



Polish Heritage

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*Eugene Dyczkowski
as a young artist.*



Eugene M. Dyczkowski - A Polish American Artist and Visionary Leader

by Robert Fronckowiak

*As we reflect on our 75th Anniversary
- we honor one of the prominent figures
who greatly influenced the establishment
of our organization.*



WPA Murals by Eugene Dychowski for the Burgard Vocational High School, Buffalo N.Y.

- Mural photos: Info Poland

As World War II was coming to an end there was a growing recognition among Polish Americans for the need to promulgate and preserve the rich history and culture of Poland in the United States. In 1945, Zygmunt Stojowski, a confidant of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, suggested in a talk that, considering Buffalo's large Polish population, the time for such an initiative had come. Shortly after, Eugene Dyczkowski met with a group of artists and scholars to establish the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo.

Elected as its first president, Dyczkowski set about establishing the guidelines for the operation of the Club. It would be open to anyone who would be interested in Polish Culture regardless of ethnic background or profession. Meetings would be conducted in English. The purpose of the Club would be to consistently and imaginatively promulgate the high points of Polish arts, literature, music, history, theater and culture.

Who was this visionary leader? Eugene M. Dyczkowski was a Polish-American painter, muralist, illustrator, and teacher born May 1, 1899 in Philadelphia. He was featured in his first exhibition with the Buffalo Society of Artists in 1924. He also exhibited at the Polish General National Exposition in Poznań, Poland in 1929.

In 1933, Dyczkowski was appointed to be the assistant educational director of Buffalo's Albright Art Gallery and



*"Looking Westward
from top of Victor Building,
1927. Oil on canvas
by Eugene Dyczkowski.*

*Burchfield Penney Art
Center collection,
Buffalo, New York.*

served as president of the Buffalo Society of Artists from 1936-1939. During the 1930s he also worked as a muralist under the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Similar Polish art clubs were subsequently established across the country and, in 1949, Dyczkowski became one of the founding members of the American Council for Polish Culture, (ACPC). He was elected the ACPC's first president at the organization's convention held in Buffalo in 1949.

Eugene Dyczkowski died in 1987. His art works are included in the permanent collection of numerous galleries including the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo. (burchfieldpenney.org)

The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo web site can be visited at www.polishartsclubofbuffalo.com.

Information on our upcoming 2023 Convention is featured beginning on page 10.

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

On Sunday February 26th lovers of Chopin's music gathered for this year's concert to commemorate the birthday of the great pianist and composer. It took place at the Settlement Music School in Germantown section of Philadelphia. The concert featured pianist William Yang from Eden Prairie Minnesota. This young virtuoso is a student at Philadelphia's renowned Curtis Institute of Music. There he is mentored by Robert MacDonald and he is a recipient of the William A. Horn tuition scholarship. The program included works by Bach, Beethoven and, of course, Chopin. Mr. Yang showed remarkable command and masterful strength at the piano. His rendition of Chopin's works was done with great feeling and intensity. He so impressed the audience that, at the reception which followed the performance, many personally congratulated him on a wonderful performance.

Serving on the Organizing Committee were Debbie Majka, Chair, Paul Krzywicki, Peter Obst, Jean Joka, Tiffany Loomis. This concert was made possible through the generosity of many patrons, including the Zazyczny Family, Turner Construction Company in Philadelphia, and the main sponsor, the Polish National Foundation of Warsaw.

On Sunday, May 7, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown PA, the Polish Heritage Society awarded seven academic scholarships to outstanding young people of Polish descent.

After mass and a tasty luncheon, Scholarship Chairperson, Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik, led the ceremony which recognized and celebrated these young people for their stellar academic achievements and dedication to lifelong learning. Members of the scholarship committee were Diana Blichasz, Marie Hejnosz, Debbie Majka, Peter Obst, and Dolores Szymanski.

Before introducing the scholarship winners, Dr. Wojcik recognized the contributions of their parents and families. She mentioned that behind every successful student are loving parents who are their first teachers and who can lay a strong foundation on which these young people grow and who instill in them an appreciation for their Polish and Polish American identity.

This year's recipients were: Ava Barton, Gabrielle Kruczkowski, Matthew Jarek, Michael Kowalski, Sophia Majkut, Nicole Pasterczyk and Alycia Szyszko

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Dr. Wojcik drew on the words of St. Pope John Paul II from his address to the young people of Gniezno on June 3, 1979: "Remain faithful to this heritage. Make it the foundation of your formation. Be nobly proud of it. Keep this heritage and multiply it; hand it on to future generations."

In addition to a check for \$1,500 each student received a red and white book carry bag with materials that included: *The Volunteer* (about Witold Pilecki) by Jack Fairweather, *Pills, Pen and Politics* (about Gen. Leon Jastremski) by Edward Pinkowski and *A Man who Spanned Two Eras* (about engineer Ralph Modjeski) by Józef Glomb.

