



Polish Heritage

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

President Deborah Majka of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has announced that the Council's annual Youth Leadership Conference will be held June 17 – 22, 2012 in Washington, DC. Mrs. Irena Mirecki, Chairlady for this program, explained that the week-long Conference is an up close and intensive opportunity for students ages 17-26 of Polish descent to interact with national and international leaders of Polish background in leadership positions in politics, business, media, academia and the arts. Mrs. Mirecki is responsible for organizing and carrying out this important annual event. Janet Beane, a Board Member of the Polish American Arts Assoc. of Washington, DC (an ACPC Affiliate) will be serving as Chaperone and Dorm Mother for the group of students.

The total fee for the week-long conference is \$500 with an advance deposit of \$50 (refundable) to be made by May 1, 2012. The fee covers housing, some meals and transportation in the Conference area during the week. The last Youth Leadership Conference was a highly notable event judging by the eager reception of the programs and enthusiasm exhibited by all the participating students.

As a guide to interested students, a summary of the pro-

by Jo Louise Winters

grams carried out during one of the past Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) follows:

- Keynote address "The Essence of Leadership" was presented by Peter Podbielski, retired Army Colonel, who served in diplomatic military posts abroad, including a term as Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, Warsaw – followed by a spirited discussion with the students.
- History Professor/Dean Marek Chodakiewicz conducted a brilliant 2-hour presentation/discussion on current Historical Occurrences, including Polish history.
- Visit to the Library of Congress where Regina Frackowiak, Head of the European Reading Room, exhibited and discussed significant documents relating to Poland, including expressions of thanks to the people of the U.S. for their support of Polish independence after WWI.
- Tour of the U.S. Capitol building as arranged by Senator



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OF THE FIRST POLES TO AMERICA



Artur Szuk



From the President

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! May you enjoy good health, prosperity and much success in all your endeavors, especially as you foster an interest in our rich Polish cultural heritage and our many ACPC programs and projects. Speaking of which, plans are underway for a most important program—our Youth Leadership Conference, which will take place in Washington, DC, from June 17-22, 2012. Through a week-long, intensive, "up close" examination of the people and processes involved in national and international government and public service, twenty (20) students, ages 17-26, are made aware of the inner workings of national government and its agencies. Through the perspectives of current leaders, students are educated in the basics of becoming participants in American civic life at leadership levels, and become acquainted first hand with the people, places, processes, training and possibilities involved in national leadership, public service and related sectors. Special topics include: international business, foreign affairs, network journalism, non-profit and special interest sectors, Polish/American and E. Central European relations. And, it isn't all work—there's sightseeing in our Nation's capital, a pool party and lots of social interaction. I urge each and every affiliate and supporting organization to do everything you can to sponsor a student's participation from your area. It is an investment in our future! Check out the website: www.polishcultureacpc.org for additional information.

To the question, "why is ACPC returning to Williamsburg for our annual convention?" the answer is—we have a unique opportunity to dedicate a Commonwealth of Virginia Historical Commission marker to the arrival of the first Poles in Jamestown (see info on pg. of the newsletter). We are most grateful to Tom Payne whose dedication to this effort has resulted in this dedication ceremony. We so often have lamented that many other groups were recognized at Jamestown and not the Poles. Here's a our chance to celebrate those pioneering Poles.

Finally, in the year 2012, we mark a number of notable anniversaries in our Polish heritage calendar—the 100th anniversary of the founding by Janusz Korczak (the pen name of Henryk Goldszmidt, pediatrician, educator and children's author) of his famous Warsaw orphanage and the 70th anniversary of his death in the Nazi death camp, Treblinka, along with the children of his orphanage. We also mark the 200th anniversary of another author, the prolific Jozef Ignacy Kraszewski, who penned over 200 novels and hundreds of poems—you may recall *Dziad i Baba* from your school days. And in 2012, we also mark the 400th anniversary since the death of the legendary Jesuit preacher and polemicist, Father Piotr Skarga, a committed reformer who argued that Poland's ruling classes faced catastrophe if they did not alter their ways. He was a leading figure in Poland's counter-reformation in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Thanks to Father Piotr, the word *skarga*, a complaint, was born.

