AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE

2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION

WARSAW, POLAND

SEPTEMBER 6 - 8, 2019

"Reconnecting With Our Heritage"
Hotel Bristol
Warsaw, Poland
September 6 - 8, 2019
WE WELCOME ALL CONVENTIONEERS ATTENDING THE
71ST ANNUAL ACPC CONVENTION

Reconnecting with Our Heritage
in Warsaw, Poland

on the 400th Anniversary of the
Jamestown Colony Work Stoppage
where Polish craftsmen won their Civil Rights

American Council for Polish Culture
Executive Board

Tom Payne
President

Robert Synakowski
First Vice President

Judi Tompkins
Treasurer

Ray Glembocki
Second Vice President

Marcia Lewandowski
Recording Secretary

WWW.POLISHCULTUREACPC.ORG
Dear Members, Delegates and Friends,

Witamy!

It is so exciting to hold a Convention in the country of our heritage!

The theme of our Convention is “Reconnecting with Our Heritage.” The opportunities are plentiful, the only limits are time and money to connect with our culture. We still have a full business agenda in a compressed schedule so that we can enjoy the city of Warsaw. We will have stimulating presentations from our hosts and we will recognize two Polish citizens at our Banquet for their cultural contributions.

ACPC is acting as host and please join me in thanking the Convention Committee as well as our Program Book Sponsors. Thank you all for your participation, and I wish an enjoyable and memorable stay in Warsaw with your fellow delegates and friends.

Regards,

Thomas Payne
President
Best wishes to the American Council for Polish Culture for a productive 71st Annual Convention

Życzymy owocnych obrad

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Promoting Polish Arts & Culture since 1926
Affiliate #1 of the ACPC
Greetings from your 71st Annual ACPC Convention Committee!

September, 2019

Dear Members, Delegates and Friends,

We return to Poland for our 71st annual convention and to Warsaw, in particular, to reconnect with our heritage. It is fitting that we convene in Poland’s raised-from-the-ashes historic capital city in the renowned neo-Renaissance Hotel Bristol, which is connected to the statesman and pianist, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, as Poland commemorates the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I and the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. As proud Americans with Polish roots, we also commemorate the Jamestown Polish artisans, who, 400 years ago, led the first successful strike for equal rights, the right to vote, in the New World.

We wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of this 71st annual convention and supported our endeavors, particularly our hard-working, dedicated committee: Mark Dillon, Mary Flanagan, Wanda Grzesik, Dave Motak, Ted Mirecki and Peter Obst.

We thank you for your participation in this convention and for all you do to further the ACPC mission. We wish you an enjoyable and memorable stay in Poland in the company of your fellow delegates and as you reconnect with your roots.

Sincerely,

Debbie Majka
2019 Convention Co-Chair

Tom Payne
President and
2019 Convention Co-Chair

Debbie Majka
2019 Convention Co-Chair
Beacon Bridge Wealth Partners
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

At Beacon Bridge Wealth Partners, your satisfaction and success are our focus. Our knowledgeable team of advisors will work with you to understand your unique needs, provide personalized investment strategies and help bring clarity to your life’s important financial choices.

Please contact Steve Krzywicki with any questions
steven.j.krzywicki@ampf.com
610.943.3117
**Tom Payne**  
**President**

When he was growing up, Tom Payne, President of ACPC, appreciated his mother’s traditions, especially visits to Saginaw Michigan, where his grandfather Philip Mazany started the town’s first Polish newspaper. But he did not fully immerse himself in Polish cultural activities until 16 years ago when he began attending functions of the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) of Washington, D. C. as an escort to his mother. He subsequently began holding offices in the organization, culminating in his election as President of PAAA in 2010. Tom began attending an ACPC Convention in 2010 at Rapid City, South Dakota, and became a zealous convert to the ACPC cause. He was given a project to establish an historical marker at Jamestown, Virginia to commemorate the arrival of the first Poles in America in 1609, and the project was completed and recognized at the ACPC Convention in Williamsburg in 2010. Tom was elected President of ACPC in 2015 at the ACPC Convention in Chicago and as his second and final term nears expiration, he wishes to thank all of the Board Members who have served as his mentors and all Board Members for making his presidential duties easier due to their whole-souled fulfillment of their duties. He is also a Board member of the local chapter of the Polish American Congress and serves as First Vice President of the Polish American Arts Association of Washington D.C. With a combination of excitement and pride, he anxiously anticipates his first time in Poland at this Convention, with a small measure of embarrassment that it has taken this long to make the journey.