Polish Heritage Society scholarship recipients (front) Alycia Szyszko, Sophia Majkut, Nicole Pasterczyk, Ava Barton. (back row) Michael Kowalski and Matthew Jarek (photo courtesy Marie Hejnosz)



Top photo: Members of the PHSP Board with the pianist (from left) Barbara Nowicki, Debbie Majka, William Yang, Teresa N. Wójcik, Peter J. Obst, Michael Hrabowski, Donna Blichasz, John Wisniewski, Teresa G. Wójcik Ph.D. Second photo above: (from left) Peter Obst, President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, Debbie Majka, Honorary Consul for Poland in SE Pennsylvania, pianist William Yang and committee member Paul Krzywicki.



Submitted by Peter J. Obst



President's Message



*President
Raymond Glembocki*

*Fellow Members of the American Council
for Polish Culture:*

It was four years ago that my wife Cecilia and I attended the ACPC convention in Warsaw, Poland. The convention was a success. The meetings and social events were well planned, the Hotel Bristol was elegant and we enjoyed Warsaw's museums and cultural activities. Another important activity was sharing the places that had the best deals on amber. Also, I was elected president of ACPC.

It was at this time that a past president shared his observation to expect a person or an event that would likely interrupt my plans for the ACPC. Well they did occur but a worldwide pandemic was a bit much! However, as often during an adversity, it is a teacher for the future. The ACPC and our clubs confronted the pandemic with intelligence and determination for a successful future. We followed CDC rules for meetings, used virtual technology for meetings and now many of us use it for special events which allow us to communicate our messages to many more interested people. We used our newsletters to communicate more details on items of interest to our local members.

As the pandemic eased, the annual report book and newsletters became more interesting with reports of group activities and many smiles in the great pictures. The ACPC web site, our new Facebook site, our great newsletter and all of our other communication reflected our new normal of pride and commitment to our ACPC and member organization goals. It seems this year's July convention introduction was designed for our 75 year history but was especially appropriate for these post pandemic years. "Celebrating a Rich Past, Looking to a Bright Future".

I wish to quickly summarize some of our activities in the last four years.

Some examples include:

- We are updating our membership structure to include Finance and Membership committees to work in coordination to ensure transparency and more efficient communication
- Ensure the Archives are updated each year
- Appointment of a Legal Counsel
- Social Media Committee (Facebook)
- Web Site Review Committee
- 75th Anniversary Book
- Polish Language Outreach Committee
- Student Cultural Exchange Committee and Polish Embassy Outreach Program
- By-Laws and Constitution Revisions
- Acquisition of Directors and Liability Insurance
- ACPC Lapel Pin

- Our NCSS activities continue to educate over 3,000 educators each year, we annually update our current items, most recently about Jan Karski and Irena Sendler, recent new items include the Ulma Family and history of the Polish motto "For Our Your Freedom and Ours" and our tri-fold on the Polish Craftsmen who received the right to vote in the Jamestown Colony. Over 20,000 of these informational flyers have been distributed by the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Our member organizations have used our excellent banners

Thank you for your support during the past four years and I look forward to participating in the future of ACPC.

In closing, please remember what Pope Saint John Paul II often said:

"REMEMBER THIS HERITAGE"

Sincerely,
Raymond Glembocki

Raymond Glembocki
President,
American Council for Polish Culture, Inc.

SERDECZNE WITAMY!

EXTENDING A WARM WELCOME!

In the past year ACPC is pleased to have welcomed the following Affiliate (A) and Supporting Organizations (S):

- Polish Cultural Council (Pittsburgh) (A)
- Polish Home Omaha (S)
- Polanki Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee (S)
- Polish Center of Learning and Discovery (Chicopee, Mass.) (S)
- Polish American Foundation of Connecticut (S)
- Polish Arts Club of Buffalo (A)

We now have a total of 18 Affiliates and 15 Supporting Organizations.

We warmly welcome our new organizations and encourage them to contribute articles about their projects to the *Polish Heritage* Editor at djm713@yahoo.com

Five winners of the 23rd annual \$5,000 Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships were announced recently by the ACPC's Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies Committee. Many applications (13) were received this year. The scholarship program was initiated 23 years ago as a result of a sizeable endowment by the Conrad R. Walas family with the continuing support from Polonia. Serving on the 2023 Pulaski Scholarship Committee are Dr. Stephen E. Medvec, Chairman; Deborah M. Majka; Patricia Malski; Carolyn Meleski and Peter J. Obst.

The exceptional qualities of schoolwork and research plus dedicated community services performed by the applicants made the final selection process very difficult. The Committee felt that most of the applicants deserved recognition for their outstanding achievements and honestly wished that funding was available which could have allowed for several more scholarship awards. The Pulaski Scholarships Committee wishes these five outstanding students continuing success and is confident that they will attain their career objectives fully. The Committee trusts that they will honor their heritage by ultimately remaining close to the Polish community wherever possible during their careers.



Kinga Dabek

A native of Wallington, NJ pursuing a D.M.D. at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. Earned a BS in Biology from the New Jersey Institute of Technology through an accelerated program in conjunction with the Albert Dorman Honors College and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

Fluent in English and Polish with certified 99% proficiency from the Catholic University of Lublin. Has published research in the topics of regenerative endodontics and the genetics of orofacial pain and hopes to advance minimally invasive dental techniques. Co-founded a 501(c)3 non-profit, "Smiles of Solidarity", with her brother to focus on advancing oral healthcare. Through this organization she has made several humanitarian trips to Ukraine to distribute medical and dental materials to war-stricken communities. Currently organizing an educational oral health program for Polish schools in the tri-state area to bolster preventative dentistry in immigrant communities.



