



# PAHA Newsletter

## PAHA Website Relunched!

The Polish American Historical Association has redesigned its website. Members may now join or renew their membership online. (Or even donate if you please!) Members can also register for upcoming conferences. Beyond this members may also find information about the Annual Meeting, our Awards, other PAHA activities, and links to other Polish and Polish-American organizations.

PAHA has designed this website to serve as a portal to Polish American culture. The organization hopes that members will submit their publication's cover images, and other information to Executive Director Dr. Pien Versteegh at [a.p.versteegh@uvt.nl](mailto:a.p.versteegh@uvt.nl). Please allow a suitable amount of time before the website can be updated. This will not only steer the public toward the latest and highest quality scholarship, but it also allows for interested people to purchase the works through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). (Amazon will also compensate PAHA with a small finder's fee.) This win-win proposition will match the work of the experts of Polish American History with the global public interested in reading the best work on Polish American History.

For more information on the new PAHA web site, go to:

<http://www.polishamericanstudies.org>



## New Members Needed!

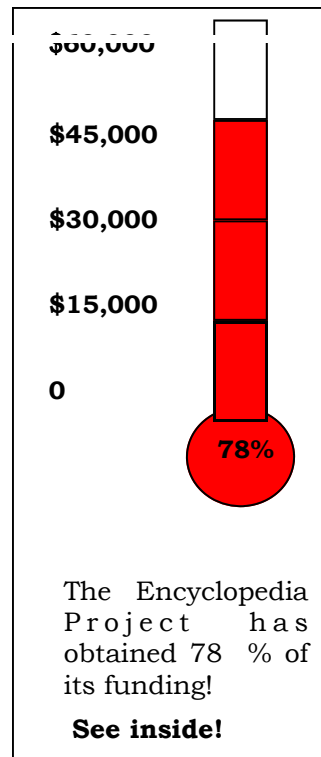
*PAHA needs new members and we need your help! If you know anyone who might be interested to join our wonderful organization, please give us their names and addresses!*

*You can mail your information to Pien Versteegh at:*

***a.p.versteegh@uvt.nl***

***Thank you!***

**Remember that you can always renew your membership online!**



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Dear Friends,

It is a great honor to serve as President of PAHA and I look forward to guiding our organization. Many of you may know me from past conferences and my activities as Second Vice-President and on the PAHA Board, but many others will not. So please let me briefly introduce myself and discuss with you my hopes and vision for the Association.



**Dr. Brian McCook**

I was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts and although my last name may not indicate it, I am part Polish on my mother's side. I earned my BA in History from Bates College in 1994 and my PhD in History from the University of California at Berkeley in 2004. I am a Senior Lecturer in History at Leeds Metropolitan University in England, where I am currently working on a social and cultural history of wartime and post-war Polish migration to Great Britain.

As a historian, I deeply value and appreciate PAHA's mission to spread and disseminate knowledge of the Polish-American experience. In fulfilling this mission, we can be proud of our accomplishments to date. We are a research active organization, as evidenced by the Annual Conference, the *Polish American Studies* journal, and the support given to the Polish and Polish-American Studies series at Ohio University Press. Our national, and increasingly, international profile is well regarded and respected within the larger academic community, an achievement that has been made possible by the steadfast dedication and support of our membership.

With any transfer of leadership comes change. As incoming president, I promise to work hard to build upon past successes while also develop new initiatives to enhance the Association's profile. In particular, I want to:

- maintain and strengthen our existing links with other *Polonia* organizations;
- continue our commitment to supporting Polish-American arts and culture;
- build new partnerships with scholars and institutions in Poland as well as from outside the *Polonia* community.

Finally, as we all know, key to PAHA's long term success is its ability to maintain and encourage activism among our existing members while simultaneously bringing into our Association new people and voices. With your aid, I will strive to make this a priority during my tenure. I wish to conclude by reiterating my appreciation for the honor to serve as President and I look forward to working with and for you, the members, over the next two years.

Dziękuję bardzo!

Dr. Brian McCook

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## President Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann's Notes from the PAHA Board's Annual Meeting in New York City, January 3, 2009

The Board meeting took place on January 3, 2009 in New York. It was the last meeting of the President Kirchmann's board. The following board members and officers were present: Dr. James Pula, Dr. M.B. Biskupski, Dr. John Guzowski, Dr. Iwona Korga, Dr. Stephen Leahy, Dr. Brian McCook, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel, Mr. Thomas Duszak, Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Dr. Mary Erdmans, and Dr. Pien Versteegh.