Tom graduated with a degree in History from the University of Virginia, and also has an MBA in Finance from Virginia Tech and a Masters in Telecommunications from George Washington University. He is currently employed by BT Federal as a Director of Proposals and Offer Management and he spends much of his spare time in his organic vegetable garden and greenhouse. He will be forever remembered for introducing the expression “Nie mój cyrk, nie moje małpy” (“Not my circus, not my monkeys”) at the 2013 Convention in Baltimore.

**Robert Synakowski**  
**First Vice-President**

Robert Synakowski, of Syracuse, New York, is a teacher of English Language Learners in the Syracuse City Schools. He is active in Polonia as President of the Syracuse Polish Community, Inc., a Board Member of the Polish Scholarship Fund, Inc., and the Polish American Historical Association. He has received degrees from Westminster Choir College and Le Moyne College and has studied at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków. He has taught English in Poland for several years. He is a church organist at two Syracuse churches and he is actively researching the history of Syracuse Polonia and travels frequently to Poland.
Raymond Glembocki of McLean, Virginia, has had a focus on Polish History and Traditions all his life. He is currently the treasurer of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation and past President of the Foundation.

Born in Hamtramck, Michigan, Raymond graduated from the prestigious Cass Technical High School in Detroit and earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. Since 2010, Raymond has chaired the Exhibit called Polish Perspectives for the American Council for Polish Culture at the National Council for the Social Studies. He’s been instrumental in doing research on notable Poles and developed a CD featuring forty prominent Poles in the past and present. The CDs are distributed throughout the country to educators and to Polonia groups. They have been used by these groups to print posters for displays in community centers, libraries, and classroom settings. Development of this project has turned Raymond into a historian, promoting Polish history, customs and traditions. He has made educators and students focus on the significant impact Poles have made on American history and society. He has gathered educational materials, developed lesson plans, produced CDs and DVDs for use in curriculum studies in areas of history, civics, geography and holocaust studies. An educator himself, he was an adjunct professor at the following institutions of higher learning: Embry Riddle University, Florida International University, American University and Marymount University.

Raymond received the Cross of the Order of Merit in 2012 from President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, for his work in promoting Polish history, culture and traditions.

The American Council for Polish Culture presented Raymond and his wife, Cecilia, with the Founders Award in 2015, in recognition of their outstanding representation of ACPC’s exhibit at the National Council for the Social Studies Convention and for promoting the knowledge and appreciation of Polish history and culture.

In 2016, Raymond received the Pride of Polonia Award from the Polish Apostolate Committee for his years of promoting the Polish and religious values through a variety of activities that have helped many young people to strengthen their Polish identity.

Raymond is currently working for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington D.C. He has three children and nine grandchildren. He is a historical model designer and his works are displayed at the Navy Museum in Washington, D.C.; West Point, New York; Ft. Eustis, Virginia, and the Air Force Museum in Colorado.
Judi Tompkins is a native Detroiter, born of Polish and Hungarian heritage, and a member of ACPC since 2002. Judi accepted the role of ACPC Treasurer in 2014 and has been the Business Manager since visiting Kraków, Poland with the cultural group in 2002. Living with her parents and Polish grandparents on Detroit’s Westside, she became immersed in Polish culture at an early age. She attended St. Hedwig School for 12 years and graduated as Salutatorian of her class; she belonged to the Dom Polski Polish folk dancing group and learned the Polish art of egg painting and crewel embroidery from her grandmother.

She earned a B.A. in Human Resources Training & Development from Oakland University and a M.A. in Human Resources Business Management from Marygrove College. In 1963, Judi began her business career with Ford Motor Company as a secretary and retired in 2002 as a Management Planner and Distribution Coordinator in Ford’s Export Division. Her quest for travel took her to many countries while she worked and vacationed in Europe, Asia, Middle East, South and Central America. She keeps in close touch with and often visits her Polish extended family living in Kraków, Poland.

Judi’s greatest pride and achievement are her twin daughters, Janine Danko, and Justine Kelley, both doctors - and now their families. She has five grandchildren, three in Maryland and two in Massachusetts. Keeping involved with the children’s activities is her favorite “retirement” role as she frequently travels to Boston and Baltimore.

Among her activities when in Michigan, she’s a member of the Finance Committee at her home parish in Highland, Michigan, is involved with local charitable organizations, and belongs to several social and civic groups.
ENJOY YOUR CONVENTION IN POLSKA

We salute our dear members who worked tirelessly for Polonia in Hartford and for the ACPC

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford
Marcia Lewandowski has been an activist for Polish Culture for over 55 years. A solid background in drama, ballet and Polish folk dance, as well as nine trips to Poland, earned her diplomas in choreography, international acclaim for her dancers, and added to her vast knowledge of Polish folklore and arts. In 1965 she co-founded Detroit’s Wawel Folk Ensemble and was in turn, dancer, assistant director, choreographer and director (25 years). During the Sixties and Seventies, Marcia was choreographer of PNA youth dance groups at Councils 15-Detroit and 122-Hamtramck. In 1977 she was chosen by the Kosciuszko Foundation as American director of their first month-long dance course in Opole, Poland.

