



Polish Heritage

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64th ANNUAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Awards and Installation of Officers

by Jo Louise Winters, PR Chair

The American Council for Polish Culture held our 64th Annual Convention, July 18-21, 2012, in Williamsburg, VA. The Saturday evening Banquet Program climaxing the Convention was presided over by President Deborah Majka. She introduced Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka "Dusz Pasterz" who gave the invocation. After a delicious dinner, the Annual Awards Presentation ceremonies began with awards to individual members of ACPC and Polonia.

President Majka introduced ACPC Awards Committee Chairperson Mary Flanagan who announced the winners of the Founders Awards: Mary Ellen Tyszka, Second Vice President and Treasurer Gregory Biestek. These two very active Board members were chosen to receive the Founders Awards for their many valuable contributions to the ACPC organization over a period of many years.

Mary Ellen Tyszka has served as both First and Second Vice-President. She has been a Director, Chaired the Audit Committee, and has been on the Nominations and the Credentials and Grievances Committees. Recently, Mary Ellen spent many hours reviewing, updating and making extensive revisions to the very important Convention Guidelines for planning ACPC conventions. She produced a spiral-bound booklet of 44 pages covering the most suitable and necessary preparations for conducting successful future conventions. The revised guidelines were received with great appreciation for the

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HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILED AT JAMESTOWN

by Peter J. Obst



On the afternoon of July 20, 2012, a group of officers and members of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), accompanied by government officials, dignitaries and guests gathered on the roadside of Virginia Route 31 near the entrance to the site of the historic Jamestown Settlement. It was here, in the vicinity of historical markers devoted to German and African settlers of Jamestown and the Indian Princess Pocahontas, that a new marker has been placed, to record the arrival of Polish craftsmen at the site in 1608. These men came on the second supply ship, the "Mary and Margaret," early in the history of the settlement when skilled hands and industrious individuals were needed to help the struggling English colony survive.

The dedication ceremonies began with Debbie Majka, President of the ACPC, welcoming the approximately 50 persons who assembled on the grassy area near the marker. At the same time a sporadic light summer shower started sprinkling the area, necessitating the use of umbrellas. After her greeting, Father Philip Majka (not related to Debbie) offered up a prayer.

Then followed Mayor of Williamsburg Claude Haulman who underscored the importance of the occasion. Wendy Musumeci from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources spoke about the importance of recognizing the contributions of immigrants in the Commonwealth. At one point her voice shook with emotion as she mentioned her Polish husband Martin and her baby son Maks, who were also present at the event.

Tom Payne, chairman of the Marker Committee, explained how the marker came about, and that because of the rich Polish-American history in Virginia, future markers were being contemplated. A definite possibility is one for Union

Photo at top: Fr. Thomas Machalski, Thomas Payne, Debbie Majka and Consul Piotr Konowrocki at the marker unveiling.

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From the President



Debbie Majka

Dear Members,

After each of our conventions, we return to our homes with pleasant memories of new places visited and new and renewed friendships. Our recent Williamsburg convention provided all of that plus so much more. The placement of this Commonwealth of Virginia Historical Marker, a permanent recognition of the arrival of the first Poles in Jamestown and their strike for equal rights in the New World, proudly proclaims to all visitors to Jamestown that the Poles were there and what they accomplished. We are indebted to Tom Payne, President of the Polish American Arts Association who chaired this project and saw it through to completion.

In November in Seattle, Washington, under the capable chairmanship of Cecilia and Ray Glembocki, ACPC will again be represented at the National Conference for Social Studies (NCSS). One of the most important efforts of ACPC is to provide teachers with ready to use, accurate information about Polish history and culture to high school and college students. During the course of the two-day convention, ACPC distributes resource material to thousands of teachers, free-of-charge. As you might imagine, this requires a large financial outlay on the part of ACPC to prepare these materials and make them available to the teachers. We hope you recognize the importance of this effort. Your financial support is needed and contributions may be made, payable to ACPC-NCSS. Send to Cecilia Glembocki, 911 Saddlebrook Court, McLean, VA 22102-1317.

Recently, ACPC saw the passing of two remarkable and accomplished women: Dr. Estelle-Wachtel Torres, most recently Chair of the Literary Competition and Anna Chrypinska, past President and author of our history. Their dedication to their families and to our ACPC family is legendary. Both were outstanding role models always providing advice and wise counsel, always setting an example. They will be missed, but their families may be assured that their legacy lives on in ACPC.