In her report, the president updated the board on several completed as well as ongoing projects. The new PAHA website is now fully operational. Members are encouraged to use it, including paying their membership dues through an online option. Dr. John Guzowski was appointed an Online Director. PAHA welcomes Mr. Mark Zawisny, attorney-at-law as our new pro bono lawyer! At the suggestion of the president, the board adopted also an official Polish-language version of PAHA's name which is Polsko-Amerykańskie Towarzystwo Historyczne. In close collaboration with Dr. Adam Walaszek of the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, president Kirchmann continues to work on the planned research program, which may lead to a number of initiatives, including a couple of conferences and a book publication. The funds still remain an issue. President Kirchmann also prepared applications for grants for the encyclopedia project, which is still in needs of financial support. In conclusion of her report, the president thanked all her colleagues on the board for their hard work, patience, willing cooperation and commitment to making PAHA a modern professional organization that it deserves to be.



Wallhanging, Polish Consulate General, New York. (Leahy Photo)

Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel, PAHA's First VP presented her report, commenting on the organization of the conference. Due to the increase in her professional duties, Dr. Gunkel was unable to assume the office of PAHA president. She will, however, remain on the PAHA board and organize future conferences.

Dr. Brian McCook, PAHA's Second VP, reported on the award process and presented the slot of this year's awardees. The following discussion centered on the ways to publicize our awards program to a wider audience. PAHA's public relations were also a concern for Dr. Versteegh, an Interim Executive Director. In order to reach new members PAHA will start a campaign to recruit new members in the new year.

Dr. James Pula, the treasurer, presented a report on PAHA's finances. As the economy tumbled, PAHA's investments were also negatively affected. Additional expenses connected with the encyclopedia further weaken our financial base. PAHA members are asked to pay their membership dues in a timely manner to offset a potentially difficult situation for the organization.

**Continued on page 13.**

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## **Polish American Historical Association Annual Awards January 3, 2009**

On January 3, 2009, the Polish American Historical Association gave out its Annual Awards at the Polish Consulate General in New York City.

### **Oskar Halecki Prize**

#### **Mieczysław B. Biskupski and Antony Polonsky**

For their edited volume *Polish-Jewish Relations in North America* (Oxford: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2007).

### **Mieczyslaw Haiman Award**

#### **John Radzilowski**

### **Swastek Award**

**Iwona Korga**, “The Information Policy of the Polish Government-in-Exile Toward the American Public During World War II,” *Polish American Studies* 64:1 (2007), 27-46.

### **Distinguished Service Award**

#### **Thomas Duszak**

### **Creative Arts Award**

**Anthony Bukoski**, *North of Port* (Dallas, Southern Methodist University Press: 2008).

### **Civic Achievement Awards**

#### **Peter Obst**

#### **Janusz Bruks**

#### **Addy Tymczyszyn**

### **Amicus Poloniae Award**

#### **Stephen Leahy**



M. B. Biskupski accepts the Halecki Prize (Leahy photo)



Tom Duszak (left) accepts the Distinguished Service Award for making *Polish American Studies* available online. PAHA President Brian McCook looks on. (Leahy photo)

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## Call for Papers: San Diego, 2010!

POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (PAHA)  
Annual Meeting, San Diego - January 7-10, 2010

PAHA's 2010 Annual Meeting will be held in San Diego, California from January 7-10 as part of the American Historical Association's Annual Conference. Abstracts for papers and panel proposals are now being accepted and should be submitted to the PAHA Conference Coordinator -- Professor Ann Hetzel Gunkel ([agunkel@colum.edu](mailto:agunkel@colum.edu)), Columbia College Chicago, Humanities, History, & Social Sciences, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605, USA. Electronic proposals in email & word format are strongly preferred.

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2009.