In September 2012, after 49 years, Marcia retired from teaching Polish dance. Several of her dancers--regarded as the very finest of all ages--continue her legacy of excellence, attention to authentic folk and classical technique as polished performers and choreographers in Polonian ensembles. An accomplished folk artist specializing in pisanki, wycinanki, embroidery, beadwork, folk Christmas ornaments, costume design and construction, Marcia has presented workshops for the Girl Scouts, Detroit’s Historical Museum, International Institute, and American Polish Cultural Center, and conducts folk art workshops for Detroit Metropolitan libraries, churches and civic groups. Her faithful recreations of Polish folk and nobility costumes have earned rave reviews by American audiences as well as Polish choreographers and experts in the field.

Active as a lecturer and exhibit designer, Marcia has contributed her talents to numerous cultural and civic organizations, universities, and museums. As Exhibit Chair of the Detroit Polish Festival, Marcia’s spectacular exhibits on folklore, Polish history and the arts were seen by tens of thousands of visitors each of 13 summers. A 55-year member of the Friends of Polish Art, she has served as a Director, Recording Secretary, International Institute Polish Exhibit coordinator, chair of several major fund raising events; and in 2012 was awarded FPA Honorary Lifetime Member status. Marcia is a founding member, former Director, Recording Secretary, Exhibit and Special Events Chair and Past President of the American Polish Cultural Center (Troy, Michigan), a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation, PRCUA Society 2274, a Director of PNA Council 122 and active in PNA Lodge 1758 and the Central Citizens Pulaski Awards Committee. In 2008 she funded and created a special exhibit to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Poles’ arrival at Jamestown, and their invaluable contributions to the success of that colony--a display seen by hundreds of visitors of all nationalities.

Among outstanding examples of her Polish folk art are exquisitely embroidered and beaded costumes commissioned for folk ensembles and handmade Christmas ornaments which have been displayed at Oakland Mall, the Detroit Public Library and Historical Museum, Mt. Clemens Art Center, American Polish Cultural Center, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit and Meadowbrook Hall Annual Christmas Walk (Oakland University).

Marcia is the recipient of various awards for her work: the Central Citizens Committee Pulaski Award, Bronze Cross from the Polish Relief Fund (London), Kolberg Award for the Wawel Folk Ensemble, Wayne County Council for the Arts Artistic Excellence and Achievement Award, the Military Order of World Wars Silver Patrick Henry Medal for National Patriotism for her work with young people and the American Council for Polish Culture Founders Award. In 2012 the Polish American Cultural Center presented Marcia with a special certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the world of Polish folk dance. In October 2014 the American Polish Cultural Center honored Marcia’s work and dedication with their Inaugural Cultural Merit Award, and in 2015 the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan awarded Marcia with a specially created “Dziękuję” Award for dedication and advancement of Polish Culture. In 2010 Marcia spearheaded establishment of the ACPC Affiliate Grants Fund, which assists our affiliates in funding some of their worthy projects, and now serves as the Fund’s Chair. Marcia currently serves as President of the Friends of Polish Art of Michigan.
It has been over 10 years since the ACPC Convention in Gdańsk, and our group visit in Poland. During that time Poland continued to change. The changes have not been as abrupt as in the years immediately after 1989 when Poland went over from a planned (that is: barely working and communist) to a market based economy. This change is firmly in place and the shopping venues rival many in Europe and the United States with their flash and dash. A good example of this is the Stary Browar (first opened in 2003) downtown shopping mall in Poznań which was built by re-purposing the buildings of an old brewery, and creating a spectacular multi-floor public space and shopping area filled with enticing stores and public artworks.

Gdańsk, the city we got to know, has become much more tourist friendly, with many new attractions and facilities. There is a totally new building devoted to the Solidarity movement. Those who visited the Solidarity Museum back then remember it being housed in an old corrugated tin barrack at the shipyard. Now a large, rust colored building in the downtown houses the collection, archives and Solidarity offices. Its exterior is supposed to resemble a ship under construction. Inside, there is a beautiful atrium and up to date electronic presentations.

There’s also a very modern museum of World War II, with excellent audio visual displays, recreations of Polish street scenes before and after the war (including a T-34 tank), and an excellent archive for those wishing to do in-depth research. Those who would like a panoramic view of the Baltic shore can ride the Amber Sky Ferris Wheel. Not to be outdone, the nearby port city of Gdynia built one of their own (5 meters higher) and a Museum of Polish Emigration.