Regrettably, this year's Youth Leadership Conference had to be cancelled. At its inception under the capable chairmanship of Dr. Maria Chrypinska more than 15 years ago, no other Polonian organization offered an opportunity of this type. Students were able to meet face-to-face with Polish and Polish-American leaders in the fields of science, economics, government, arts and the media and to benefit greatly from their

collective years of experience, knowledge and wise counsel.

Today, Polonia has seen the proliferation of these types of conferences, although none exactly like ours, which emphasized the grooming of future leaders to succeed us in Polonia and to represent us in government. We also recognize that students today if given a choice between attending this Youth Leadership Conference or serving at an internship, will probably opt for the latter, which will look great on their respective resumes. If this sounds like we're giving up, we're not! Our committee intends to review all aspects of the conference to determine what we might do to revamp it with an eye toward enticing students to attend in the future. If you have any ideas, please let me know. We are most grateful to Irena and Ted Mirecki, recent chairs of this event, who gave so much of their time and energy and talent on behalf of ACPC.

A friendly reminder—Presidents of affiliates are members of the board and as such, have the right to attend our board meetings. We could benefit greatly from your experience and hope you will share it with us at the next board meeting, which will be hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown, OH, from October 19-21, 2012. All the details may be found on our website: www.polishcultureacpc.org. In addition to the business meetings, we'll have free time to socialize and to tour the sights in Youngstown. I hope you'll be there.

Debbie

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS

If you choose, you can receive your copy of the *Polish Heritage* newsletter directly to your e-mail as a PDF file, beginning in 2013. Your name will be added to our e-mail distribution list instead of the mailing list and a hard copy will not be sent. If you wish to receive only an e-mail version, please send your name and e-mail address to:

Kallie25@comcast.net.



The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

submitted by Fran Pudlo



2012 Scholarship Recipients: (L to R) Edward Kieltyka, Maciej Gadomski, Timothy Slowikowski, Christina Marconi, Randall Waszynski.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. is proud to have completed two major projects for 2012. President Cliff Archie presented a complimentary copy of the Polish American Encyclopedia to the six libraries in towns/cities where most of the members reside. Also, upon hearing of an Information Center to be built at Monte Cassino, Italy, the Club voted to donate five hundred dollars to the Polish Army Veterans Association toward the construction of this Center.

Noteworthy programs attracted members and many guests. On April 29, 2012, Mario Enzler, a former Swiss Guard under Blessed John Paul II, captivated the audience with his experiences at the Vatican and the impact it had on his life. Personal anecdotes enhanced the presentation.

On May 3, at the annual celebration of Polish Day at the Connecticut State Capitol, Patricia Archie and Ursula Brodowicz were honored for their work and dedication to the Polish community. Once again, the Polish flag was visibly flying proudly above the Capitol building.

Member Krysia Jopek, author of *Maps and Shadows*, was the featured speaker at the May 24 meeting. She shared her family's struggle during the brutal Soviet deportation of 1.5 million Polish civilians to forced labor camps in Siberia shortly before World War II.

Five undergraduate students received a one thousand dollar scholarship on June 14. They were: Maciej Gadomski, (Quinnipiac University), Edward Kieltyka, (St. Joseph's College in Maine), Christina Marconi, (University of North Carolina), Timothy Slowikowski, (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and Randall Waszynski, (Stony Brook College).

Ewa Wolynska, University Archivist Coordinator of Polish American Archives at Central Connecticut State University, gave an archival history of Polish Americans in Connecticut and New England on September 16. These Archives serve as a research depository for the public, scholars and students of the Polish community in America.



Mario Enzler, a former Swiss Guard in the service of Blessed Pope John Paul II, shared his experiences in a lecture called "I Served a Saint" on April 29, 2012.



Matthew K. Poland (l), Chief Executive Officer of Hartford Public Library receives a copy of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* from Cliff Archie, President of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., on June 27, 2012.

IU POLISH STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

The Polish Studies Center at Indiana University has announced the Polish Century Club Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, to be awarded to an undergraduate entering IU-Bloomington in Fall 2013. The award will be made to a student who expresses interest in Polish Studies, including enrollment in Polish language for the 2013-14 academic year. The award is non-renewable.

