of Katyn 70 years ago. Their interest expressed fascination with such topics, and everyone left the event enriched by mutual discovery and meaningful interaction. This, after all, seemed to be the ultimate goal of PAC at Taste America.



PAC tables at the Taste America event

Friends of Polish Art

FPA held their annual election in January. The new officers: Carol Surma, President; Bill Gorski, 1st Vice-Pres.; Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman, 2nd Vice Pres.; Elzbieta Mscichowska, Treasurer; Christa Zabawski, Corr. Secty. Board Members: Janet Hedin, Jane Wojtan, Matt Meleski, Halina Ujda and Greg Biestek.

The March meeting included a presentation and lecture about Polish animation shorts from the 1970's to recent computer generated animation presented by member Alina Klin.

The annual Swieconka was held on April 11th at the Krakus Restaurant in Detroit. The delicious traditional dinner was followed by a wonderful mini concert of Polish sacred music by David Troiano. Janet Hedin, mistress of ceremonies announced the winners of the Short Story Competition. They are: Lauren Jo Sypniewski, 1st Place; Kathryn A.O'Donnell, 2nd Place; Elizabeth Kerlikowske, 3rd Place; and Peter Kleczynski, Honorable Mention.

On a sad note, long time member and former board member, Marian Owczarski died on April 15th. He was a celebrated artist in both Poland and the United States.

The Polish American Arts Association of Wash., D.C.

The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland jointly honored Fryderyk Chopin's 200th birthday with a magnificent concert on March 6. The Counsel for Cultural and Public Affairs, Malgorzata Szum, welcomed an overflowing crowd on behalf of Ambassador Robert Kupiecki. A second warm welcome in behalf of the Arts Association was delivered by Ed Pawlowski. The evening was ripe for social enjoyment of wise women and men, gourmet foods and music at the piano once played by Ignacy Paderewski.

Many thanks and deep appreciation were expressed by Ed to Ambassador Kupiecki and his



Ed Pawlowski and Pianist Raymond Jackson

staff for their support in planning, organizing, promoting, and staging this concert to celebrate Poland's greatest composer and Poland's greatest musical gift to the world. Special thanks were extended to Malgorzata Szum and Master Chef Adam Holewa who prepared the after concert meal. Ed was privileged to recognize several PAAA members and colleagues who constitute a slice of living history: Ambassador General Ed Rowny, America's senior negotiator in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the Soviet Union during the Cold War; Mrs. Wanda Spasowski, former First Lady at this embassy, widow of Ambassador Romuald Spasowski, who, at the time of their defection to the west, became the highest ranking communist diplomat to defect; Mrs. Barbara Colby, widow of Bill Colby, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, with whom she served in Norway, Italy, Vietnam, and Washington, and whose Polish roots go back to the Polish Ukraine in the 16th century; Sir Walter Zachariasiewicz, nominal leader of Polonia in the D.C. Area, who was taken prisoner by the Soviets, released when the Nazis attacked the USSR, rearrested as a Polish spy, escaped, made his way to the Middle East, across Northern Africa

to Italy. At age 98 Walter has developed a lifestyle to sail on toward 100! "Drugie Sto Lat," (another 100) Walter!

Also recognized: Dr. Suzanne Lotarski, President of the Polish American Congress, Washington Division; Richard Poremski, Chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation; Jeanne Wigham, President of the Washington International Piano Arts Council; Eliza Wojtaszek, President of the Polish American Arts

Association of Washington, DC; and Marianna Eckel, Chairperson of our Concert Organizing Committee. Pianist Raymond Jackson attended the Julliard School in New York City where he amassed a

Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. Dr. Jackson went on to become a musical activist: a recording artist, researcher, teacher, scholar, lecturer, adjudicator, and author. He has been a pioneer and trail blazer for African American composers.

He is the first musician, the first African American, and the youngest to be elected into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. At present, Dr. Jackson is the Professor of Music at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he was honored with the University Faculty Excellence Award.

His recital included Chopin's masterworks of Scherzo, Berceuse, Barcarolle, Nocturnes, and Polonaises. After standing ovations, the audience enjoyed a delicious reception.

Chopin, the poet of the piano, has been celebrated with Chopin concerts being held worldwide.

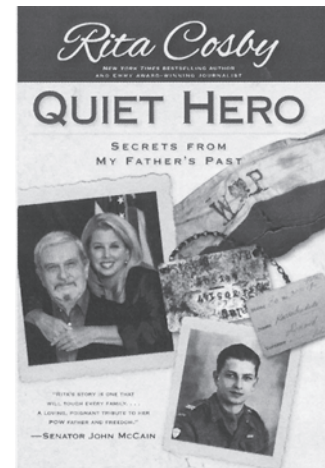
Ed Pawlowski, Ph.D.