The trip from Gdańsk to Warsaw can now be made in speed and comfort aboard the Pendolino express trains that course the rails between Gdańsk and Kraków. The full trip can be a mere 5.5 hours for a route of 485 km (301 m). Air travelers will be pleased to learn that LOT Airlines converted to 787 Dreamliners on their trans-Atlantic and intercontinental routes. They now operate 14 of these aircraft with one more on order. Arriving at the expanded Chopin Air Terminal, one can hop on a fast interurban train and arrive in center city in about 20 minutes. From there it’s a simple transfer to Warsaw’s two-line subway system or efficient and convenient trolleys.

The visitor will quickly notice that Warsaw is still experiencing its great building boom. One only has to look at the many glass faced skyscrapers that rose and continue to go up in Warsaw and other major Polish cities. A great example is the breathtaking 49 floor Warsaw Spire (2016) which is only 17 meters shorter than the Palace of Culture and Science. This Stalinist era building relic from the 1950s, a gift of the Soviet Union, is still the architecturally tallest building in Poland at 237 meters or 778 ft.

Warsaw, at last, is also being recognized for its excellent restaurants and cuisine. Fresh ingredients, simple, traditional and inventive cooking methods are making visitors appreciate the restaurants of the town that was once called Paris on the Vistula. Though Poles tend toward meat-dishes, pork being especially good in Poland, there are now may excellent vegetarian eateries. Those in search of traditional fare, will find it in plenty. The milk-bars of the communist era
are still around and one can find places serving cabbage *pierogi* and *żurek* next to haute-cuisine venues. Then, there is always Italian food at the *Ale Wino* wine bar, not far from the American Embassy.

All the while, Poland is working on presenting its cultural and historical heritage to the world. Thanks to an initiative begun by Lech Kaczyński, when he was mayor of Warsaw, there is a fascinating museum dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. There is also the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and a new National Polish History Museum is under construction. A visit there may be most appropriate as this year is the 80 anniversary of the beginning of WWII, and the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

Not all the museums, however, are devoted to history, there is always art for fun’s sake, especially at the unique Neon Museum where colorful and artsy signs from 1930 to the 1990s are preserved in working condition. Interestingly, a number of the Polish neon sign designers were also poster artists, whose work may be seen at the Poster Museum in Wilanów, a suburb of Warsaw, where king Jan III Sobieski had his summer palace. It is also where the newly built Church of Divine Providence (with Poland’s pantheon of heroes) is located.

This has also been a time of renewal for existing institutions. One of these is the Pułaski Museum in Warka. Using funds from the European Union cultural funds, the museum has totally renovated the Pułaski Manor during the last several years. The town of Warka has an exhibit devoted to its history in the museum. A separate building housing a performance and an exhibit hall has been added to the facility. There is also room for administrative offices and museum archive on the upper floor. On the ground floor is the Savannah Café where visitors can eat deserts and have their coffee. The town itself has been continually improving its appearance, including a town-hall addition and a reconstructed market square. Several new hotels have been added enhancing the town’s attractiveness as a place for tourism and conference meetings.

The links between Poland and the United States have been growing closer. All of the last three United States presidents have made personal visits to Poland. Under the current NATO agreement 4,500 American troops are stationed in Poland on a rotational basis, for purposes of training and coordination. Perhaps because of the Polish-American connection Warsaw has finally acquired a monument to Thaddeus Kościuszko (2010), and it happens to be a copy of the one in Washington D.C., designed by Polish sculptor Antoni Popiel.

As of July 2018 the United States has a new Ambassador in Warsaw, President Trump’s appointee Georgette Mosbacher, a former business executive, entrepreneur and political activist. Among other things the new ambassador has promised to support Poland’s quest to become a Visa Waiver Country. Perhaps now it has a better chance of success. It would be nice to see some progress, as this year both countries celebrated a milestone, 100 years of Polish-American diplomatic relations.

