



## ACPC Annual Convention Hosted by John Paul II Polish American Cultural Center, Cleveland, Ohio

By Jo Louise Winters, ACPC PR Chair

Deborah M. Majka, President, opened the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture and introduced Mr. Ben Stefanski, President Polish American Cultural Center, John Paul II of Cleveland, which hosted the convention. Mr. Stefanski welcomed the delegates warmly and promised an exciting four days of cultural activities, filled with tours, concerts, and presentations by authors, etc.



*Debbie Majka calls the convention to order*

A luncheon speaker, Dr. Casimir Kowalski, SC State University Professor of Educational Leadership, discussed his book *Heroes of Solidarity* and impressed the audience by emphasizing how the leaders of the Solidarity Movement in Poland made sacrifices, risking their lives, and finally winning independence and freedom for Poland.

Business sessions were conducted at scheduled times throughout the convention. The following are important matters that were discussed.

Ursula Brodowicz, Chair, Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies, submitted a report that she had mailed over 50 letters with posters to faculty members at universities with Slavic departments throughout the U.S. regarding the availability of two \$3,000 scholarships for 2011. The committee reviewed the applications

and selected the two winners: Lara S. Szypszak, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Karoline Carlman, Central CT State Univ. (her award was presented by Ms. Brodowicz at a meeting of the Polish Cultural Club, Greater Hartford).

Co-Webmasters Ted Mirecki and Peter Obst revealed that during 2010-2011 the ACPC website ([www.polishculture.acpc.org](http://www.polishculture.acpc.org)) had been up-

dated many times. The Youth Leadership and the Social Studies Conferences are examples of extensive ACPC member involvements that insure the website is dynamic and intellectually interesting. Mary Flanagan inspired the webmasters to add a book promotion section. Available ACPC promotional books are also listed.

The site is a great way to receive and distribute Polish intellectual/ cultural information to the many visitors to our website.

The annual ACPC Literary Competition, chaired by Carolyn Meleski was established by ACPC member Dr. Estelle Von Wachtel-Torres, MD in honor of her father Stanley Wachtel. Dr. Torres contributes the award money for first place winners in ACPC Affiliate literary competitions. This year, the Friends of Polish Art (FPA) - Detroit showcased their winners at their annual Easter Luncheon. First prize winner was Kathryn O'Donnell for her short story "Instincts". She was awarded \$250 of which \$125 came from the FPA and \$125 matched by the ACPC. Mrs. Meleski reported that the matching dollar award is being increased by Dr. Torres from \$200 to \$250 so that an Affiliate can offer a first prize of \$500 for its competition with ACPC matching half of it.

Dr. Robert Dutka, Investment Committee Chairman, announced that the Investment Committee has agreed with the Pulaski Scholarship Committee, Marion Winters, Chairman, that the Pulaski Endowment Fund should be invested and maintained in such a manner so that beginning with 2012 ACPC will be able to award four \$5,000 scholarships annually.

Carolyn Meleski reported, as Chairperson, that the Special Projects Funding Committee decided that money raised this year will be used to fund the Jamestown historical marker, a project chaired by Thomas Payne. Mr. Payne announced that the marker honoring the Polish settlers who contributed richly to the success



*Co-chairs Ben Stefanski and Aundrea Heschmeyer welcome delegates*

*continued next page*

*Convention opening prayer*



## From the President

Debbie Majka



The arrival of Autumn brings cooler temperatures, falling leaves, Halloween, *Zaduszki* and in some parts of the country, Pulaski Day Parades and Polish American Heritage month. For members of the American Council for Polish Culture, everyday is spent engaged in fostering an interest in our Polish and Polish-American heritage! And, as we continue to further the Council's mission, a unique opportunity presents itself in the form of State Historical Commission markers. Not all States have such a program, but I urge you to investigate this opportunity to promote the renown and accomplishments of Poles and Polish Americans in your respective locales. In Pennsylvania, with Peter Obst at the helm, we have dedicated PA Historical Commission Markers to the meeting of Pulaski and Washington at Moland House; and to steel bridge builder Ralph Modjeski; aviation pioneer Frank Piasecki, and the celebrated WWII and Korean War ace Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski.

During next year's annual convention, which is slated for July 18-22, 2012, in Jamestown-Williamsburg, Virginia, and thanks to Tom Payne and the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC, we will dedicate a Commonwealth of Virginia Historical Commission Marker to the First Poles. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend next year's convention to participate in this historical event—the dedication of the marker to the First Poles to Arrive in Jamestown. The text of the marker reads as follows: Skilled craftsmen of Polish origin recruited by the Virginia Company began arriving in Jamestown aboard the *Mary and Margaret* about 1 Oct. 1608. Poles contributed to the development of a glass factory and the production of potash, naval stores, and wood products. Soon samples of their work were shipped back to England. The workers were so highly prized that they were assigned apprentices so that their skill "shall not dye with them." Capt. John Smith praised their work ethic in his writings. Court records indicate that as a result of a dispute, Poles were granted full voting rights on 21 July 1619.

Two very important efforts of the Council require your support. Under the capable Chairmanship of Cecilia and Ray Glembocki, the Council will again present its *Polish Perspectives* exhibit at the National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) from December 2-4, in Washington, DC. Through its *Polish Perspectives* exhibits at the NCSS, the ACPC interacts with the approximately 4,000 social studies teachers in attendance, providing them with historically accurate facts and highlighting Polish contributions to American and world history that is not readily available in American textbooks. All of the materials are provided to the teachers, free-of-charge, but, of course, at great expense to ACPC. To support, please send your check, payable to: ACPC-NCSS and mail to: Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki, 911 Saddleback Court, McLean, Virginia 22102-1317. Please help us to teach the teachers, who may then educate future generations with accurate information on Poland's history, culture and Poles' accomplishments.

And, finally, we urge your support of our Youth Leadership Conference, which is scheduled to take place from June 17-22, 2012, in Washington, DC. Sponsor at least one student's participation; it's an investment in our future! The conference assists youth of Polish descent who are interested in civic and political activism to realize their full potential and to assume leadership roles in various fields at all levels of society. It is an up close and intensive opportunity for 20 to 25 young Polish Americans, chosen from all over the U.S., to explore the political processes and interact with national and international leaders of Polish background in the realms of foreign policy, business, science, education, journalism, culture, Polish American and east-central European affairs. It is open to high school graduates or college students/graduates of Polish descent, ages 17 to 26. For more information, check out the website: [polishcultureacpc.org](http://polishcultureacpc.org)

## Annual Convention *continued*

of the Jamestown Settlement in the early 1600s will be installed as part of the 2012 ACPC Convention program in Williamsburg, VA.

Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman, Chair Membership Brochure Revision Committee, displayed a proposed new ACPC Membership Brochure - a tri-fold format with clean design, positive theme, and text refreshed and reader friendly.