Indiana University offers courses in Polish language, literature, and history, as well as many courses in other areas that deal with Poland. Students can participate in the informal discussions at a weekly Polish Table, participate in a wide variety of cultural activities, and take advantage of the study abroad program in Cracow.

Applicants should submit a letter detailing interest in Polish Studies, plus one recommendation letter addressing this interest. Supplementary materials showing Polish-related activities or travel are also welcome.

Applications are due by February 1, 2013, addressed to: Polish Studies Center, Indiana University, 1217 E. Atwater Ave., Bloomington, IN 47401. For more information, please contact Padraic Kenney, Director, at pjkenney@indiana.edu, polish@indiana.edu, or 812-855-1507.

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ACPC PRESENTS FIVE PULASKI SCHOLARSHIPS

Reported by Marion Winters

Five winners of the 12th Annual Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, were recently announced by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). The following Polish-American students were awarded \$5,000 each:

- **Robert Cyparski** is a Doctor of Pharmacy candidate at the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy, Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. During his studies, he has earned numerous awards and honors and has had an excellent scholastic record and was appointed to the Dean's List every semester for the past four years. He has served in leadership roles in many school and professional organizations and has an exemplary record of volunteer services for his school and community.

- **Renata Dajnowski**, a U.S. citizen of Polish birth, boasts a 4.00 GPA in her quest for a Master of Science degree in Education: Curriculum & Instruction. She has already acquired a Masters Degree in Education in Poland. Renata's elementary teaching experiences actually began in Poland. Since 2003, Renata has been serving as the principal and teacher at the Polish School in Portland, Oregon, where she is responsible for overseeing 68 students, ten teachers and the Parents Council. Additionally, she holds a Certified Substitute Teacher position in the local school district, was employed as a Polish Language Teacher at the Portland Community College and has served as a kindergarten teacher. Renata's work within Oregon Polonia has been well publicized including interviews with her by the White Eagle and the Catholic Sentinel.

- **Patricia C. Hayes** has undertaken quite a scholastic challenge - a highly competitive dual degree program, Bachelor of Business Administration degree and a Master of Business Administration degree at a private university, Robert Morris University in Chicago. She anticipates completing the program next year. In addition to her studies, she has been working for Walgreens Pharmacy since 2008. An officer of the Navy Klub Morskie Oko, a charitable organization, writes that Patricia has been especially helpful in looking out for the welfare of elderly members.

- **Benjamin H. Schultz**, a recent Doctor of Musical Arts, Vocal Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He had earned a master of Music Degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Belmont University in 2010. Since 2011, Benjamin has been serving as an Adjunct Professor of Applied Voice at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He has served as a teaching assistant, assistant director of the University Opera and as Vice-President in the Graduate Student Council. Benjamin's operatic roles have included "Trouble in Tahiti" and "Don Giovanni" at the Wisconsin University Opera, Madison. He has performed in other operatic roles and has garnered a number of artistic awards. Benjamin intends to compile a Polish Art



POLISH ARTS CLUB OF CHICAGO PRESENTS ACPC'S \$5,000 CHECK TO PULASKI SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago held its annual Installation Luncheon on June 10, 2012 at the Park Ridge Country Club. Acting on behalf of the American Council for Polish Culture, the Club's president Camille Kapielski took advantage of the occasion to present the winner, Patricia Hayes, of this year's Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies with the ACPC check in the amount of \$5,000. Expressing her deep gratitude for the "amazing award", Ms. Hayes wrote that she looks forward to maintaining a friendship with the Polish Arts Club and the ACPC.

Submitted by Jo Louise Winters

Song Anthology for his doctoral dissertation project, which has prompted an invitation to submit an article to their journal and the offer of a lecture series across the country on this subject.

- **Marta Wegorzewska**, U.S. citizen born in Poland, emigrated to the U.S. at age four. In the U.S. she was raised in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, which she describes as "a community of transplanted Poles who created a culturally rich environment that shaped my Polish identity." Today, she is a Graduate Researcher at the University of California - San Francisco. Marta has been a teaching assistant for numerous courses and she aims to have these experiences enrich her development not only as a scientist capable of communicating scientific information, but also as a mentor. The Pulaski Scholarship Committee was impressed by Marta's stated goal to use the teaching and mentoring skills she has acquired to give back to the communities that are responsible for her development into a Polish-American scientist. Ultimately, she hopes to pursue a career in scientific journalism.



Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

Promoting Poland

On August 22, 2012 the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was invited by the Cultural Heritage Committee of Johnson and Johnson (J & J) to their Corporate Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ to participate in their highlighting of Poland. The goal of J & J is to enlighten their employees of the culture and heritage of countries where they conduct business. This year they are highlighting Poland. We had a wonderful display of Polish books, Polish Pottery (Boleslawiec), candies, polish cut outs (Wycianki) in addition to Polish regional costumes, polish jewelry, and posters promoting the 36th Annual Adam Styka Art Exhibit and Sale which will take place at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA.

Other exhibitors joining our group were one travel agency from Wallington, NJ and representatives from Polish Tourism Bureau promoting travel to Poland in addition to the Polish Dance School, "Maki", who performed for the employees in Polish costumes.

The employees of J & J were most enthusiastic to learn about the people and customs of Poland and asked many questions. They also enjoyed tasting the delicious candies that we supplied at our exhibit. In addition, we promoted the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and ACPC by passing out our membership brochure which identifies the mission of the Polish Heritage Society and its activities.

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was represented by Marie Hejnosz, President and Jean Joka, Publicity Director (photo above). All in all it was a most successful exhibit and delightful day at J & J. We were very proud to represent the country of Poland.

Fall 2012

Polish Arts League, Pittsburgh, PA

submitted by Ange Iwanczyk

LITERARY COMPETITION

The Polish Arts League (PAL) conducted the eleventh Literary Competition for Grades 7 and 8. The topic was "Polish Contributions to Literature."

The first place recipient was **Alice Navadeh**, grade 7, Marshall Middle School, North Allegheny School District. Her essay pertained to Polish contributions to children's literature. She mentioned poems by Wislawa Szymborska, Czeslaw Milosz, novelist Witold Gombrowicz and the book *123* by Jan Pienkowski. Others mentioned were Janina Porazinska, a writer and poet who put together a collection of folk tales and Isaac Bashevis Singer. Alice received \$200 and a Certificate of Achievement from PAL of Pittsburgh.



Alice Navadeh



Henry Atkins

In second place receiving \$150 and a Certificate of Achievement from PAL was **Henry Atkins**, grade 8, Divine Mercy Academy, Beaver Falls, PA. He mentioned many famous Polish authors like Conrad Celtes, Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski and Jan Potocki. He described Adam Mickiewicz, the main poeta-wieszcz of his writings "healthier" than the great authors Shakespeare, Goethe, Byron and Homer. Henry also cited Henryk Sienkiewicz, poet and essayist Wislawa Szymborska, Jacek Dukaj and Stanislaw Lem.

The PAL Literary Committee was impressed with the quality of the essays. This is a worthwhile project to continue.

In addition, on Sunday, May 6, the Polish Heritage Society gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA, for their annual Mass and Scholarship Luncheon. During the beautiful liturgy, scholarship awardees served as lectors and presented the gifts during the offertory. Following Mass a delicious lunch of Polish cuisine was served in the cafeteria. In addition, Dr. Stephen Medvec, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, recognized this year's winners, who each received an academic scholarship of \$1,000.00.

Scholarship Recipients:

- Victoria Szyszko, Special Education (Central Bucks South H. S)
- Patrick Oazrek, Biomedical Engineering (College of New Jersey)
- Barbara Goral, Social Work (Temple University)
- Jakub Dziedzic, Psychology (St. Joseph's Preparatory)
- Nicole Daukszewicz, Business Studies (New York University)

Submitted by Jean Joka

SEMBRICH CONCERT

During the recent ACPC Convention, members and guests attended the Marcela Kochanska Sembrich Concert at the Williamsburg Inn on Thursday evening, July 19. Sembrich Music Committee Chair, Alicia L. Dutka, and her Committee members Dr. Robert Dutka and Jaroslaw Golembowski had selected Andrzej Stec, Tenor, as the winner of the 2012 Sembrich Award. Mrs. Dutka introduced Andrzej Stec and Piano Accompanist Jean Eudes Vaillancourt to the excited audience. Mr. Stec's first song, Beethoven's *Adelaide* was rendered with a fully developed time quality as the control between pianist and vocalist was very precise. The two Chopin selections, *Moja Pieszczotka* (My Beloved) and *Gdzie Lubi* (Where's Love) were offered emphasizing the poignancy of the words. The tenor voice presentation was beautiful and so plaintive in Moniuszko's *Znasz Ten Kraj* (Dost know this Land), which left the audience mesmerized by its reverence.