Those arriving at the Hotel Bristol located near Warsaw’s Old Town will be entranced by this neo-renaissance building from 1901 which has been fully restored to grandeur. In addition to restored areas it has thoroughly modern facilities that include pool and spa. This year a rooftop champagne bar is opening. Poland’s Prime Minister and internationally famous concert pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski was involved in the original company which built the hotel. He had an apartment there and entertained many historically important persons. In 1919 after the reconstitution of Poland, the first session of the government took place at the hotel. It survived the German occupation of World War II. It served as a leading Warsaw hotel during the Polish Peoples Republic years. Later, it was given to the University of Warsaw for a library. After standing empty for several years it was restored and reopened in 1993. It is now part of the Marriott luxury hotel collection.
Celebrating and Sharing Polish American Culture for 59 Years

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

an affiliate of

The American Council for Polish Culture

Greetings and Best Wishes to all participants at the 2019 ACPC Convention in Warsaw

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia 2019 Scholarship Awards
(l. to r.) Scholarship Recipients and PHSP Scholarship Committee Members
PHSP President Jean Joka, Secretary Diana Blichasz, Vice-president Marie Hejnosz
Students: Julia Mille Tomczak, Kamil Karpiak, Emma Szymanski, Emilia Rozbicka,
Matthew Ziarnik; Scholarship Committee Chair Dolores Szymanski
Treasurer and Honorary Republic of Poland Consul Debbie Majka, Peter J. Obst

www.polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of US-Poland Diplomatic Relations
Robert Flanagan was one of the Founding members of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation. He was also active in several other Polish organizations, including The American Council for Polish Culture. His beautiful decorations were seen at most of the Polish balls, dinners and celebrations and are still in existence today. He enjoyed being a part of all the Polish functions.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Air Force in Gen. Chenault’s “Flying Tigers.” After the war, he remained in the service and retired a colonel. His friendly good humor and willingness to be of assistance endeared him to those who knew him.

Robert died of a massive stroke on April 8, 2019. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather whose family and friends miss him greatly.

May God keep him in His loving care.

Best Wishes for a Successful Convention

Rick Pierchalski
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AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE
71st Annual Convention
September 6 – 8, 2019
Hotel Bristol - Warsaw Poland

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday, September 6, 2019

7:00 – 9:00 PM  Dinner Off-Site

Saturday, September 7, 2019

8:00 – 8:30 AM  Convention & Credential Registration

8:30 AM  Opening Ceremonies
Welcome – Debbie Majka Convention Chair
Anthemos – Polish and American
Introduction of Dignitaries
Local Dignitaries –
Keynote Address -
President’s Address and Opening of Convention- Tom Payne

9:30 AM  Break

9:45 AM  Business Session
Day’s Events
Credentials Committee Report Peter Obst
Parliamentarian Ted Mirecki
2018 Convention Minutes
Treasurer’s Report
President’s Report Tom Payne
First Vice President’s Report
Second Vice President’s Report Ray Glembocki
Recording Secretary Report
Audit Committee Report
Financial Secretary Ted Mirecki
Business Manager
Membership
Membership Outreach Debbie Majka
Affiliate Grants
Awards Committee Mary Flanagan
CONVENTION  AGENDA

12:00 PM    Luncheon

2:00 – 4:00 PM    Business Session
  Day’s Events
  Credentials Report   Peter Obst
  Music Committee
  Poster Exhibit Committee   Peter Obst
  History   Peter Obst
  Website Manager   Peter Obst
  Polish Heritage
  Board Meetings   Tom Payne
  Future Conventions   Debbie Majka / Tom Payne
  Public Relations Report
  NCSS Annual Report   Cecilia & Ray Glembocki
  NCSS Finances   Tom Payne
  NCSS Fund Raising   Debbie Majka
  Nominations for 2019   Jaroslaw Golembiowski
  Elections   Jaroslaw Golembiowski

5:00    Break for Dinner / Concert

6:00 – 8:30 PM    Awards Banquet
  Presentation of Awards
  Installation of National Officers

Sunday, September 8, 2018

12:00 PM    ACPC Scholarship
  Zachariasiewicz Scholarship   Mark Dillon
  Polish Studies Scholarship   Debbie Majka
  Wachtel Literary Award   Carolyn Meleski
  Polish American Congress   Tom Payne
  2019 Resolutions
  Continuing Business
  New Business
  Adjournment of Convention
Jolanta Kessler Chojecka

While music was her first love and she specialized in piano during her high school education in Warsaw, Jolanta Chojecka graduated with a masters degree from SGPiS (Warsaw School of Economics) in 1977.

She was also a singer with the Polish rock group “The Amazons.” She then studied French at the Alliance Francaise in Paris and emigrated to the United States where she joined Radio Free Europe as an independent journalist in New York. Back in Paris in 1982 she continued as a contributor to Radio Free Europe, a job that lasted through 1991. During that time, beginning in 1987 she joined French Television (Antenne 2) for independent film assignments and received her basic training in film-making there. In Paris she married Miroslaw Chojecki, a member of KOR (Workers’ Defense Committee), founder of the independent publishing house NOWA in Poland, and a representative of the Solidarity Trade Union abroad.