Scholarship Committee Chair Camille Kopielski announced the names of the two students chosen to receive \$2,000 each to study at a university of their choice in Poland during the summer season. Agatha Kielczewski of Addison, IL is a junior attending Northwestern Univ. Her academic record is outstanding and she is president of the Polish-American Student Assoc. at Northwestern U. She was recommended by the Polish Arts Club of Chicago. The second student to receive the \$2,000 grant is Nicholas Gregory Krol of Bloomfield, MI. He is in his third year at Wayne State Univ. where he has a double major, Fine Arts and Slavic Studies with Polish concentration. Ms. Kopielski appealed to all ACPC Affiliates and Supporting Organizations to submit names of students for participation in the 2012 ACPC Study in Poland Scholarships.

Paul Bosse, Fund Raising Chair, reported on his single-handed successful efforts to distribute raffle tickets not only to Affiliates but also to individual members. Additionally, he advised that working together with Peter Obst, in support of the Polonia Archive at the Pulaski Museum in Warka, Poland, they shipped another package of materials, weighing 35 pounds, donated by ACPC members and friends across the country to the museum. They continue to contact Polish parishes in the U.S. for additional support for the Museum.

Co-Chairs Cecilia & Raymond Glembocki "National Conference for Social Studies" revealed that the theme for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Conference in Washington, DC, Dec. 2-4, 2011, will be "Dimensions in Diversity" in which ACPC will continue to play the lead Polonia role. During the 2010 Conference over 4,000 teachers and curriculum specialists were in attendance. Mr. & Mrs. Glembocki, Mr. Jason Frazen (historian) and Pres. Debbie Majka fed the conferees with interesting facts about Polish history and the numerous brilliant Poles who made rich contributions to U.S. history - more than 450 CDs were distributed. New lesson plans for the 2011 Conference have been prepared and a study guide for a new DVD documentary film





*Piano concert at the unveiling of the bust of Paderewski*



*AC PC members enjoy concert in Rockefeller Park*

“John Paul II: Nine Days that Changed the World” will be available. ACPC is committed to this magnificent project - **material and financial support is needed** - contact

Glembocki 703-790-1984  
virginiaegg@cox.net.

ACPC members were delighted and honored that Dr. Marie Siemionow, MD, PhD addressed the convention audience. Dr. Siemionow is a leader in the micro-surgery field as Director of Plastic Surgery Research at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Siemionow led a team of six surgeons on a world’s first near total human face transplantation.

On the second afternoon of the convention, our members enjoyed a tour and lecture at the Western Reserve Historical Society Polish Archive. We were deeply impressed with the tremendous volume of archival personal and public materials pertaining to Poles and Polish Americans residing in the Cleveland area from ages ago. The enthusiastic tour guide took pleasure in displaying fragile and yellowed documents that revealed intimate details of the lives of the early residents.

That evening members and guests gathered at the beautiful St. Stanislaus Shrine in Slavic Village for the annual Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Concert. The performance by this year’s winner of the Sembrich vocal competition, soprano Julie-Anne Hamula, and the incredibly superb piano accompaniment of Jacek Sobieski was extraordinary.

Friday morning we were privileged to enjoy breakfast with guest speaker Cecile Wendt Jensen, CG author “Sto Lat: Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy”. Ms. Jensen provided the listeners with easy to follow guidelines in uncovering one’s Polish genealogy. This was further enriched by the fact that the convention host had generously provided each member registered for the convention with a copy of the author’s book.

We spent the afternoon and early evening with a tour at the Cleveland Museum of Art. We wandered leisurely through the vast museum individually exploring the art works that were of personal interest. Friday afternoon of the convention was spent at the Rockefeller Park in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens enjoying a splendid series of programs leading to the unveiling of a bust of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, eminent composer, pianist, and statesman.

Breakfast Saturday morning was a special treat as we were introduced to Rita Cosby, news personality and author “Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father’s Past.” Her story was enthralling as she recited how she managed to uncover the exciting tale of her father’s heroic youthful experiences during World War II. He had lied about his age so that he could join in the uprisings against the Nazi and Soviet forces. Ms. Cosby learned about the horrifying combat experiences he had endured and the terrifying escape paths through the city’s sewer system. The audience was obviously pleased to learn that the heroic deeds of her father are now a matter of record so that his name is listed with the men and women who sacrificed so much for their country.

On the final day of the convention, Jacqueline Kolowski, Nominating Committee Chair, distributed ballots for the 2011 election of ACPC officers, directors

and committee positions. After the completed ballots were counted, Ms. Kolowski announced the following results:

*President:* Deborah M. Majka

*I’ Vice-President:* Camille Kopielski

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:* Mary Ellen Tyszka

*Treasurer:* Gregory Biestek

*Recording Sec:* Marcia Lewandowski

*Directors:* Janet Beane; Evelyn Bachoski-Bowman; Ursula Brodowicz; Jacqueline Droleski; Barbara Lemecha; Bernadette Wiermanski

*Credentials & Grievances:* Matthew Meleski; Alicia Dutka; Irene Musman

*Nominating Committee:* Jacqueline Kolowski; Ange Iwanczyk; Irene Mirecki

ACPC members relayed their gratitude and appreciation to all the past and present Board members for their unselfish devotion to carrying out their responsibilities, and sharing their talents, time and money. They are perfect examples of the generosity and devotion in Polish American hearts in promoting Polish culture and heritage. Bog Zaplac! During our sojourn in Cleveland our attention was drawn to an article in a Bulletin of the St. Stanislaus Shrine wherein David Krakosky refers to the belief long held by Poles and Polonians that guests must be treated reverently because “Gosc w domu, Bog w domu”(Guest in the house-God in the house). Keeping Krakosky’s comments in mind, we realize that as guests of the Polish American Center we felt very blessed indeed. Our members offer their gratitude to the dynamic and debonair President Ben Stefanski for the eloquent treatment accorded us. Our thanks also go to Aundrea-Cika Heschmeyer for her enthusiastic guidance at every step of the way and also to Ewa Trzeciak for her active role in making the week a memorable one. Dziękujemy - i do milego zobaczenia!

*Readers who wish to join the American Council for Polish Culture, a non-profit organization, which acts as a national federation of Polish cultural organizations located throughout the United States, may contact Florence Landridge at 860-521-4034, [floangridge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:floangridge@sbcglobal.net). Individual membership dues are only \$10 annually!*

## Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford proudly sponsored a special DVD presentation of the Award Winning "No. 4 Street of Our Lady." It was held on May 18, 2011 at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center. This film told the story of Franciszka Halamajowa, a Polish Catholic woman who saved the lives of 16 Jews in Sokal, Poland, by hiding and caring for them in her home during the German occupation in World War II. Special guests Grazyna Kucharzyk and Jolanta Staron, local residents and her grand-daughters, were present. Over 150 members and guests attended. Frances Pudlo chaired the event.

On June 15, 2011, chairwomen Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo, awarded scholarships to four deserving recipients. They are: Thomas Cwikla and Natalia Zagula, attending the University of Connecticut, Klaudia Kawka, a freshman at Berklee College of Music and Caroline Rose Kieltyka, a sophomore at St. Lawrence University. The traditional strawberry shortcake social followed.

Following the mission statement of the Club, President Cliff Archie with his committee of Patricia Archie, Ann and Carol Oleasz and Patricia Checko reached out to represent Polonia in community events by highlighting cultural awareness in sharing the history and customs of Poland during Polish Day at the Cora Belden Library in Rocky Hill, CT. An impressive number of people attended this event.