Individuals and panel organizers should include the following information when submitting a proposal:

- Paper/Session title(s) (of no more than 20 words)
- Paper/Session abstract(s) (up to 300/500 words, respectively)
- Biographical paragraph or c.v. summary (up to 250 words) for each participant
- Correct mailing and e-mail address for each participant
- Chair (required) and commentator (optional) for the session. Audiovisual needs, if any

There is a special call for Papers on the Polish experience in California and the Western States. If you wish to present a paper or develop a panel discussion about *Polonia* in the U.S. West, please contact Dr Brian McCook ([b.mccook@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:b.mccook@leedsmet.ac.uk)). All suitable topics are welcome.

The Polish American Historical Association holds its Annual Conference in conjunction with the American Historical Association (AHA). The full information about the AHA conference can be found at ([www.historians.org](http://www.historians.org)). PAHA members who plan to attend the PAHA conference only do not need to register for the AHA conference, but are required to register for the PAHA conference by November 1, 2009. Registration may be done on-line at ([www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)) or by sending the \$20.00 registration fee to the PAHA Headquarters c/o Magda Jacques, CCSU, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050. The organizational details for the PAHA awards banquet and its cost will also be available in November.



Christmas Tree, Polish Consulate General, New York City (Leahy Photo)

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# Solicitation for PAHA Awards in 2010!

## Nominations Solicited for PAHA 2009/10 Awards

Nominations are sought for the following awards. Send all nominations to the chair of the awards committee, Dr. Stephen Leahy at [skilleahy@gmail.com](mailto:skilleahy@gmail.com).

### The following award nominations must be received by May 1, 2009.

**Graduate Student Research Paper Award** recognizes an original research paper on Polish-American history and culture produced by a young scholar in the humanities or social sciences. This award includes a \$500 travel grant to present the paper at PAHA's 2009 Annual Meeting. The candidate for the award must be a graduate student at the time of the application or nomination.

### The following award nominations must be received by July 15, 2009.

**Mieczyslaw Haiman Award** is offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans.

**Oskar Halecki Prize** recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. Eligibility is limited to works of historical and/or cultural interest, including those in the social sciences or humanities, published in the two years prior to the year of the award.

**Skalny Civic Achievement Award** honors individuals or groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research and awareness of the Polish-American experience and/or have made significant contributions to Polish or Polish-American community and culture.

**Amicus Poloniae Award** recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community.

**Distinguished Service Award** is given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization.

## Officers & Board of Directors - 2009/2010

**President:** Dr. Brian McCook, Leeds Metropolitan Univ.

**First Vice-President (Nominee Designate):** Dr. Neal Pease, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**Second Vice-President:** Dr. Stephen M. Leahy, Univ. of Wisconsin-Fox Valley

**Secretary:** Mr. Thomas Duszak, State Library of Pennsylvania

**Treasurer:** Dr. James S. Pula, Purdue North Central Univ.

**Executive Director:** Dr. Pien Versteegh, Univ. of Tilburg

**On-line Communications Director:** Dr. John Guzłowski, Professor Emeritus Eastern Illinois Univ.

Dr. M.B. Biskupski  
Central Connecticut State Univ.

### Council

Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann  
Eastern Connecticut State Univ.

Dr. John Bukowczyk  
Wayne State Univ.

Dr. Mary Patrice Erdmans  
Central Connecticut State Univ.

Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz  
Uniwersytet Gdański

Mr. Romuald Byczkiewicz  
Central Connecticut State Univ.

Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel  
Columbia College Chicago

Prof. Dr. Adam Walaszek  
Jagiellonian Univ.

Dr. Iwona Drag-Korga  
The Pilsudski Institute of America

Dr. Anne Gurnak  
University of Wisconsin- Parkside



**Don't  
forget to  
pay your  
2009  
dues!**

To keep up with virtual Polonia  
and  
other Polish organizations' activities:

Logon to [www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

### Now Available

*Polish Political Émigrés in the United States of America, 1831-1864* by Florian Stasik, translated by Eugene Podraza, edited with an introduction by James S. Pula. Boulder: Easter European Monographs, 2002.

Distributed by Columbia University Press.

To order, send a check or money order for \$20, payable to the Polish American Historical Association at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050

### The Polish Review

*The Polish Review* is interested in printing topical issues or sections of issues. Among topics suggested are:

Polish film (including current film, women in Polish film, Polish literature in film, Polish war film, etc.)

Polish folklore (myths, customs, (new folklore," etc.)

American views of Poland (in literature, the press, textbooks, etc.)

