



Polish Heritage

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“STAR SPANGLED”

ACPC Convention 2013

by Peter Obst

This year's American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) convention commenced on Wednesday, July 31 as members began to arrive at the Sheraton Hotel in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Located near the city's Camden Yards Baseball Park, the hotel placed us in the heart of a lively convention and entertainment district for which the city has become famous.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC with support from the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland and the National Katyn Memorial Foundation.

The convention started in earnest on Thursday morning after Fr. Philip Majka offered the invocation and Laura Kafka led the singing of the national anthems. Then, Tom Payne, president of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC, greeted the assembly and introduced Bernard C. “Jack” Young, Baltimore City Council President who welcomed the conventioners to the city. Also speaking were Maciej Pisarski, Deputy Chief of the Polish Diplomatic Mission, and local councilman James Kraft.

The lunchtime speaker was James Conroyd Martin author of *Push Not the River* and of two follow-up books, resulting in a Trilogy played out against real events of Polish history. The first book was concerned with the Polish Constitution, the second with the Napoleonic Wars, and the third *The Warsaw Conspiracy* with events of the 1830 revolt against Russian domination, also known as the “November Insurrection.” In his excellent presentation Mr. Martin not only whetted the audience's appetite for his books but also told a no-less fascinating story of how the books came to be published and the travails of bringing them to interested readers. Those wishing to learn more about the books should check his website: www.JamesCMartin.com

Later that day the group attended an exciting performance by Sarah Kate Walston, the winner of this year's Marcella



The delegation of Detroit's Friends of Polish Art at the 2013 National Convention.

Kochanska Sembrich voice competition. On the eclectic program were selections by Mozart, Strauss, Szymanowski, Duke Ellington and a traditional American Spiritual. On conclusion Ms. Walston received an enthusiastic round of applause.

On the following day after conclusion of the business meeting, the group boarded a bus to be transported to the Holy Rosary RC Church parish hall for lunch which was to be followed by a planned round of touring in the city and beyond. Because Senator Barbara Mikulski (slated to receive an award at the Saturday banquet) was unavailable on Saturday, she instead came to speak to us at the lunch. As we munched on Polish delicacies provided by the diligent staff at the parish, the Senator spoke about her time growing up in Holy Rosary Parish and the subsequent political career that followed. It was a great privilege to listen to this very dynamic and impressive lady who shared the history of her entry into politics and Polish-American past with us. Afterward, she was presented with the ACPC Distinguished Service Award. Unfortunately by that time we were already running late. Touring was confined to a visit at the National Katyn Memorial created by Andrzej Pitynski and placed by the National Katyn Memorial Committee.

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From the President

Dear Members,

Since its inception, the ACPC's mission was and is to propagate knowledge and appreciation of the culture and civilization of Poland and contributions of Americans of Polish descent to the history and culture of the United States. This year's convention setting, Baltimore, exemplifies our mission as we were in the shadow of the American flag at Fort McHenry, the National Katyn Memorial, Holy Rosary Church and were uplifted by an inspiring address by Honoree Senator Barbara Mikulski on visa waiver for Poland.

Our mission and vision has survived and flourished over these 65 years. We look with pride at our accomplishments because of the dedication and involvement of so many who were driven to succeed the old-fashioned way, by hard work, perseverance and volunteerism.

The Convention offered so many benefits and opportunities, for not only were the business sessions productive, but delegates were able to explore, exchange ideas, renew and make new friendships, enjoy an author's book review, a mini tour of "Polish" Baltimore, a delicious Polish culinary experience hosted by the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, a wonderful Marcella Kochanska Sembrick scholarship winner recital, and an installation banquet with marvelous entertainment.

I say "Thank You" to the delegates for providing me with the opportunity to serve as President. I am focused and dedicated to continue to foster literacy programs, special projects, concerts, recitals, etc. As President, I will try to instill deliberate commitment and personal communication, to recruit and increase the number of affiliates, supporting organizations, individual members and to remove obstacles that prevent growth. Just a reminder, all affiliate presidents are members of the Board and attendance at meetings and participation are encouraged.

The Officers and Board are truly outstanding high caliber individuals who possess so much talent, experience, dedication and are ready to serve. They provide oversight and management of projects and their financial responsibility is to keep safe and allocate wisely.

We need to reach out to those who have not been active. With a personal relationship, we can determine if there is anything that was done or not done that resulted in diminished participation. If we are to prevail, we must act together.