Remember, our upcoming Spring Board meeting, April 20-22, in Troy, Michigan, where we'll celebrate the 75th anniversary of our host organization, the Friends of Polish Art. I look forward to seeing you there.



Debbie Majka



ACPC SPRING BOARD MEETING

Friends of Polish Art welcomes the ACPC Board Members to its Spring Board meeting to be held on **Friday, April 20, 2012 from 6 – 10 pm** and **Saturday, April 21 from 8:30 am – 3 pm**. Rooms have been reserved at the Somerset Inn located at 2601 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, Michigan. There are two guest room rates available: Tower – single/double at \$90 and in the Executive Wing – single/double at \$110. Please make your reservations by calling the hotel at 1-800-228-8769 or 248-643-7800 and asking for the American Council for Polish Culture event.

The Somerset Inn is located a parking lot away from the elegant Somerset Mall. Two restaurants in the hotel provide fine and casual dining. There is a well-appointed work-out room and free high speed internet in every room. The hotel offers free parking and is easily accessible from major highways.

There will be a welcome reception for all board members on Friday evening immediately following the Board meeting. Please plan on joining us. Besides hosting the Spring Board meeting, Friends of Polish Art invites everyone to join us as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary at a gala event to be held on Saturday, April 21 from 6 pm to midnight. Invitations will be sent out at a later time.

If anyone is interested and plans on coming early to the Detroit area, we have made arrangements with Evelyn Bachorski Bowman to visit the campus of Orchard Lake Schools where you can view the FPA Youth Art Exhibit at the newly refurbished Galeria and/or check out the Polish genealogy information center. If you are interested, please contact either Mary Ellen Tyszka at metyszka@sbcglobal.net or Carol Surma at surmapc@att.net.

Spring 2012



Affiliate & Supporting Member NEWS

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford



The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, CT, held its Annual Meeting on November 17, 2011. Following tradition, non perishable food items were collected for needy families in the SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish. On November 27, 2011, the 31st Szopka Festival was held in the Art Deco Ballroom of the Polish National Home. Under the aegis of Chairman Edward Farley, this successful event contributed additional financial resources to the Scholarship Program. Serving as Sw. Mikolaj for the event was Cliff Archie, President of the PCCGH (1). Szopki created by young people, were admired by the hundreds of guests who look forward to the festival, held annually on the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day (2).



Another highlight of the Club is "Wigilia", which was held on December 9, 2011. Members and guests view this evening as a family gathering with the sharing of the "opłatek", followed by the meatless dinner. This year, the Polish Scouts provided entertainment (3). In addition, the Club's Distinguished Service Award was presented to two sisters, Frances and Virginia Pudlo (4), who have consistently gone beyond what is expected in fulfilling the mission and goals of the Club.

On March 8, 2012, the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University recognized Mary Mazurek Heslin with the Polish Medal of Merit (5). Mrs. Heslin, past president of the PCCGH and a member of the Board of the American Council for Polish Culture, was recognized as a distinguished leader for her individual achievement and service to the Polish and Polish American Community. Most especially, she chaired the Community Advisory Committee which secured funding for CCSU's permanent Kosciuszko Squadron Commemorative Exhibit at the New England Air Museum. The Club applauds Mrs. Heslin upon the receipt of this prestigious medal.



submitted by
Fran Pudlo

Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh

Castles, Cookies and Costumes...



submitted by
Jane Pelczarski



Another October has come and gone by and we had our usual shows of slides of Poland. This year marks our 11th Anniversary of presenting this program to the public. Once again, the Shaler Library invited us to make this presentation. Each year we do a different subject. This time, our topic was castles, palaces and manor homes located throughout the countryside. We chose 22 destinations. We omitted the castles in the largest cities for these we will present when we do those cities at some future date.