Today's ethnic groups in Poland (survey or on individual groups)

Contemporary arts in Poland

Contemporary Polish music

Articles must be of scholarly quality and submitted in packages (three or more articles per package suggested) to:

Editor, *The Polish Review*, 208 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10016

### The Sarmatian Review

An academic tri-quarterly whose goal is to help develop in the United States a scholarly discourse on Poland and non-Germanic Central Europe. The journal specializes in publishing documentary materials in English translation. Its electronic version, *Sarmatian Review Online*, is distributed by Rice University ([www.ruf.rice.edu/~sarmatia](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~sarmatia)). *Sarmatian Review* is indexed in the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies, in PAIS International Database, and in the Central and Eastern European Online Library ([www.ceeol.com](http://www.ceeol.com)) where it is available in PDF format. Our contents are a creative mix of annotated data, scholarly articles, literary texts, and more. *Sarmatian Review* is twenty-six years old. Libraries from Harvard to Stanford subscribe to it.

Subscription price in 2006: \$21/year for individuals; \$28/year for libraries. Overseas: \$28 individuals; \$35 libraries.

Partial contents of April 2009 issue: article on Polish historian Vincent Kadlubek (1116 -1223), article on Stanislaw Wyspianski's *Acropolis*, first English translation of Adam Mickiewicz's First Lecture at College de France, article on Polish history by leading Japanese Slavist, and more.

Address: Post Office Box 79119, Houston, TX 77279-9119

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## Personalalia

**T. Lindsay Baker** directs the W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas, a museum and research center of Tarleton State University at the Thurber ghost town, where Poles represented the second-largest ethnic group following Italians. He spoke at the Texas State Historical Association on "Theft by Revolver, Nitroglycerine, and Fountain Pen: Robberies and Embezzlements at the [Fort Worth, Texas] Stockyards National Bank," and at the West Texas Historical Association on "The Unsolved Murder of Frank Nand Singh."

**Don Binkowski's** first volume of *Tolerated but Never Accepted: Polish American Officials of Michigan* will be published shortly by Xlibris. The volume, Xlibris 48614, can be ordered by calling toll free 1-888-795-4274.

**M. B. B. Biskupski** signed a contract with Kentucky University Press to publish a book entitled: *Hollywood's War with Poland, 1939-1945* and another with Brill in Holland to publish a volume entitled *The United States and the Rebirth of Poland, 1914-1918*.

**John Bukowczyk**, Professor of History at Wayne State University in Detroit, is concluding his fifth year as editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History* a scholarly journal sponsored by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. For membership information, see <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/jaeh.html>. Bukowczyk also edits the Ohio University Press Polish and Polish American Studies Series. Series titles can be ordered at <http://www.ohioswallow.com/series/Polish+and+Polish+American+Studies+Series>.

After serving as Acting Chief Librarian for 18 months, **John A. Drobnicki** was appointed Chief Librarian at York College/CUNY. He has been a library faculty member there since 1995.

**Linda Nemec Foster** gave two poetry readings in conjunction with the Associated Writing Program's annual conference in Chicago in February. She was a member of a panel (along with moderator John Guzowski, Tony Bukoski, John Minczeski, and Leslie Pietrzyk) that was titled "The Country They Come From: Polish-American Writers Read about the Midwest and Poland." The same panel also spoke at the Polish Museum of America. Foster promoted her new chapbook, *Ten Songs from Bulgaria*, at the AWP Bookfair which was sponsored by Cervena Barva Press.

**Gloria S. Goleniak Inglehart** works as a Psychologist for Detroit Public Schools.

At PIASA 's annual meeting in Philadelphia , June 2008, **Regina Gorzkowski-Rossi** chaired a session about the preservation of Polish American legacy. Last November, on the 90th anniversary of the military contribution of Polish Americans towards regaining Poland's independence

Gorzkowski-Rossi received the I.J. Paderewski medal by the SWAP or the Polish Army Veterans Association in America for bringing the Hoover exhibit to Philadelphia and Buffalo. She also raising money to preserve the World War I Memorial Window from the St. Ladislaus in Philadelphia.



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## Personalia

**David Jackson's** book about his Fulbright lectureship at the University of Lodz entitled *Classrooms and Barrooms* was released by Hamilton Books in February, 2009.

**Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann**

published an article "Between Polish Positivism and American Capitalism: The Educational Agents' Experiment in the Polish-American Community, 1889-1914," *History of Education Quarterly* 48, no. 4 (November 2008): 485-507.

**Grazyna J. Kozaczka** holds a Ph.D. in American Literature from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She is a professor of English at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, New York and the director of the Honors Program. Her research interests include American ethnic literatures, women's literature and popular literature. Her writings appear both in English and Polish and she publishes both fiction and nonfiction.

**Jerry Krase**, in 2008 published: "Sucesión étnica en Little & Big Italy," <http://www.bifurcaciones.cl/008/Krase.htm>; "La trasformazione delle Little Italy di New York City", in *Letteratura Italoamericana*, "Scrivere e Riscrivere: Leggere e Rileggere il testo della città via imagine," in *Migrazioni e Paesaggi Urbani*, (trans. *Italian Americans Before Mass Migration*), and "The American Italian Historical Association," *Polish American Studies*. He presented on globalization in Barcelona, and St. Petersburg, Russia, and moderated a panel on migration in Berlin.

**John J. Kulczycki** gave a talk on "Gaps in Polish History" at Loyola University--Chicago. He has published: "My Experience as a Paid Informer of the Polish Security Service," *East European Politics & Societies* 23, No. 1 (Winter 2009), 126-34 and "Identity and Migration to and from Poland, 1944-1950," *Przegląd Polonijny* 23, No. 4 (2007), 37-55.

**Mark Kulikowski** is tracking down self-published work. PAHA members can learn about Leo Kowalski's books can be found at: [www.leokowalksi.com](http://www.leokowalksi.com).

**Brian McCook** published "Becoming Transnational: Continental and Transatlantic Polish Migration and Return Migration, 1870-1924," in *European Mobility: Internal, International, and Transatlantic Moves in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries*, Annemarie Steidl, Josef Ehmer, Stan Nadel, Hermann Zeitlhofer, eds., (Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2009).

**Tom Napierkowski** received the Faculty Governance Award of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Faculty Assembly, an award recognizing the four terms that he has served as president of the UCCS Faculty Assembly.

**Dominic Pacyga** recently published "Chicago: Slaughterhouse to the World" in Paula Lee, ed., *Meat, Modernism and the Rise of the Modern Slaughterhouse* (New England University Press, 2008). Pacyga has been named to the editorial board of both the Center for American Places and the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*.

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## Personalalia

**Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, OSM, Ph.D** spoke at theological conferences at the University of Fribourg and the University of Glasgow. He delivered the Holocaust Day lecture at the Lauriston Jesuit Centre in Edinburg. He co-organized a conference in Krakow, Poland, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the death of Fr. Stanislaw Musial, S.J., the noted leader in ecumenical and Christian-Jewish relations in Poland. The conference was held at the Jagiellonian University, the Ignatium and at the Jewish Community Centre and was co-sponsored by the Jagiellonian, Boston College, the Ignatium, Catholic Theological Union, John Carroll University, the American Jewish Committee and the Tanenbaum Center.

**Don Pienkos'** book, *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: The Story of the Polish National Alliance* (Chicago: Alliance Printers and Publishers) has been released.

**Leslie Pietrzyk's** short story "Ten Things" will be reprinted in *The Mysterious Life of the Heart*, an anthology published by *The Sun* magazine. Additionally, her short story, "Just Another Abortion Story" will appear in the spring issue of *The Gettysburg Review*. She was the Distinguished Visiting Writer in Residence at Converse College during January 2009.

**Babara Proko** has founded a Facebook group for Polish American Editors and Writers. To join, interested writers/editors must have accounts on Facebook (these are free). For more information, please e-mail **Proko** at [lida\\_ancestors@yahoo.com](mailto:lida_ancestors@yahoo.com) or message her on Facebook.

**James S. Pula** published *For Liberty and Justice: A Biography of Brigadier General Włodzimierz B. Krzyżanowski, 1824-1887* (2008); "Tadeusz Kościuszko: a Case Study in Constructed Historical Symbolism" in *The Polish Review* (2008); "Fact vs. Fiction: What Do We Really Know About the Polish Presence in Early Jamestown" in *The Polish Review* (2009); and, "Polish American Contributions to American Life," in Mariusz M. Brymora, ed., *400 Years of Polish Immigrants in America 1608-2008* (2008). He made presentations on "Early Polish Contributions to American History" at the annual conference of the Polish Genealogical Society in Chicago (September 2008) and "Lincoln and Kosciuszko" at the Polish Museum of America, Chicago (February 2009).