The future lies in the hands of the next generation. The more education and opportunities they are given to participate, the more we will benefit. That is why November 22 - 24, 2013, should be on your calendar with either your participation or encouragement to attend the National Conference of Social Studies in St. Louis, Missouri. This is ACPC's 15th year of participation in the largest and most comprehensive gathering of Social Studies teachers. Its value cannot be measured as ACPC provides "new products and services" to assist eager teachers. Financial contributions are always needed to assist this project.

To encourage tomorrow's future, the Convention authorized issuing "Certificates for Outstanding Achievements" to encourage and recognize outstanding members of the younger generation. Affiliate and supporting organizations should submit names of "outstanding" high school students and/or collegians with documentation for the nomination.

I am thankful and grateful to the outgoing officers, directors and all who served for their contributions, hard work and dedication made the American Council for Polish Culture what it is. Each administration furthers what was established but gathers new projects, ideas and hopes that these strengths shine through.

With YOUR support, assistance and participation beginning with the November 8 - 9th Board meeting in St. Louis, Missouri and thereafter, ACPC will insure continuation of our mission and "engrave" it on tomorrow's leaders.

Kindest regards,
Camille Kopielski



Camille Kopielski

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On the way to Fort McHenry the bus did a drive-by of the Pulaski Monument in Paterson Park and the rest of the time was spent at the place where our national anthem was born and where the Star Spangled Banner waved over the brave defenders of the fort during the War of 1812.

On Saturday the elections were held to fill vacated seats on the executive committee and board.

Elected were:

Camille Kopielski - president
Mary Ellen Tyszka - first vice-president

Tom Payne - second vice president

Gregory Biestek - treasurer

Marcia Lewandowski - recording secretary

Directors: Alicia Dudka, Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, Raymond Glembocki, Janet Ann Hedin, Bernadette Wiermanski, Peter Obst.

A number of issues concerning the disposition of finances and programs were decided. Most important was the discussion of the National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) program headed by Cecile Glembocki and her husband Raymond.

The ACPC will again take part in the program, this year in St. Louis, MO, Nov. 22-24. Cecilia Glembocki has obtained the cooperation of Rita Cosby who will present her book "Quiet Hero" at the NCSS. The convention was also informed that 29 new members joined the ACPC in Savannah GA who will, for the time being, comprise a committee whose purpose is to promote Casimir Pulaski and Polish culture in that city. On their agenda is a Pulaski Birthday celebration for Savannah in March that is being sponsored by Edward Pinkowski's Poles in America Foundation. In addition, Peter Obst spoke on the subject of the National History Day Competition, where presentations of Polish subjects and themes often are awarded top prizes. This could be an opportunity for the ACPC to extend its educational mission.

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AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

Polish Arts Club of Buffalo

by Alfred H. Karney



A Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble dancer welcomes the Board of Directors of the Polish American Historical Association with bread and salt at the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo's May meeting. The lady receiving bread and salt above is PAHA board member Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Gdańsk. Dr. Mazurkiewicz spent the 2012-2013 academic year in Buffalo as the Kościuszko Foundation teaching fellow in SUNY Buffalo's Polish Studies Program. Dr. Mazurkiewicz was also the guest speaker at the Polish Arts Club's January meeting. She spoke about the Assembly of Captive European Nations, her primary research interest.

Has Busy Year, Welcomes PAHA Board to Buffalo, Makes Donation to SUNY Buffalo Libraries' Polish Collection....

The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo's (PACB's) 2012-13 program year was a busy one, including a Wigilia, an installation luncheon, a *Biesiada*, and a monthly program every month from September to May.

The most significant event of the year took place at its monthly meeting in May when it welcomed the Board of Directors of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) to Buffalo for its annual mid-year meeting. The club invited the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble to perform a polonaise and to greet the PAHA board with the traditional presentation of bread and salt. PAHA President Thomas Napierkowski, Professor of English at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, spoke briefly about PAHA and PAHA member James Pula, Professor of History at Purdue University-North Central, gave the invited address on Kościuszko's return to America after the Revolution.

Another significant event took place in November when the Club held its meeting at the State University of New York at Buffalo to greet the new curator of the university libraries' Polish Collection, Molly Poremski. The board of directors presented Ms. Poremski a monetary donation for the purchase of books and/or journal subscriptions for the Polish Collection. After a presentation by Ms. Poremski about the library's project of digitizing cartoons that appeared in the local Polish community's old daily newspaper, *Dziennik dla Wszystkich*, the club was given a tour of the recently reorganized Polish Room and of the exhibits set up by the Polish Collection's former curator, Rose Orcutt.