The PAAA held its annual "Wianki Festival" on Saturday, June 26 in the evening at the Capitol Reflecting Pool. Families enjoyed picnics in the ancient Polish tradition. At dusk the candles on the wreaths were lighted and placed at the Reflecting Pool. The program ended with public dancing.

Quiet Hero

Rita Cosby

Threshold Editions
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
304 pages \$26 listed



The Secret Story of An "AK" Home Army Fighter is Revealed!

Emmy® award-winning journalist, TV host, and New York Times best selling author Rita Cosby has always asked the tough questions in her interviews with the world's top newsmakers. Now, in a compelling and powerful memoir, she reveals how she uncovered an amazing personal story of heroism and courage, the untold secrets of a man she has known all her life: her father.

Years after her mother's death Rita finally nerved herself to sort through her mother's stored belongings, never dreaming what a dramatic story was waiting for her. Opening a battered tan suitcase, she discovered it belonged to her father-the enigmatic man who had divorced her mother and left when Rita was still a teenager.

Rita knew little of her father's past just that he had left Poland after World War II, and that his many scars, visible and not, bore mute witness to some past tragedy. He had always refused to answer questions. Now, however, she held in her hand stark mementos from the youth of the man she knew only as Richard Cosby, proud American a worn Polish Resistance armband, rusted tags bearing a prisoner number and the words Stalag IVB; and an identity card for an ex-POW bearing the name Ryszard Kossobudzki.

Jadwiga's Crossing a story of the Great Migration

Aloysius A. Lutz
Richard J. Lutz

iUNIVERSE
2021 Pine Lake Rd. Suite100
Lincoln, NE 68512

This beautifully written, meticulously researched work is a must-read not only for Polish-Americans, but for all readers who are interested in learning about the challenges and joys of the trans-Atlantic crossing made by millions of European immigrants in the late nineteenth century.

Richard and Aloysius Lutz have written a compelling tale about the hardships encountered by a group of poor Polish immigrants, viewed through the eyes of newlyweds Paul and Jadwiga Adamik. Readers are introduced to Poles and Polish folklore from several regions of then-partitioned Poland, as well as the tensions that existed between Poles and the three nations that occupied Poland in the nineteenth century: Prussia, Russia, and Austria.

This work of historical fiction will resonate with readers whose ancestors, three or four generations ago, made the same difficult decision to uproot their families from their familiar surroundings in Europe in order to secure a better life in America. Their stories about their emigration from the Old World, often carefully passed down from generation to generation, have been woven into the fabric of *Jadwiga's Crossing*.

Give a Legacy

A wonderful way to perpetuate Polish Heritage and insure that our programs will continue is to make a gift through a will.

Direct bequests or charitable remainder trusts may be made simply by designating American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. as a beneficiary.



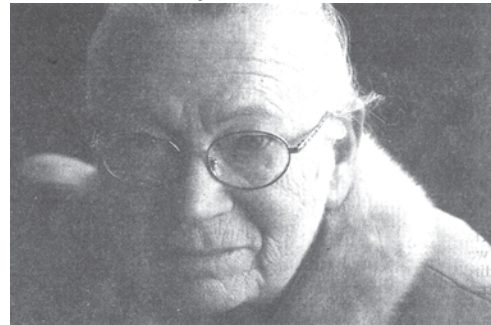
Marian Owczarski

outstanding Polish artist and sculptor, died on April 15, 2010. Many of our ACPC members became acquainted with Marian at our meetings in Orchard Lake where he lived on campus and directed their 'Galleria'.

We had the pleasure of seeing many of his sculptures on display. He is rated as an International Sculptor. His work has been exhibited in 11 countries. Following an exhibition in DC in 1970, he was approached simultaneously by St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake and by Princeton University to become an artist-in-residence. He said "I was just over from Poland and never heard of Princeton" so he went with Orchard Lake where they all spoke Polish.

"Wieczny odpoczynek racz mu dac, Panie."

Anna Walentynowicz, 80



Anna Walentynowicz, a central figure in Poland's Solidarity movement died in a fatal air crash on April 10, 2010. The crash killed 95 Polish dignitaries, her and the President of Poland among them. They were on their way to ceremonies commemorating the infamous Katyn massacre.

Ms. Walentynowicz became a heroic symbol of freedom in Poland after she was dismissed from her job at the Gdansk shipyard in August 1980. This prompted a strike, first to succeed in a communist country. The revolt spread and less than a decade later resulted in the downfall of the communist regime in Poland.

