

# Polish Heritage

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## Polish Arts Club of Elmira Hosts ACPC Board Meeting

By Jo Louise Winters,  
ACPC PR Chair

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) held its Fall 2010 Board meeting in Elmira, NY. ACPC Pres. Debbie Majka and Dr. Maria Winnicka, President of the ACPC Affiliate Polish Arts Club of Elmira, NY cooperated to make this meeting one of accomplishments and enjoyment of our Polish culture.

Pres. Majka presided over the business sessions wherein various committee chairs and coordinators presented their reports. A report was made by Cecilia & Raymond Glembocki who were recently appointed as co-chairs for the National Conference for the Social Studies (NCSS) program regarding their planning for the 2010 Conference, titled "Visions, Vistas and Voices", scheduled for Nov. 12-13 in Denver, Colorado. This annual conference is the largest of its kind where over 4,000 social studies professionals from all over the world attend. The theme of our exhibit, *Polish Perspectives* was designated as the core of the exhibit to be supported by comprehensive teaching aids including a CD, which includes lesson plans about Poland's history and contributions of many Poles to American history. Mr. & Mrs. Glembocki indicated that they were building on plans and formats developed by ACPC's previous exhibit chairpersons, Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski. They will be of-

fering the acclaimed new DVD entitled "Nine Days that Changed the World" with an accompanying lesson plan developed by Meg Heubeck of the University of Virginia and Vince Haley from the Gingrich Fdn. A full accounting of the ACPC's highly successful participation in the 2010 Social Studies Conference can be found on page 6.

During the course of the business sessions, Pres. Majka presented a plaque and a framed Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Raymond J. Winieski, MA, Ed. The plaque was a Career Achievement Award in appreciation of his support for the goals of ACPC in spreading knowledge of Polish Achievements. The Certificate referred to Mr. Winieski's exemplary personal services throughout the past five decades, which have included co-founding in 1973 St. Casimir's Polish Arts Club, known today as Polish Arts Club of Elmira; 30 years of service as Director, Polish Choir, St. Casimir's Church; Master of Ceremony for performances by the "Tatra Dancers"; published book in 1986 "Elmira Poles - St. Casimir's Century of Service"; 1989-1999, Guest Lecturer at Elmira College on Polish topics;

2008, published book of his poetry and aphorisms, "Pieces - Kawalki: poetry and thoughts for quiet hours." The beautiful Awards Plaque and the Certificate of Appreciation expressed the ACPC members heartfelt gratitude for Raymond's life dedicated to promoting Polish culture and heritage in the U.S.

*Have a Holy and Happy  
Christmas Season  
and a Joyous New Year*

Board members were treated to a distinguished luncheon speaker, Dr. Frank Kozlowski, who disclosed fascinating aspects of the life and accomplishments of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Born in Pennsylvania's coal mining districts, Dr. Frank Kozlowski attended Catholic grade and high schools. He quit his college studies to join the Marine reserves, 1969-72 and remained in military services for four years. Returning to the university, he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History. After teaching for several years, he returned to the university and obtained a PhD in History. Dr. Kozlowski has a strong fondness and admiration for Ignacy Paderewski. His presentation at the Board meeting of Paderewski's career as a pianist and in-

(continued next page)



*ACPC President  
Deborah Majka  
presenting award to  
Raymond Winieski  
seen with Elmira  
club President  
Maria Winnicka*

## From the President

Debbie Majka

As we go to press, Debbie Majka is still in Poland. In her absence, Bernadette Wiermanski sends a Letter from the First Vice-President.



**Bernadette  
Wiermanski**

**"F**aith, Hope and Love, the greatest of these is Love". (ICor 13:13) referring to the theological virtue of charity, which is the foundation and goal of the American Council for Polish Culture.

2010 proved to be a successful year for the Council. The members worked very hard to make all our programs worthwhile and exciting. There have been some changes this past year, however change promotes new ideas and growth, without discarding tradition.

I hope you had the opportunity to participate in our programs. If you did, I'm sure you came away exhilarated and amazed at all ACPC does in building a positive image of Polonia and Poland by promoting Polish Culture and preserving Polish Heritage.

The ACPC shares with you the blessings of Christmas and looks forward to 2011.

*Bernadette Wiermanski*

## Board Meeting continued

fluent political personality was fascinating. When Paderewski gave a concert in London in 1891, critics named him "one of the greatest pianists ever" and he became the wealthiest pianist in the world at that time. Paderewski toured the U.S., Europe, as well as the Orient. While performing in the U.S. he became acquainted with Pres. Woodrow Wilson and influenced the president to support Poland's independence, as a result Poland won its free nation status. Paderewski became the first Prime Minister of Poland. He ran into problems as Poles criticized him for the limited Eastern Border of Poland as well as his residence in Switzerland and called him an expatriot. Paderewski resigned as Prime Minister ten months after taking office. He died in 1941. Dr. Kozlowski portrayed Paderewski's genius as a pianist as well as his genius in using his influence with Pres. Wilson to establish the Free Polish territory. Thus, the audience was influenced to appreciate and honor once again Ignacy Paderewski's genius and remarkable achievements.