On returning to Poland in 1991 she started cooperation with Polish Television and took various assignments. She became director of the Press Center in the Polish Information Agency, headed the Press Freedom Monitoring Center and gave lectures at the Film Department of the Melchior Wańkowicz College of Journalism in Warsaw (1998-2001).

She has specialized mainly in historical documentaries. Among her completed projects are:

• The Puppet Show in Buzuluk (30 min.), 1994. This puppet show played in 1942 within the Soviet Union in the Polish Army camp of Gen. Anders and is the story of its author Tadeusz Wittlin.
• The Mess with Father Jerzy, (40 min.), 1995, is a unique document about Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, who was murdered for his support of the Solidarity Trade Union in Poland, based on archives filmed in 1982-84 in the church of St. Stanislaw Kostka.
• Solidarni (52 min.), 1995. A story encompassing about 15 years of the Solidarity Trade Union.
• Rakowiecka (52 min.) 1999. The history of the notorious communist prison on Rakowiecka street in Warsaw.
• The Year 1989 (3 parts, each approx. 26 min.) 1999. This film presents a year of great political change in Poland and Central Europe. It features archival footage and interviews with persons on both sides of the political struggle.
• Casimir Pulaski: Polish and American Hero (57 min.) This biographical film was the result of a personal initiative and was filmed over a four-year period thanks to donations, mainly from Polish-American organizations and individuals. The film was completed in 2007 with the support of a Polish government grant.
• Pseudonym Jan Nowak about the legendary courier of the Underground Polish State to the Allies during WWII, later director of Radio Free Europe and active lobbyist in Washington.
• Solidarity and the World (2005) with the participation of Madeleine Albright, John Darnton and Zbigniew Brzeziński, discusses the international impact of the Solidarity movement.

Her films were shown in private screenings at the Polish Embassy in Washington, as well as on Polish and American TV.

Jolanta Chojecka is also a professional diplomat who represented Poland at the United Nations in Geneva (2010-2012) and handled other assignments in France and Switzerland. Her last diplomatic mission was in 2018, as the Cultural Attaché at the Polish Embassy in Washington D. C.

She currently resides in Warsaw and continues her film projects, in particular: Warsaw Children 44 with the participation of Julian Kulski and other former combatants from Canada and Warsaw, recalling the heroic battle by young fighters during the Warsaw Uprising and their subsequent fate in German forced labor camps.
CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MARTA PTASZYNSKA

Marta Ptaszynska, one of the most important personalities in Polish contemporary music, is also one of the best known Polish composers in the world. She is a percussionist and professor of music at the University of Chicago.

She was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1943. In her native Poland she studied at the Academies of Music in both Warsaw and Poznan. She also worked privately with Witold Lutoslawski, who later became her mentor. Her distinguished career as a composition teacher includes professorships at Bennington College in Vermont, the University of California in Berkley and in Santa Barbara, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Indiana University in Bloomington, and Northeastern University in Evanston. In 1998 she was appointed Professor of Music and in the Humanities at the University of Chicago.

Since 1998 she holds an endowed chair of Helen and Frank L. Sulzberger Professor of Composition. Marta Ptaszynska’s compositions are performed at many prestigious international festivals. She has received many commission competitions, and has also received the UNESCO prize in Paris. Among her many awards, she was honored with the Officer’s Cross of the Polish Republic.

Upon retiring from the University of Chicago in 2018, she maintains residences in Florida and Warsaw.

FOUNDERS AWARD

MARIANNA R. ECKEL

Marianna R. Eckel was born in Kielce, Poland. As a teenager she emigrated with her family from Kraków, Poland to Utica, N. Y. where she completed high school, the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute School of Arts and Syracuse University. In 1985, she joined The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D. C. and served as Director, Vice President and President.

She is a founding member of the Wianki - Festival of Wreaths in Washington, D. C. hosting this event every year which is played out at the Lincoln Memorial on National Mall celebrating “The Summer Solstice - St. Johns Eve”.

In 1990’s she pioneered efforts with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to establish the first Polish Library in Washington, D. C. and hosted some of the first screenings of Polish films in the United States. She has worked in many roles to build a stronger cultural dialog on Capitol Hill, The White House and the Washington community.

Marianna is a long-time member of The Polish American Congress and serves on the board of directors of Friends of John Paul II Foundation; she is currently Vice President of the Washington, D. C. Chapter.

Marianna lives with her husband John in Northern Virginia.
Best wishes to the American Council for Polish Culture on its Convention, celebrating 71 years of promoting Polish Arts & Culture in the United States.