In addition, folders with printed materials dealing with each of the famous structures were distributed to those coming to the presentation. As usual, we served

Polish cookies and tea or coffee for the audience to enjoy while viewing the slides. Pleasant memories were mentioned by those in the audience who had made previous trips to Poland. Along with our show, we decorated the library case with dolls in costumes from different regions of Poland. Featured in the above photo on the right are Marie Jackson, the Shaler Librarian (left) with Jane Pelczarski.

ACPC POLISH PERSPECTIVES BOOTH

by Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki

For over a dozen years, the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has featured a booth "Polish Perspectives" at the annual National Conference for the Social Studies, which is attended by thousands of educators. Without the Council's initiative and steady development of this project and the strong support of many Polonia organizations and individuals from across the country, thousands of educators might never know the true history and traditions of our great Polish culture.

The 2011 booth was prepared and manned by the program Co-Chairs Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki. Support for manning the booth came from Mary Flanagan and Jason Franzen. Mrs. Flanagan, author/biographer of Jan Henryk de Rosen in her book *With Paintbrush and Sword*, was present to address de Rosen's work. The significance of his works are visible in many churches in Washington DC and around the world. A former Social Studies teacher of Minnesota, Mr. Franzen displayed an excellent knowledge of the history not only of Poland but many other countries, which was greatly appreciated by the teachers who engaged him in keen discussions.

Some hundred sponsors willingly supported our educational efforts. Publishers sent valuable books on Polish history, culture and other Polish topics for distribution to teachers. Many Polonia organizations as well as individuals vested monies to this highly successful program. Supporting groups and individuals contributing to the ACPC booth in the 2011 Conference included:

- The Polish American Congress, Washington DC Chapter, which shared the art work for the posters, and designed two posters depicting famous Polish inventors and scientists. Dr. Barbara Anderson worked cooperatively on this project. The Polish American Charitable Foundation supported our educational efforts with a donation of \$2,500.
- As in past years, Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk, Pres. Polish Cultural Fdn. of Boston, provided fine plastic bookmarks and educational materials that are prized by teachers and students.
- Piast Institute provided CDs containing educational and scholarly papers about Poland.
- The Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington, DC contributed copies of the DVD "Nine Days that Changed the World" film depicting Pope John Paul II's visit to Poland, along with lesson plans the Foundation developed, which can be downloaded from the ACPC website, www.polishcultureacpc.org.
- Aquila Polonica offered a generous number of books and book-markers. Everyone who picked up the books seemed visually impressed as the stories are compelling.
- The Polish Embassy, Washington DC generously supplied 200 travel-type guide brochures of Poland, 200 Polish Cuisine cook books, 200 bookmarkers and 200 pencils for the teachers.
- Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, Ph.D contributed a lesson plan: "Research Your Heritage with a Cooking Project" for 8th grade students. Cecilia Glembocki presented a lesson plan, "Linking Cultures



Photo Captions:

Top: Cecilia Glembocki (middle) with two visiting educators

Center: Jason Franzen

Bottom: Jason Franzen, Mary Flanagan and Raymond Glembocki

and Enriching Lives" through her work for years at the White House Easter Roll in displaying Springtime traditions. These lesson plans are available on CD and the ACPC website www.polishcultureacpc.org.

- A new poster of Marie Sklodowska Curie, designed by Carla Tomaszewska, was exhibited for the first time at our booth. Five hundred of these 11x17 posters were distributed during the Conference. Our Polish Perspectives team worked cooperatively with the Intl. Division of the American Chemistry Society as it held an event in the Capitol Rotunda celebrating Marie Curie with Senator Barbara Mikulski presiding over this prestigious event and supplied 75 T-shirts for the teachers.

- Since many teachers requested craft ideas for elementary children, Connie Donnelly of Fall Church, VA developed craft kits and directions for Polish dolls and the poppies.

- There were 500 additional posters that featured Jamestown's Polish craftsmen and three previously designed posters by Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski who had chaired this Social Studies project in prior years. A CD previously developed by Lemecha and Nowakowski provided a complete history of Poland's major events, historians and military heroes who not only fought wars in Poland, but were also recognized for their contributions to American history.