To celebrate Chopin's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth, Pres. Winnicka and her committee planned a concert honoring Chopin's creative genius. We are grateful to Marilyn Kozacko for making arrangements to hold the concert at the beautiful high ceilinged auditorium in Elmira College. The youthful performers at the concert obviously enjoyed this singular opportunity to display their talents on the day honoring Chopin. Sara, Rebecca and Kate spent many hours preparing for this piano performance. Sarah Burn's Prelude opus 28, no. 4; Rebecca Burn's Waltz and Kate Nicole Hoffman's Nocturnal were played with precision and zest. The smiling faces of their parents reflected their pride in the performances of their children, which made all the hours of practice worthwhile.

Concert pianist Frances Orr McLaren began piano studies at an early age, received Masters of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon Univ. She taught Prep School at the University, was accompanist for Elmira Symphony Orchestra for four years and currently serves as accompanist for Elmira's Common-Time Choral group. Ms. McLaren presented six Chopin compositions. She conveyed the emotional content of Chopin's music by reflecting it in her technical proficiency, her fingers playing various moods from exalted Polonaise rhythms to intense reveries. The explosive pace of her performance that ranged from quiet lyrical movements to ecstatic eruptions was applauded with

## Calendar of Coming Events

**January 20, 2011 -**  
Official Installation of  
Deborah M. Majka  
as Honorary Polish Consul,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**April 8,9, 2011 -**  
ACPC Board Meeting,  
Chicago, Illinois  
All club Presidents or their  
representatives are expected  
to attend.

**July 13-17, 2011 -**  
ACPC Annual Convention,  
Cleveland, Ohio

**T**he American Council for Polish Culture invites Polish Americans to join its organization and enjoy the companionship and fellowship of individuals interested in Polish and Polish-American accomplishments and heritage. Annual dues are only \$10 and include the quarterly *Polish Heritage* publication. Please join us! Contact:

Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty  
Membership Chair  
35 Fernridge Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
Tel. 860-521-7621  
E/M annamae11@comcast



*Elmira board meeting*



**Dr. Frank Kozlowski,**  
guest  
speaker

enthusiasm by the admiring audience.

Soloist Scott Frye, a graduate of Ohio State University, has participated in 35 operas and has given recitals in Elmira. This evening, he sang Chopin compositions, "My Darling" (Moja Pieszczotka) and "Reverie" (Marzenie). The audience appreciated the romantic Polish versions of these beautiful Chopin melodies. Mr. Frye received warm applause as he smilingly and graciously acknowledged the audience.

During the reception, which followed the concert, ACPC members felt honored by the presence of Elmira College President Thomas Meier and his wife Mila. We learned from Richard Kozacko, a personal friend of the Meier's that Dr. Meier is the 12th President of the college and has held that honor since 1987. He holds a PhD in English literature from Columbia University. Dr. Meier received a Medal of Merit from the Elmira College Alumni Association and was named Administrator of the Year by the Elmira student body. In addition to writing over six dozen scholarly articles on literature, he is the author of a book on Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*. Incidentally, Elmira College holds an important place in history being the first college in the world to offer college education and degrees to women.

Members and officers of the ACPC were somewhat overwhelmed by their feelings of comradeship and joy after attending the Fall Board Meeting hosted by President Dr. Maria B. Winnicka and the Polish Arts Club of Elmira. The very de-

tailed summary of Ignacy Paderewski's life presented by Dr. Frank Kozlowski was an inspiration, strengthening our admiration of the genius of Paderewski, his superb musical talents and his involvement in Poland's political development, restoring Poland's independence by influencing President Woodrow Wilson's support. The piano concert and vocal presentation of Chopin's music was a classic cultural event, which mesmerized the audience by the efficiency and most of all the harmonious beauty. They will linger in everyone's hearts as superior performances that measured to high cultural standards. The membership expresses its gratitude for the outstanding planning by Dr. Winnicka and her committees, including vital help from Jackie Droleski, Marilyn & Richard Kozacko, and Jane Stalica.

Mr. Richard Wiermanski announced that the next ACPC Board Meeting will be held in April 2011 in Chicago, IL, hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, Dr. Vivian Walkosz, Pres.



**Concert participants**  
Scott Frye,  
Frances Orr McLaren,  
Kate Nicole Hoffman,  
Sarah & Rebecca Burns

## Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford rejoiced as three outstanding members were honored in the Hall of Flags of the State Capitol by the office of Secretary of the State, Susan Bysiewicz, on Polish Constitution Day, May 3, 2010. This annual event recognized Maria Brodowicz, Krystyna Slowikowska Farley and Clifford Archie for their never ending work within the Polish/Polish American community.

On May 20, 2010, members and guests were introduced to LT. Janina Lewandowska, the sole female survivor of the Katyn Massacre. In the absence of Kendall Merriam, a writer and researcher from Rockland, Maine, the Club received permission to use his materials. Therefore, Maria Bruks, Frances Pudlo, Anna-Mae Maglaty, Clifford Archie and Janusz Bruks presented a program reviewing the background of Kendall Merriam, an interview shedding light on the mystery of LT. Lewandowska, reciting Merriam's poetry, both in English and in Polish, and lastly, noting the celebration held when Janina Lewandowska's remains were brought home to Lusowo, Poland and she was finally laid to rest.

At the Annual Awards and Strawberry Social held on June 19, 2010, four deserving young people received scholarships for graduate and undergraduate study. They are: Sabina Chlus, who will study nursing during her first year at the University of Connecticut, Stephanie Kryzak, a sophomore studying international studies/anthropology at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Lisa Kociubinski, a graduate student in neuroscience at the University of Hartford and Kenneth Waszynski, a first year student in marketing at Central CT State University. Janice, Louise and Robert Marconi, the children of Jennie Marconi-Javorski, for whom the scholarship is named, were present to assist in awarding the scholarships. Virginia Pudlo and Florence Langridge are the scholarship co-chairwomen.

## Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh

It hardly seems possible that a year is almost over and we have completed another showing of our slides at one of our local libraries.

This year marks our 10th Anniversary of showing slides of Poland to the public. Once again the Shaler Library invited us to put on our program in the month of October, Polish Heritage Month. Each year we show a different subject. This time our topic was the Tatra Mountains located in the southern part of Poland. Some of the places that were included in this presentation were: Nowy Sacz, Nowy Targ, Zakopane, Tatra National Park, Debno, Giewont, Kasprowy Wierch, Chocholow, the Dunajec Gorge and Niedzica Castle. Folders were presented to each guest with information on all of the places covered. We even had a copy of the song "Goralu Czy Ci Nie Zal" (highlander aren't you sad) included in the folders. At the end of the program the audience joined in the singing of this very popular song.

As Usual we had Polish cookies and tea for the audience to enjoy while seeing the lovely slides of the Tatra Mountain Region of Poland. People in the viewing audience that had already visited this part of Poland mentioned that the slides brought back memories of their trip.

Along with our presentation we decorate several library showcases with items that pertain to the slide show.

*left: Marie Jackson, Shaler Librarian, Jane Pelczarski, Program Hostess*



## The Polish American Cultural Society of St. Louis Missouri

The St. Louis affiliate held its annual Polonez Ball on Saturday, November 20, 2010. Proceeds from this event benefit the Polish American Cultural Society's Arts and Education and Stan Musial Scholarship Funds.

## Polish Heritage Club of Syracuse

The September meeting of the Polish Heritage Club featured a presentation by Tom Marzynski about the Battle of Grunwald in which Polish and Lithuanians defeated the Teutonic Knights and influenced the history of Europe for the next 200 years.

In Syracuse, our activity for the celebration of October, Polish Heritage Month was centered at the Hazard Branch Library. Connie Wierz, co-president, organized the Library Display which included hand-crafted wooden and crystal items, a variety of amber jewelry, as well as "Boleslawiec" Polish pottery.

Many of the books, CDs and videos in the English and Polish language on display were donated by the Syracuse Polish Community Home.

A program titled "An Aternoon With Chopin" was held on Saturday, October 30th in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of this beloved composer and pianist. Marian Poczobut presented a biography of this musical genius and Sharon Zakrzewski Markwardt played a selection of his compositions on the piano. A reception followed.

On December 12, our annual Traditional Wigilia Dinner.

## Friends of John Paul II Foundation

To celebrate the anniversary of the birth of John Paul II, the Friends of the John Paul II Foundation held a screening of the film "Nine Days That changed the World" followed by a reception. The well attended celebration was co-hosted by the local division of the Polish American Congress, Metro Division and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center where the event was held on May 22, 2010.

The documentary film depicts John Paul II's first visit to Poland after becoming Pope. It was produced by Callista and Newt Gingrich who appear in the film as hosts joined by three dozen Polish American and Italian friends, witnesses and scholars who explore the happenings and their meaning to history. In keeping with our goal of preserving the legacy of John Paul II, the Friends group has undertaken the task of having a study plan produced to accompany the film which will be distributed to Catholic and Private High Schools in the Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD and Arlington, VA dioceses.

In the Fall, on September 25, 2010, the annual fundraiser "Wadowice on the Potomac" was held. This year due to scheduling problems, it was a luncheon which turned out to be very successful. The Honoree was H.E. Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington (recently made Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome) and guest speaker the Hon. Newt Gingrich spoke on the "Legacy of John Paul II".

*Mass ending Polish Heritage Day*

In October, Polish Heritage month, the Friends group participated in "Polish Heritage Day, Celebrating His Heritage in His House" an all day celebration held in the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center which included traditional and cultural displays, food and boutiques as well as Divine Mercy Devotions and Mass.

The Mass ending the day was especially touching as it also marked the closing of the Center. Father Canon Philip Majka, the celebrant, gave a beautiful homily on what the Center has meant to us and asked the assembled crowd to end the celebration with the singing of "Goralu Czy Ci Nie Zal" (Mountaineer Aren't You Sad) and "Jak Szybko Mijaja Chwile" (How Quickly the Moments Pass) - both well known and beloved Polish songs, the first a favorite of Pope John Paul II; the other, a sentimental song of parting which usually brings tears to the eyes of Poles and most at the Mass were dewy eyed.



Photos by Carlos Molina

## Polish Arts Club - Youngstown

In honor of Polish American Heritage Month, the Polish Arts Club of Youngstown hosted an afternoon of examining the historic event, "The 1944 Warsaw Uprising" described as the single largest atrocity of the war and was the greatest and bloodiest military operation undertaken by any civilian resistance movement during WWII. The battle lasted for two months, and Nazi officials said they had seen nothing like it since Stalingrad.

However, in Stalingrad, they had faced a professional army with air support whereas in Warsaw, they were confronted by some forty-thousand irregular volunteers led by a handful of professional soldiers, supported by children and civilians.

After the screening Halina Junak, a Resistance survivor, spoke to the assembled group and included a Q and A session which was followed by a reception.



*Halina Junak*

## The Polish Arts Club of Trenton

On October 24, 2010, the Polish Arts Club of Trenton along with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland presented selected portions of the film "World War II - Behind Closed Doors - Stalin, the Nazis and the West". The event was held at the Conference Center at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, New Jersey.