Following the intermission, Mr. Stec sang several very romantic arias with delightful expressions of love so handsomely exhibited by facial expressions and body movements. Stec's accompanist Eudes Vaillancourt, a sensitive pianist, has an uncanny sense of how to accompany the human voice without overwhelming it. Great charm and magnetism were projected upon the smiling audience by Stec as he passionately sang *Stoly Brunetki i Blondynki* in which he and Vaillancourt follow the narrative of young romantic love and joyful infatuation. Stec's tenor voice cuts through the air with delightful inviting innuendos. The humorous lyrics of *Stoly Brunetki i Blondynki* as well as the entire concert inspired the audience to leap to its feet in joyful expression of enthusiastic applause for several minutes to express its delight for the entire evening's concert. After its explosive reaction to the delightful concert, the audience rushed to the stage front to congratulate the two performers and to purchase Stec's CDs.

The Music Committee members and Pres. Debbie Majka gathered around the performers as Chairlady Alecia Dutka presented Mr. Stec with the annual Sembrich Award of \$2,000. Everyone crowded around recounting the enjoyment of Stec's outstanding presentations of beloved Polish songs and opera arias.

A member of our Detroit Affiliate, Friends of Polish Art, Jacqueline Kolowski corresponded with Mr. Stec, sending



Andrzej Stec



Above: Polish Tenor
Andrzej Stec
performing
on July 19.

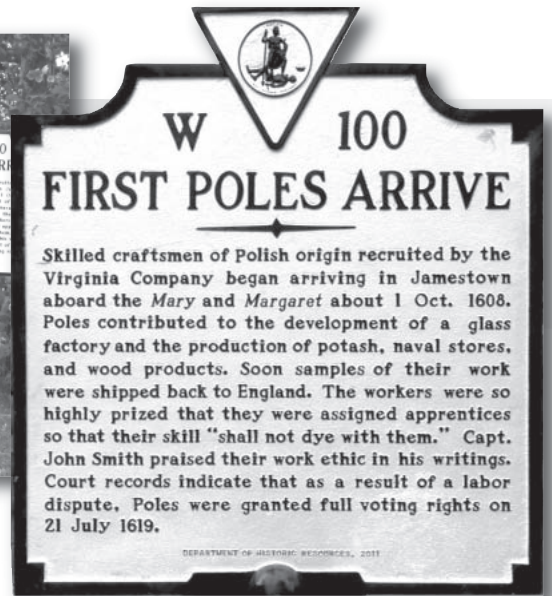


Right: Chairlady
Alecia Dutka
presents Mr. Stec
with the Sembrich
Award.



Andrzej Stec (center) with (left to right) Jean-Eude Vaillancourt,
Alecia Dutka, President Debbie Majka and Jaroslaw Golembowski.

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Historic Marker

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Above left: Mary Ellen Tyszka, Debbie Majka, Jacqueline Kolowski and Edward Pinkowski. Right: Thomas Payne holds an umbrella as Edward Pinkowski unveils marker.

General Vladimir "Kryz" Krzyzanowski who distinguished himself as a colonel in several Civil War battles while leading regiments composed of immigrant Germans and Poles. Yet, whose promotion was stalled because members of congress were unable to pronounce his excellent Polish name.

Colonel Lafayette Jones, US Army Retired, mentioned some of the vital roles that Poles played in the development of United States military history, singling out Tadeusz Kosciuszko -- a military engineer and brigadier general in Washington's army -- who, among his several accomplishments during the Revolutionary War, prepared the defenses at Saratoga and laid plans for the fortifications at West Point, NY. This important bulwark, known as the Gibraltar of America, checked the British move south along the Hudson River and later became the site of America's main military academy.

The commentaries were rounded out by Piotr Konowrocki, Consul General of the Polish Republic, who made the trip from Washington DC. His arrival was not announced earlier and it was a surprise to many of the organizers and spectators to see a car with diplomatic plates pull up to the site. He was most welcome however, as he brought greetings and good wishes from the Polish government and diplomatic corps on the occasion of this important event.

Then, Edward Pinkowski, 95 years old, one of Polonia's most respected historians and a person who initiated the installation of several historical markers in Pennsylvania, was asked to come up. He pulled off the cover and as those present applauded, the marker was officially unveiled.