Jakub Jarmula

A native of Chicago, IL. with a BA in Biology with Concentration in Neurobiology from the University of Pennsylvania and currently enrolled in a dual degree program at the Cleveland Clinic, Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University to pursue a career in neuro-oncology for brain tumors,

especially for immigrant communities. Has researched exosome therapies for heart failure. He has participated in school plays and folk-dance groups, including in Krynica-Zdrój, Poland. He has been active in his parish and Polonia.

Brig. General Casimir Pulaski



Olivia Lesiczka

A native of New York City (Greenpoint), with a BS in Biology from Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Pre-Dental Track, Minor in Medical Humanities, at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Currently pursuing a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree at the New York University College of Dentistry. Has educated Boston

College students about empowering the less fortunate in their fight for equal access to healthcare, education and a safe home. She has collected medical supplies through various student-led, on-campus events that supplied four different communities in Ecuador and Peru. Olivia is a long-distance and cross-country runner and has fostered and trained dogs from local rescues. She won Miss Polonia in Maspeth, New York in 2015.



Hannah Sliwa

A native of Lemont, IL. with a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan (2022) and currently a Master of Social Work student at the University of Michigan with a focus on Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use and plans to work one day with adults experiencing substance use disorders. Currently works as a

Social Work Intern in the Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Unit of Michigan Medicine. She has previously been involved with the Polish Student Association at the University of Michigan and assisted with the annual Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival with the Polish American Congress.



Anna Turlej

A native of Springfield, Mass., Anna holds her BS in Biology with Neuroscience Emphasis from the University of Georgia, Magna Cum Laude. She is at present a third-year medical student in the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University (Athens campus, AU/UGA Medical Partnership).

She is an active participant in extracurriculars and maintains involvement in the Polish American community and culture. She is fluent in English and Polish and studies French. Her favorite composer is Frederic Chopin, and she also plays the concert piano.

On May 21st Friends of John Paul II Foundation of Washington, D. C. held its annual birthday celebration for Saint John Paul II, his 103rd this time, at the Army Navy Club in Arlington, Virginia. Joining the chapter for this joyous occasion were chapter friends, distinguished guests, and partner organizations, including the Polish American Congress, the Polish National Alliance, the Coalition of Polish Americans, the Order of Malta, the Embassy of Poland, Marian Fathers of Immaculate Conception, the American Council for Polish Culture, the Polish American Arts Association and the Polish parish in Silver Spring, Maryland.

This year's event served an additional purpose, recognizing the finding of a home for an artistic rendering of the Pope. The Chapter would like to recognize the generous contributions provided by the cultural section of the Polish Embassy via Vice Consul Edyta Holodynska and by Carl and Jean Sharek, who left a living legacy through their funding of a bronze bust of Saint John Paul II.

The event was headlined by Anthony Eames, PhD, the Director of Scholarly Initiatives at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, who delivered a stirring talk entitled "The Shared Cause of Freedom: Pope John Paul II, President Ronald Reagan and the Rollback of Communism". He spoke about the unique relationship between Pope Saint John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan, and the significance of faith and freedom, principles which guided both of them throughout their lives. Both men, he emphasized, appreciated the fragility of freedom, as well as its indivisibility and close connection with truth and morality. Both men, he noted, survived harrowing assassination attempts in 1981 and then met as brothers in 1982. And both subsequently shared a belief that their survival was no accident, rather, a sign that they were meant to help usher Eastern Europe to freedom and restore faith to the West.

In this shared spirit, the Ronald Reagan Foundation and



Sculptor Gordon Kray with a model of the bust of Pope John Paul II.

Institute agreed to accept the bust of Pope John Paul II and place it at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California.

The beautiful bronze bust was commissioned by the Friends of John Paul II Foundation and given form by a prominent artist and sculptor, Gordon Kray, creator of several must-see D. C. city landmarks including a statue of Virgin Mary at St. Matthews Cathedral and the Kahlil Gibran monument on Massachusetts Avenue. The artist also addressed the guests, keeping them spellbound with stories of creating the bronze papal bust and his other artworks. Dr. Hugh Dempsey, Second Vice Regent of the Order of Malta, served as the Master of Ceremonies, leading with a description of the seemingly providential crystallization of the Reagan Library connection. Tenor David Cook and Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk delighted the guests with their voice and violin musical performances. Father Cannon Philip Majka delivered a moving invocation and Father Jim McCormack, MIC sent the guests home with his benediction.

A TEXAS INVITATION.....



Attendees at last year's ACPC National Convention in San Antonio and Panna Maria, Texas were greatly impressed with their visit. Our Texas friends would like to invite everyone to visit Panna Maria and enjoy a truly unique experience:

At the entrance to the exhibit galleries at the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas, you will find these words in Polish, English and Spanish:

"From its beginnings, Polish culture bears very clear Christian signs...Polish culture still flows with a broad stream of inspirations that have their sources in the Gospel...You are hearing these words from a man who owes his own spiritual formation from the beginning to Polish culture...Remain faithful to this heritage."