**Brother Leo V. Ryan, CSV** (in collaboration with Richard J. Hunter) has recently published "A Field Report on the Background and Processes of Privatization in Poland" in the *Global Economy Journal* (Winter 2008); "The Ten Most Important Economic and Political Events Since the Onset of the Transition in Post-Communist Poland" in the *Polish Review* (June 2008); "An Update on the Polish Economy: Meeting the Criteria for a 'Normal Country'" in the *European Journal of Social Sciences* (June 2008); "An Interim Report on the Polish Economy" in *The Sarmatian Review* (September 2008) and "The Legacy and Prospects of Polish Privatization" in *the International Research Journal of Finance and Economics* (November 2008).

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## Personalia

The paperback of **Suzanne Strempek Shea's** eighth book, *Sundays in America: A*

*Yearlong Road-Trip in Search of Christian Faith*, will be released by Beacon

in March. Suzanne is finishing a novel, starting another, and teaching workshops.

Visit **[www.suzannestrempekshea.com](http://www.suzannestrempekshea.com)** for details. She's also organizing a writer's conference at Bay Path College in

Longmeadow, Mass. (**[www.baypath.edu](http://www.baypath.edu)**), where she's been named writer-in-residence.

**Wanda Wilk** has died after a long illness. Wilk established the Polish Music Center at the USC Thornton School of Music in 1985. In lieu of flowers, donations in Wanda Wilk's memory should be sent to: Polish Music Center USC, Thornton School of Music, 840 West 34th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90089.

**Claude Wiatrowski's** new book, *Historic Colorado: Backroad Trips to Historic Towns, Cities, Sites & Wonders*, will be published in June 2009 by Voyageur Press. Claude's polka band can be seen and heard at **<http://www.youtube.com/planetpolka>**. He is the drummer in these videos.

**Adeline Wujcikowski** reports that the 49th International Convention of the Polish Singers Alliance of America will be held May 27 through May 30, 2010. District IX of the PSAA will host the convention at the Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo, New York. The four day convention will consist of business sessions, a choral competition and a concert of combined choruses under the direction of Dr. Thomas Witakowski.

## PIASA News

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) will be held on June 13-14, 2009 at the **Hyatt Regency Jersey City Hotel 2** Exchange Place, Jersey City, overlooking the New York Harbor with a stunning sky line view of lower Manhattan. This two day multi-disciplinary conference on Polish, East Central European and Polish American studies is being organized in cooperation with the **Polish Cultural Foundation, Clark, N.J.**

The theme will be “**1989: Annus Mirabilis; 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Poland's Independence**”. The Program Committee includes Dr. Jakub Grygiel, (Johns Hopkins University); Dr. Patrice Dabrowski, (Harvard University); Dr. Paul W. Knoll, (University of Southern California); Dr. Charles S. Kraszewski, (Kings College) ; Dr. Neal Pease, (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee); Dr. Kathleen Cioffi, (Princeton University Press); Dr. Donald E. Pienkos, (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee); Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, (Polish American Congress), and Dr. James S. Pula, (Purdue University).

Sessions dealing with the natural sciences and the history of science are being organized by Dr. Anne Hermanowski-Vosatka, (Merck Research Laboratories); Dr. Hanna Kelker, (New York University School of Medicine) and Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, (New York Medical College).

For more information, see **[www.piasa.org](http://www.piasa.org)**.

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## Poetry Corner

The following poem is from Leonard Kress' new collection, *The Orpheus Complex*, available from Main Street Rag, ISBN 978-58848-172-2.

### FOR ULA

after the Polish of Jan Kochanowski

Hangars draped with clothes you'll never wear;  
they miss the warm touch of your body. Moths  
will soon begin to feed upon that cloth;  
What rhetoric will persuade me now to clear  
your closet out? The iron sleeps beside  
the starch, ribbons remain wrinkled and knotted,  
under the golden clasp...Flowers on your dress, potted  
in the fabric of our grief, bloom since you died.