President Debbie Majka read aloud the words written in black letters on the silver surface of the marker: *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.*

Fr. Thomas Machalski, Rector of the Polish Seminary at Orchard Lake Michigan delivered the closing prayer. Before returning to Williamsburg and continuing the annual convention of the ACPC many of the spectators stayed around to admire this latest addition to the set of historical markers, and had their pictures taken on site. These and additional photographs of the ceremonies may be seen at www.poles.org. Information about the American Council for Polish Culture is on: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>.



The Polish Experience - Totally Immersed

Michael E. Starzak

MEJS Press - Vestal, New York - Soft cover 247 pages

Michael E. Starzak, a professor at the State University of New York at Binghamton, spent a year in Poland as a Fulbright Fellow with his wife Anndrea just as that country was undergoing a dramatic transition to true democracy. By working in the city of Wroclaw while living in a house in a small village, they were able to see two facets of the many changes occurring during this exciting period.

The year also provided an opportunity to trace family roots in Poland and experience the adventure of non-agency adoption. The year in Poland was contrasted with an earlier visit to the Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia in the early seventies.

Contributed by Mary Flanagan.

BOOK REVIEW



Left: The casket is escorted into the church by Father Rich Dyer, celebrant, Pall Bearers and Color Guard. Right: Rita Cosby shares some memories of her father during the mass.

The prestigious Achievement Award was to be presented to Ms. Cosby at the Awards Banquet in Williamsburg at the 2012 Convention. At the banquet, the audience was informed that, due to her father's death and imminent funeral, Ms Cosby regrettably could not be present to accept her award.

The funeral was held on August 3, 2012 at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Before the funeral celebration of

The Last Chapter

At the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) Convention 2011, Rita Cosby was a guest speaker at one of the convention luncheons. She spoke about her recent book *Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father's Past*. The book was a New York times best seller and introduced us to her father's activities as a young Warsaw resistance fighter against the Nazis and his subsequent imprisonment as a German POW. Mr. Richard Cosby (Ryszard "Rys" Kossobudzki) survived the war and ultimately came to the U.S. where he became a noted civil engineer working on projects involving the National Gallery of Art, the Library of Congress and the Dirksen Senate Office Building, among others.

Many of the attendees at the luncheon were so impressed with Ms. Cosby and her story that they nominated her for the ACPC Cultural Achievement Award for 2012.

"a Patriot's Life" another ceremony took place prior to the Introductory Rites. This was the official presentation of the Order of Polonia Restituta Posthumously Presented to Richard Cosby by Minister Maciej Pisarski, *Charge d'Affairs* of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. This was followed by the Color Guard from the Polish Army Veterans Association of America who escorted the casket into the church. Attending were dignitaries from both Poland and the United States.

Following the very moving funeral, guests gathered at the hearse for a last farewell. Ms. Cosby was given her belated Award at that time. Mr. Cosby's remains were to be cremated and half of the ashes will be sent to Poland to be interred at Powaski Cemetery.

Thus ends the final chapter in the life of a *Quiet Hero*.

Mary Flanagan
Awards Chair

Sembrich Concert

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him photos of the Sembrich Concert Award ceremony. She inquired about the possibility of a similar concert in Detroit. A quote from Mr. Stec's response follows (translated by Marion Winters):

First of all, I want to thank you profusely for the kind words and the invitation to Detroit. The concert in Williamsburg was a magnificent experience for both myself and pianist Jean-Eudes Vaillancourt. Above all, I am deeply moved by the magnificent Polonia of the United States and its splendid support for our culture with respect to classical music. I am deeply touched and offer (my) sincere thanks.

Other ACPC Affiliates and perhaps other Polonia organizations may seize the opportunity to attract this exceptional vocalist so that their community may also have the opportunity to hear and witness our Sembrich Concert Winner, Andrzej Stec. With Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays coming up, wouldn't a concert add greatly to the enjoyment of the festivities!?! (Thank you Jackie Kolowski for leading the way!)

Tenor Andrzej Stec



clear, concise and compact directions designed for planning a successful convention.

ACPC members are highly appreciative of the many years of dedicated services rendered by Treasurer Gregory Biestek. He has conscientiously maintained all of our fiscal records, keeping some of the funds in interest and dividend bearing accounts, as well as regularly providing detailed and concise fiscal statements that fully describe sources of income and disbursement of funds. We are very grateful to Mr. Biestek for his excellent record keeping and timely presentations of the Council's financial status and dealings.