The film provides a shocking and unfamiliar view of World War II based on archival material available after the fall of the Soviet Union. They reveal secret deals made between British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, American President Franklin Roosevelt and Soviet leader, Josef Stalin.

The informative program was made possible in part by a grant from the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) of which the Trenton Club is an affiliate.

# National Conference for the Social Studies, Denver, CO

Report from Raymond & Cecilia Glembocki, NCSS co-chairs

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations for this extremely worthwhile project. The activity and responses that we received was overwhelming and we are thankful to have had the opportunity to show off our heritage. Such an honor indeed.

New ideas, new approaches and a new display created a perfect atmosphere to present our cultural traditions and history in an interesting light.

We were proud to share our traditions, culture, folklore and accurate historical information with curriculum specialists, teachers, principals, teachers, tour guides, librarians and individuals who traveled and studied in Poland or were planning on going to Poland soon.

It was far beyond our expectations as first time exhibit chairs for this conference. We arrived in Denver in the midst of a light snowfall. The location was absolutely perfect- thanks to Barbara Lemecha for previously selecting that spot.

We were able to set up and were so proud of all the materials sent by Barbara Lemecha; Aqaila Polonica Publishing; Malgorzata Cup, Consul for Culture, Press, Education and Polish Community, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland-Los Angeles; Consul General Zygmunt Matynia, of Chicago; Polish American Congress, DC, Dr. Barbara Andersen and Beata Paszyc-Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland, Executive Director, The American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc. in Miami Florida; and the Gingrich Foundation.

Jason Franzen, who was in the Polish Perspectives booth was sponsored by the Polanie Club of Minneapolis/St. Paul. He is also a member of The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. The president of Polanie, Deborah McPherson, was responsible for sending such an outstanding young man to represent the Minneapolis group and present historical facts about Poland.

What a historian he was. He engaged everyone in meaningful conversation about Solidarity, WWII and accurate information about the Holocaust. Not only did he inform everyone who visited our booth but also engaged other exhibitors just to be sure everyone had our story.

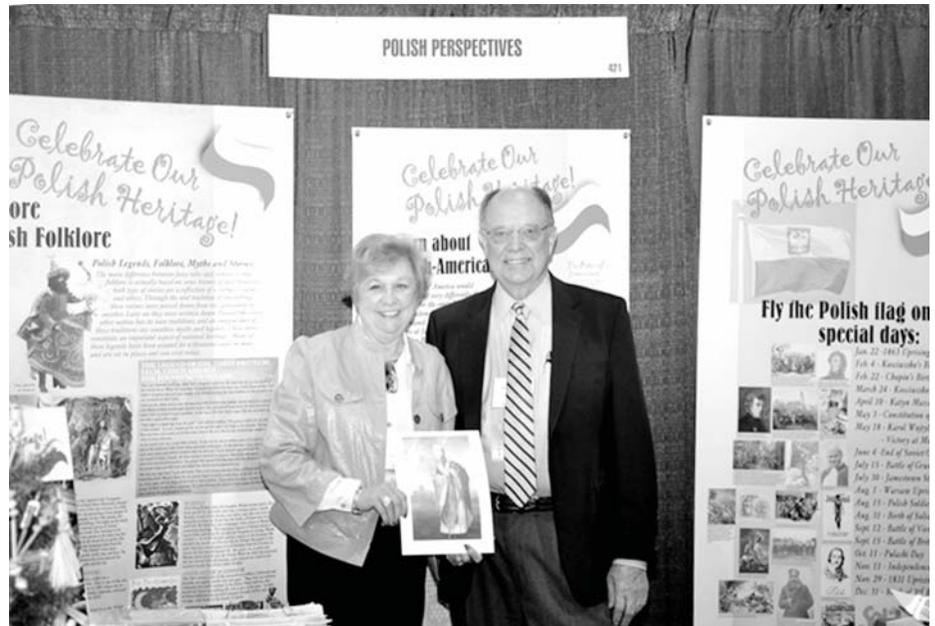
Ray was so excited to share historical information about Poland and Polish Americans.. He also used the printed material that explained ACPC's promotional CD. We gave out more than 450 copies. People were so engaged with the

materials presented and especially the Solidarity poster reprinted by Barbara Lemecha. We could have given out hundreds of copies.

I briefed teachers on using our latest lesson plan about "Linking Cultures and Enriching lives". Everyone thought they could incorporate that into their culturally diverse classrooms. So many teach-

ful and pleased to have connected the film's episode with the actual candy on display.

I presented the DVD on "The Nine Days that Changed the World" and a lesson plan developed by Gingrich's Vince Haley. He prepared this lesson plan and we had a sample copy printed that contained 80 pages. What a historical account



Cecilia & Raymond Glembocki, Perspectives Exhibit Co-chairs

ers were impressed with our straw decorated miniature Christmas tree. The ornaments were borrowed from Friends of Pope John Paul II Foundation. They had previously used these ornaments every year to decorate a Christmas tree at the John Paul II Cultural Center. Many had never seen such lovely straw decorations.

Candies were placed under the tree and they were so popular that many came back for more and more. What a huge success that was. REAL POLISH CANDIES. They were purchased by Dorota Bodiere, our ACPC contact in Denver. We went through 20 pounds of candy in two days.

