



Polish Heritage

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ACPC BUFFALO CONVENTION

This year's American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) 66th Annual Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Buffalo, New York, July 29 – August 2, 2014. The opening ceremony began with the Chopin Singing Society leading the assembly in the Polish and United States national anthems. Then the group was greeted by Buffalo Councilman David A. Franczyk. He was followed by the keynote speaker, Honorable Carl Bucki, Chief Judge U.S. Bankruptcy Court, with an inspiring speech about the history and influence of Polonia in Buffalo. A greeting from John Micgiel, the recently installed president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, who was unable to attend in person, was read into the record.

The sessions were led by Mary Ellen Tyszka who assumed the presidency from Camille Kapielski after her resignation due to health problems. Judi Tompkins took on the job of treasurer from Greg Biestek. Tom Payne moved up to First Vice-president, while Alicia Dutka's appointment to the Second Vice-president was confirmed.

All of the ACPC committees reported on their accomplishments during the previous year. Co-Chairs Ceil and Ray Glembocki spoke about the ACPC display booth and the successful presentation by Rita Cosby at the National Con-

ference for Social Studies (NCSS) in St. Louis. They outlined their plans for the Boston Conference in November. After the presentation many of the delegates and affiliates pledged financial support.

A new feature of the convention this year was an informative workshop where members heard how their organizations could benefit from the varied resources available within the ACPC. Members were provided with detailed information regarding the Affiliate Grant Program, archiving their records, borrowing ACPC's posters for an exhibit, submitting articles regarding affiliate activities for the Polish Heritage newsletter, and the opportunities to benefit from the ACPC Literary competition and scholarship programs.

The new ACPC Education Committee Chair, Peter Obst, reported that it was not successful in dealing with the administrators of the National History Day Competition (NHD). For various reasons, we will not be able to present medals to two

continued on page 4

Cover Photo: Convention participants on the steps of Assumption BVM Church in Buffalo. Photo by Greg Witul.



From the Acting President



Mary Ellen Tyszka

Dear Members,

Just an update on past president Camille Kopielski, her health continues to improve and she is currently at home and welcomes calls. We look forward to her returning to active participation with the Council. We have had a busy year and successful convention.

The 66th annual convention in Buffalo New York was a success. Buffalo was one of the first large settlements for migrating Poles in the 1900's. The National Convention Committee Co-chairs, Thomas Payne and Debbie Majka, and their committee: Mary & Robert Flanagan, Ted Mirecki, Richard Wiermanski, and Dr. Wanda O'Brien Trefil all did an outstanding job. We had excellent speakers, comfortable facilities and an interesting tour of historic Polish Buffalo. Our Keynote Speaker was Judge Carl Bucki, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York. He is deeply involved with Polish history in the Buffalo area, and has written many articles and books on the subject. He spoke about the changing Polonia in the Buffalo area. Our luncheon speaker was Gregory Witul, a local historian and the editor of the Monthly Polish-American Journal. He also was our tour guide to the historic sites in Buffalo.

The interim-year election was held and the newly elected Board members are:

- **Auditor for 2014 to 2016:**
Alice Lech Laning (Washington D.C.)
- **Directors for 2014 to 2016**
Terri Barger and Maria Staskiewicz (Pittsburgh);
Mary Flanagan and Ceil Glembocki (Washington D.C.);
Matthew Meleski (Detroit);
Robert Synakowski (Syracuse).
- **The Credential and Grievance Committee (2014/15)**
Chair: Janet Beane (Washington D. C.)
Members: Patricia Archie (Hartford) and Carolyn Meleski (Detroit).
- **The Nominating Committee (2014/16)** includes
Barbara Lemecha (Detroit) and Aloysius Hennessey (Washington D.C.)
- A new Treasurer was appointed, Judi Tompkins, to complete the 2013/15 term of office.

In addition to the business meetings we had something new, an Affiliate Workshop. A panel of ACPC Committee Chairs explained the programs intended for your affiliates to benefit:

The programs covered;

- How to get an Affiliate Grant, a matching grant up to \$500 for your organization to use for a special project;
- How and what organization records should be preserved in the ACPC National Archives;
- The availability of a Travelling Polish Poster Exhibit to borrow for a special display;
- The Heritage newsletter for your organization to contribute articles regarding your achievements;
- The American Achievement Award, for ACPC to recognize the achievements of outstanding individuals in your community;
- Wachtel Literary Competition, (short stories and/or poetry), matches the first prize award, up to \$750;
- And then the three Scholarship programs:
 - ACPC Summer Study Scholarship for youth to study in Poland,
 - Skalny Scholarships (2 scholarships of \$4,000 each) for College students pursuing Polish studies, (major may be in another field),
 - Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies (up to 5 scholarships of \$5,000 each) for students of Polish descent with no restrictions on the field of study.