On September 18th the PCC of Greater Hartford celebrated its 35th Anniversary. The organizers paid tribute to 13 original

founders of the Club and presented the surviving nine members with commemorative engraved lockets. The event featured a "Walk Down Memory Lane" with posters, photographs and club memorabilia from events of the past 35 years. The featured performer, accordionist Gary Sredzinski gave a colorful presentation of the history of Polish-American accordion music, anecdotes and had the audience smiling, tapping their feet and filled their hearts with warm memories.

During Polish History Month, on October, 9 the Hartford Club joined the United Polish Societies of Hartford, President Janusz Kocur in their celebration of Pulaski-Kosciuszko held at the Pulaski monument. Joining them was a group of students from the Polish Club of Central Connecticut College.



*Central Connecticut State U students with their banner and that of the Polish Club*

## The Chopin Fine Arts Club, So. Bend, IN

At the Annual Anniversary luncheon Scholarship Awards were presented to: Helen Jagla, Marion High School, \$1,500, Art; Rebecca Gamble, Penn High School, \$300.00, Music Education; Perry Hunt, Adams High School, \$300.00 Theater Education; Allyss Swearingen, St. Joseph High School, \$300.00 Animation.

The 23rd Annual Chopin Youth Piano Competition, chaired by Sue Freitag, was a roaring success. The winners were chosen by Assoc. Prof. Christopher Harding from the University of Michigan. He is also on the faculty for the summer piano program at Indiana University in Bloomington. After the program, the students were able to attend a Master Class with individual instruction from Prof. Harding.

The winners were: Peter Rutkowski, Elementary \$75.00 Stephanie Tapp, Middle Division, \$100.00; Eric Lee, Junior Division, \$125.00; Florence Chen, Senior Division, \$150.00. Honorable Mention Award \$25.00 to Hannah McGuiness, Elementary; Jessica Lee, Middle Division; Caralina Vajiac, Junior Division; Joshua Spring, Senior Division.

On Sunday, September 11 annual fund-raiser Card Party was held.

On October 30, 2011 Polish Heritage Dinner held at the M.R. Falcon Club. Happy Thanksgiving and a Wonderful Christmas!



*United Polish Societies of Hartford in front of the Pulaski monument*



## The Polish Heritage Association of MD

The Polish Heritage Association annual award ceremony was held May 15, 2011 at Holy Rosary Church, Baltimore, MD.

Since its inception the Scholarship Program has been awarding grants to qualified students of Polish Heritage to pursue studies leading to a baccalaureate degree. To be eligible student must be of Polish descent with at least two Polish ancestors, a legal resident of Maryland, a current undergraduate Senior High School student. The grants are given to full time students to attend any credited college or university in the U.S. Selections are based on financial need, academic standing, leadership potential and demonstrated pride in their Polish Heritage.

A special tribute was paid to our founder and past president Stanley Ciesielski who celebrated his 101st birthday. Drugie Sto Lat, Stanley!



*Victoria Leshinske, Pres.; Kaitlin LaGrasta, AnnZelinka, Dominika Gawryolek, Matthew Foer, Gordon Creamer, Chair. Carolina Burack, Allison Jones, Sadie Lockhart, Taylor Duncan, Alexander Derencz, Joachim Gawryolek*

## The Polish American Arts Association, Washington DC

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, the PAAA celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by holding a gala dinner and dance at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD. This club boasts membership from many past U.S. presidents and many other dignitaries, so the venue was very elegant with a gorgeous view of the golf course which has hosted PGA Golf Tournament Championships. Alice Laning, the Chair-person for this event, greeted the guests and reminded them of the solemnity of the day based on the tragic occurrences on September 11, 2001, but at the same time encouraging all to enjoy the food and music and of course the warm association with the guests in attendance.

Father Majka opened with an invocation giving thanks for the meal and offering prayer on behalf of the attendees. An exquisite dinner of filet mignon or salmon was served, topped off by a scrumptious creme brulee for dessert. Music was provided during the entire occasion by Dan Skoler and his combo. Many of the guests took advantage of the spacious dance floor throughout the evening to enjoy a variety of tunes.

Our president, Tom Payne, addressed the guests and recognized our special attendees, Krystyna and Michal Sikorski from the Polish Embassy, Susanne Lotarski from Polish American Congress, Teresa Bukowski from Polish National Alliance, Richard Okreglak from Polish Library, and Connie Donnelly from Friends of John Paul II. The theme of the Gala was honoring our past presidents

and their accomplishments.

The Program booklet outlined the highlights of the PAAA's history, beginning with our first president, Marta Korwin Rhodes. The PAAA began an exciting era in the late 60s in which many Polish artists and poets were brought to the Washington DC area. PAAA began to celebrate Wigilia in 1979 during the presidency of Myra Leonard. These celebrations began in small halls where members did the cooking, A new era of excitement arose in 1991 under the presidency of John Kasper in which several cultural programs of the PAAA, including the Wigilia, took place at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on a cooperative sponsorship basis. We are indebted to the early pioneers of the PAAA who kept Polish arts and culture in the DC area very much alive during the early years before the new

democratic government of Poland could arrive and establish the warm relationship that we enjoy with the Embassy today.

The program concluded with the awarding of commemorative plaques of appreciation to all former Past Presidents in attendance: Mary Flanagan (1977-78), Stefan Lopatkiewicz (1978-79), Bernadette Wiermanski (1981-82), Mary Ann Evan (1985-86, 1993-94), Richard Wiermanski (1992-93), Marianna Eckel (1994-96), Richard Okreglak (1996-97), Edwarda Buda Okreglak (1997-98), Dr. Estelle von Wachtel Torres (1999-2001, 2003-04), Henry Czauski (2001-03), Dr. Ed Pawlowski (2004-06), Sharon Brzostowski (2007-08), and Tom Payne (2010-12). Several other past presidents who could not be present sent their greetings.

The evening was so much fun, we cannot wait for the 50<sup>th</sup> in 2016!



*PAAA Past Presidents holding up their Commemorative Plaques*

## With Paintbrush and Sword

The Life and Works of  
Jan Henryk de Rosen

by Mary Lubienski Flanagan, KCSS

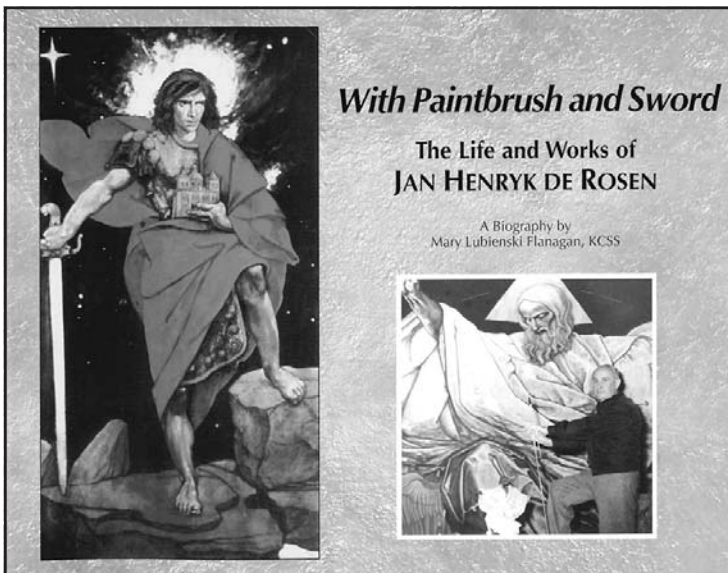
Self Published, printed by  
Franklin's Press Chantilly, VA  
Soft Cover 108 pages  
Copyright 2011 TXu-1-737-359

Jan de Rosen is one of the great mural artists of his century. He brought his work in the tradition of Europe's greatest artists to this country just before the Second World War. These beautiful works can be found in churches and public buildings from coast to coast where they inspire admiration and spiritual experiences in the viewer.