Quite interestingly, a teacher saw the candy and told the story that he developed a lesson about the prisoners in the concentration camps and on one occasion the prisoners had no food except for this one piece of candy that they split 8 ways. He was amazed that the candy we had on display was the EXACT piece of candy in the film that he played for his students. We gave him enough for his next class (25 pieces) He was thrilled. He was so thank-

of John Paul's Life, the time line for Christianity, a time line for the fall of communism. It so accurately portrayed a person who lived his life with a purpose, a humble man who changed world history.

Many purchased the DVD, others made a donation but those who saw the DVD were so pleased with their Polish Pope. Posters that were donated from the John Paul II Cultural Center were distributed not only to Catholic schools but to folks who were Polish or Catholic and cherished the fact of having such beautiful posters available free of charge. The download for the study guide will be placed on the ACPC web site shortly.

There were three lesson plans that were printed out for history teachers. They enjoyed the Jamestown lesson plan and the Pulaski and Kosciuszko's materials. The early childhood education booklets went very quickly as the teachers in the elementary grades couldn't find enough historical information for their students. We reassured them that there would be more available next year on the CD.

The Pulaski and Paderewski's booklets



**Cecilia Glembocki & Debbie Majka at the Perspectives Exhibit**

were a huge success. They couldn't get enough of them to share with their students. Many states have Pulaski day off and they all wanted more information.

The booth background display consisted of three story board panels, (36 x 78 inches) designed by Carla Tomaszewski of Maryland. She has her own graphic design business trading under [www.poppyfieldpress@md.metrocast.net](http://www.poppyfieldpress@md.metrocast.net). She had many wonderful cards, posters etc. which we distributed to our attendees. The three panels were on the history of Poland, Days to fly the Polish Flag and Polish Folklore. I had small table-top boards mounted on foam core that dealt with The Katyn memorial, a poem about Hatred by a Polish Nobel prize winner and three others on Pisanki, Culture and Cuisine. People asked for recipes as to how to make traditional Polish foods. There were others who wanted to recreate their Polish holidays of Wigilia and Swieconka. They were proud of their Polish heritage and wanted to pass on their heritage to their families.

With Debbie Majka at the helm, leading our discussions on history, we all followed her lead from the lovely Polish Amber to the books on Chopin and Paderewski. As a door prize, we gave away a CD donated by Jaroslaw Golebiowski. The lady who received the CD was thrilled and thankful for this gift.

The experience left us with an exhilarated feeling that it was so rewarding to

**Ray Glembocki with a visitor and Debbie Majka with Jason Franzen at the exhibit**

share our heritage, our customs, our knowledgeable facts about the war and Polish Americans. Everyone was thirsty for the truth. They wanted accurate information. They loved the books and pamphlets about Solidarity. A librarian wanted all the book marks sent by the publisher because her library gave them out with every library book. She waited 'till the end of the day and was grateful for the opportunity to take the leftovers.

Tour guides or attendees who were going to travel to Poland loved the CD. We had hard copies of the CD printed out so they could glance at the extensive research done by Barbara and Henrietta. There are many links to other sites and other organizations that made it a complete reference guide to Polish Culture. It truly was a document on Polish Perspectives and world events. So many Polish notables contributed to the American Revolution that history teachers asked for more information especially about Jamestown, the lesson plan from the presentation made by Meg Huebeck on "Perspectives of Fear-The Polish Experience During World War II" They commented on last year's presentation and they were looking for that particular lesson plan. It is now on the ACPC's website under Lesson Plans.

We got to meet the knowledgeable Meg Huebeck from the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. An extremely talented faculty member who loved the work involved with Pope John Paul. She told everyone about the DVD and how it moved her to tears. She so graciously made a lesson plan and will soon make Mr. Haley's study plan document suitable for 7-12 grade teachers. We were exhausted after the first day of non stop talking and meeting guests. We were all thrilled at the response, the location, the

materials provided by generous supporters. It was indeed an experience that will not soon be forgotten. The camaraderie of the group generated enthusiasm beyond my expectations.

While Jason, Debbie and Raymond concentrated on historical facts, I on the other hand made culture, traditions and folklore come alive. It was a spark of enthusiasm that teachers themselves could make posters like this and have students talk about their own roots. What an eye opener, "aaha" moment that as a teacher you know you've reached a special place in their minds that say YES I could do that too.

Returning the second day, attendees looked for more candy. Word was out about the CD, DVD, lesson plans and, of course, the famous CANDY.

What an experience, and we look back at the opportunity to share our roots with others. We truly need to thank each and everyone of you who supported us financially, and emotionally for following through a rigorous project that we had never done before.

We were proud to be Polish, to engage in meaningful conversation and make a difference in the lives of thought leaders in the community and schools. We did make an impact upon those who can and will influence generations to come. Serdeczne pozdrowienia.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those who contributed to the success of this program, you can truly feel rewarded for this great accomplishment. It is not only a wonderful program that acquaints teachers and other professionals with our culture but earns respect and admiration for those accomplishments.



# ACPC Youth Leadership Conference 2011

*Jo Louise Winters, PR Chair*

American Council for Polish Culture The Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) have been sponsored by the ACPC since 1994 in Washington, D.C. The Conference assists youths of Polish background who are interested in civic and political activism to realize their full potential and to assume leadership roles in various fields at all levels of society. The week-long Conference is scheduled for the third week of June, 2011.

It is an up close and intensive opportunity for 20 to 25 young Polish Americans, chosen from all over the U.S., to explore the political processes and interact with national and international leaders in the realms of foreign policy, business, science, education, journalism, culture, Polish American and east-central European affairs. It is open to high school graduates or college students, ages 17 to 26 of Polish descent. A deposit of \$50 (refundable) will guarantee a place as attendance is limited.