If you would like more information on these program please check the website www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Our Affiliates are welcome to contact me for the Workshop package that has greater detail; metyszka@sbcglobal.net

Member organizations: don't forget to take advantage of the Heritage newsletter to inform our membership of the achievements of your organization. Photos are welcome to enhance your article. The articles should be emailed to David Motak djm713@yahoo.com. We are also interested if anyone would like to do book reviews or write articles relating to Polonia.

Wishing you all the best during the coming holiday season. Share our Polish traditions with friends and family!

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen Tyszka
Acting President

2014 ACPC MARCELLA KOCHAŃSKA SEMBRICH VOCAL AWARD



For over 40 years, the ACPC has been recognizing the achievements of Polish-born operatic soprano Marcella Kochańska Sembrich with a national vocal competition. The outreach for competitors included the 15 states that hold the 30 ACPC organizations and affiliates. Each applicant had to be of Polish origin, in the early stages of an operatic career, with exceptional promise to follow in the footsteps of Marcella Kochańska Sembrich. The Winner of the 2014 Sembrich competition is Alexandra Nowakowski, and she has demonstrated the talent and motivation to do just that.

Alexandra Nowakowski is a 22 year old soprano from Palatine, Illinois, and a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. At the University of Illinois, Alexandra was the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships. She made her operatic role debut with the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, and her professional operatic debut with the Baroque Artists of Champagne-Urbana. Ms. Nowakowski was also distinguished in several competitions. She has received 2nd place in the Hal Leonard Vocal Competition, and an Encouragement Award at the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions in Iowa in 2014.

As a competitor, Alexandra was required to submit a family tree to demonstrate her Polish roots, and also to sing some of the audition selections in Polish. This was an easy challenge for Alexandra, since her father was born in Warsaw, and mother in Tarnów. Her parents immigrated to the United States in 1986 and settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where Alexandra was born. They kept close ties with the Polish community, and Alexandra speaks Polish fluently. When the family moved to Chicago, Alexandra attended the Fryderyk Chopin Polish School in Palatine, Illinois for ten years, and passed her Matura in 2009. As a child, Alexandra spent summers in Poland visiting grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

The Sembrich Award Concert was held on July 31st, Thursday evening at the Montante Cultural Center of Canisius College in Buffalo. This recital hall is a renovated church which provided excellent acoustics for Alexandra's soaring voice. The first half of her program featured art songs of Fryderyk Chopin and transcriptions of Chopin's Mazurkas by Pauline Viradot. The "Huit Chansons Polonaises" (Eight Polish songs) by Francis Poulenc were a great discovery for the audience. These were eight Polish folk songs, for which Poulenc created accompaniments, and dedicated each to a different Polish lady. After Intermission, came the operatic selections that clearly identified Alexandra's ability to aspire to the great Marcella Kochańska Sembrich. Alexandra sang operatic arias from

continued on page 8

by Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil

*photos by Steven Kroczyński
and Jacqueline Kolowski*

*Soprano Alexandra
Nowakowski*



Dr. Jarosław Gołombiowski, Chair Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, President Mary Ellen Tyszka, Winner Alexandra Nowakowski, Alicia Dutka.



Alexandra Nowakowski (center) with accompanist Jinan Yu and Sembrich Chair, Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil.



66th NATIONAL CONVENTION

continued from page 1

outstanding finalists for entries relating to Polish and Polish-American History at the University of Maryland 2015 finals. The ACPC, however, will send letters of congratulations and certificates to the 11 students who made it to the finals this year and whose entries incorporated events from Polish history.

During Thursday's lunch, historian Gregory Witul gave an interesting, humorous, and informative talk about the history and cultural influence of Polonia in Buffalo. He also led a bus tour of the historic Polish sites of Buffalo. The group stopped at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr and Assumption BVM Churches, the Broadway Market, took photos on Superman Corner, had drinks at the Mickiewicz Library and contemplated the spiritually inspired architecture of Corpus Christi Church.