The ACPC mourns the loss of all those who lost their lives in that crash and extends their heartfelt condolences to the people of Poland.

Wanda Bronislawa Tomczykowska



Born into an old, fiercely patriotic Polish family, tracing its roots almost 700 years, Pani Wanda Tomczykowska embodied all that she had seen as a young girl and was taught as a student, on the subject of defending country, family and faith.

Pani Wanda took all that was denied Poland in the mid 1900's and brought it to the fore in her adopted land of America.

She used the now 41-year old Polish Arts and Culture Foundation to drive the message of Polish Pride to a broader audience through booklets, exhibits, and cultural programs. That drive helped San Francisco to have the only Lech Walesa Way in the world, a Joseph Conrad Square and innumerable new friends who now treat Poles with the highest regard. The PACF's annual Polonaise Ball at The Fairmont Hotel's Gold Room are legendary. The dozens of exhibits over the years at the Main Library, at Stanford and UC Berkley, have showcased Polish History, music and the arts.

Pani Wanda was of a generation of doers and dreamers. An elegant lady who loved to travel and was more adventurous than she looked, lived with style and panache, through good times and bad, retired due to poor health, to Krakow, Poland. In Krakow, on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 Pani Wanda finally succumbed to the ravages of old age and illness to Rest in Peace. She is survived by her grieving daughter Caria, loving grandchildren Remy, Dariana and Sebastian Szykier and great-granddaughters Hennessy and Lillian. She was pre-deceased by Caria's daughter Andria and son Damien.

Pulaski Scholarship Award

By Marion V. Winters, Chairman

The winner of the 10th annual Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies, American Council for Polish Culture was announced recently by Mr. Marion Winters, MA, Chairman. Serving with Mr. Winters on the Committee are Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, MS Ed; Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS; Mrs. Carolyn Meleski, MS; and Mr. Peter Obst, MA. The Committee awarded the \$5,000 scholarship to Ms. Vanessa Janowski of Pasadena, CA from among a record number of applicants.

A citizen of both Poland and the United States, Ms. Janowski is currently a Ph.D. student in Economics on the Brain, Mind and Society at California Institute of Technology. Her path to a Ph.D. began as an economics major at Yale University where she served as a research assistant to two professors, Prof. Arturo Bris and Christos Cabolis. Together



Vanessa Janowski

with the two professors, she published her thesis as a chapter in *International Mergers & Acquisitions Activity Since 1990: Qualitative Analysis & Recent Research*, edited by G. Gregoriou and L. Renneboog (2007).

During her undergraduate studies at Yale, Ms. Janowski served as president of the Polish Society and helped organize numerous events for the students and also for the Polonian Society, such as a screening of the Polish film "Europa Europa", followed by a discussion with the director Agnieszka Holland herself. All these efforts earned her the Szymon Sadowski Prize, awarded to the student who had done the most in a given year to celebrate and promote Polish culture at Yale.

Upon her graduation from Yale, the University awarded Ms Janowski a European Union Studies Grant to study the integration of Poland into the EU. She spent several weeks in Poland conducting interviews with prominent university professors and top ranking government officials. She put together her findings into a working research paper.

In order to strengthen her mathematics background for more advanced work in economics, Janowska went on to study for a Master's degree in Applicable

Mathematics at the London School of Economics (LSE). During that period she remained actively involved in extracurricular activities. Elected Treasurer of the Polish Society, she undertook inviting interesting speakers to the campus, e.g., the authors of *A Question of Honor: The Kosciuszko Squadron*, Lynn Olson and Stanley Cloud. She also served as the Events Chair of the LSE Salsa Society, leading a 3-member team in organizing

the Society's events.

Throughout her studies at undergraduate and graduate levels, Janowska received several fellowships recognizing her extensive involvement in the community and specifically in Polish affairs: The Kosciuszko Fdn., Polish & Slavic FCU, and PSO. She also supplemented her academic experiences in economics with applied work in a business setting. This involved serving as a consultant at Monitor Group, working in Warsaw, Paris, Madrid and London. Additionally, she was employed as an analyst at the Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria in Madrid and with Merrill Lynch in NY.

The Pulaski Scholarship Committee was very impressed with Ms. Janowski's remarkable academic record that boasts a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 at Caltech and that she still finds time to serve the community and to play leadership roles in promoting Polish culture. A letter of recommendation persuaded the Committee that in selecting her for the Pulaski Scholarship, the American Council for Polish Culture will be recognizing "...a young leader who always acts on her commitment to Polish causes...and sharing her knowledge and skills with others in the Polish-American community". Her goal is to become a professor in the economics department of a top U.S. university or business school. The Committee has little doubt that she will achieve her aims. Her thesis advisor is also confident that her completed Ph.D. projects at the intersection of economics and neuroscience will have a tremendous impact in both fields and be published in top science journals.