De Rosen's life is a story of one born to great wealth and privilege but who never lost his humility and gentleness. He was an intellectual and a very talented artist who always remained true to his principles. Above all he was a firm believer and a great patriot. Although he died in poverty he was a wealthy man in his accomplishments and legacy.

Profits from the sale of the book go to the Jan de Rosen Memorial Fund at the American Council for Polish Culture.  
Book Price: \$25.00 plus S & H in the US (\$3.00)

For orders of 10 or more \$20.00 ea. plus S & H (\$10.95 in the US) Questions - EMail: [mflan90733@aol.com](mailto:mflan90733@aol.com)



## A Coal Miner's Bride

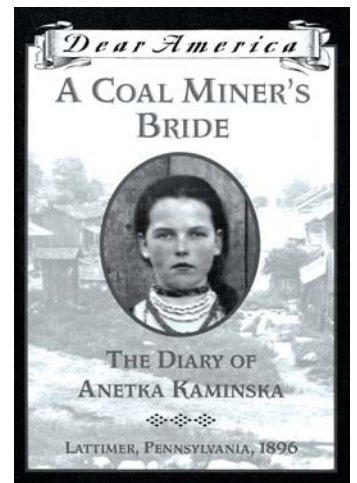
The Diary of Anetka  
Kaminska

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Scholastic Inc. Publishers  
555 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012  
219 pages, hardcover \$10.95

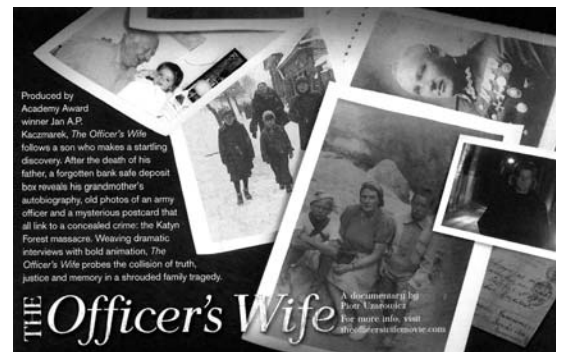
The fictional novel is based on actual historical events and real people. The experience of the main characters (Polish) could be any immigrants from Europe. They came to America looking for a better life only to be exploited and prejudiced against. But they found an inner strength to survive.

The story is a pleasant way of learning the history of the period in the coal mines of Pennsylvania.



## FILM The Officer's Wife

A documentary by  
Piotr Uzarowicz



Produced by Academy Award Winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, the film covers a son who makes a startling discovery. After the death of his father, a forgotten bank safe deposit box reveals his grandmother's autobiography, old photos of an army officer and a mysterious postcard that all link to a concealed crime: the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Weaving dramatic interviews with bold animation, *The Officer's Wife* probes the collision of truth, justice and memory in a shrouded family tragedy.

For more information visit [theofficerswifemovie.com](http://theofficerswifemovie.com)



# National Conference for Social Studies Polish Perspectives

By Jo Louise Winters, P/R

The recent Fall Board meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture in Randolph, MA (suburb of Boston), was hosted by the Polish Cultural Foundation of Boston, Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk, President. During the business sessions, ACPC President Debora Majka led an animated discussion with the board members regarding the Council's 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive participation in the annual National Conference for Social Studies (NCSS), which will take place this year in Washington, DC, December 2-3, 2011. Our Committee chair, Cecelia Glembocki, reported that we have been assigned a corner booth as requested and the fee for our "Polish Perspectives" booth is \$1,300.

The National Conference for the Social Studies is the largest of its kind where teachers and administrators in education from all over the United States and across the globe attend. With each succeeding year since 2001, the presence of the ACPC at the annual conference clearly proves it is a powerful means to assure that Polish history and culture are not overlooked in communication and dialogue between teachers and students in schools across the United States. Reaching the thousands of teachers attending these conferences with accurate essential information means we have reached a multiple of students and have increased their general interest in reading and researching the accomplishments of Poles and Polish-Americans.

The "Polish Perspectives" booth will consist of a three paneled display where we will feature books, book markers, posters, coloring sheets, CDs and DVDs (including "Nine Days that Changed the World" - the story of Pope John Paul II's visit to Poland); and lesson plans with some even translated into Polish and Spanish. To complete the display we have requested donations of (or placed orders for) books, book markers, coloring sheets, CDs and DVDs (including "Nine Days that Changed the World" - story of Pope John Paul II's visit to Poland). The exhibit will also feature historical posters with examples of traditions, customs and folklore. Polish sweets, a straw-decorated Christmas tree and the Cracow Szopka (manger) will be exhibited as well as an Easter basket filled with pisanki (decorated eggs). A Chopin CD will be given out as the door prize as has been done in

the past. We're planning to obtain books for donation or sale, such as books featuring Polish heroes in Rita Cosby's "Quiet Hero," "StoLat" by Cecile Jansen's "How to Trace Your Polish Heritage", and reference manual *The Polish American Encyclopedia* by James S. Pula. Additional items that will be added will be some Polish crafts as developed by Connie Donnelly for elementary or scouting groups. As the year 2011 has been designated by the Polish Embassy as the year dedicated to honor Madame Sklodowska Curie we will work cooperatively with the Embassy to feature Curie's accomplishments.

Conference attendees will interact with our representative and receive classroom ready plans, free CDs, DVDs, pamphlets, brochures, some books, posters, etc. In interacting with the teachers we will stress the importance of Poles in the course of American history and seek to build confidence in teachers as to how to use our educational materials in the classroom. We'll also share the opportunities available for study in Poland and our Youth Leadership Conference for 2012.

Our "Polish Perspectives" booth attracts many, many teachers and administrators. They return year after year seeking our audio/visual handouts, lesson plans, etc. It is very important that we provide accurate information about Poland's history, literature, traditions, and contributions to humanity to help combat and counter the erroneous and false information that continues to be disseminated by the press and other means.

ACPC's expanding role in this highly significant annual event is made possible because of the generous commitment and resolve of many Polish organizations and individuals who realize the need for promoting the "Polish Perspectives" program and we are truly grateful. If you feel in your heart that you would like to be a part of this vital and fruitful program, please offer your financial support now. Please make your check payable to: ACPC/NCSS and mail it to: Mrs. Cecilia H. Glembocki, 911 Saddlebrook Court, McLean, VA 22102-1317. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Thank you for helping this program function not only for the benefit of today's Polonia, but also future generations.