The Awards Committee chose Rita Cosby as the recipient of the 2012 Cultural Achievement Award. Ms. Cosby is a popular award-winning journalist and author of *Quiet Hero: Secrets from my Father's Past*. The publication reveals her father's courage as a participant of the Polish Resistance during World War II. He was captured and became a Nazi prisoner of war. Ms. Cosby also serves as a TV host, interviewing world renown political figures and other prominent newsworthy participants. Regrettably, Ms. Cosby was unable to accept the award in person due to her father's recent death. President Debbie Majka accepted the Cultural Achievement Award on behalf of Ms. Cosby.

Very Rev. Timothy E. Whalen was selected as the recipient of the ACPC Distinguished Service Award for 2012. Rev. Whalen attended Orchard Lake Preparatory School. He was ordained in 1978. In 2000 he was appointed Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools. He developed a reputation of operating a Catholic Polish school of excellence. Fr. Whalen created the Polish Mission, which is a collection of Polish Language School, Art Museum, Archives, Dance Group, Seminary Folk Group. He also created the Polish-English Mass Book, *Pan z Wami* (The Lord Be with You). The Polonia is most grateful for Fr. Whalen's magnificent work in developing Orchard Lake Schools to extraordinary levels of outstanding performance and reputation. Members of ACPC Detroit Affiliate, Friends of Polish Art, were particularly grateful that their beloved Father Timothy was awarded the much deserved Distinguished Service Award. Fr. Thomas Machalski, Rector of the Orchard Lake Seminary graciously presented ACPC's Distinguished Service Award to Rev. Timothy Whalen.

The Saturday evening Banquet concluded with the formal Installation by Canon Majka of the newly elected officers, directors and chairs: *Board of Directors*: S. Paul Bosse – Trenton, NJ; Alicia Dutka – Chicago, IL; Mary Flanagan – Washington, DC; Mary Heslin, Hartford, CT; Florence Langridge – Hartford, CT; Walter Wojcik, Philadelphia, PA. *Auditing Committee*: Alice Lech-Laning – Washington, DC. *Nominating Committee*: Ed Pawlowski – Washington, DC; Jo Louise Winters – Hartford, CT. *Credential & Grievance Committee*: Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer – Youngstown, OH; Irene Musman, Philadelphia, PA; Wanda O'Brian Trefil – Washington, DC.

ACPC members are deeply grateful to Convention Co-Chairs Debbie Majka & Richard Wiermanski for organizing & conducting an outstanding convention.

Readers are urged to participate in enjoying and becoming a part of our great Polish Heritage by becoming members of ACPC. Dues are only \$10 annually. As a member you will receive our Polish Heritage publication and be kept informed about our many programs and activities. The very thought of being a part of those great traditions will bring you delight and personal satisfaction. Please issue check to ACPC and mail to: Ms. Florence Langridge, 78 Meadow Lane, West Hartford, CT 06107.

For further information, visit www.polishcultureacpc.org



Mary Ellen Tyszka receives the Founders Award from Vice President Camille Kopielski.



Gregory Biestek receives the Founders Award from Carol Surma, Esq., President, Friends of Polish Art Club, Detroit, MI.



Fr. Thomas Machalski accepts the 2012 Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Rev. Timothy Whalen from President Debbie Majka.



SKALNY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

submitted by Marion Winters



Krzysztof Lukasik

The American Council for Polish Culture has awarded \$3,000 Louis and Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies scholarships to two outstanding applicants: **Krzysztof Lukasik**, and **Matthew Stefanski**.

Krzysztof Lukasik of Carteret, New Jersey was awarded a B.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a Minor in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers in January, 2012. He hopes to receive a M.S. in Transportation Engineering in January 2014, also from Rutgers. Krzysztof's Polish Studies at Rutgers have included contemporary Polish literature, poetry and prose covering different periods of Polish history.

In evaluating Krzysztof's essay on *Ferdynand* by Gombrowicz, Dr. Edyta Bojanowska wrote "this is a very insightful paper that handles admirably a complex aspect of a difficult novel." Krzysztof also studied Polish language and completed Second Year Polish and he also undertook and completed a Polish Independent Study in which he was a tutor for first year Polish language students. He also designed and implemented study and lesson plans which he presented to the Department of Eastern European Languages on how to improve the tutoring process.