These are the words of Saint Pope John Paul II from a speech he delivered in Poland on June 3, 1979. They help guide our work at the Polish Heritage Center as we preserve and share the stories of our immigrant ancestors with new generations, introducing them to their Polish culture. (www.polishheritagecenter.org)

Come to Texas and join us on this journey of discovery!



Awards & Honors



Polish Falcons of America Receive Prestigious Honor

The Polish Falcons of America was honored to receive the Custodian of National Memory from the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) on Saturday, April 15, 2023. The Award ceremonies were a part of the IPN Congress of National Remembrance held April 13-15, 2023 at the National Stadium in Warsaw, Poland.

Polish Falcons National President Timothy L. Kuzma accepted the Award for the organization. "On behalf of the Polish Falcons of America, The National Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Staff at National Headquarters and the entire membership of our organization, I am deeply humbled to accept this award today. And to be able to be here in person to accept it in person is an honor that I will always treasure.," President Kuzma said in accepting the Award. He added, "I stand before you today not alone as National President, but I stand here with thousands upon thousands of members, and leaders of this organization. For the past 15 years I have had the great privilege of serving as President of the Polish Falcons, but I am just a caretaker. I stand on the shoulders of countless men and women who have led and worked for this organization before me through its great history, many great, awe-inspiring individuals. I speak for all Members, past and present, when I say Thank You. Dziękuję Bardzo for this honor."

The Custodian of National Memory award was established in July 2002 by the President of the Institute of National Remembrance prof. Leon Kieres. It is awarded for particularly active participation in commemorating the history of the Polish Nation in the period from 1939 to 1989, as well as for public activities similar to the statutory goals of the Institute.

The candidates for the award may be put forward by institutions, social and academic organizations and individuals. The purpose of the award is to restore respect for the past of the nation and to protect the values thanks to which Poland survived

Top left: Custodian of National Memory Award recipients pose for a group photo.

Top right: IPN President, Dr. Karol Nawrocki, presents President Kuzma with the Custodian of National Memory award.

Bottom right: President Kuzma discusses the Polish Falcons Exhibit with Grzegorz Trzyna, Head of the Department of Archival Resource Management at IPN, and Agata Dawidowicz-Stan, also of IPN.

many years of repression.

In 2019, the Polish Falcons reached an agreement to donate its historic archive to IPN for preservation and safekeeping. A team from IPN spent one month at National Headquarters going through the archive and selecting items that would be sent to Poland. Nine pallet boxes of documents, records, photos, banners and other artifacts were sent to IPN.

In September, 2022, IPN opened an exhibit celebrating the 135th Anniversary of the founding of the PFA in the United States. The fantastic exhibit was hosted by the Casimir Pulaski Museum in Warka, Poland, south of Warsaw. The exhibit was open through the end of March 2023.

While in Warsaw, Druh Kuzma visited the IPN office to see some of the work that has been done on the archives donated in 2019. For example, photos have been restored and are now in safe storage. In addition, documents such as posters and membership cards are being restored and preserved.

"There is a lot of work ahead for IPN as we gave them thousands of documents, photos, etc.," said President Kuzma. "But it is encouraging to see the progress that has been made and will continue into the future."

Heritage Editor Decorated by Polish Government

Gloria Artis Medal



Joining Dave at the May 3 Ceremony were long-time friends Vicki DePasse, John Samuels, Richard Parent and Richard Moore.

Right: Dave is congratulated by Polish Parliamentary Representative Joanna Fabisiak.

In recognition of over fifty years of service promoting Polish culture, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland has recognized David Motak with the prominent state decoration *Medal for Merit to Culture - Gloria Artis (Medal Zasłużony Kulturze - Gloria Artis)*. This distinction is awarded primarily to Poles who have made significant contributions to, and protection of, Polish culture and national heritage. Dave is one of only a very small number of non-Polish citizens to be so recognized. *Gloria Artis* is the highest civilian decoration awarded by the Republic of Poland to individuals who have had distinguished careers in the arts.

A graduate of Alliance College who also spent two years of study at Kraków's Jagiellonian University, Dave has promoted Polish heritage through his extensive involvement with various Polish cultural groups in Western Pennsylvania as well as nationally. In 2003, he launched the Cracow Creche Workshop project, a hands-on series of workshops across the United States to teach and promote the creation of the Kraków Szopka. To date, over 800 individuals have learned szopka making through Dave's workshops including several sponsored by the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Dave's artistic work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the prestigious Gagosian Gallery in New York, the Krzysztofory Gallery in Kraków as well as in a major exhibition of his work in Hong Kong, China, where he was the first artist to exhibit the szopka artform in Asia. His art work is also included in several private collections. He also was the first foreigner and first American to enter the annual Kraków Szopka Competition (2006) where he won a prestigious Special Award for Artistic Merit. Dave's graphic design work was exhibited at the Polish Sejm (Parliament) as part of the 125th Anniversary of the Polish Falcons of America, where he served as Director of Public Relations and Editor of the *Polish Falcon* magazine. He has served as Editor of ACPC's *Polish Heritage* since 2012.