The winner of this year's Marcella Sembrich Vocal Competition, Alexandra Nowakowski, delighted the delegates with a recital that included selections from Fryderyk Chopin as well as from composers Francis Poulenc, Vincenzo Bellini, Charles Gounod, and Jules Massenet. She was accompanied beautifully by pianist Jianan Yu. For the encore, she sang the Jerzy Petersburski nostalgic tango *To Ostatnia Niedziela* with unexpected accompaniment by our own Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, The Sembrich Music Committee Chair.

In the convention's resolutions several important events were incorporated. The first was the wreath laying ceremony in recognition of Lt. Col. Matt Urban held on August

23rd at Arlington National Cemetery. A signed copy of his autobiography, *The Matt Urban Story: Our Most Decorated Combat Soldier* was donated by Henrietta Nowakowski to the library of Cornell University, Lt. Col. Matt Urban's alma mater.

The other important events included in the resolutions were: the 70th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising on August 1, 1944; 75th Anniversary of the invasion of Poland which began World War II on September 1, 1939; and the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I - originally called "The Great War to End All Wars" - on June 28, 1914.

The convention concluded with the Awards Banquet. Recipients of the ACPC's Founders Award were Mary Ann Mlynarski (Youngstown, OH) and Angelus Iwanczyk (Pittsburgh, PA); the ACPC Career Achievement Award went to Fr. Philip S. Majka, our longtime spiritual shepherd; the ACPC Cultural Achievement Award was presented to Polonia activist Szymon Tolak (Boston, MA), and the ACPC Distinguished Service Award given to Marcin Chumiecki of the Orchard Lake Schools' Polish Mission. Their biographical notes are posted on the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org along with convention photographs and other information (see Convention 2014).

At conclusion of the proceedings the delegates were in agreement that it was a very productive convention and went home energized to continue the mission of promoting Polish heritage in their own local clubs and communities.

• ACPC 2014 AWARD RECIPIENT



VENTION

Contributing photographers: Steven Kroczyński, Greg Witul, Jacqueline Kolowski, Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, Peter Obst.



The Chopin Singing Society with Dr. Thomas Witakowski directing.



Judge Carl Bucki delivers a well received speech about the history and influence of Polonia in Buffalo



Above: Convention Co-Chair Debbie Majka and Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski at St. Stanislaw BVM Church during the bus tour of historic Polish sites of Buffalo.



Left: Convention delegates during one of the working sessions.

Photo below: Convention delegates enjoy a visit to Buffalo's famous Broadway Market.



First Vice President and Convention Co-Chair Tom Payne welcomes assembled delegates.



Award Recipient Photo captions, from the left to the right: President Mary Ellen Tyszka and Distinguished Award Recipient Marcin Chumiecki. First Vice President Tom Payne and Cultural Achievement Award recipient Szymon Tolak. Founders Award Recipient Angie Iwaczyk and Second Vice President Alicia Dutka. Mary Ann Mlynarski receiving the Founders Award from Marcia Lewandowski.



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY CEREMONY AT HONORS
MEDAL OF HONOR HERO AND SON OF POLISH IMMIGRANTS

Lt. Colonel Matt Urban Honored

by Frank J. Dmuchowski and Andrew Ladak

On Saturday August 23, 2014 over 200 individuals, including representatives of the ACPC, gathered at Arlington National Cemetery by the tomb of Polish American Medal of Honor recipient, Lieutenant Colonel Matt Urban. They were there to honor his memory and to reflect on his service to the United States in World War II. Several speakers cited Urban's actions as a model of courage and leadership for all Americans, military and civilian.

Among the distinguished guests were LTC Urban's widow Jenny, their daughter Jennifer and grandson, Matt. American and Allied military personnel of various ranks, including retired Lieutenant General Edward Rowny, participated in the solemn ceremony. General Rowny commanded troops in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and served as the U.S. representative to Strategic Arms Limitation Talks under three presidents. Also present were senior military representatives from five nations that, along with the United States, fought Nazi Germany in the Normandy and Belgian campaign of 1944: Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain and Poland. It was for his heroic actions and extraordinary leadership in Normandy and Belgium that LTC Urban, America's most highly decorated military hero, was awarded the Medal of Honor, along with numerous other American and foreign military awards. President Jimmy Carter, who presented the nation's highest award for valor to Urban called him "the greatest soldier in American history."

The graveside event featured several speakers and culminated in a wreath-laying ceremony. The speakers included Major General Marvin G. Back, U.S. Army (Retired), and Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president and founder of the Piast Institute, a renowned Hamtramck, Michigan-based Polish American think tank and research organization. The speakers spoke of LTC Urban, the Buffalo-born son of Polish immigrants, as representing the highest virtues of America, a nation of immigrants and their children. Dr. Radzilowski presented a brief biography of Urban, touching on his life before and after the war. Brief presentations were also



Photo Captions

Top right: Honor guard in World War II Polish Army uniforms presenting the Polish flag at the grave of Lt. Col. Matt Urban.