## Ted Mirecki Awarded Pride of Polonia



Irena and Ted Mirecki

On September 4, 2011 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Ted Mirecki was given the prestigious Pride of Polonia Award. For those who know him it was a most deserved honor and all the members of the ACPC are most proud of his achievements and sincerely congratulate him for the well deserved honor. Following is his acceptance speech.

*Reverend Fathers, Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

*I wish to thank the Polish Apostolate for the distinct honor that places my humble person among some of the most accomplished activists for the causes of Catholic Polonia.*

*But my deepest thanks go to Irena, my wife and helpmate of some 44 years, whose patience, forbearance, encouragement and, above all, assistance have made it possible for me to be actively involved in causes that are dear to me and, I trust, to all of Polonia.*

*I accept this award with humility and gratitude, and with the hope that my continuing activities will justify this recognition and fulfill the expectations implicit in its bestowing.*

*Serdeczne Bog Zaplac!*

The Pride of Polonia Award was created in 1992 by the Board of the Polish Apostolate. It recognizes the significant contributions of individuals to Polish causes and who are involved in philanthropic activities.

Ted Mirecki is a former President of The American Council for Polish Culture.

# ACPC Annual Awards *By Jo Louise Winters, P/R*

At the 63rd Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture in Cleveland, Ohio, Annual awards were presented honoring Polish American citizens for their dedicated contributions to promoting Polish culture and heritage.

Mrs. Mary Flanagan, Awards Chair, presided over the award ceremonies. She introduced Vice-President Mary Ellen Tyszkla who presented the

Founders Award for outstanding services to the organization to

## JACQUELINE KOLOWSKI

Ms. Kolowski is dedicated in working and proficiently employing her considerable talents and a great deal of time to her ACPC duties. At the present time she chairs the Nominating Committee. "Jackie" has been very successful in garnering nominations of competent members from Affiliates, officers and board members. She presided over the final voting procedures, which succeeded in filling all of the vacancies. The ACPC members offer their heartfelt thanks to Jackie for all of her productive labors by awarding her the Founder plaque of appreciation.



*Mary Ellen presents award to Jackie*



Mrs. Bernadette Wiermanski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, presented the ACPC's 2011

Cultural Achievement Award to

**MR. DAVID MOTAK** in recognition of his outstanding talents and skills as an artist, educator, communicator and his special talent as a Szopka Artist. Mr. Motak is a graduate of Alliance College, where he majored in Slavic studies and Polish culture. He attended the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland for two years as a part of the Kosciuszko Foundation Academic exchange program. His professional career has taken him to several managerial positions at the University of Pittsburgh, Point Park University and the Sweetwater Center for the Arts.

Mr. Motak's contributions to Polish-American cultural life have been substantial, particularly as a volunteer with many Polonia organizations. He has led cultural tours to Poland and headed fundraising for Polish efforts. Dave's highlight is the Cracow Creche Workshop, a national Szopka Art form in the United States. He has received many awards including the 2006 Polonian of the Year for Western Pennsylvania. In 2009, he was the first Pole to receive the Artist of the Year Award and in 2010 he was the first foreigner and first American to enter and earn the prestigious "Special Award for Artistic Merit" presented by the city of Krakow History Museum.

Mr. Motak ventures beyond Polonia to produce community service projects and succeeding in bringing the arts to all the population. Now to add to his long list of awards and recognition, the American Council for Polish Culture proudly presented him the prestigious ACPC Cultural Achievement Award plaque for 2011. We are happy to announce that he will be taking over the editorship of our Polish Heritage Newsletter in 2012.

ACPC President Deborah Majka presented the

**Distinguished Service Award** plaque to Mrs. Cecilia Glembocki, who accepted the award on behalf of

## NEWT & CALLISTA GINGRICH.

The Gingrich's schedule did not permit them to attend the Saturday evening Awards Banquet & Ball. The award was given to display thanksgiving to Mr. & Mrs. Gingrich for their key roles in bringing the "John Paul II: Nine Days that Changed the World" documentary film to fruition, making it available to the public worldwide. This film records the visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland. Many viewers are convinced that the subsequent political freedom that Poland gained was greatly influenced by the Pope's visit.



*Debbie Majka presents Gingrich's award to Ceil Glembocki*



*Ceil Glembocki presents award to the Gingrichs*

*Ewa Junczyk, Consul General of Republic of Poland; Debbie Majka; David Motak; Bernadette Wiermanski and Timothy Kuzma, Pres. Polish Falcons*



# Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Concert

By Jo Louise Winters, P/R

Excitement mounted among members of the American Council for Polish Culture and their guests during the Council's annual convention in Cleveland, Ohio this month as the hour had arrived for the concert featuring the winner of the annual Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Voice Competition. Members of the Music Committee, Alicia Dutka, Chair; Dr. Robert Dutka; and Jaroslaw Golembowski were highly pleased with their selection of the Competition's winner, Julie-Anne Hamula, a very beautiful and talented soprano. Ms. Hamula attended Westminster Choir College for her Bachelor's degree in voice performance and completed her Master of Music degree at the University of Texas, Butler Opera Center. She had been lauded as a "pliable and rich soprano" when she sang as Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffman*. Julie-Anne has performed in various operas and has been praised for her "technically sound, rich performances." Accompanist for the recital was Jacek Sobieski, pianist.

Ms. Hamula's Sembrich performance was conducted at the beautiful St. Stanislaus Shrine in Slavic Village, Cleveland. Her first offering was "Martern aller Arten", Wolfgang Mozart. She made a vivid and enduring first impression - very effervescent with a beautiful expressive face and truly powerful voice. Julie-Anne's performance of "Robert, tai que j'aime" by G. Meyerbee revealed her enormous and surprising power as a singer, providing an enchanting sense of immense human emotion. She has a regal princess bearing.

Yet, Julie-Anne has the strength and grace to sing songs like "Moja Pieszczotka" ("My Darling") and "'Tis the Last Rose of Summer" with a coquettish charm and warm and loving delivery. The praise that had been lavished on her by reviewers following previous performances for her warm tone, agile phrasing and considerable vocal energy was fully endorsed by ACPC members at the current concert in Cleveland. The ACPC members and guests reacted to her mesmerizing performance by rising and applauding vigorously at length, showing their appreciation for Julie-Anne's outstanding performance of her entire program.

Alicia Dutka presented Julie-Anne Hamula with a bouquet of flowers and the ACPC's Sembrich award, a \$1,500 check - an award designed to encourage budding vocal artists. President Deborah Majka offered warm and hearty congratulations to the gifted singer on behalf of the American Council for Polish Culture.