Skalny Scholarships Awarded

Two Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies were awarded for 2010 by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Committee Chairperson Ursula Brodowicz reported that the Skalny Scholarship Committee, including Debra Majka, Ange Iwanczyk, Dr. Ed Pawlowski and Marion Winters, awarded \$3,000 scholarships to two outstanding applicants: Matthew Przybylek and Pawel Styra.



Matthew Przybylek of Wilmington, Delaware is a 2009 graduate of the University of Delaware where he was awarded a BA in European Studies. As part of his studies at the University, Matthew completed a year long program in Polish language & culture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. This fulfilled the requirements of the University of Delaware Discovery Learning Experience in the Arts & Science program. As part of his political science and international relations studies, Matthew submitted a highly evaluated paper analyzing the behavior logics of Jan Sobieski and his counterparts during events surrounding 1683 central Europe and the Battle of Vienna. He is the 2009 Recipient of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Study, and the 2009 Recipient of the Global Scholars Award, among others. Matthew has been accepted to graduate school at Columbia University where he plans to continue with Polish studies. His activities in the PolAm community have been extensive and include involvement in local politics and in the history of the sizeable Polish community in Wilmington. Matthew states that he takes deep pride in his Polish roots and in the language and culture of Poland. He identifies himself as a Polish American who preserves and promotes the culture and history of Poland, that this is a defining characteristic of who he is and that it permeates his professional and social life.

Two Inaugural Polish Chairs

by Marion Winters



Pawel Styrna of Chicago, Illinois was awarded an MA degree in history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pawel's master's thesis was titled "Opinions on the Kiev Expedition in the American, British, Belgian, Polish and Soviet Press: A Sample from April-May, 1920". This thesis was described by the professor of history as a very detailed, rigorously argued, and extensively researched analysis and as greatly exceeding requirements. As a research paper it met the highest standards for rigor, seriousness and analytical acumen. His professor also states that in 17 years of instruction at the university, Pawel was by far the most diligent, enthusiastic and dedicated student. Pawel has completed several independent studies and seminars in Polish Studies. He is an intern with the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C. He is enrolled as a Continuing Education student, and has applied to the Masters program in Statecraft & International Relations.

Pawel is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. He is also a board member of the Chicago based Roman Dmowski Institute of America. Pawel continues to be active in the Polish American community, including assisting and coordinating the observance of the Katyn Forest Massacre in May at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He has been published in several publications and is working on two major essays for publication on Polish history. Pawel believes that the study of history is a fine way to promote Polish history and Polish culture. His long term goals include earning a PhD and becoming a professional historian of Polish history involved in American policy towards Poland.

Quite a few of you will recall Romuald (Rom) Hejna, an active member of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (including during my term as club president). In 1999, Rom left a legacy of \$2M (largest ever from an individual) to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to establish a fund in Polish History in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. He hoped it would someday grow to endow a chair in Polish studies - optimistically more than one chair. UIC has just announced that Rom's wish has more than come true.

The College has just named two inaugural Hejna Chairs. Kecly Stauter-Halsted will join the Dept. of History as the Stefan and Lucy Hejna Chair in the History of Poland, and Polish scholar Michal Pawel Markowski will sign on with the Dept. of Slavic & Baltic Languages & Literatures (where Jo Louise and I obtained our Masters degrees after retirement) as the inaugural Stefan & Lucy Hejna Family Chair in Polish Language & Literature. Prof. Stauter-Halsted stated that "the Hejna Chairs provide the opportunity to make UIC the center of scholarship and teaching about Polish affairs, and to establish links with centers of education in Poland." She has been active in East European studies programs, study abroad in Poland, and several organizations associated with the American Association of

Slavic Studies, serving as a board member of the Polish Studies Association. When she was an exchange student in Vienna she met "fascinating Polish emigres - artists, musicians and intellectuals - who had fled martial law." She has been "fascinated ever since by Poland, its history and its people." She believes that Poland is now at "a watershed moment" and she is looking forward to continuing her "engagement together with the huge and vibrant Chicago community of people who care deeply about this unique country, its past and its future."

Considered one of Poland's foremost public intellectuals, the second inaugural Hejna Chair, Michal Pawel Markowski, is director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Chairman of the international program in Polish Studies at Jagiellonian Univ. in Krakow, Poland where he is also professor of Polish studies. Among the many honors Markowski has received is the Polish Science Foundation's master grant for research, the most prestigious research grant in Poland. His ambition is to "create at UIC the most attractive program in Polish literature in the country, especially on the graduate level." He proposes to embark on the project of "expanding the field of Polish studies into a more comparative enterprise which will fit perfectly the demands and expectations of the contemporary student."

Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibit

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia has sponsored the Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibit during the Polish-American Festival at Czesochowa for many years. It provides an opportunity for us to support the work of Polish and Polish-American artists, a very significant goal. The thousands of visitors who come to the Shrine during the festival learn more about our organization and develop an appreciation for Polish culture, so the Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibit is an important component of our organization's work. For details about the Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibit, please see the following website:
http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/Styka_Art/index.html

The American Council for Polish Culture invites Polish Americans to join its organization and enjoy the companionship and fellowship of individuals interested in Polish and Polish-American accomplishments and heritage. Annual dues are only \$10 and include the quarterly *Polish Heritage* publication. Please join us! Contact:

Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty
Membership Chair
35 Fernridge Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
Tel. 860-521-7621
E/M annamae11@comcast

The Polish Contributions in Slowing The Spread of Communism and Winning The Cold War

by Wallace M. West

After World War I, the Poles declared their independence on November 11, 1918, thereby creating the Second Polish Republic. To keep its Independence, the new Republic had to win some borderland battles. By far, the most important battle was the Polish victory led by Marshal Jozef Pilsudski over the Russian Army in 1920. Lenin had attempted to over-run Poland and form a Moscow/Berlin Alliance in order to carry out his plan for a World Revolution.

Twenty years later, the Soviet Communist movement would avenge the defeat by joining forces with Nazi Germany to invade Poland and start WWII.

The marked supremacy of the combined military forces of Nazi Germany and Communist Soviet Union overwhelmed Poland and it was partitioned and occupied by the two totalitarian powers who perpetrated inconceivable crimes hitherto unknown to mankind. Nazi (an acronym for National Socialist German Workers Party) Germany and Communist Soviet Union exterminated millions of Poles and millions of Jews, both in Poland and in all the countries where the swastika and hammer and sickle ruled.

Of these two mass murderers of the twentieth century, one has been widely condemned while the other has been mostly overlooked. When the average person learns about the Holocaust, they associate it with words like "Hitler", "Gestapo" "Nazi" Concentration Camp" and "Storm Troopers". Rarely do they associate or link the Holocaust with such words as "Stalin", "Siberia", "Communism", "Beria", "KGB", or "Katyn".

When German death camps were liberated by the Allied Forces, the world was shown pictures of skeletal corpses and charred remains in cremation chambers, mass graves and emaciated survivors. The free world saw Nazi Germany's highly efficient means of mass murder to eliminate Europe's Jewish population to be followed by the elimination or enslavement of Poles and their Slavic brethren. Such scenes are identified with the word Holocaust and the Western Allies called for vengeance against the perpetrators of such barbaric behaviour.

On the other hand, at the end of WWII, news of Soviet mass murder was played down in the press of the Western Allies. Reports of Soviet death camps attracted little attention because the Soviet Union became an ally in the war against Nazi

Germany. Stories of Soviet death camps attracted little attention because of the fragility of Western/Soviet relations. Journalists of western forces had no opportunity to view the sites of mass murder in the Soviet Union or to visit the Gulag (State Board of Concentration Camps) in the Soviet Union.



Should western world journalists finally get around to documenting Soviet mass murders they will discover that Soviet victims came from all levels

of society and were shot, bayoneted, or died of cold, disease, or starvation.

Massive evidence was recently uncovered to show that Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed on the same priority targets for elimination of the Polish elite. They both set out to destroy political leadership in the Polish nation by eliminating its capitalists, landowners, officials, judges, officers, intellectuals teachers, clergy, and aristocracy. Many contemporary historians report that the total number of Soviet victims was greater than the total number of Nazi victims.

At the end of WWII, Poland was freed from one oppressor only to become a captive nation of the Soviet union. But the Polish desire to be free of foreign domination led to the establishment of the Independent Solidarity Trade Union on September 1, 1980. It was the outgrowth of the shipyard strikes on the Polish Baltic Shore. The Solidarity movement became a major force as its membership grew to 10 million members. To quell the popular Solidarity movement, the Communist Party leaders banned the movement and all Union property was confiscated or destroyed. To survive, Solidarity had to go underground. During this period, two visits by Pope John Paul II strengthened Polish opposition further. Significant financial assistance from the West helped operate the underground press and radio. The Solidarity movement will be remembered as one of the most important social and political actions of the twentieth century, It's non-violent policy was a heroic struggle for freedom and democracy in Eastern Europe. None of the changes which occurred in Europe after

1989 would have been possible without it. The spread of Communism has been slowed. It would be slowed further when Polish Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, a noble hero of Poland, America and the Western World embarked on what would become one of the most extraordinary human intelligence operations of the Cold War. Despite great risk to himself and his family, he contacted the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany, and arranged a secret meeting. He told the Americans that he deplored the Soviet domination of Poland.