Middle: Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President, Piast Institute, addressing participants of the Matt Urban commemoration. Seated (L to R): MG Jeffrey S. Buchanan; COL. Chester Szczotka; MG Marvin G. Back. Bottom left: Tom Payne, First Vice President, ACPC, presenting commemorative plaque to Mrs. Jenny Urban.

Important Announcements

made by Brigadier General Mark Montjar, USA (Ret.), Colonel Chester J. Szcotka, USA (Ret.) and Frank J. Dmuchowski of Detroit's Polish Weekly.

The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Major General Jeffrey S. Buchanan, commander of the Washington military district, who focused on LTC Urban's actions at St. Lo when Urban, then a captain, returned to his troops while still recovering from serious wounds sustained in earlier combat. He described how Captain Urban took control of a critical situation, at one point mounting an abandoned tank under intense fire and manning a machine gun to repel the enemy and protect his men. In a poignant link to the heroism of today's soldiers, Gen. Buchanan spoke of U.S Army Staff Sergeant Ryan J. Pitts, recently awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Afghanistan. Sergeant Pitts also refused to yield to overwhelming enemy force as his fellow soldiers lay dead and dying about him. He refused to retreat and leave his fallen comrades. Such courage in battle, said Gen. Buchanan, echoes LTC Urban's determination to stand by his men in similar situations. The moral, according to Gen. Buchanan, is that the values and courage of LTC Urban live on in the courage of American soldiers today. When we honor one soldier we honor all of them, he said, concluding that it was particularly appropriate to speak of such courage while surrounded by the graves of countless Americans who, in many cases, paid the ultimate price for liberty. The ceremony was followed by a reception for all the participants at the Fort Meyer military installation adjoining the cemetery.

The commemorative event was organized and executed by the Michigan-based Matt Urban Memorial Committee, headed by Gen. Back and Col. Szcotka and made up of leaders in Michigan's Polish American community. The committee, which is not affiliated with other organizations, was generously supported by Polonia, both in Michigan and beyond, as well as by non-Polish contributors. The ACPC supported the effort financially and Barbara Lemecha was a key committee member. The Piast Institute provided invaluable resources in the form of meeting facilities and other essential services.




*American Council
for Polish Culture*

**67th Annual Convention
August 5-8 2015
Hosted by
The Chicago Chopin Society**

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

Polish Emigrant Composers and Musicians

The Chicago Chopin Society is delighted to host 2015 Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture in Chicago. Participants will enjoy lectures, concerts, and tour of forgotten Chicago. , You will enjoy music of immigrant composers played by emigrant musicians. We will also offer you an exhibition of history of The Chicago Chopin Society mixed with a taste of Chopin Vodka and Polish food, music, dancing and singing.


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**250th anniversary of the birth
of Michał Kleofas Ogiński**
Celebrated in association with UNESCO

*Mon luth par ses doux accords
Plus doux que la lyre d'orphée
Qui meurt les cœurs en vopée
Sans l'esprit et les corps*

L'ŒVVE

*L'ame en est si forte rebelle
Qu'elle en perd l'obéissance
Et même il n'est point d'animaux
Qui se ne châtient par L'œuvre*

SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND

Letters have been sent to all ACPC presidents and supporting organizations to submit names of college students in your area who you consider deserving of this scholarship. Names of candidates should be mailed to me as soon as possible before April 1, 2015:
Alice Lech Laning, 6534 Parkway Circle, McLean, VA 22101.

Sembrich Concert *continued from page 3*



Bellini's "I Puritani", Gounod's "Romeo and Juliette", and Massenet's "Manon". The demanding performance was accompanied by pianist Jianna Yu, a doctoral student at the University of Illinois. As an encore, Alexandra invited the competition chair, Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil to accompany her in Jerzy Petersburski's nostalgic tango "Ostatnia Niedziela." (photo above)

The concert was crowned by presentation of the award plaque by Music Committee Chair, Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, the \$2,000 award by President Mary Ellen Tyszka, and flowers by Alicia Dutka, former chair of the Music Committee. For the 2014-2015 season, Alexandra will continue her operatic studies at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia as a resident artist. www.alexandranowakowski.com.