At another program, SUNY Buffalo's Polish Studies Program's visiting Kościuszko Foundation teaching fellow, Historian Anna Mazurkiewicz from the University of Gdańsk, presented a program on the Assembly of Captive European Nations. In addition, at its annual installation luncheon, the Club awarded scholarships to two local undergraduate music majors. It had a mass on the Sunday prior to All Saints' Day honoring the living and deceased members of the club, as well.

Finally, other programs were about the stockyards in a former Polish neighborhood in Buffalo, US presidents and their relationship to Poland and Polish Americans, the 19th century Polish absurdist playwright, Ignacy Witkiewicz, the culture of Łódź, and painting Polish themes on porcelain.

More information about the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo can be found on the Club's website at www.polishartsclubofbuffalo.com.

ACPC PUŁASKI SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

\$5,000 scholarships have been awarded each year since 2001 to outstanding university students of Polish descent.

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) is pleased and proud to note that many past winners have achieved their lofty educational and career goals. They go on to serve our country in many ways and some continue to participate in Polonia programs and offer volunteer services in their communities. A couple of good examples: one of our very first winners was Scott Cuomo, presently a US Marine officer who has led troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout Europe and the Middle East. Another winner from a few years ago is Ms. Teresa Wojcik, PhD who is very active within the Polonia and the daughter of the past president of our Affiliate, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. Winners pay back richly and prove the worthiness of our program!

The Pułaski Scholarship Committee

Marion V. Winters, Chairman
Deborah M. Majka
Carolyn L. Meleski
Peter J. Obst
Alicia L. Dutka



Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

Lecture and Recital

Saturday, April 6, 2013 was a beautiful spring day. Friends and guests gathered at the Curtis Institute of Music for a lecture and recital sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation in a joint venture with the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. The attendees were presented with a lecture by Paul Krzywicki about the contributions of generations of Polish musicians who helped to raise the musical level of both Philadelphia and the country to the point that, by the early part of the twentieth century, the musical life of Philadelphia began to take its place amongst the most admired and respected in the world.

Prior to Mr. Krzywicki's presentation, Marie Hejnosz, President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia welcomed everyone and then turned the microphone over to Dr. Teresa Wojcik Ph.D, President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation, who introduced Paul Krzywicki.

The theme of this lecture was to introduce the audience to a book that



Paul Krzywicki with Marie Hejnosz, President of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

is being written by Paul Krzywicki on "Polish Musicians in the History of Classical Music in Philadelphia". Paul Krzywicki, is a faculty member of the Curtis Institute of Music and former member of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Presently no publication exists that brings attention to the exceptional Polish musicians who were

so important in Philadelphia's cultural history and at the same time considers these musicians within a history of classical music in America. The book will contain about 210 pages and about 450 footnotes. At this presentation, Mr. Krzywicki gave the audience a brief overview of the first draft. To give you an idea, the book will include such famous names as: Henryk Wieniawski, Karol Szymanowski, Ignace Jan Paderewski, Chopin, just to name a few.

In addition to informing the audience of excerpts of this book, Mr. Krzywicki gave us a brief history and founding of the Curtis Institute of Music which helped develop this book.

At the conclusion of the lecture, we were entertained with a beautiful violin recital by one of the students, Piotr Filochowski who is from Warsaw, Poland and is now studying at Curtis. A wonderful talented young man who played elegantly and with passion. He was also accompanied by one of the faculty members on piano, Susan Nowicki.

A reception followed where traditional Polish pastries were served. Spring had really come to Philadelphia on this day!

submitted by Jean Joka, Publicity Director

\$5,000 in Scholarships Awarded

On Sunday morning, May 5, 2013, enthusiastic members and their families of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, PA for their annual mass and Scholarship Luncheon. The church was fully attended, the mass was celebrated by the Reverend Father Marcin. During the beautiful liturgy, scholarship awardees served as lectors and members of the Polish Heritage Society presented the gifts during the offertory. Following Mass, a delicious lunch of Polish cuisine was served in the cafeteria.

After the luncheon, Marie Hejnosz, President of the Polish Heritage Society welcomed everyone and then introduced Dr. Stephen Medvec, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, who recognized this year's five winners.

Each received an academic scholarship of \$1,000.00 in addition to being presented with flowers.