Dave has also served as a member of the *Być Polakiem* project, an initiative conceived by Polish Parliamentary Representative Joanna Fabisiak. *Być Polakiem* is a project through which young persons of Polish descent around the world are invited to express their Polish Heritage through the arts. As part of his role, Dave presented citations to several young honorees at an awards gala at the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

The *Gloria Artis* medal was presented to Dave by Consul General Adrian Kubicki at special ceremonies on May 3, 2023 at the Polish Consulate in New York City. The Hon. Debbie Majka and Peter Obst also joined Dave and his guests at the event.



Polish Order of Merit Presented to Hartford Polish Cultural Club Members

On March 10, 2023, two members of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., Tadeusz L. Kanski and Zyta K. Kanska, were presented with the prestigious "Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland" Award (*Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi*) by Adrian Kubicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, on behalf of the Ambassador to the Republic of Poland. The ceremony took place at the New England Air Museum, in collaboration with Central Connecticut State University. In the presence of family, friends, and representatives of numerous Polish organizations, the Kanskis were honored for their extraordinary and distinguished service in furthering good relations between Poland and the United States, their enthusiasm and passion for Polish culture, and their involvement in establishing the permanent Kościuszko Squadron Exhibit at the Air Museum in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Polish American Arts Association

At the invitation of the National Philharmonic Artistic Director and Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) Honorary Board Member Piotr Gajewski and with a generous offer from the Philharmonic's Board of Directors, the PAAA undertook to promote the annual Chopin Concert by pianist Brian Ganz at the Strathmore Music Center on February 25, 2023. A portion of the price of concert tickets sold in the campaign was donated to the PAAA Scholarship Fund. The concert, part of the series began by Brian Ganz in 2010 in which he continues his quest to play all the music written by the Polish composer, consisted of all of Chopin's chamber music. Ganz was joined in the performance by Carter Bray, principal cellist of the New York Philharmonic and violinist Laura Colgate, concertmaster of the National Philharmonic. Three weeks before the concert, the Kościuszko Foundation hosted an open rehearsal by the three musicians, followed by a reception.

The PAAA Spring Membership Meeting on May 7, 2023, at the Arts Club of Washington, featured guest speaker Dr. William Hal Gorby, a historian of West Virginia and Appalachia, who is a teaching associate professor and director of undergraduate advising at West Virginia University. His work focuses on the role of immigrants in the state's steel and coal mining industries, particularly during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Professor Gorby delivered a presentation on Wheeling's Polonia, a book he published in 2020, and explored nearly 50 years of rich Polonia history in Wheeling, West Virginia. While the people and places he described are unique to the upper Ohio River Valley, the themes explored can be found in Polish communities large and small across the United States. PAAA members were joined at the meeting by some West Virginia University alumni and a couple of residents of Wheeling.

During the same meeting, the PAAA Scholarship Committee, chaired by Mary Beth Sowa, presented scholarship awards to two talented students, Emily Kowal, a senior at George Washington University and Valerie Dzielski, a master's voice student at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Two new board members and the Nominating Committee were elected and sworn in before the meeting adjourned to be followed by an elegant wine and cheese reception.

Upcoming plans include the annual Festival of Wreaths *Wianki* on the National Mall on Saturday, June 24, and a special program of poetry "Remembering Wisława Szymborska," commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Polish Nobel Prize winning poet, on Sunday, July 9, 2023, at Busboys & Poets Restaurant in Washington, D. C.



Laura Colgate, Carter Bray, Brian Ganz with Celia Larkin, holding copies of the PAAA Newsletter with articles on the artists and the special Chopin concert. (Photo credit Elman Studio)



Recipients of the 2023 PAAA Scholarship Grants, Emily Kowal and Valerie Dzielski, with PAAA President Matthew Stefanski and Scholarship Committee Chair Mary Beth Sowa.

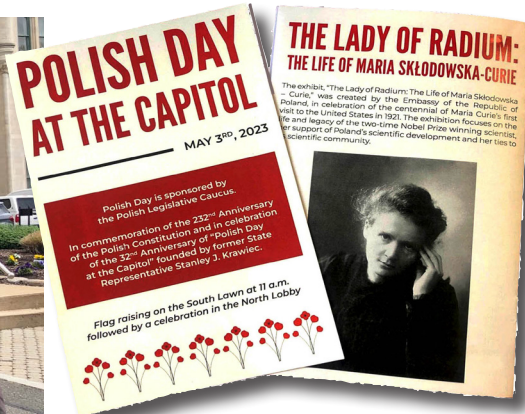


Pianist Brian Ganz rehearses for the concert of Chopin's chamber music at the Strathmore Music Center on February 25, with violinist Laura Colgate and cellist Carter Bray. Pianist Martin Labazevoitch, a past PAAA scholarship recipient, was happy to provide his service as page turner.

Article and photos by Celia Larkin except for the one noted as Elman Studio.