*Jacek Sobieski, Deborah Majka, Julie-Anne Hamula and Alicia Dutka*

Marion Winters photo

The accompanist Jacek Sobieski was the music director for almost two decades at the National Theatre in Warsaw, Poland. He holds a Master of Music degree from the State College of Music in Warsaw. Since 1988 he has resided in the U.S. where he has performed as a soloist and accompanist. Together with his wife

Dorota, Jacek Sobieski founded the Opera Circle in 1995, musically directing and conducting over 20 opera productions. He is also Music Director at St. Charles Church in Boardman, Ohio. Mr. Sobieski's performance as an accompanist to Ms. Hamula was strong and well focused. When he performed a solo piece during the recital break, he left the audience in awe of his skill and intensity, which made a vivid and enduring impression of his playing as a soloist and accompanist.

A very happy concert audience filed into the Shrine's garden to enjoy the reception prepared for the occasion by our host, the Polish American Cultural Center, where we were wine and dined. Inspired by the outstanding Sembrich prize winner, soprano Juli-Ann Hamula and the many talented instrumental and vocal soloists who appeared during the convention, ACPC members formed an impromptu chorus led enthusiastically by Aundrea Heschmeyer. The group raised their voices in popular Polish and English songs. Among their Polish selections were "Gdzie Jest Ta Dziewczyna?" (Where is that Girl?), "Gdybym ja byla slo neczkiem na niebie" (If I were the sun in the heavens), and many others.

The old beautiful Polish songs moved the impromptu singers to feelings of happiness and joy as they closed the memorable evening's performances by singing "Jak szybko mijaja chwile" ("How swiftly the moments fly").

*Group at reception following the concert join in an impromptu sing along*



# \$3,000 Skalny Scholarships Awarded

By Ursula Brodowicz, Chair

For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Louis Skalny Foundation donated a grant for the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies to be administered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). The generous grant once again amounted to \$6,000. Ms. Ursula Brodowicz, Chair of the ACPC Skalny Scholarships Committee reported that the Committee, consisting of Ms. Ange Iwanczyk, Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, Dr. Ed Pawlowski, and Mr. Marion Winters, chose **Karoline Carlman** and **Lara S. Szypszak** for the 2011 scholarships of \$3,000 each. These scholarships are intended for students pursuing some Polish studies (majors may be in other fields) at universities in the U.S. who have completed at least two years of college or university work at an accredited institution.

## Karoline Carlman

of Andover CT is a student at Central CT State University working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies with European



Union/Western Europe concentration. She had previously studied at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio and last year Karoline studied abroad at the University of Hertfordshire and the University of Cumbria in England. Karoline spent the summer of 2008 in Poland in the town of Tczew of Pomorska at an English immersion camp as a volunteer teaching assistant with the Kosciuszko Foundation. This included assisting American teachers, tutoring Polish high school students in the English language and translating between Polish students and American teachers. She has taken courses in the Polish language and in the history of Poland's neighbors. Karoline has applied to the State Department for a grant to study in Lithuania as part of her interest in Eastern Europe. Most recently she completed the course titled the History of Modern Poland, described as extremely demanding and taught by Dr. M.B. Biskupski, Holder of the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies. Dr. Biskupski praises

Karoline's work in his course as earning high marks. He describes her as a serious and mature student with an ambitious interest in Poland and its place in the world and who has practical plans to increase that knowledge with direct experience.

Karoline notes that her personal involvement in the community to promote Polish culture stems in part from being an active parishioner at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford. The Coordinator of the Development Program at the parish school, Mrs. Patricia Zima, notes Karoline's deep pride in her Polish family heritage including their celebration of Poland's customs and traditions. Karoline has taught art including Polish folk arts at the school alongside her mother. Karoline has also been an entrant in the annual Szopka Contest sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford and has mentored other students with their szopka entries.

As an amateur photographer, Karoline started an internet blog to document places she visits abroad as well as describing life in a Polish American family. She plans on using the blog to document Polish Culture in Lithuania.

## Lara S. Szypszak

attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is pursuing a double major Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Slavic and East European



Languages and Literatures with a focus on Poland and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a Modern European focus. In 2010 she attended a four week highly intensive summer program in Lublin Poland and has received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant to return this summer to the Catholic University of Lublin for a six week highly intensive summer program. Courses in Polish studies include several Polish Language courses as well as 20th Century Polish Literature and Culture. Dr. Ewa Wampuszyc, Assistant Professor of Polish at the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department describes Lara as a talented and dedicated student who is mak-

ing steady progress towards increased language proficiency. Dr. Wampuszyc describes Lara as mature, creative, motivated, and eager to learn; having found her passion in the study of Polish language and culture. As part of a history seminar entitled "Florence, Cradle of the Renaissance" Lara submitted a paper entitled Sigismund Chapel; Humanist in Polish Architecture from Florence for which she received a high evaluation.

Lara is founder and President of the University of North Carolina Polish Club. Valerie Bernhardt, Administrative Manager and Student Services Manager at the two academic departments who advised Lara on how to establish the Polish Club describes Lara as extremely enthusiastic, efficient, self-sufficient, patient and persistent. Ms. Bernhardt states that Lara's goal of establishing a Polish Club was to increase the presence and accessibility of the Polish language and culture at the University and to create a community of students and others interested in all things Polish. Lara's leadership and organizational skill has quickly established the Polish Club's presence on campus, has reached out to non-departmental students, and has taken part in campus-wide global events.

Lara states that during the last two years of her life she spent an enormous amount of time involved in the culture, history, and language of Poland. Her plans include continued involvement in the Polish Club, reaching out to the community through programs about Polish culture and history. One way she has done this is through establishment of a Polish Club website which is widely available, gets over 250 views a month and is linked to several organizations.

**Post card** from Lublin, Poland to Marion Winters sent by Lara Szypszak.

She writes:

*Pan Winters,*

*I hope this card from Lublin finds you well. I want to thank you again for the great honor and scholarship you have awarded me.*

*I appreciate your faith in my scholarship thus far and in the future, and I hope to uphold the honor well. Dziekuje bardzo - pozdrawiam z Polski,*

*Lara Szypszak"*

Lara sent a similar card for Dr. Skalny



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE April 20-21, 2012**

**ACPC Spring Board Meeting in Detroit, Michigan**

hosted by

**The Friends of Polish Art**

celebrating its

**75th Anniversary**

## **Friends of Polish Art, Detroit, Michigan**

The Friends of Polish Art of Detroit under the direction of President Carol Surma, Esq. held its Annual Swieconka chaired by Christa Zabawski and Anne Marie Tyszka where the "Short Story" Competition awards were presented. This 5th Literary Competition is an annual event chaired by Janet Ann Hedin.

The FPA scholarship committee awarded five \$1,500.00 Frank Filipek Scholarships and one \$500.00 Lillian and Chester Mitchell Fine Arts Scholarship to six very deserving young students.

All the details can be found on FPA website at [www.friendsofpolishart.org](http://www.friendsofpolishart.org)

In October the FPA celebrated the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Fine Arts Competition (formerly Kubinski Art Competition) which was held in the Galeria on the grounds of the Orchard Lake Schools under the direction of newly appointed Director of the Galeria and a long time chairperson of the event, Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman and co-chair J. William Gorski. This year it was juried by award winning artist Vianna Szabo, P.S.A. The awards were presented by the new Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools' SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Fr. Thomas Machalski. A reception followed. Also, a "Gallery Talk" by juror Szabo was held at the Galeria where the members and guests were able to meet and exchange views with the artist.