The five winners are:

- Lisa Abramski, a freshman from Lindenhurst, New York who is studying Medical Technology at Holy Family University in Philadelphia. She will pursue a career in

the medical sector. Lisa is active in soccer and in the fall runs the low hurdles for Holy Family University. She dedicates her summers to working with youth

- Monika Juzwiak, who is a freshman from Middletown, New Jersey studying Accounting at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Monika was a first runner up in the Miss Polonia contest.

- Jakub Kwasniewski, is a senior from Saint Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia. Jacob is planning to pursue higher education in

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SKALNY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

by Ursula Brodowicz

Two Louis & Nellie Scholarships for Polish Studies were awarded for 2013 by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Committee Chairperson Ursula Brodowicz reported that the Skalny Scholarship Committee, including Evelyn Bachorski Bowman, Debra Majka, Ange Iwanczyk, and Marion Winters, awarded \$3,000 scholarships to two outstanding applicants: **Christina Loniewski** and **Katelynn Prebish**.



Christina Loniewski

Christina Loniewski of Lancaster, New York, attends the University of Rochester and is pursuing a Bachelors in Science Degree in Physics with a Minor in mathematics. Her Polish studies include Polish history and Polish cinema courses at the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester. Christina successfully completed courses in Polish language and Polish literature

as part of a four week program of study last summer at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

In her application essay Christina wrote that her father was born in Poland and her interest in Polish history and culture began at an early age at family gatherings. Her exposure to Polish language and customs inspired her to learn about her Polish heritage. She noted that she participated in the many opportunities to pursue Polish studies available to her at the University of Rochester, including study abroad and the Skalny Center programs. Christina also joined the Slavic Club at the University. She credits membership in the Slavic Club as the starting point for her to promote interest in Poland among students at the university. Christina describes her study abroad at the Jagiellonian University as fantastic and an unforgettable experience. She invited her family to go to Poland as well. Her father was able to reconnect with family in Poznań while her mother and siblings visited Poland for the first time; Christina's family are now planning a second trip to Poland and have enrolled in a Polish language course. Christina hopes to be admitted to a semester-long Study Abroad Program at the Jagiellonian

University, where she would continue her studies in physics and be able to fully immerse herself in the art and culture of Kraków.

Katelynn Prebish of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics and a Minor in Spanish Language at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has completed four semesters of Polish language courses at the University. Professor Michael Mikos of the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee writes in his letter of recommendation that although Katelynn began classes with no knowledge of the Polish language, she has been one of his best students, competing successfully with heritage speakers. As the final project for a linguistics course, Katelynn completed a pilot study in how native speakers of English perceive Polish language sounds. In 2012 Katelynn earned a diploma from the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture at the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin where she studied at the intermediate level and earned top grades.



Katelynn Prebish

While in Poland, Katelynn connected with art groups and traveled extensively. Katelynn describes herself as passionate about dance, specifically Polish Folk dance. She has been a member of multiple Polish folk dance groups for the past thirteen years. Most recently, she has been accepted to the Syrena Polish Dancers. This group is described as having a continually changing repertoire of authentic Polish dances and costumes. Katelynn also has an interest and taken classes in Polish folk art. She was a member of the Polish Club while in high school. Katelynn believes that the arts are a way to share one's heritage with others. She hopes to continue to find new ways to share her Polish heritage with the community and to someday work in second language acquisition or as a translator for the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw.

TO ALL AFFILIATES, THEIR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS -

Now is the time that affiliates and their board members should be meeting to plan the events for the following year. Please consider sponsoring a Literary Competition. The ACPC Wachtel Literary Competition will match one-half of the first place prize/award--up to the amount of \$250.00. Thus, the first place prize/award can be up to the amount of \$500.00.

This past year, the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, NY and the Friends of Polish Art, Detroit sponsored a Literary Competition and were recipients of a matching prize/award. Wouldn't it be great to say that we have

numerous affiliates participating in the ACPC Wachtel Literary Competition?

To access the guidelines and to read this year's entries, please go to: www.polishcultureacpc.org and "click" onto "Competitions". The guidelines are simple and self-explanatory.

Sincerely,
Carolyn L. Meleski
ACPC Wachtel Literary
Competition Chair

A related article on the Wachtel Literary Competition is featured on page 10

Scenes from a "Star Spangled" Convention



President Elect Camille Kopielski, Director Peter Obst and Past President Deborah Majka enjoy the 2013 Convention Awards Banquet.

Photos provided by Jaqueline Kolowski.

U. S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (right) receives the ACPC 2013 Distinguished Service Award from President Deborah Majka.



Alicia Latkowski Dutka (left) accepts the ACPC 2013 Founders Award from President Elect Camille Kopielski.