The 2015 ACPC Sembrich competition will again offer a \$2,000 prize to male and female competitors to age 35, in early stages of career development, and not under professional management. To audition, each competitor must submit a 30-minute DVD or CD, singing operatic and art songs in several languages, including Polish. The Music Committee judges the submissions, with the artistic consultation of Ms. Edyta Kulczak, Polish-born mezzo-soprano who performs with the Metropolitan Opera www.edytakulczak.com. Requirements and application can be found on the ACPC website www.polishcultureacpc.org.

The ACPC Marcella Kochańska Sembrich competition honors the Polish born soprano who lived 1858-1935. Although born poor, she became an accomplished pianist, violinist, and singer. When she sang for Franz Liszt, he suggested that of all her talents, she should continue to "sing for the world, for you have the voice of an angel." Marcella concertized in Warsaw, with Ignacy Jan Paderewski as her accompanist. By the age of 22 she created a sensation singing in London's Covent Garden, and in 1883 came to the US to sing 450 performances at New York's Metropolitan Opera. Of her performance as Mimi in "La Boheme," Giacomo Puccini said "You are the Mimi." Sembrich taught at Julliard School of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music, and at her teaching studio at Lake George, NY, which remains preserved in her memory www.thesembrich.org.

To all ACPC Affiliates and Supporting Organizations:

Now that Fall is almost here, you are most likely planning your events for the coming 2014-2015 year. Have you thought of conducting a Literary Competition? The ACPC Wachtel Literary Competition will match first place awards up to the amount of \$750.00. Thus, there is the potential for a first place prize in the amount of \$1,500.

This past year, the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, NY conducted a very successful Literary Competition where we gave a matching award of \$150.00. You may go to: www.polishcultureacpc.org and "click" onto "Competitions" and then "Literary Competitions" to view Wojtek Wojciechowski's winning essay regarding the Polish custom of palm making. You will be touched.

The information needed to conduct your own successful Literary Competition may also be found on the website. However, for your convenience, all of the pertinent information is listed below:

Purpose: The Literary Competition was established by the late Estelle Wachtel-Torres, MD, to foster the endeavors of Polish American Youth in the fields of journalism and/or literature. In order to be considered for an award, the age criteria is from junior high school until the age of 30. (In the event of an individual enrolled in post-graduate studies.) The American Council for Polish Culture will match the first prize awards up to \$750.00 per affiliate on an annual basis.

Criteria: For a matching award, the affiliate must notify the Literary Competition Chair with the following criteria:

1. A notification of the date of the competition.
2. Rules of the competition.
3. The size of the award.
4. The winner's name and any other requested data must be forwarded after the judging.
5. Forward a copy of the winning entry plus a photo of the 1st place recipient to the Literary Competition Chair via an e-mail attachment to: Carolyn L. Meleski: clmele@comcast.net.

Please keep in mind that Affiliates are free to establish their own criteria for a Literary Competition. However, if it does not match that of the ACPC Wachtel Literary Competition, a matching award will not be available.

Looking forward to some successful competitions,

Carolyn L. Meleski
Chair, Wachtel Literary Competition

Board Meeting in Syracuse, NY

by Peter J. Obst

The ACPC Fall Board Meeting, Oct 17-18, was hosted by the Syracuse Polish Heritage Club and took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Syracuse, NY. Among the items under discussion was the 2016 ACPC Convention which will take place in Chicago, August 5 - 8, at the Hilton Suites Hotel near O'Hare Airport. The host organization will be the Chicago Chopin Society headed by Jaroslaw Golembiowski (details will be posted on the ACPC website). Also on the agenda were updates to the ACPC Constitution and Bylaws, the November 22-23 NCSS Conference in Boston, a possible book project, and affiliate status for the Savannah General Pulaski Committee (approved).

After the business meeting on Saturday many persons elected to attend mass at the Sacred Heart Basilica followed by the 95th Anniversary Banquet for the Syracuse Polish Home, music by Joe Stankey and the Cadets. The celebration was organized by ACPC board member Robert Synakowski and members of the Polish Home.

Congratulations on excellent events to the Syracuse Polish Home group and the Syracuse Polish Heritage Club. STO LAT and then some more!