He believed that his country was on the wrong side in the Cold War and the only way he could help Poland was to work against its oppressor, the Soviet Union, and deliver its deepest military secrets to the Western Allies. American CIA Director Michael Hayden called Kuklinski "the most valuable source of information in the entire Cold War. For over 9 years he provided information about the strategic plans of the Warsaw Pact and detailed plans for the Soviet invasion of Western Europe.

He provided information on over 200 weapon systems and details of the location, equipment, and communications of the Warsaw Pact Control Centers.

This information allowed the US to implement pin-point surgical strikes instead of massive bombing strikes. Kuklinski's covert mission helped the Western Allies win the Cold War.



Kuklinski at audience with Pope John Paul II

Keynote Address Consul General Zygmunt Matynia

Carving a dream - what a fantastic topic for the convention organized near the Crazy Horse Monument by the American Council for Polish Culture. Thank you very much for having me here.

Every human being, most certainly, had their dreams, as did I. Let me then share with all of you a dream which I had very often some time ago. In 1976, as a law student at the Jagiellonian University, during vacations I traveled to Sweden, it was my first trip to a western country. I was thrilled with what I saw and experienced. Very well organized state, clean and colorful cities, libraries with plenty of uncensored books, such as "The Animal Farm" for example, or all books from Paryska Kultura. I have seen young friendly people in good cars. During my stay in Sweden I've read newspapers and I've watched Swedish TV news about workers protests in Radom, and how the Polish authorities were responding, how they were treating the protesters. It was June 1976. That year Polish government, 30 years after WWII introduced to its own nation, food stamps for sugar. When I returned home after that vacation I had a clear view about my motherland, that this is a totalitarian state, but at the same time I had a dream that in the future I will live in Poland which will be somehow similar to Sweden. The country which is free, independent and colorful, the country which is based on democratic rules.

That dream was common in Polish society. In the summer of 1980, 30 years ago, the Solidarity movement was born in Gdansk. At that time 10 millions, all Solidarity members, I believe, were carving our dream. Unfortunately it was too early; once again totalitarian regime crushed what was independent and self-governed. This time it was martial law imposed in December 1981.

Martial law, by the way, was called a "state of war" under Polish Communist legislation and meant among other things, the de-legalization of the Solidarity Trade Union and the establishment of internment camps for thousands of its leaders. We had to keep carving our dream about democratic Poland for another 8 years.

The round table talks that facilitated the democratic transformation of Poland's one-party state began in February 1989 and concluded in April at a time when the communist system in the region still seemed to be irreversible. Yet clearly those talks were a lot less visually spectacular than the joyous crowds hammering at the Berlin Wall half a year later. We could start, quite openly this time, to carve our dream and restore a democratic state. On June 4th 1989, as a result of the "round table" negotiations Poland held parliamentary elec-

tions, maybe not yet completely democratic because they were only partially free, but those elections would lead to the formation of the first non-communist government with Tadeusz Mazowiecki as prime minister, initiating a new era in Polish history. Our dream became a reality.

In 1989 Poland inherited a centralized system suitable to the functions of a totalitarian state. In order to establish standards of a democratic state, it was necessary to make crucial changes, mainly to reduce the powers of the administration. The reduction process progressed in two directions. The state's scope of authority was reduced through privatization and deregulation, while the state was decentralized through the transfer of numerous powers to local and regional governments.

Under communism, the party made decisions and the state administration served as an executive body only. Public opinion was ignored, as the strategic goal of the state, according to the 1976 Constitution, was to implement the "great ideas of socialism." Party ideology guided social order, despite recognition that it would generally conflict with the will of the people. Therefore, the state had to be constructed in such a way as to control citizens and leverage their compliance with state decisions, often against their will. Thus, the communists found it necessary to maintain a centralized state whose control infiltrated both the public and private lives of its citizens. Under communism, all structures of state administration were organized in hierarchical pyramids. Administration at the sub-national level was organized in the same way. There was only one administration, state administration. Local administration was the state administration. So Mazowiecki's cabinet began the extremely challenging task of remodeling the state, which required legal, organizational and personnel changes in all spheres of public life.