Now, the Szopka Competition is in full swing. Originally started by past president Carolyn Meleski it gains in popularity every year with the support of the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck. The event is under the skillful chairmanship of First Vice-President Gorski. .

In 2012, the Friends of Polish Art will be celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to commemorate that Special Year the FPA is hosting the ACPC Board Meeting, scheduled for April 20 and 21, 2012 to be followed by a Special Celebration.

## **Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies**

The Committee awarded two scholarships of \$5,000.00 each to Beata Hryniewicz of Westfield, CT, a PhD candidate in Physical Therapy at the University of CT and Lisamarie Gora of Colonia, NJ, a Juris Doctor candidate at the NY Law School.

For detailed information about ACPC Scholarships, please see our website: [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org)



*Lisamarie Gora*



*Anna Mae Maglaty presented the 2011 recipient of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarship Award to Beata Hryniewicz on May 18.*

# ACPC Board Meets in Boston

By Jo Louise Winters P/R Chair

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) held its 2011 Fall Board Meeting, Oct. 14-15 in a suburb of Boston, which was hosted by the Polish Cultural Foundation whose president is Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk. Dr. Pronczuk earned his Doctor of Science degree from prestigious MIT in Cambridge, MA. He is a specialist in human nutrition and lectures and conducts research at Brandeis University. He is the author of well over 100 scientific publications and holds several patents.

Dr. Pronczuk, his charming wife Lila, and the Foundation's Vice-Presidents, Donata Czulak, Elzbieta Welz, and Szymon Tolak planned a very exciting and informative weekend for the members of ACPC. Business sessions kicked off the Friday evening meeting, which were followed by a splendid reception prepared by Mrs. Pronczuk and other active members of the Foundation.

After a brief business session Saturday morning the ACPC members embarked upon a memorable two-hour trolley car tour through Boston and Cambridge. They viewed Faneuil Hall where Samuel Adams and other Revolutionary figures met to plan their fight for liberty. Other sites they witnessed were Paul Revere's house, the Boston Harbor where British Redcoats marched ashore in 1768, a view of the U.S.S. Constitution, Bunker Hill, and many other important historical sites where the battles for our country's freedom began. Other sites pointed out with precise and interesting facts by the trolley driver, such as the Christian Science Church building, the Kennedy Library and the Old North Church where the lantern warned that the British were coming brought sighs of recognition. Our members were absolutely fascinated by the historical backgrounds, which have been so immaculately maintained.

Upon returning to the hotel meeting room, we were treated to a very tasty luncheon while Pres. Majka began the final business agenda. Among the many interesting and important activities and projects discussed was a report by Mary Flanagan. Mrs. Flanagan has written and published a book "With Paintbrush and Sword", which reflects the Life & Works of Jan H. de Rosen. She announced that



*Andrzej Pronczuk welcomes guests*

she has decided to donate the income received from the book sales to the maintenance of the de Rosen cenotaph which the ACPC had erected in the cemetery of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Chairman Marion Winters announced that it appears that the Pulaski Scholarships program will be able to award four scholarships of \$5,000 each to Polish American youths in advanced studies in 2012.

Camile Kopielski, Chair of the Summer Studies in Poland program, reported that \$2,000 awards were granted this year to Agatha Kielczewski and Nicholas Gregory Krol. Agatha is a senior at Northwestern University. She wrote of her experience at a university in Poland that

"the study was with two incredibly knowledgeable and talented professors involving four hours of daily classes covering Polish history and literature". Planned weekends included trips throughout Poland and Eastern Europe, which "made a most poignant, memorable summer."

Nicholas Krol is a senior at Wayne State Univ. A Wayne State professor, Dr. Alina Klein, visited Poland this summer and met Krol there. He informed her that he is remaining in Poland to attend the Jagiellonian University for one year.

Thomas Payne, Chairman of the Jamestown Historical Marker Committee, announced that the marker prepared by ACPC honoring the Polish settlers who contributed richly to the success of the Settlement in the early 1600's has passed all of the requirements that the State of Virginia requires. It will be installed in Jamestown during the ACPC Convention in 2012.

Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk announced that in addition to the \$100 donation made by his Foundation to our ACPC booth at the Annual Conference for Social Studies, he would be sending his very popular book markers and also a supply of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Constitution booklet.

Many other business decisions were discussed and processed as Pres. Majka skillfully and adroitly guided the proceedings on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

After enjoying a delicious dinner Saturday evening, ACPC members were transported by the Foundation members to the home of Mrs. Lila Pronczuk's cousin for a piano recital. We were delighted to be seated by the hosts in the very spacious parlor of what could be best described as a mansion, the home of Elzbieta and Waldemar Welz. We were introduced to Krystian Tkaczewski, pianist who is a



*President Majka opens evening session*





*Stop on the bus tour at sculpture "The Partisans" by Andrzej Pitynski*



*Board members in front of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church before Mass*

graduate of the University of Hartford where he is presently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Mr. Tkaczewski has taken part in a number of piano competitions and took first prize in several, such as American Protégé in NY and Jose Iturbi Music Competition in Los Angeles.

Tkaczewski's piano selections were superbly played, sometimes forcefully, sometimes delicately in delivery. The energy of the music seemed to course through him. He appeared to perform in full authority and conviction. Tkaczewski seemed to be always exploring the range of sound, keenly passionate, exciting, but as in Chopin's Nocturne also lyrical and delicate.

The recital was a superbly atmospheric presentation of Mozart, Schubert and Chopin. The presentation by Mr. Tkaczewski, his range of sound and passionate delivery made the music loud in beauty that gladdened the senses. The audience responded with tremendous applause revealing their delight and ap-

preciation for Mr. Tkaczewski's performance.

The beaming audience was invited to partake of a dessert table filled with cookies and cakes and another table laden with wines and other refreshments. Mrs. Lila Pronczuk had personally baked the tasty cookies and the really superb poppy-seed cake.

What a lovely and very interesting day – a sight-seeing trolley tour through Bos-

ton and Cambridge, a fine luncheon, very engrossing and productive ACPC business session, a delicious dinner, an outstanding piano recital, and a really delicious dessert! The Polish members who attended the weekend's Board Meeting were transfixed by recalling the Polish tradition displayed by Dr. Andrzej & Lila Pronczuk and Mr. & Mrs. Welz that "Gosc w domu, Bog w domu" ("Guest in the home, God's in the home"), which was indeed applicable to our visit in Boston. The concluding feeling was that the weekend manifested a very warm companionship among all members, creating a feeling of happiness in their Polish souls. The majestic experience continued into Sunday morning, as the gracious Lila met everyone in the hotel lobby, inquiring if anyone wanted transportation to church to attend Mass. Folks went to Mass with thanksgiving in their hearts and souls for an unforgettably happy weekend. The faithful Mass attendees were further blessed by Rev. Andrzej Urbaniak who greeted them warmly and wished them a safe journey home.