Useless flowered garments, they should be boxed  
and given to the poor. I fear we've lost  
too much in boxing you instead, this crate  
shipped off to Hades, its cargo—my fate.  
For I've just sealed this oak chest's heavy lid,  
forever shutting away the dowry and the bride.

Leonard Kress has published four books of poems influenced by his love of Poland and Polish culture. He has translated Adam Mickiewicz's essential Polish poem "Pan Tadeusz" which is available online at HarrowGate Press. He currently teaches religion, philosophy, and art history at Owens College in Ohio. He is married to the artist/printmaker, Mania Dajnak.

## ENCYCLOPEDIA UPDATE

PAHA's project to create an encyclopedia based on the Polish experience in America is moving toward completion. As of March 1, 2009, more than 100 authors have completed over 658 entries totaling more than 402,000 words. The completed project will contain over 1,000 entries, as well as photographs and other illustrations. When completed, *Polish-American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* will give scholars, students, researchers, and the general public a well-researched, organized, informed, and accurate starting point for further research on the Polish experience and presence in America as well as providing editors, journalists and students with a basic resource for their own work.

To successfully complete this project, PAHA needs your assistance and support. You can help in two ways – (1) if you are interested in authoring articles contact the editor at [jpula@pnc.edu](mailto:jpula@pnc.edu) and he will send you a listing of the entries that have not yet been assigned; (2) please consider a tax deductible donation to the "PAHA Encyclopedia Project" to help preserve our heritage. All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the published encyclopedia. To make your contribution, send a check or money order payable to the "PAHA Encyclopedia Project," to the Polish American Historical Association, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, 06050.

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## President's Report Continued

In his capacity as the Editor of the *Polish American Studies* and Chair of the Publication's Committee, Dr. Pula reported that the journal enjoys a nice rate of submissions. During the last year the *Polish American Studies* were accepted for membership in the JSTOR and History Cooperative electronic journal collections, giving us a global exposure. Dr. Pula thanked especially John Bukowczyk and Tom Duszak for their leadership in this process. Dr. Pula also announced the sad news about the death of Joseph Skalny of the Skalny Foundation, which has been so generous to *Polish American Studies* for over a quarter century. Taking into consideration the Skalny family's strong sense of community service, the editor proposed to rename PAHA's Civic Achievement Award as "The Skalny Civic Achievement Award." The board voted unanimously to accept this motion.

Dr. Stephen Leahy, the *Newsletter* Editor, discussed some suggestions to improve the newsletter. The poetry corner was found to be a very welcome addition. Dr. John Bukowczyk's report indicated that so far nine volumes have already appeared in the Ohio University Press Polish and Polish-American Studies Series. Two other books currently are in press, one other is under contract, and two additional manuscripts and several proposals are currently under review. The series continues to solicit new projects and manuscripts. Board and all PAHA members are encouraged to promote the books.

Dr. Pula then provided an update on the encyclopedia project – please see elsewhere for it in this newsletter. Mr. Tom Duszak presented an in-depth report on the work of the e-Access Committee, which he headed. This report will be a basis for a more permanent e-Access Committee, which will continue to monitor our options in this area. Dr. Mary Erdmans announced the results of the PAHA board elections which were conducted in the fall. Ballots were sent to 473 members; 100 ballots were returned. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for the list of the new board members and officers. A constitutional amendment was also approved. Article 10, section 3 shall now read: "The candidates for elective office shall be selected by a Nominating Committee, which will consist of the two immediate past presidents and the current president of the organization." The board agreed that the least recent ex-president will chair this committee. Special elections for the position of the First VP will be held in the Spring (see ballot enclosed in this newsletter).

The board then discussed PAHA's relationships with several other Polonia organizations, including the Pilsudski Institute, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, World Research Council, and the ACPC. The board considered a possibility to hold its midyear meeting in conjunction with the PIASA conference in Jersey City, June 13-14, 2009.

The board members and conference participants attended a reception at the PIASA headquarters on the evening of January 2, where they had a chance to view PIASA's archives and library. On the evening of January 3, the PAHA annual awards reception took place in the historic building of the Consulate of Poland in New York. The board would like to thank Mr. Przemyslaw Balcerzyk and the Consulate staff for their hospitality and generosity. The next PAHA conference will take place in San Diego, California in January 2010. Please look for the information on the arrangements and call for papers elsewhere in this newsletter.

Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann

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