Youth Leadership Conferences have always been fully subscribed as young Polish Americans from across the USA eagerly seek to participate in this unique occasion to meet face-to-face and hold in-depth discussions with U.S. Senators and Representatives; government officials in the Departments of State, Commerce, Treasury, and Defense and the Intelligence Agency; nationally known journalists and authors; political scientists in "think tanks"; officials of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland; as well as prominent

figures of Polonia, business and the professions. The list of distinguished personages who have participated in past Conferences includes Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Counselor, Center for Strategic & Intl. Studies and former Natl. Security Advisor to U.S. President; Jim Miklaszewski, NBC White House Correspondent; Dr. Andrzej Raczko - Intl. Monetary Fund; Mark Brzezinski, Esq. (appointed recently by Pres. Obama as Member, Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board); and Senator Barbara Mikulski, to name just a few of the invited guests. Conferees also enjoyed tours of the U.S. Capitol; visits to the Polish Embassy and the Kosciuszko Foundation's American Center of Polish Culture. Voluntary evaluations by YLC alumni have strongly encouraged other students to apply for the Conference, seeing it as "...truly a life-altering experience." One enthusiastic student called home to tell her parents, "Guess whom I chatted with today!." A college freshman wrote that he was very grateful because he found the programs so highly motivating and inspiring that he found himself directed to a career selection and thus early in his studies he was able to select classes fitting precisely into his major.

The ACPC Youth Leadership Conference registration fee is \$500. This provides for housing at George Washington University and one meal per day, along with most other conference expenses such as local travel and tours. Transpor-

## Give a Legacy

A wonderful way to perpetuate Polish Heritage and insure that our programs will continue is to make a gift through a will.

Direct bequests or charitable remainder trusts may be made simply by designating American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. as a beneficiary.

tation to and from Washington, DC, as well as each student's optional expenses are up to the individual and/or local supporting ACPC Affiliate, Polish club or student organization, etc., through their support for student programs.

Anyone visiting a mall recently was likely pleased with the glittering lights blinking atop Christmas trees, wreathes, holiday decor and jolly Christmas music igniting the Christmas spirit in everyone's heart and mind. So thoughts turn to gifts for those we love, particularly our children, grandchildren and other relatives. Perhaps you would consider as a gift the Youth Leadership Conference registration fee for an ambitious young man or woman in your family! The experience of having your child or grandchild attend the Conference in Washington, DC would provide for happy conversations in the family for many years - an experience to fondly remember with thanksgiving to the generous donor of the \$500 fee. The application form is available at the ACPC website, [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) or by contacting the YLC Director: Mrs. Irena Mirecki, Conference Chair, 404141st Street, McLean, VA 22101, [irena@mirecki.us](mailto:irena@mirecki.us).

*A YLS group from a previous year at the Polish Embassy*



## Walter Zachariasiewicz, KCSG, Honored in Poland

Former President of the ACPC and long-time activist in all Polish/American activities, was honored during several events held in Warsaw and Pultusk, Poland in October. Beginning on October 16, 2010 the organization "Stowarzyszenie Wspolnota Polska", attended Mass celebrated by H.E. Cardinal Jozef Glemp at the Archcathedral of Warsaw in memory of their deceased presidents and all members. Sir Walter was a founding member of the organization which has as its main purpose the support for ties between Poland and Polonia throughout the world.



*Walter Zachariasiewicz addressing the assembly*

Mass was followed by the opening of an exhibit in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the organization at the Dom Polonii in Warsaw. Later, a celebratory reception at the Presidential Palace where the President of Poland met with representatives of Polonia. In the evening at the Royal Palace an award ceremony and departure for Pultusk Palace where more jubilee activities followed on the 17th and morning of the 18th.

On October 19, 2010, at 3:30 pm in the Senate Building of the Republic of Poland, a formal reception was held. It was hosted

by Bogdan Borusewicz, Marshall of the Senate and Bogdan Zdrojewski, Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

According to the invitation, the event was to transfer the private archives of Walter Zachariasiewicz to the Archives of New Acts in Warsaw and to honor Sir Walter as one of the leaders of the world organization of Poles beyond the borders "Swiatopol"; member of the Polonian Consulting Advisory Board to the Senate Marshall; outstanding expert on the fate of Polish Independence emigres and nestor of American Polonia.

Present at the ceremonies was Jan Borkowski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, members of the Senate, representatives of government and distinguished guests. The Primate of Poland, Jozef Kowalczyk, Archbishop Metropolitan of Gniezno was unable to attend because of celebrations connected to Bl. Fr. J. Popieluszko. He sent a beautiful letter of praise and admiration for Mr. Zachariasiewicz and all his accomplishments. The letter was read at the ceremony. Also attending was Mrs. Malgorzata Kupiecka,



*Walter signing his book for admirers*

wife of the Polish Ambassador to the U.S.; Mrs. Irena Kozminska, wife of the former Polish Ambassador to the U.S.; Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of Poland, former ACPC President and Wlodzimierz Sulgostowski, Consul at the Polish Embassy in the U.S.

In November, Walter celebrated his 99th birthday and we all wish him another Sto Lat and God's Blessings.