*Krystian Tkaczewski at the piano*

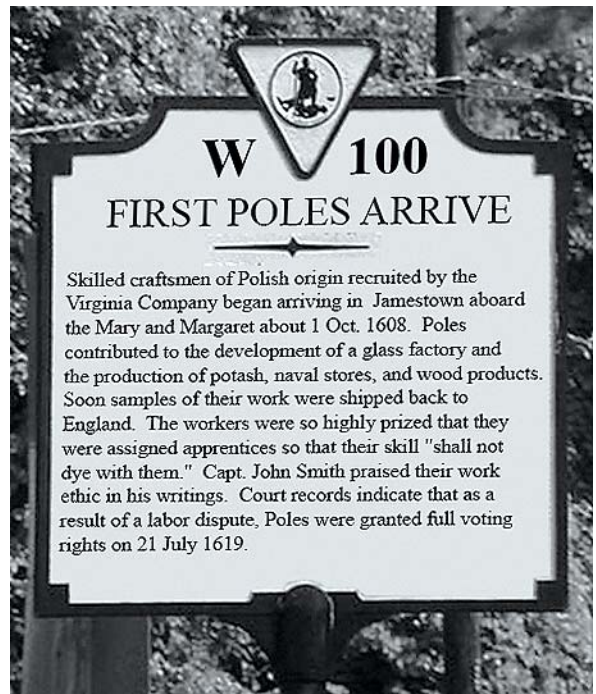


*Members enjoying the Tkaczewski recital in the spacious parlor of Elzbieta and Waldemar Welz*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**July 18-22, 2012**  
**64th ACPC Annual Convention**  
**Williamsburg, Virginia**

*On Saturday, July 21, 2012 there will be a ceremony at near-by Jamestown to unveil a historical marker commemorating the arrival of the first Poles to America*



Skilled craftsmen of Polish origin recruited by the Virginia Company began arriving in Jamestown aboard the Mary and Margaret about 1 Oct. 1608. Poles contributed to the development of a glass factory and the production of potash, naval stores, and wood products. Soon samples of their work were shipped back to England. The workers were so highly prized that they were assigned apprentices so that their skill "shall not dye with them." Capt. John Smith praised their work ethic in his writings. Court records indicate that as a result of a labor dispute, Poles were granted full voting rights on 21 July 1619.

## To our readers

This issue of the Polish Heritage will be the last issue Robert and I will be editing. We wish to thank all those who consistently helped in making every issue informative and inspiring pride in the accomplishments of the organization. Thanks to: Jo Louise and Marion Winters with coverage and photos of our events; Jackie Kolowski with photos and the individual clubs who sent in their reports for the Affiliate News as well as the individuals who took time to send information of interest. Please continue your valuable input and support for the new editor - Mr. David Motak.

Mr. Motak is an artist/educator known for his beautiful 'szopkas' for which he has won acclaim in Krakow, Poland at their annual Szopka competition. He is

also Director of Communications, Polish Falcons of America. At the last ACPC Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, last summer, he was awarded the ACPC Cultural Achievement Award.

Dave's value to Polonia continues to be considerable. He has been a dynamic cultural ambassador for our community. Rather than merely presenting lectures or talks on the szopka form, he has been innovative in taking this traditional, ornate Polish folk artform, popularizing it, developing a simplified yet authentic construction technique and making it accessible to

awide-range of individuals. In doing so, Dave has brought many adults and children into the creative process, many of whom would not necessarily have access

to the arts. By portraying Polish history and culture in innovative and dynamic ways, he has helped to enhance pride in their heritage for people of Polish descent while simultaneously serving as a positive representative of Polish arts and culture to the general public. Through workshops, classes, publications and public presentations to community groups, Dave has worked tirelessly to increase the visibility of Poland and Polish culture both regionally and nationally.



*David Motak.*



We are delighted to welcome Mr. Motak to our Board and wish him joy and satisfaction in this new endeavor. To our readers - we wish happy reading and pleasure in being a part of this (ACPC) vital organization.

*Mary and Robert Flanagan*

**Until Mr Motak issues his contact address, please continue to send your information to Mary Flanagan for forwarding to the new editor**



# Marie Sklodowska Curie

100th Anniversary *by Marion Winters*

A recent issue of The Post Eagle carries a front page story about the 100th anniversary of Madame Curie's Nobel prize in Chemistry. Most exciting is the fact that Senator Barbara Mikulski of MD was joined by the Embassy of Poland to open an exhibit on the life and accomplishments of Madame Marie Sklodowska-Curie - on display in the Senate Office Building Rotunda to mark National Chemistry Week.



At the opening, Sen. Mikulski was joined by the Embassy of Poland Deputy Chief of Mission Maciej Pisarski and Dr. Bradley Miller, Dir. of the Office of Intl. Affairs at the American Chemical Society. In her opening remarks the Senator described Curie's accomplishments and honors bestowed upon her. Then she also explained that she was a big fan of Madame Curie - "when I was a little girl growing up in Baltimore during WWII, my parents took me to see a famous movie about her. They wanted me to know the story of Poland; they wanted me to know the story of this brilliant woman. At age 8, I saw Greer Garson play "Madame Curie". I knew then that I wanted to be just like her. When I came home, I begged my parents to buy me a chemistry set. I wanted to be a scientist. I wanted to win a Nobel prize. I wasn't sure how to spell it, but I wanted to win it. The story mesmerized me and I worked hard in my science classes in school. I had hoped, as a young high school girl and as a young college student, to have a career in science, but it was not meant to be. I am good at understanding science, but I'm not very good at doing science. So I shifted my career to social science, to social work and to politics. I now use my talents in government to fund those that do science. When I think about Madame Curie and all that she meant for science, I think of all the possibilities and potential for women, for those who have a passion for science, and for those who pursue the passion of intellectual discovery."

## ACPC Affiliate Matching Funds Grants

The Affiliate matching funds have been successfully awarded to the Polish Arts Club of Trenton, NJ, and the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown, OH.

The Grant Criteria and Application Form have been posted to the ACPC Website. Affiliates in good standing for at least two years may apply for matching funds for projects in their respective communities. All information needed to complete an application is detailed in the Grant Criteria and Application Form.

The Membership Outreach Committee looks forward to receiving your applications. If you do not have access to a computer, or prefer to complete a paper application form, you may obtain the forms by mail by contacting:

**Marcia Lewandowski**  
5128 Casmere St.  
Detroit, MI 48212-2872

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### Attention Affiliate and Supporting Members

The deadline for submitting your organization's news is as follows:

Spring/Summer Issue .... March 1

Fall/Winter .... October 1

**Mary Flanagan - Editor**

**Robert Flanagan - Layout & Design**  
1721 Forest Lane, McLean, VA 22101-3323

### Editorial Staff:

**Wallace West, Mary Flanagan - Book Reviews**

**Bernadette & Richard Wiermanski - Proofreaders**

**Judi Tompkins - Subscriptions & Business Mngr.**  
805 N Hickory Ridge Rd., Highland MI 48357-4126  
EM:kallie25@comcast.net

**Thaddeus Mirecki, Peter Obst - Webmasters**  
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