Photo captions:

- 1) Wreath Laying at the National Katyn Memorial.
- 2) Jaroslaw Golembiowski, Maciej Pisarski Deputy Chief of the Polish Diplomatic Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and Ed Pawlowski.



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- 3) The national officers present President Majka with a gift in acknowledgement of her significant contributions to the ACPC.
- 4) Cecilia Glembocki discusses the NCSS project.
- 5) Incoming President Kopielski accepts the gavel from outgoing President Majka.
- 6) Mary Flanagan; Carla Tomaszewski of Poppyfield Press; James Conroyd Martin (seated) author of "The Warsaw Conspiracy"; Robert Synakowski and Jaqueline Kolowski.
- 7) Choreographer Dennis Klima, introduces the Ojczyzna Dance Ensemble at the Awards Banquet.

ACPC Honors Three Outstanding Polish Americans

by David Motak

The talents of three outstanding Polish Americans were recognized by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), during the ACPC's 65th annual National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. The awards honor distinguished Polish Americans for their dedicated contributions to the promotion of Polish culture and heritage.

Presented with the organization's 2013 Distinguished Service Award was **U. S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski** who was honored at a special luncheon at Baltimore's Holy Rosary Church on Friday, August 3, 2013. The award was presented by Deborah Majka, outgoing ACPC President and Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland in Philadelphia. The longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress and the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress, Senator Mikulski has championed women's health care issues, aggressively advocated for full employment and has been an energetic representative for the interests of Polonia and Polish causes. The Honoree delivered a well-received address recalling her strong Polish roots in Baltimore's Fells Point and Holy Rosary Parish and thanked the ACPC and the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland for the honor. During her speech, Senator Mikulski also delivered an impassioned appeal for Polonia to rally in support of the Polish Visa Waiver legislation, which she is supporting. "If Kosciuszko, Pulaski and Madam Curie were to apply for visas today to enter the United States, they would be denied. This is a disgraceful treatment of one of our staunchest and strongest allies."

On Saturday, August 3, two honorees were acknowledged at the annual Awards Banquet at the Baltimore Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel. The ACPC 2013 Founders Award was presented to Chicago native **Alicia Latkowski Dutka**, community activist and volunteer, for her support of educational, community and cultural initiatives. She was especially recognized for her commitment to Chicago Polonia, including her service in a number of elected positions with the Polish Women's Civic Club and the Polish Museum of America, of which she is a Life Member. Her contributions to the ACPC have included supporting scholarship efforts for young Americans of Polish descent and as Chairwoman of the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Award Committee through which the ACPC promotes and nurtures young gifted vocal artists. The Award was presented by President-Elect, Camille Kopielski.

The ACPC 2013 Cultural Achievement Award was presented to **Piotr Gajewski**, Conductor of the Washington Philharmonic. Born in Poland, Mr. Gajewski emigrated to the United States in 1969 where he continued his musical studies at the New England Conservatory Preparatory Division, Carleton College and at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, earning B. M. and M. M. degrees in orchestral conducting. A recipient of the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Conducting Fellowship, Maestro Gajewski has conducted many world premieres and is the winner of several prizes and awards, including the Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition and, in 2006, the Montgomery County (MD) Comcast Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Achievement Award. The award was presented by Mary Ellen Tyszka, 1st Vice President elect.



1st Vice President elect Mary Ellen Tyszka presents the 2013 ACPC Cultural Achievement Award to Piotr Gajewski.



- 8) President Majka accepts a floral tribute from Thomas Payne.
- 9) Members of the Ojczyzna Ensemble invited banquet attendees to join them in Polish dance at the annual Awards Banquet.
- 10) The Krakowiak was one of several presentations made by Ojczyzna Ensemble.

2013 Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Award Presented

by David Motak



Marcella Kochanska Sembrich

Since its inception in 1948, the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) and its national affiliates have produced a wide range of programs supporting and promoting artists, scholars and musicians who have helped to advance an awareness and appreciation of Polish culture in the United States. For over forty years, the ACPC's Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Voice Competition and Vocal Award have been foremost among these initiatives. Each year, through a national competition, the ACPC Music Committee selects one emerging young vocalist as the recipient of the \$1,500 Vocal Award in support of the young artist's career development. As part of this process, the selected vocalist is invited to present a recital at the organization's annual convention. The American Council for Polish Culture is proud to announce that Soprano Sarah Kate Walston has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Voice Award. The Award was presented on August 4, 2013 at the ACPC's annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ms. Walston, a native of Richmond, Virginia, received a Bachelor of Music Degree at Lee University and a Master of Music degree and Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Conservatory. She has performed with the Baltimore Symphony, the Annapolis Symphony and the Virginia Symphony. She has attended Lorin Maazel's Castleton Residency for Young Artists program, the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival and was engaged as a Virginia Opera Spectrum Resident Artist during the 2010/2011 season. She has played numerous operatic roles including Musetta in *La Boheme*, Despina in *Così fan Tutte* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, among others.