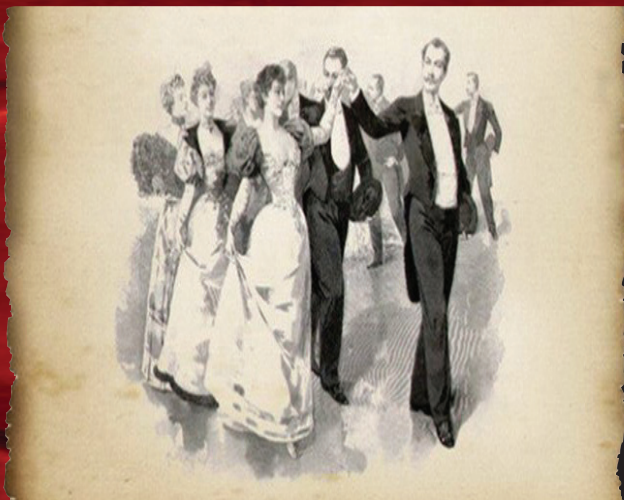


Above: ACPC directors enjoy the 95th Anniversary Banquet at the Syracuse Polish Home.



Alicia Dutka, Mary Ellen Tyszka, Thomas Payne and Judi Tompkins during the business session.

Event photos by Jackie Kolowski



Polonaise Ball

On Saturday, November 8, 2014 the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia will be holding its Annual Polonaise Ball and Awards Banquet in the Belvedere Ballroom at the Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA.

This year, the Polish Heritage Society will be honoring the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Choir, organized in 1988 as a successor to the legendary Paderewski Choral Society. In May, 2014, under the capable direction of both David Zagorski, of Philadelphia, and Janusz Sporek, of Brooklyn, the chorus placed first in national choral competition in the Female Chorus category in Dearborn, Michigan.

The evening will consist of a Cocktail Hour, elegant buffet dinner and dancing to the music provided by the Dennis Ostopowicz Orchestra, in addition to musical entertainment by the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Choir. A Chinese Auction will continue throughout the evening.

All proceeds from the Polonaise Ball will benefit the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia Scholarship Fund for worthy students of Polish-American heritage. In 2014, the Polish Heritage Society awarded \$6,000.00 worth of scholarships to six students. For reservations and information please contact Jean Joka at 215-483-0193 or Tiffany Loomis at 215-292-4931.



POLISH POPPY FESTIVAL

by Jean Joka

On Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12, 2014 the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was represented at the 1st Annual Polish Poppy Festival which took place at the Associated Polish Home located at 9150 Academy Road in the Northeast section of Philadelphia.

The festival was designed to showcase up and coming Polish-American artists, promote Polish culture and market local Polish-American businesses and cultural organizations in a fresh new way. Part of the proceeds from the event went to the renovation and upkeep of the Associated Polish Home. This was also an official event of Polish-American Heritage month during October. The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was represented by Irene Musman, Felicia Malinowski, Krystyna Cimoch, Peter Obst and Communications



Irene Musman and Peter Obst

Director, Jean Joka. We also had displayed at our booth framed *wycinanki* loaned by Diana Blichasz. At this festival the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was able to secure membership and promote their Annual Polonaise Ball and Awards Banquet which is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th, and will honor the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus who in May, 2014 placed first in national Choral competition in the female chorus category in Dearborn, Michigan. All in all it was an exciting and fun weekend, and hopefully for many more festivals to come. The festival was organized by Secret of Flowers Floral Art Studio. (Photo above courtesy of Moments In Life Photo.)

Pulaski Day Parade Representation by Peter Obst

This year's Pulaski Day Parade, the 81st in Philadelphia, took place on Sunday, October 5, 2014 under the auspices of the Polish American Congress. It was preceded by morning mass at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, and a wreath presentation at a portrait of Pulaski set up in the nearby Torun Triangle. This year's Grand Marshal was philanthropist Raymond Wyszynski; the Military Marshal was Marian Szumal, active in the Polish veterans' organizations. The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia (PHSP) was only one of the many groups present. Irene Musman and Teresa Wojcik carried the banner. PHSP president Marie Hejnosz was out of the country, but the group was visibly represented thanks to a red BMW convertible driven by Richard Janaszek and members who came to show Polish pride. An unusual and very cute addition to the group was Jasper, an Italian greyhound, brought along by Melanie Loomis.

Photo at right top: Honorary Consul for Philadelphia Debbie Majka (carrying Polish flag) with other members of Philadelphia Polonia who participated in the parade Maria Milkowska, Andrzej Wisniewski, Jack Brach and Janusz Sporek.

Below Left: Diana Blichasz and Teresa Wojcik carry the Polish Heritage Society banner.

Bottom Right: Teresa Wojcik, Richard Janaszek (driving) with Natalie and Stas