A book exchange: PAAA President Matthew Stefanski with Dr. William Hal Gorby, author of Wheeling's Polonia, and Cecilia Glembocki, Chair of the PAAA's Children's Book Project.



Celebrating "Polish Day at the Connecticut State Capital on May 3 were (l-r) CCSU Archivist Renata Vickery, Alexander Pachkovsky, former aide to State Rep. Peter Tercyak, Deborah Krawiec, Ursula Brodowicz, and Lilia Kieltyka.

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

On May 3, 2023, State Representative Peter Tercyak was joined by Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and the Polish Legislative Caucus to commemorate the 232nd Anniversary of the Polish Constitution and celebration of "Polish Day at the Capitol." Several members of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford (PCCGH) attended the program, which began outdoors with the Polonia Paderewski Choir singing the national anthems of Poland and the United States. The event then moved indoors to

the main hall of the Capitol where four honorees were recognized for their invaluable contributions to Polonia. "Polish Day at the Capitol" was founded thirty-two years ago by the late Stanley J. Krawiec, a State Representative. His daughter, Deborah Krawiec, a PCCGH member, proudly carries on the tradition by leading the Polish Day Committee.

Polish American Foundation of Connecticut

The Polish American Foundation of Connecticut (PAF-CT) has a dozen programs, but the "Welcome Home" program stands out from the group. The program's mission is to reconnect second and third generation Americans of Polish descent with their Polish roots through a variety of activities such as Polish Language School for Adults, genealogy seminars and workshops, trips to Poland and Folk-Art workshops. Dorena Wasik, a second generation American with Polish roots, established the program in 2012 with the Polish Language Program for Adults, with a single teacher meeting with students at the PAF House in New Britain.

When Covid struck in 2020, the classes migrated to ZOOM and the program expanded with students across the United States and added three more teachers—all native Poles living in Poland. The School currently has four teachers and offers Polish Language lessons at four levels, from beginner to advanced. June 2022 was the inaugural year for Polish Summer School, with fifteen students meeting twice a week for ten weeks. Summer School will continue in June, 2023. A new category of Polish language class was added to the curriculum in 2022: "Use What You Learned." These classes provided an opportunity for students to practice their Polish language skills.

Covid was the impetus for more genealogy related events. Dorena had a connection with several genealogists in Poland, where the closure of the archives in Poland prevented them from working for their clients. In January 2021, Dorena organized a twelve lecture ZOOM conference with six genealogists living in Poland. In 2023, the lecture

series returned with eight lectures, again with speakers from Poland. This time, two lectures were given in Polish with live, simultaneous English translations. The series had a special guest to give opening remarks, Dariusz Łukaszewski, the mayor of Kadzidło, Poland.

The "Welcome Home" program had another first in 2023, the "2023 Polish Genealogist Tour." Dorena arranged for two genealogists, Aleksandra Kacprzak and Lucjan Cichocki, to come from Poland to speak at several events in New England. They led twelve small group, hands on workshops in Connecticut for the PAF-CT, participated at a one-day conference for the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, and gave a presentation at the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State in Buffalo.

"Welcome Home" hopes to resume trips to Poland in 2024, finally getting to use their 2020 trip itinerary. The PAF-CT trips are well known for their unusual itineraries, a combination of well known tourist spots and off the beaten path, unusual spots, providing Americans with the chance to experience a more personal Poland.

The fall 2023 Polish Language School for Adults schedule will be available in July, 2023. Information on genealogy related workshops and the 2024 lecture series will be available late in 2023. Information about the 2024 trip to Poland will be available in January 2024.

To join the email list, please go to www.paf-welcome-home.org or contact dorenaw@paf-ct.org.

Submitted by Dorena Wasik

National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame

by James Conrad, President, The National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame

Attendees at this year's ACPC Convention will have the opportunity to visit the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame as part of the Convention activities.

An organization that started as one man's dream a half century ago reaches a major milestone this year, as the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

The dream – sprung from the mind of Ed Browalski, long-time sportswriter for Detroit's *Polish Daily News* – is now a nationally recognized hall of fame boasting more than 160 great athletes of Polish descent.

On a summer night in 1971, Browalski, who also served as official scorer for the Detroit Tigers until 1984, watched from his seat in the press box of Tiger Stadium as the very first ethnic heritage celebration in the history of professional baseball unfolded on the field below.

Polish American Night, the brainchild of Hamtramck, Michigan schoolteacher Leon Zarski, was a festival of Polish Pride, complete with costumed Polish dancers, strolling Polka bands, and the aroma of kielbasa wafting through the stands, while plaques bearing Polish Eagles were presented to Polish-American athletes. The impact of the night was not lost on "Big Ed."

"Polish-American Night at Tiger Stadium was a success from day one," Browalski stated, "and I thought, instead of honoring certain players on one day, why not give them permanent recognition? A National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame and Museum would be the place to do it for permanent preservation of their athletic deeds."