*Lady Blanka Rosenstiel behind her, Consul Wlodzimierz Sulgostowski in back and behind him, Mrs. Irena Kozminska at the ceremony*

## Thaddeus Mirecki Receives the I.J. Paderewski Award



*Irena & Ted Mirecki*

On October 2, 2010 Tadeusz Mirecki, Past President of ACPC, was awarded the I.J. Paderewski Award. Our congratulations. We are very proud of you Ted!

The I.J. Paderewski Award for Distinguished Contributions to Society and Culture was established in 1998 by the International Friends of Music Association (IFMA), in collaboration with UNESCO, and the Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Memorium Foundation (WARSAW).

The Paderewski Award is conferred to selected individuals or organizations in recognition of their extraordinary achievements or outstanding contributions to society and culture. The award ceremony was originally scheduled for April 17, 2010 but was cancelled due to the airliner crash which took the lives of the President of Poland and many other Polish dignitaries. It was re-scheduled after the period of mourning for October 2, 2010.



*The award*

# \$5000. ACPC Pulaski Scholarships

by Marion Winters, Chairman

An extremely generous grant from the Conrad R. Walas family, which was inspired by the fervent appeal at an Annual Convention of the American Council of Polish Culture by Mark F. Brzezinski, Esq. to all Polonia for the financial support of young Polish Americans pursuing higher education, gave birth to the ACPC's Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies.

Since that time students in graduate studies have besieged the Council for help in meeting the financial challenges they face today. Happily, the Council was able to dole out five \$5,000 scholarships from the Endowment Fund's income to very worthy students who have not only gone on to successful careers but in a good many cases are also actively participating in Polonian activities at creative levels.

Unfortunately, the Pulaski Endowment Fund is still recovering from the recent economic troubles and the ACPC was able to offer only one \$5,000 grant last year and is faced with being limited to only one grant for the Pulaski Scholarship in 2011.

At the ACPC's 2010 annual convention, Treasurer Gregory Biestek offered a donation of \$500 to the Pulaski Endowment Fund with a challenge that Polonia adds sufficient funds so that a second \$5,000 scholarship may be offered in 2011. This generous offer motivated Mr. Mark Brzezinski to seek once again to inspire Polonia groups and individuals to contribute to the Fund so that we can offer at least two \$5,000 scholarships this coming year.

Mr. Brzezinski sent his signed statement to ACPC President Mrs. Deborah M. Majka, addressed "To Whom It May Concern". In his personal message, he urges us all "to consider the future of this scholarship, and the challenges young people face, especially in these days of high expenses and tight money. We need your help and we need you to dig deep in your pockets to fund at least a second Pulaski scholarship in 2011." The Council is very hopeful it will inspire many groups and individuals to offer their support. Donations should be made out to "Pulaski Scholarship Endowment Fund" (ACPC is

# ACPC Affiliate Grants Program

At the Fall Board Meeting, the Membership Outreach Committee was pleased to announce the first recipients of an Affiliate Grants Program which had been proposed by Marcia Lewandowski. The grant of \$500. is designed to assist member groups with their worthwhile programs. The first grants were given to the Polish Arts Club of Trenton, NJ for their program on World War II, the second to the Polish Arts Club of Young

stown, OH for a Youth Art Contest to be held in January, 2011. The checks were presented to the recipient clubs by AnnaMae Maglaty and Marcia Lewandowski representing the Membership Outreach Committee; President Debbie Majka, Mary Ellen Tyszka and Peter Obst representing the Executive Board and representing the recipients, Mary Ann Mlynarski, President of the Youngstown affiliate and Paul Bosse for the Trenton Club.



L-R:  
Anna Mae Maglaty,  
Mary Ann Mlynarski,  
Peter Obst,  
Marcia Lewandowski,  
Debbie Majka,  
Paul Bosse,  
Mary Ellen Tyszka

# Polish American Arts Association of Wash. , DC

On a sad note, in November we said farewell to our long-time member and active Polonian, Edwina Conrad Mooney. She died peacefully in her sleep on October 31 aged 102.

She was known to many as the former Dean of Women at Alliance College and more recently as the founder of the "Wianki on the Mall". The Wianki festival is the traditional Polish observance of the Eve of St. John in June. It is believed that St. John, baptizer of Jesus, blesses the waters. Young women make wreaths and float them at the river (water) and young men retrieve the wreaths and win the company of the young woman whose wreath they retrieved for the festivities.

Edwina tailored the event to fit the Washington DC circumstances, the wreaths were floated on the Reflecting Pool near the Washington Monument. It has now become an annual celebration attended by club members and many other Washington visitors and residents. A fitting tribute to Edwina.

On December 5, the PAAA observed another annual tradition, Wigilia. This Christmas celebration featured all the Polish traditions, the breaking of the wafer and mutual good wishes (Oplatek), traditional Polish food and Christmas carols in Polish and English. This beautiful event was held in the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt organization) and mailed to:

Mr. Gregory Biestek,  
Treasurer  
American Council for Polish Culture  
817 Berkshire  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

For further information, please contact Mr. Marion Winters, Chairman Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, at 508-919-0160 or [mvwinters@charter.net](mailto:mvwinters@charter.net)

P.S. At our recent executive board meeting in Elmira, NY, we received pledges totaling \$1,100, bringing the current total to \$1,600 - just need \$3,400 more!

*Several scholarships are available from ACPC. Others include the Skalny Scholarship and the ACPC Summer Study in Poland Program. For detailed information on the grants and requirements see our website: [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org).*

# Adam Styka Art Competition and Exhibit

National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

by Teresa N. Wojcik  
photos by Peter Obst

The Adam Styka Art Competition and Sale this past September was a great success! During the ceremonial opening of the exhibit, we were pleased to greet guests and twenty-four very talented artists who contributed their works to the exhibit. All of their works were truly tremendous.