Congratulations to our member Marianna Eckel on receiving ACPC’s Founders Award.

www.jp2friends.org

President, Sharon Brzostowski  Vice Pres., Marianna Eckel  2nd Vice Pres., Mary Flanagan

Secretary, Linda Frances Loch  Treasurer, Raymond T. Glembocki

Chaplains, Rev. Canon Philip Majka, Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC and the Board of Directors
Best wishes to the American Council for Polish Culture on their 71st Annual Convention in Warsaw

Congratulations to our member Marianna Eckel for receiving ACPC’s Founders Award

Ted Mirecki, President
Tomasz Kołodziej, Jacek Mamczarz, Jacek Marczyński, Małgorzata Rogoyska, Vice Presidents
Karol Klonowski, Treasurer
Anastazja Kołodziej, Secretary

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Róża Pace, Thomas Payne, Tomasz Smok, Vera Szerszen

Best Wishes to the 2019 ACPC Coventioneers in Warsaw
and Congratulations to

Polish Women at the Forefront
our awardees

Jolanta Chojecka, Marianna Eckel, Marta Płaszynska
Jan de Rosen Award Founders Award Cultural Achievement Award

from

Deborah. M. Majka
Past President of the American Council for Polish Culture
and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland
Beginning one hundred years ago, as politicians at the Versailles Peace Conference adjusted Poland’s new borders, a coalition of U.S. charities and citizens created a unique private-public partnership to provide food and health care to Poles.

In the summer of 1919, the effects of World War I on Polish households’ ability provide the necessities of life had reached a critical breaking point. This was exacerbated by the fact that a British naval blockade against former German-occupied territories was not lifted until eight months after the war ended.

As significant as it was for Poland to achieve and maintain political independence in 1918, the battle against hunger and disease in the months that followed was equally arduous. Poland also had at the time 140,000 war orphans and 700,000 refugees.

The victory was led by Hebert Hoover, who as director of a newly formed American Relief Administration helped Poland obtain more than $55 million in food assistance at a time of widespread famine. Those 1919 dollars would be more than $1 billion today, adjusting for inflation.

Through the ARA, and the efforts of two women, Helen de Rosen Paderewksa, wife of pianist Ignacy Paderewski, and Laura Blackwell de Godzawa Turcynowicz, an American opera singer/director whose Suwalki home was commandeered in 1915 by the German Army, a unique affiliate group was also formed – the Grey Samaritans.

“Herbert Hoover took many bold though calculated steps to arrange food relief in Poland, including the establishment of the Polish relief organization and the introduction of the young Polish American women into the field,” wrote Jagiellonian University researcher Matthew Lloyd Adams in 2009.

**Polish-American Hussars of Mercy**

Called Grey Samaritans for the color of an adopted YWCA uniform, more than two dozen U.S. women obtained intensive medical training in New York and assisted relief efforts throughout Poland, traveling to Europe on the French steamship SS Rochambeau in the summer of 1919. Turcynowicz led nurse recruitment in the U.S. while Paderewska focused on management and logistics in Poland, laying the ground work for what today is the Polish Red Cross.

Once in Poland, the Grey Samaritans had a huge to-do list that included supervising milk stations & soup kitchens serving as many as 4,000 children per day; creating and managing orphanages and adoption programs; distributing clothing, and creating groups to sew new clothing; providing medical care to children and convalescing soldiers; training local staff and saving supplies and evacuate the injured during the Soviet invasion.

The very first Grey Samaritan volunteer was from Minneapolis, Eleanora Wasielewska, a teacher at the University of Minnesota.
One nurse would be remembered for criticizing the train station master in Poznań for displaying regional bias against Poles from the Russian partition, declaring that all of Poland was now united. “She strongly suggested that Poles look to America as model for a much needed spirit of unity” wrote Martha Chickering in 1920 in her book *Into Free Poland Via Germany*.

Another Samaritan, Anna Badura of Rochester, N.Y. gave up a chance to see her Polish-American husband in Warsaw for the first time since he had left two years earlier to join Haller’s Army. She said her relief work assignment in Kalisz took priority over a reunion, wrote Frank Thackeray in *The Polish Review* in 1990.

The work of the Grey Samaritans continued during the Polish-Bolshevik War and after the Treaty of Riga that ended it in March 1921. One of their ranks was said to have delivered six babies one night during the winter of 1921 from among some 600 refugees whom a Russian train had abandoned at a border crossing without food or shelter (Source: Erla Rodakiewicz, *The Association Monthly*).

Adams’ work, published by the *European Journal of American Studies*, concluded that between April 19, 1919, when the first food shipment for children arrived in Warsaw, and mid-1921, American support was vital to Poland’s recovery from both four years of wartime damage and “tantamount to Poland’s survival” during and after the 1920 Soviet invasion.