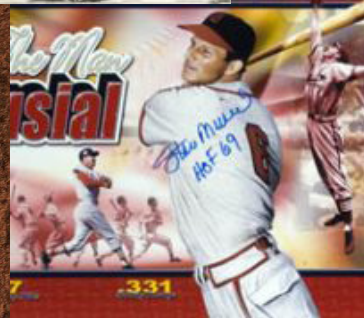
Initially, Browalski received mixed reactions to his idea, but there were three who believed: Zarski, John Klemba, a businessman and president of the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce, and Fr. Ted Blaszczyk, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church in Hamtramck. Two years later, on June 14, 1973, it all became a reality. The first National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame testimonial banquet was staged at the Polish Century Club of Detroit with an audience of more than 400 persons witnessing the induction of the Hall's first honoree – Stan "The Man" Musial – one of the greatest baseball players ever, and a gentleman truly proud of his Polish-American heritage. The next day, about 35,000 crowded Tiger Stadium for Polish-American Night to salute Musial.

Since that date, the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame has continued to annually induct and honor athletes of Polish American heritage. More than 160 athletes – professional and amateur, male and female – have been inducted over the past 50 years. Today, a total of 25 different sports disciplines are represented by a wide variety of NPASHF inductees. Notable inductees include Duke University basketball coaching legend Mike Krzyzewski, football great Bronko Nagurski, and baseball Hall of Famers Alan Trammell and Carl Yastrzemski. And, of course, the Hall's inaugural inductee, Stan "The Man" Musial, remains as perhaps the greatest Polish American athlete of all time.

The NPASHF Museum has been located at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, MI since 2007. Visitors to the Hall are welcome to view the museum during the Cultural Center's regular business hours, where hundreds of artifacts may be viewed free of charge.

This year's Annual Induction Banquet – a special 50th Anniversary tribute to those inducted in the Hall's first 50 years – will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the American Polish Cultural Center. More than 25 honored members, inducted during hall's first fifty years, have already committed to return for the event, which promises to be a fun-filled night of camaraderie, story-telling, and great Polish food. Details regarding the event, and additional information regarding the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame, may be found on the Hall's website at www.polishsportshof.com

Editor's Note: Attendees at the 2023 ACPC National Convention will be able to view the Hall of Fame on Saturday, July 29 at the Awards Banquet in the American Polish Cultural Center complex.





Planning Your Convention Visit.....

Detroit is a dynamic city with much to offer and there are many interesting sites and experiences that await you at our 75th Annual Convention.

These include:

1. *The Spirit of Detroit Monument in downtown Detroit*
2. *Kościuszko Monument along Michigan Avenue*
3. *The majestic Sweetest Heart of Mary Church (Najświętsze Serce Marii)*
4. *The annual Sembrich Recital*
5. *American Polish Cultural Center - the site of our convention banquet*
6. *The Polish American National Sports Hall of Fame*
7. *The Somerset Inn - our convention hotel*
8. *The "Halerczycy" Memorial*
9. *The Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake*



Definitely worth a visit...

When planning your trip to the Convention, consider allowing extra time to experience some of the rich cultural offerings that can be found in Detroit and the surrounding area.



The Detroit Institute of Arts

Located in Midtown Detroit it has one of the largest and most significant art collections in the United States with over 100 galleries of art including works by Bruegel, Cezanne, Degas, Von Gogh and many others.



Detroit Riverfront

Take a picturesque stroll along Detroit's beautiful restored riverfront extending from the Ambassador

Bridge in the west to Belle Isle in the east, for a total of 5.5 miles of parks, restaurants, retail shops, highrises and walking trails. It has been consistently ranked as the "Best Riverwalk" in the United States.



Greenfield Village

A history museum complex in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn. Its collection contains many historic artifacts and 83 authentic historic buildings, including Thomas Edison's laboratory, the courtroom used by Abraham Lincoln during his career in law and the Wright Brothers workshop, among others.



Dear ACPC Affiliates, Members and Friends:

It is with anticipation and commitment that the American Polish Cultural Society is preparing for the 75th Anniversary Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture, under the motto, "Celebrating Our Rich Past - Looking to a Bright Future".

The convention will include a business session, and several stops along the way to the beautiful grounds of the Orchard Lake Schools. We will make a short visit to the newly dedicated grave markers and the monument erected to honor and remember the Halerczycy, Polish World War I veterans of General Józef Haler's Blue Army who fought for a free Poland. In the evening, we will enjoy the performance by the winner of the Sembrich Vocal Competition with dinner to follow.

Every year, we end the convention with the Awards Banquet, where we honor and recognize people of merit for their contributions in promoting Polish Heritage; this year will be no different. To end the celebration of the 75th Anniversary, we will dance the evening away to a live band as we did years past.

To commemorate this event, we will publish a ACPC Convention Program Book of congratulatory letters from officials and advertising from area businesses, organizations and professionals. You are invited to be a part of this Archival Souvenir Book and to include your greetings thus supporting this milestone anniversary. The Advertising Contract is included below. Your sponsorship of the Convention Book will be recognized and preserved for future generations.

We also warmly encourage and greatly appreciate your participation in our celebration.

For further information, please contact: Jackie Kolowski at #586-558-3624.