- Teachers found irresistible the contribution of Adamba Imports – delicious raspberry candies imported from Poland!

The Polish Perspectives display consisted of three large panels picturing stories of Poland's history that served as a background for the booth. The displays were designed by Carla Tomaszewska of Maryland.

On the Traditions table, the booth featured a Polish craft called Wycinanki, decorative paper cutouts from Poland, a Christmas tree decorated with Polish straw ornaments donated by Deborah Majka, and a lovely Szopka (crèche) featuring a scene of the nativity donated by Edyta Dudek.

The Co-Chairs, Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki, together with supporting team members, Mary Flanagan and Jason Franzen, feel that they have been privileged to share their Polish heritage and appreciation of Polish culture with

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Friends of Polish Art, Detroit, MI

*submitted by
Barbara Lemecha*



Year 2012! What an exciting year for the Friends of Polish Art (FPA), established in 1937, making this year our 75th Anniversary. Under the watchful guidance of President Carol J. Surma who by the way is our 20th President and serving a second term, we have been planning a variety of events to make this year memorable not just for members and their families, but for the community as well. It is interesting that we still have seven of our past Presidents active and continually promoting Polish Culture, some here with us and some in their own respective communities.

Our special events actually started in December with our Annual Wigilia. For the first time FPA was joined by another Michigan group, The Friends of the Cardinals.

It was wonderful and we were all honored to be in the company of Their Eminences Cardinal Szoka and Cardinal Maida and tables occupied by many priests and the nuns. To start the evening we had an invocation by His Eminence Cardinal Adam Maida followed by the blessing of the opłatek and to keep this heritage alive our evening continued with the traditional Polish Wigilia dinner and singing of Polish Kolędy under the direction of a Polish-Canadian young singer Magda Kaminski. We spent an evening in a warm friendly, festive and joyous atmosphere surrounded by family and friends.

In January we held our election under watchful eye of chair-person Jacqueline Kolowski and this meeting was our first celebration in 2012 where, after the elections, we celebrated our 75th Birthday with a delicious Polish torte and champagne in a nicely decorated hall at the American Polish Cultural Center.

In February an official Installation took place at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn (photo above) where Chairperson Barbara Lemecha arranged an enjoyable afternoon with delicious food and a lovely Musical Program with members Joseph Greenbaum on violin, accompanied by Curtis Posuniak. The entire afternoon was absolutely splendid and it started with a cocktail hour during which Dr. David Mohan delighted all with his piano repertoire. Our member Judge Ruth Tyszka administered the oath to the officers and board.

Our next event is the hosting of the ACPC Board on April 20-21 and we are working hard to make this special for everyone. We encourage and invite all to help us make this a very special and memorable year.

More information can be found on our website: http://polishcultureacpc.org/Detroit_2012/index.html

Looking forward to seeing all of our friends in April.



To enroll a Young Leader from your organization, please check the enrollment requirements on the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org



TWO \$3,000 SKALNY SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

Since 1999, the Louis Skalny Foundation has donated a grant for the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies. The \$6,000 grant for 2012 enables the American Council for Polish Culture to administer two scholarships at \$3,000 each.

These scholarships are intended for students pursuing some Polish studies (major may be in other fields) at universities in the United States who have completed at least two years of college or university work at an accredited institution. The scholarships are awarded for the fall term.

For further information and application procedures, visit the ACPC web site at www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Barbara Mikulski.

- Meeting with Dr. Andrzej Raczko, Alternate Director of the International Monetary Fund, which includes Poland.

- Dr. Julian Kulski, a participant in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, gave a presentation "Legacy of the White Eagle", which outlined the fate of the Polish people during WWII.

- Sightseeing tour of Washington, DC led by Gordon Kray, prominent sculptor, whose arts background allowed him to point out and describe many details of the styles and decorations of federal and other DC buildings. He also showed some of his own works on display around the capital, including a large marble Madonna at St. Mathew's Cathedral. His explanation of sculpting techniques fascinated the group.