Local government reform was undertaken as the first reform of the state system. At the beginning of 1990, a broad economic reform was implemented called



"the Balcerowicz plan". It was a form of shock therapy, introducing many revolutionary changes toward market economy very quickly. Following the Senate's motion, the Sejm (House of Representatives) adopted the fundamental Local Government Act and the laws describing the election of gmina (commune) councils.

Gmina council elections were held on May 27, 1990, marking the rebirth of local government in Poland. It opened a new period in the functioning of the state, in which local governments at the formerly unrecognized gmina level were introduced as an element of the system.

The restoration of local government was a meaningful achievement and those elections were only the beginning, the first step, of long systemic transformation.

In 1998 the local government structure was expanded beyond the first one of Gminas to 3 tiers that included county and regional/provincial governments.

Powiaty were designed as the second tier of local government, supplementary to gminas in that they were assigned local functions that were beyond gminas' scale of management capacity. At this moment there are 314 rural counties and 65 urban

continued next page

counties, 379 all together. As the highest tier of local government, voivodships were assigned a different type of responsibility—they were to be accountable for the economic and general development of regional territories. Since 1999 Poland has been divided into 16 provinces.

After implementation of the self-government reform our central government poses very limited power focused mostly on national security and foreign policy. As you know such a structure is characteristic for a normal, democratic state.

As a closing argument I would like to emphasize that it took us 10 years to restore the democratic state.

So here we are today, citizens of this great country, citizens of European Union, who thanks to the great decentralization of the public administration, as well as the very well performed transformation from central planning economy to the market economy, can celebrate important values for all people, freedom, independence and prosperity. So far Poland is the only European country which does have positive GDP, a positive growth. That's great news?

Most certainly my dream became a truth.

Zygmunt Matynia, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, was born 1953 in Starachowice. He earned a Master's Degree in Administrative Law at Krakow's Jagiellonian University, where he taught law for ten years. From 1989 he served as the Central Government's Representative to the Krakow Regional Government in charge of local self-government. His posts at the Foreign Ministry have included: Second Secretary and Executive director of the Polish Mission to the U.N. in New York (1992-98), Counselor Minister in the General Director's Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw (1998-2001), Consul and the head of the Legal Section at the Consulate General in New York (2001-2005), and the Deputy Director of the Consular Department for the Polish Community Abroad. (2005-2007). Currently he is a member of the International Commission on Civil Status, and the Prime Minister's working group on the Polish Diaspora and Poles Living Abroad. His wife, Bozena Matynia, is a microbiologist. They have one daughter, Karolina.



Mary Ellen Tyszka, Bernadette Wiermanski, Debbie Majka and Marcia Lewandowski at board meeting

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) held its Spring 2010 Board Meeting in Philadelphia. Pres. Debbie Majka and Teresa N. Wojcik, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia President, cooperated to make the weekend meeting a memorable and interesting event.

Their plans included a very outstanding celebration, a dedication and unveiling of a historical State marker placed at the site of aeronautical helicopter pioneer Frank N. Piasecki's first engineering office. ACPC Director Mr. Peter Obst was the Chairman of the Piasecki marker event which followed the Business session on Saturday, April 17.

Pres. Majka presided over the business sessions wherein various committee chairs presented their reports. Chairlady Camille Kopielski reported on the ACPC's 2010 grant of \$2,000 for university students' summer studies in Poland. Last year's winner chose to study at the Jagiellonian Univ. in Krakow where the students unanimously proclaimed that the teachers were highly proficient and attentive to the students' questions and needs. Krakow offered an array of sightseeing and interesting night life attractions. There were fascinating tours every weekend, which included Zakopane where students even participated in mountain hiking trips. Mrs. Kopielski and her committee will be reporting on the 2010 winners at the ACPC Annual Convention in July 2010.

Board members were delighted to greet Dr. Maria Winnicka, Pres. of the Polish Arts Club of Elmira, NY who was accompanied by the Club's past Pres. Christine

Markiewicz, and Jackie Droleski, ACPC Awards Committee Sec'y. Dr. Winnicka graciously invited the ACPC Board members to Elmira for its Fall Board Meeting, Oct. 29-30, 2010. She revealed that arrangements have already been made with the Holiday Inn and the White Eagle Club for meetings, lunch and dinner. On Saturday evening a concert by professional pianists is scheduled. A second phase of the program will feature a Chopin concert by young aspiring pianists. The invitation was eagerly accepted as the board members recalled prior meetings hosted by the very hospitable officers and members of the Elmira Club. The Board unanimously decided to present a very special award during the meeting in Elmira to their Club's greatly admired and highly deserving member Raymond J. Winieski for his outstanding creative cultural efforts over many years throughout the Polish American community.