One measure of how bad things were at the time was how children’s growth was stunted. A post-war study of Kraków school records by Polish history professor Bartosz Ogórek found that the average height of boys who became teens in the World War I era fell by as much as 10 centimeters (about four inches) compared to pre-1900 heights.

**Further Reading:**
When the Prussians Came to Poland by Laura de Gozdawa Turczynowicz, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1916.
To Serve the Cause of Poland: The Polish Grey Samaritans, 1919 - 1922, Frank W. Thackeray

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**Featured Presenter:**
Mark G. Dillon, 55, is a third generation Polish-American with extended family in Krakow, Libusza and Dzikowiec. Originally from the New York area, Mark writes the Minnesota Voice column for the Polish American Journal and chairs the Eye of the Eagle Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Scholarship Committee for ACPC. For a decade after getting his master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University, Mark was a business reporter at daily newspapers including The Asbury Park Press. In 1995, he began a second career as a communications manager and consultant for investment managers including American Express Financial Advisors, Waddell & Reed and Scudder Investments. Mark is also a 4th generation Slovak-American and serves as First Vice President of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. He and his wife Cecelia reside in Minnetonka, MN.
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ON THIS 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST WORK STOPPAGE
IN THE NEW WORLD BY POLISH CRAFTSMEN, NOT FOR WAGES,
BUT FOR CIVIL LIBERTY – THE RIGHT TO VOTE –
We Salute the ACPC - Ceil & Ray Glembocki, Henrietta Nowakowski,
Debbie Majka and all those who have worked to bring the story of
the Jamestown Poles to light and to the
National Conference for the Social Studies educators.

To Outgoing President Tom Payne, Congratulations on your
Outstanding Leadership of ACPC the past four years!

Continued Success to all 2109 Awardees!

Friends of Polish Art
An Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture
Founded in 1937

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w imieniu Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Pana Andrzeja Dudy serdecznie pozdrawiam wszystkich uczestników Walnego Zjazdu Amerykańskiej Rady Kultury Polskiej organizowanego w tym roku w Warszawie, Stolicy kraju pochodzenia Państwa przodków.

Chciałbym wyrzec moją wdzięczność Wszystkim Państwu za aktywne promowanie polskiej tradycji i kultury oraz wspieranie polonijnej edukacji w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Dziękuję za pielęgnowanie naszego dziedzictwa kulturowego, za aktywną współpracę z polskim Ministerstwem Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego w zakresie odzyskiwania zaginionych dóbr kultury. Państwa inicjatywy, które łączą naszych Rodaków za Oceanem w poczuciu łączności z Ojczyzną, zasługują na słowa szczególnego uznania.

W imieniu Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Pana Andrzeja Dudy, wszystkim członkom Amerykańskiej Rady Kultury Polskiej przybyłem do Warszawy, życzę owocnych obrad oraz dalszych sukcesów w podejmowanych działaniach promujących polską kulturę i dziedzictwo narodowe.

Proszę przyjąć życzenia pomyślności w życiu osobistym i zawodowym.


dr hab. JACEK KWIATKOWSKI

Warszawa, 7 września 2019 roku

Uczestnicy i Organizatorzy
Walnego Zjazdu
Amerykańskiej Rady Kultury Polskiej
CHANCELLERY OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
SECRETARY OF STATE
Adam Kwiatkowski

Warsaw, September 7, 2019

Participants and Organizers
of the Annual Convention
of the American Council for Polish Culture

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Poland, Mr Andrzej Duda, I cordially greet all participants of the Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture, this year hosted in Warsaw, in the capital of the country of your forefathers.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the active effort to promote Polish tradition and culture and the support to Polonia educational activity in the United States. Thank you for nurturing our cultural heritage and for the active cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage to retrieve lost works of art. Your initiatives that bring together our Compatriots on the other side of the Atlantic in a sense of unity with the Home Country merit special appreciation.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Poland Mr Andrzej Duda, may I wish all members of the American Council for Polish Heritage fruitful deliberations and further success in your activities to promote Polish culture and national heritage.

Please, accept my best wishes for your prosperity in your private and professional life.

Sincerely,
August 14, 2019

The American Council for Polish Culture
c/o Ms. Deborah M. Majka
812 Lombard Street, Apartment 12
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Dear Friends of the ACPC:

First and foremost: Welcome to Poland. Warsaw is a beautiful city with much to offer. I hope you will have an opportunity to immerse yourselves in the vibrant culture that thrives here.

I have a special affection for groups like the ACPC as they represent civilian diplomacy at its finest. You embody the history of friendship between the United States and Poland. I know you bear this responsibility with mindfulness and pride.

I wish you the best in your journey and hope you have a meaningful experience in this wonderful country.

Sincerely,

Georgette Mosbacher

Georgette Mosbacher