- Met at law office of Mark Brzezinski, Esq., son of Zbigniew Brzezinski, Esq., who presented another slant on what characteristics are needed to assume leadership roles and gave each student a copy of his book "The Struggle for Constitutionalism in Poland".

- Two video presentations: "Career Opportunities in Social Enterprise" by Paulina Migalska and "Nine Days that Changed the World", a film about the first pilgrimage to Poland of John Paul II in 1979. A copy of the latter film was presented to each student as a gift from Thaddeus and Irena Mirecki.

- A surprise ending for the day – Mr. & Mrs. Stefanski invited the group to their home for a swimming pool and pizza party.

- Talk & discussion by Paulina Migalska "Perspective on Poland: Legacies of the 20th Century Changing Tides of History."

- The closing event brought the group together for dinner on the 17th floor of a hotel with a spectacular view of the Potomac River, Francis Scott Key Bridge, and the Gothic spires of Georgetown University.

The Kosciuszko Foundation provided the use of its American Center of Polish Culture for several program sessions thanks to the Foundation's President Alex Storozynski.

Parents and grandparents of students ages 17 to 26 are urged to award their youngsters this opportunity to explore the political processes and interact with international leaders of Polish backgrounds. This experience will be happily remembered for many years and will surely have a very positive influence on the lives of the participating students. One of the participating students in a past Conference even changed his university major to seek classes to prepare him for a political career.

Students will remember the talented and intellectual Polish Americans they had met and become increasingly thankful for their Polish Heritage as a part of their lives.

Please check the enrollment requirements on the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org. For a report from the last Conference, please see the ACPC web site at

<http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/ylc/ylc-10/>.

Article Photos:

Cover: Student Stefanie Cimoch from Philadelphia presented a Conference T-shirt to ACPC Pres. Deborah Majka

Page 6 Top: Students met at International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters.

Page 6 Bottom: Student participants meet with Ambassador Robert Kupiecki at the Polish Embassy.



\$5,000 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies - 2012

by Marion V. Winters, Chairman

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies program, initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas family, is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Qualified applicants must send all of the material described on its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org so that it is received on or before March 15, 2012 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the Chairman and duplicate copies to the other four Pulaski Scholarships Committee members: Mr. Marion V. Winters, MA, Chairman; Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, MS; Mr. Peter J. Obst, MA; Mrs. Carolyn L. Meleski, MS; Dr. Maria B. Winnicka, MD (addresses listed on the website). Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters at e-mail mvwinters@charter.net or tel. 508-949-0160.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the American Council for Polish Culture and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned documents will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review.

All applicants for the Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies are invited and encouraged to become involved in the programs of the American Council for Polish Culture and to share their talents and expertise with the Council. The Council and its Affiliate and Supporting Organizations across the United States have been engaged in cultural and educational programs for more than six decades. Association with the ACPC and/or any of these 36 established organizations may prove to be of value in the career development of applicants while the direct participation of Pulaski Scholarship applicants in the cultural and educational programs of the Council and its Affiliate/Supporting groups may further strengthen our mutual missions. For further information about the Council, you are invited to visit its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Polish Perspectives

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thousands of educators at the National Conference. More than 50 teachers signed our Polish Perspectives' guest book requesting posters or offering complimentary comments

Organizations and individuals are encouraged to help the continuation of this very worthy effort by offering monetary or material contributions. Please send your contribution to Mrs. Cecilia H. Glembocki, 911 Saddleback Court, McLean, VA 22102-1317; tel. 703-790-1984; virginiaegg@cox.net. Checks should be made out to: American Council for Polish Culture for "NCSS" (Natl. Conference for the Social Studies).

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Attention Affiliate and Supporting Members:

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

Spring/Summer Issue **March 1** Fall/Winter **October 1**

Please email all submissions to: **dmotak@polishfalcons.org**.

Photos should be submitted in jpeg format, 300 PDI. Mailed photos will not be returned. The editorial staff are not responsible for transcription errors for handwritten or typewritten submissions.

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