Ms. Walston has received numerous enthusiastic reviews from music critics nationwide. According to the Cleveland Daily Banner, "To possess a voice so silvery that it soars among the more memorable classical timbres has made Sarah Kate Walston a musical must see...."

Ms. Walston's August 4th recital included selections from Donizetti, Mozart (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Hugo Wolf and Richard Strauss. The broad spectrum of her repertoire ranged from these classical pieces to a selection of "Songs from *Kurpie Opus 58*" by Karol Symanowski, which the artist sang in Polish, to popular tunes by Duke Ellington and traditional spirituals. The accompanist for the recital was pianist Joy Schreier of Maryland.

Ms. Walston was introduced by the chair of the ACPC Music Committee Alicia Dutka, of affiliate Polish Arts Club of Chicago, who presented the soloist with the 2013 Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Award. Members of the Music Committee include Jaroslaw Golembiowski, of the Chicago Chopin Society; Robert Synakowski, of the Polish Heritage Club of Syracuse, NY; and Dr. Wanda O'Brien Trefil, of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington D. C., who has accepted the appointment as Chairman of the Music Committee at the ACPC August National Convention.

The Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Competition and Award honors Polish vocalist Marcella Kochanska Sembrich, a coloratura soprano who is



ACPC Music Chair Alicia Dutka (right) and President Deborah Majka (left) present Soprano Sarah Kate Walston with the ACPC's Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Award at the artist's recital on August 4, 2013 in Baltimore, Maryland.



Celebrating the presentation of the ACPC's 2013 Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Award are (left to right) President Deborah Majka, pianist Joy Schreier, Music Committee members Jaroslaw Golembiowski, Dr. Wanda O'Brien Trefil, Soprano Sarah Kate Walston, Committee member Robert Synakowski, and Music Committee Chair Alicia Dutka.

*Photos provided by
Jaqueline Kolowski.*

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ACPC SPRING BOARD MEETING, TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

by Jo Louise Winters



The Polanie Ensemble invited attendees to join in the polonaise.

The 2013 Spring Board meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) concluded with an invitation by the ACPC Affiliate, American Institute of Polish Culture, Tampa Bay, FL to participate in their 31st Anniversary Ball, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of famous Polish composer and conductor Witold Lutoslawski.

The Institute's President Mrs. Krystyna Markut greeted and warmly welcomed all of the guests. An ACPC highlight, which occurred at the start of the Anniversary Ball, was the presentation by Mrs. Markut, of the Institute's Distinguished Service Award to ACPC President Deborah M. Majka. The Institute's

program book describes extensively Mrs. Majka's many years of service to Polonia causes. Mrs. Majka has served as president of the American Council for Polish Culture for fourteen of the last twenty years and serves as the Vice-President of Cultural Affairs of the Polish American Congress. In 2011 she was named Honorary Consul in Philadelphia of the Republic of Poland. The lengthy list of her achievements and honors includes the facts that her Saturday mornings are devoted to teaching Polish language to children and adults at the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School; produces and hosts a half-hour radio program, "Polonia Today" in English on Polish topics; and has received numerous awards and medals including *Medal Zasługi* (Polish Army Veterans); *Distinguished Woman of the Year* (Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia); *Polish American World Newspaper Citizen of the Year*; and Poland's *Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi* (Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit).

The Institute presented the Achievement Award to Władysław Poncet, Editor of the *Polonian Echo* in Sarasota, FL., and an outstanding Polish-American whose WWII experiences included serving in the Polish armed forces under Gen. Władysław Anders in Italy. For over twenty years Mr. Poncet has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Polonian Echo*. A special *Republica Award* was presented to Dr. Timothy Snyder, author, historian, and Yale University professor. Dr. Snyder's work has served to shine new light on the story of peoples of Central Europe. Through books such as *The Reconstruction of Nations* and *Bloodlands* as well as through essays, editorials and lectures, Dr. Snyder has helped build a solid foundation for overcoming barriers and promoting understanding.