Do miłego zobaczenia,
Jacqueline Kolowski
ACPC Convention Committee



American Council for Polish Culture

75th Anniversary Celebration

July 26 - 29, 2023

Hosted by The American Polish Cultural Society



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For further information contact Jackie Kolowski at phone #586-558-3624



2023 CONVENTION AGENDA

Wednesday, July 26

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
9:00 p.m. Welcome Reception, President's Suite

Thursday, July 27

8:00 a.m. - Noon Registration
9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony - Windsor Room
Welcome: Richard Z. Tarnicki President, The American Polish Cultural Society
Presentation of Colors
National Anthems of Poland and the United States
Invocation: Fr. Roman Pasieczny
Introduction of Dignitaries
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paweł Zyzak, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago
Official Opening of Convention – President Raymond Glembocki
10:15 a.m. Coffee Break and Credentials Registration
10:30 a.m. Business Sessions - Windsor Room
12:30 p.m. Lunch – Buffet Style
Luncheon Presenter: Dariusz Klepko, FPA Board Member
“Polish Historic Memorabilia”
2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Business Session - (evening is free time)
Note: Boutique Tables will be open every morning and during all breaks and free time.

Friday, July 28

8:00 a.m. Registration/ Credentials (Display tables open 9:00 a.m.)
9:00 a.m. Business Session
10:00 -10:15 a.m. Coffee Break
12:00 noon Deadline for Delegates to Vote
12:00 noon Lunch with Speaker, Henrietta Nowakowski
“Honoring the Veterans of General Haller's Blue Army”
3:00 p.m. Board bus for tour of the city, including Holy Sepulchre Cemetery to visit newly dedicated Blue Army Veteran's Memorials.
5:00 p.m. Sembrich Concert at the Steinway Concert Hall
6:50 p.m. Board the bus for trip to Orchard Lake, Dinner, and display of “Polish Priceless Art”

Saturday July 29

9:00 – 10:45 a.m. Conclusion of Business Sessions
11:00 a.m. Officer Elections – Rose Kobylinski
1:00 p.m. Working Lunch – Old and Newly Elected Board
Delegates and Guests free afternoon
Awards Banquet at the American Polish Cultural Center
5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Welcome Reception
Guests will have the opportunity to view the Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame which is part of the Center complex.
6:30 p.m. Invocation – Bishop Robert Fisher, Archdiocese of Detroit
Dinner
Presentation of Awards and Installation of Newly elected Board of Directors
Dancing to “Na Zdrowie Orchestra”



American Council for Polish Culture
Cordially invites You, Your Family and Friends to
its 75th Anniversary Celebration with
Awards Banquet Honoring

Mrs. Henrietta Nowakowski *Lifetime Achievement Award*
Drs. Barbara & Waldemar Niklinski *Distinguished Service Award*
Mr. Krzysztof Zimowski *Cultural Achievement Award*
Mr. Brian J. Malski *Founders Award*
Ms. Carol J. Surma, Esq. *Founders Award*



Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Hosted by The American Polish Cultural Society

2975 E. Maple Rd. - Troy, MI 48083

Cocktails 6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner 7:00 p.m.

8:00 pm Awards Presentation & Installation of Officers - Oath of Office

9:00 p.m. Dancing to "Na Zdrowie Orkiestra"

Reservations \$100 per person payable to: "APCS - Convention"

For more information contact Jackie Kolowski at 586-558-3624
or Barbara Lemecha at 313-580-7988



American Polish Cultural Society - ACPC Awards Banquet
July 29, 2023, 6:00 p.m. American Polish Cultural Center

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Reservations # _____ @ \$100 \$ _____

Unable to attend, please accept my donation of \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Reservation Deadline July 12, 2023

Please return reservation form with a check payable to: "APCS - Convention"
to Jacqueline Kolowski, 2331 Edwin Dr., Warren, MI 48092-2102
Seating request on the back of this invitation

*American Council for Polish Culture
75th Anniversary Celebration*



Rich Past - Bright Future

July 26 - 29, 2023

Hosted by The American Polish Cultural Society

The Somerset Inn Hotel

2601 West Beaver Rd. Troy, MI 48084

Tel: 248-643-7800

Please make room reservations directly with the Hotel using code 740

Hotel Reservations:

Make room reservations directly
With the Hotel before July 12, 2023
Convention room rates:
\$134.00 plus tax, single or double
\$164.00 plus tax, executive room

Convention Rates:

Arrive Wednesday	\$475.00
Arrive Thursday after Lunch	\$425.00
Arrive Friday after Lunch	\$375.00
Guest Banquet Ticket	\$100.00

Please remit full amount or deposit of
\$200.00 per person by July 12, 2023. Balance due upon arrival.

Make checks payable to **"APCS - Convention"**
mail to: Jacqueline Kolowski
2331 Edwin Drive, Warren, MI 48092-2102 Sorry, no credit cards
For further information contact Jackie Kolowski at ph.# 586-558-3624

2023 Convention ACPC 75th Anniversary Registration Form

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Affiliation: _____

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Phone: _____ Email _____

Arrival Day _____ Amount submitted \$ _____

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