Krzysztof has been an active member of the Rutgers Polish Club where he was elected to the Executive Board and served as Secretary and continues to successfully organize events and activities; Krzysztof's efforts included facilitating fundraising to donate money used to build a playground for a school in Poland and for special needs children in New Jersey and in Poland. He plans to remain involved and continue to be an active part of the PolAm community.



Matthew Stefanski

Matthew Stefanski of Bayonne, New Jersey, attends American University, School of International Service in Washington DC. where he expects to be awarded a BA degree in International Relations. Matthew was honored as the 2010 New Jersey Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar and served as an intern at the Office of New Jersey Congressman Albio Sires. He has also been awarded the 2012 Best in Show for Photography in American Literature Magazine this spring.

Matthew's Polish studies have included Polish history, international relations and economic policies. He successfully completed a Summer Course in Polish Language and Culture at the University of Warsaw's Polonicum Center for Polish Language. Notable research papers written by Matthew include "Shock Therapy: A Comparison of Poland and Russia" and "Truth Be Told: Lustration and Its Impact on Coalition Governments in Post-Communist Europe States."

In describing Matthew's research paper entitled "In Solidarity with Solidarnosc", Professor of History Dr. Piotr H. Kosicki, Title VIII Research Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, writes "an extremely fine piece of scholarship that does credit to Polish and Polish-American history," Dr. Kosicki also notes that Matthew "...has consistently proven to be the most engaged and intrepid student..." and his academic work this year has shown that he is poised to give back to the Polish-American community in a

uniquely creative and significant way." Matthew's PolAm community involvement included serving as an officer of the Bayonne High School Polish Cultural Society an active student organization described as a "cornerstone of Polonia in Bayonne." He served as delegate at the Quo Vadis Polish Student and Young Professionals' Conference. Matthew has since been active in the Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial Committee in Jersey City and became a member of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark New Jersey. Since 2009 Matthew has served as a volunteer at the Pilsudski Institute for the Modern Research of Poland, is a member of and has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the Polish American Congress New Jersey Division. In his application essay Matthew wrote that "To be proud of my heritage and to work for its benefit is such a small price to pay for all that it has given me." He traveled in Poland this past summer.



FREDERIC SKALNY HONORED

On May 5, 2012 Dr. Don Bain, the President of St. John Fisher College, presented the President's Medal For Service to Frederic Skalny for his contributions to St. John Fisher College and the Rochester Community during the College's 58th Commencement Ceremony. We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Skalny for a highly deserved award. Mr. Skalny is a past president of our Affiliate Polish Heritage Society and heads the Louis Skalny Foundation. Since 1999, the Foundation has been generously providing the funds for the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies, which the ACPC administers annually.

BARBARA LEMECHA AND HENRIETTA NOWAKOWSKI RECEIVE GOLD ORDER OF MERIT

Zygmunt Matynia, Counsel General of the Republic of Poland, presented the Republic of Poland's prestigious Zloty Krzyz Zaslugi (Gold Order of Merit Cross) to Ms. Barbara Lemecha and Ms. Henrietta Nowakowski on Friday, May 4, 2012. The ceremony took place at the Polish Consulate in Chicago.

Ms. Lemecha and Ms. Nowakowski were recognized for performing many valuable services over the years promoting Polish Culture, Heritage and History in their State of Michigan as well as throughout the United States. In addition to their very active roles within the Friends of Polish Art Club – Detroit, both ladies play very active roles in a number of other Polonian organizations. They played a very important role serving as co-chairs for many years for the American Council for Polish Culture's "Polish Perspectives" booth in the annual National Conference for the Social Studies, an annual national gathering of several thousand teachers and educators from all across the nation. It is not only the American Council for Polish Culture, but all of Polonia that owe Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski expressions of deep appreciation for their outstanding work in bringing the accurate and true picture of Poland's history and its outstanding contributions to society to the attention of teachers, educators, and students. Together, we offer our hearty congratulation to them for receiving the prestigious Polish government's Golden Service Crosses awards.

Autumn Board Meeting

Friday October 19 -- Sunday October 21, 2012
Hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown, Ohio
View complete invitation and meeting schedule at

www.polishcultureacpc.org/Youngstown_2012

For questions and more information contact:

Mary Ann Mlynarski 330-647-9634

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