The Institute's 31st Polonaise Ball was formally opened with a recital by Polish American composer/pianist Jacek Zganiacz. Mr. Zganiacz delivered a breathtaking piano performance of some of Poland's most talented and world famed composers when he appeared in concert at the Institute's Anniversary Ball. Mr. Zganiacz's background reveals that he had continued his piano studies and earned his Masters Degree at the Juilliard School of Music. He was also granted Licentiate and Fellowship Degrees by Trinity College in London. Mr. Zganiacz's piano concert was majestic, filled with high energy. Appreciating his mastery at the piano, the audience was brought to its feet for a prolonged ovation.

A sumptuous four course dinner followed and the guests were lead in a traditional *polonaise* dance by the Polanie who then presented a spectacular performance of Polish folk dancing which was followed by Christoph Olesinski's band "Renoma" featuring vocalists Elzbieta Juraszek and Ireneusz Juraszek.

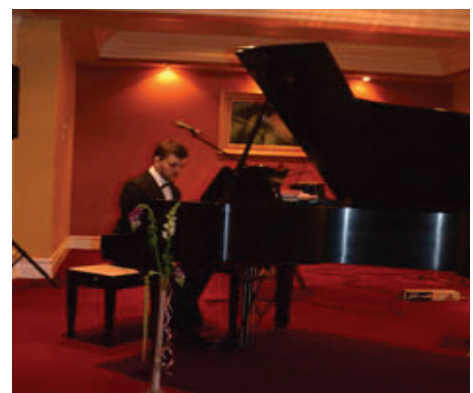
We thank the Institute members for the Polish and Polish-American hospitality that lives on deeply in our hearts.



Polanie Ensemble



President Deborah Majka accepts the Institute's Distinguished Service Award.



Pianist Jacek Zganiacz performs.



Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

\$5,000 in Scholarships Awarded

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Four of the five scholarship recipients at the May 5 presentations hosted by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

Mechanical Engineering for a career sciences. Jakub rows crew for Saint Joseph's School. In the fall he plans to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh.

- Monica Swietlik, a junior from Colonia, New Jersey who is pursuing a career in Accounting and Finance at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. Monika was chosen Miss Congeniality in the Miss Polonia contest in New York City. Upon graduating from Rider University in 2014 she plans to go to Wharton for her MBA.

- Abigail (Abby) Sydnies is senior at Radnor Township School District. Upon graduation, she will enter Temple University in Philadelphia to study electrical engineering. She wishes to pursue a career in robotics, in which she is active in local competitions. She is also an avid golfer.

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia is very proud of these students. We wish them all the best in their career pursuits.

submitted by Jean Joka, Publicity Director

Rochester, Detroit Affiliates Host Wachtel Literary Competitions



Elizabeth Elkins



Henry Tyszka

The ACPC Wachtel Literary Competition proudly announces that the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and the Friends of Polish Art, Detroit conducted Literary Competitions. Each first place recipient was eligible to receive a matching grant up to the amount of \$250.00. Elizabeth Elkins was the recipient of \$150.00 for her essay *Jewish Kraków* in which she writes of the "daily reality of ghetto life" racked by "hunger, disease and overcrowding" primarily in the Podgorze District. She credits Kraków for embracing the history of the Nazi terror by establishing many memorials and museums.

The Friends of Polish Art selected Henry Tyszka for a matching award of \$125.00 for his essay entitled, *Lancelot du Lac*. One can tell that this story was definitely written by an adult. It takes place in Africa where a technical contractor tells of the events of war, unrest and the cultural peculiarities of the indigenous people.

All affiliates are encouraged to sponsor their own Literary Competitions. Information regarding the Wachtel Literary Competition may be found by going to www.polishcultureacpc.org. Please go to "Competitions" to read this year's short stories.

A related article on the Wachtel Literary Competition is featured on page 5.

Cover Story continued from page 2

It was announced that the next board meeting will take place in St. Louis, MO on Nov. 8-9. More information will be posted on the web page: www.polishcultureacpc.org/StLouis2013

The site for our next ACPC convention (2014) remains open.

The Convention concluded with the traditional awards banquet. Honored with the Founder's Award was Alicja Dutka. The Cultural Award was presented to conductor Piotr Gajewski for his work with the Baltimore Philharmonic and for promoting Polish classical music in general.

The Ojczyzna Dancers of Baltimore, under directorship of Dennis Klima, entertained the assembly with some spirited Polish folk dances from various regions of Poland. It should be noted that this group was nurtured by our dear departed Irena Mirecka.