One of the special guests at the Opening Ceremony was Matthew Przybylek, a winner of the Skalny Scholarship award from the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Debbie Majka, the President of ACPC, spoke about Matthew's achievements and presented the award to him. Matthew and his parents came from Delaware to join us for this event. We are very proud of him and wish him all the best in the future. Marie Hejnosz and Jean Joka, Chairladies of the Adam Styka Exhibit and Sale, did a wonderful job in organizing this year's competition, exhibit, and sale. At the opening ceremony, they introduced all of the artists and delivered very interesting speeches about the art and winners of the 2010 Art Exhibit.

Marie Hejnosz also introduced Mrs. Maria Styka, daughter-in-law of Adam Styka. Mrs. Styka stated she very much appreciated that the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia holds the Adam Styka Art Exhibit every year at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA during the Polish-American Festival. After the ceremony, everyone was invited for wine, cheese, and fellowship.



General exhibit view

This year's Competition Winners were:

1st prize -  
*The Winter Tree* by Nina Kiendzierska Hon.

2nd prize -  
*Peace Tree* by Jan Gadomski

3rd prize -  
*The Gang's All Here* by Donna Blichasz

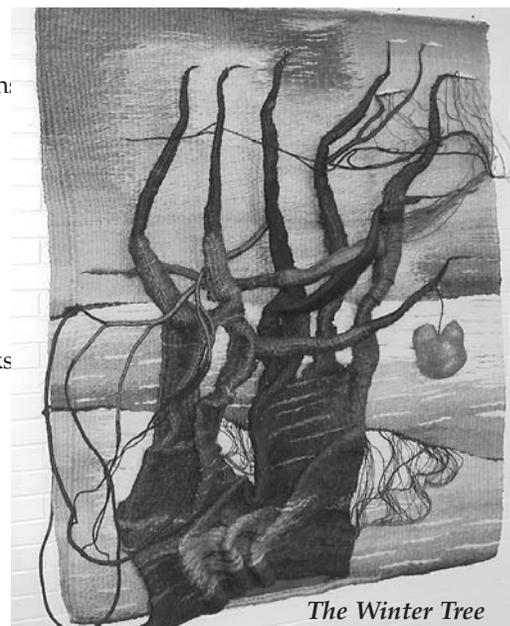
4th prize -  
*Three Men* by John Litwinowicz

Emilia Piasecka Prize -  
Eugeniusz Maziarz - for the body of works

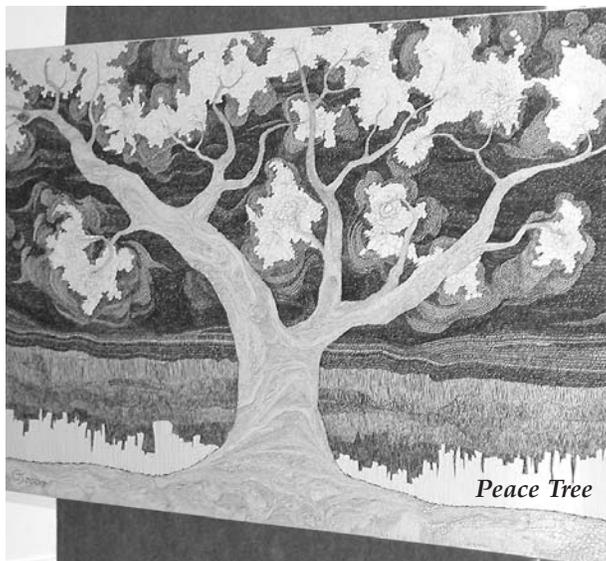
Maria and Andrew Styka Prize -  
John Schwab for *Untitled*

Honorable Mention -  
Joseph Tucholski - for the body of works

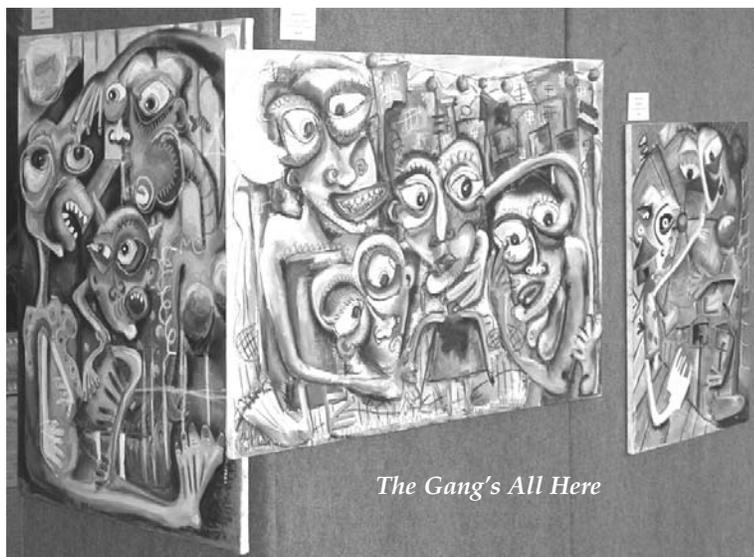
Honorable Mention -  
Hanneke de Neve for *November Girl*



*The Winter Tree*



*Peace Tree*



*The Gang's All Here*

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