The Council extended its heartfelt gratitude to Co-Chairs Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski for their devotion to the yearlong preparations for the National Social Studies project held in Atlanta, GA in November 2009.

Membership Chair Anna-Mae Maglaty reported that the Council now welcomes a new Supporting Organization, the **Polish Falcons of America**. Since our Fall 2009 board meeting we also gained 39 new individual members that included 19 Pulaski Scholarship applicants.

Following the business meeting, members gathered to attend the unveiling of the Frank A. Piasecki plaque.

Philadelphia Honors Aviation Pioneer Frank N. Piasecki *by Peter Obst*

As 4:00 pm as the afternoon approached on Saturday April 17 in Philadelphia, a crowd began to gather on a blocked-off segment of Callowhill Street (between 19th and 20th Streets) to witness the dedication and unveiling of the city's newest historical marker, placed at the site of helicopter builder and aeronautical pioneer Frank N. Piasecki's first engineering office. The ceremonies started on schedule with a presentation of colors by a Marine Corps honor guard accompanied by members of Polish Veterans Post 12. Then former Philadelphia City Councilman Joseph Zazyczny greeted the assembly of over 250 persons in the name of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate organization of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). A moment of silence was observed to remember the victims of the airplane crash in which Poland's President Kaczynski and many prominent members of the Polish government died while on their way to Katyn. He was followed by Fred Piasecki, chairman of the board of Piasecki Aircraft who stood in for his brother John, the company's president and CEO who was not able to attend, being in London while on a business trip when flights were canceled due to the volcano erupting in Iceland.

There were topical speeches by Senator Arlen Specter, a personal friend of Frank Piasecki; Lt. Gen. Michael Hough (Ret.USMC; Flora Becker from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC); and Phil Dunford, VP and General Manager of the Boeing Company. Peter J. Obst, who filed the application for the marker back in 2008 and then chaired the committee organizing the event, filled

in for the absent City of Philadelphia representative. He read the proclamation issued by Mayor Michael A. Nutter which, after praising Mr. Piasecki for his activities that created a helicopter industry in the Philadelphia area, declared that this day was to be celebrated as Frank N. Piasecki Day in the city. While cameras from three TV stations (alerted by publicity chairman Walter Wojcik) took in the scene, Mrs.

Vivian Piasecki, widow of the great engineer, started to unveil the sign. She pulled a cord attached to a cover held in place by Velcro fastenings; it fell away and revealed the following words in yellow-gold letters on a blue background:

FRANK N. PIASECKI (1919-2008)

Aviation pioneer Piasecki developed and flew the 2nd helicopter in the US and the world's 1st tandem rotor helicopter, initiating the 1st practical use of rotor-craft in the 1940s. His original company, started here, now a division of Boeing, is a world leader in helicopter production. In 1956, he founded Piasecki Aircraft Corp., continuing development of innovative advanced rotorcraft. Awarded the National Medal of Technology in 1986.

In conclusion there followed an eight-minute video presentation on a truck-sized electronic screen parked at the end



New marker on Callowhill Street

of the street. It was an excerpt from "An Innovator's Story" a film about the life and work of Frank Piasecki. The post-dedication banquet was held at the Stotesbury Mansion, headquarters of the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Society, on Walnut Street.

At the banquet Deborah M. Majka, president of the ACPC introduced the important guests and speakers. Teresa N. Wojcik, president of the Polish Heritage Society, welcomed the participants. Fr. Leonard Lewandowski of St. Josaphat's parish gave the invocation.

After a lovely dinner, several speakers took the podium to pay tribute to the accomplishments and legacy of Frank Piasecki. These were: Lt. Col. Paul Riegert USMC who praised Piasecki's advanced helicopter designs in military application; Mike Walsh from the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Col. Andrzej Kopacki, Assistant Military Attaché at the Polish Embassy; Prof. Marek Konarzewski, Minister Counselor for Science and Technology at the Polish Embassy, and Janusz Zastocki, Honorary President of Polonia Technica, the Polish engineers' association in the United States. Prof. Konarzewski's reference to the indomitable Polish spirit, evident both in cases of disaster, such as the recent airplane crash, and in the development of new inventions to benefit mankind, drew spontaneous applause from listeners. In conclusion Fred Piasecki thanked the guests for their participation and members of the audience gradually started for home.

As they left, guests were able to take home an event journal produced by Peter Obst, which included a detailed biography of Frank N. Piasecki and many interesting photographs.



*Event coordinating Committee
Jos. Zazyczny, his wife Marti;
Janusz Romanski;
Debbie Majka;
Peter Obst*

Polish Heritage

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