So ended the 65th Annual "Star Spangled" Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture. Members went home energized, ready to carry on their separate missions in promoting Polish culture and history in their own parts of the United States.

St. Louis Board Meeting



Dear Board Members,

Our Fall Board Meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO Nov. 8 & 9. Here is the Hotel information:

The Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel, 335 South Lindberg Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131
Hotel phone: 314-993-1100 Fax: 314-993-8546
For further information visit www.polishcultureacpc.org/StLouis2013

24 rooms are reserved at a nightly rate of \$99 plus applicable taxes. Single or double occupancy. This rate is guaranteed to Friday, October 18. The hotel provides a shuttle service from and to the airport at no charge. Transportation to and from the hotel to the Sunset Hills Country Club can be provided by the hotel for negotiable fee. Conference rooms are reserved for Friday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Reception to follow. Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

There will be a Polonaise Ball Saturday night, Nov. 9.
Sunset Country Club - 9555 South Geyer Rd, St. Louis, MO
Individual tickets are \$90 - this includes entertainment, dinner and dancing.
Cash bar.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. - Dinner at 7:30 p.m. - Program at 9:00 p.m.

Please make check payable to the Polish American Cultural Society
#13 Huntleigh Manor Dr. St. Louis, MO 63131
Response requested no later than October 30th.
Questions please call 314-868-6911

Thomas Payne

Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Award

continued from page 8

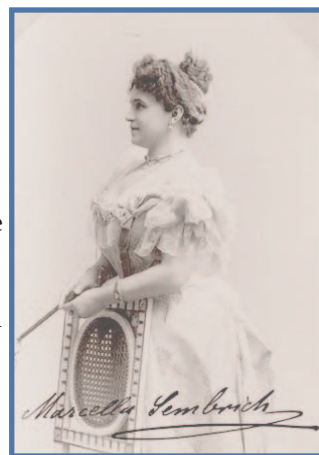
regarded as one of the most brilliant representatives of the vocal art of all time.

The Polish artist was born in 1858 near the former Polish city of Lwów in the Austrian administrative region of Galicia. Kochanska Sembrich had an important singing career, her singing career, chiefly at the New York Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London and was a tremendous favorite at the Italian Opera in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Polish coloratura made her American debut in 1883 with the newly founded Metropolitan Opera Company after a sensational European career. Her retirement in 1909 was a gala affair at the Met, but she continued to give recitals until 1917. Kochanska Sembrich then taught privately and at the Juilliard and Curtis schools for as long as her health permitted. She died in New York in 1935. Throughout her life, Kochanska Sembrich was a great Polish patriot.

During World War I she served as President of the American-Polish Relief Committee of New York. She was wholly devoted to raising money, food stuffs and clothes for her suffering countrymen.

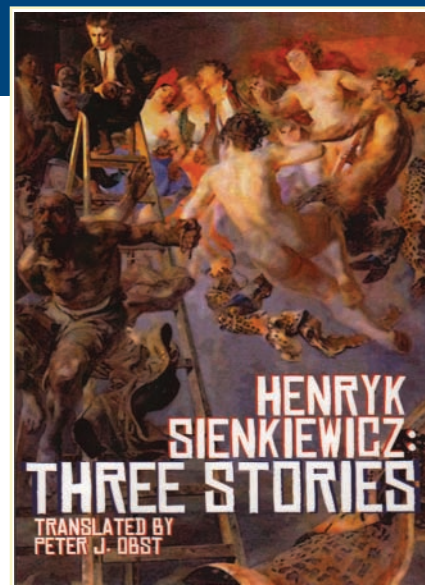
Marcella Kochanska Sembrich



New Translation of Sienkiewicz Works Showcases Polish Author's Humor & Wit

Various works of Henryk Sienkiewicz have been translated into English at different times by different translators. The latest offering is *Henryk Sienkiewicz: Three Stories*. This short collection presents three of Sienkiewicz's humorous stories that have been practically forgotten: "A Comedy of Errors" (based on small town life in the American West), "The Authoresses" (a sketch about children, not for children) and "The Third One" (a romantic comedy).

Translator/writer Peter Obst has breathed new life into these lively tales rendering them into a form accessible and understandable to English speaking readers. Those who care to sample the wit and humor of Poland's most famous writer will be delighted by these stories. Light and exuberant, they are a world away from the cruel reality and melodrama of the better known: "Lighthouse Keeper," "Janko Musician," and "For Bread." The book, published by Wildside Press (and featuring Jacek Malczewski's painting "Vicious Circle" on the cover) is available from Amazon.com.





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