

# **Polish American Historical Association Newsletter**







#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Allow me to begin these remarks with an expression of gratitude to the members of the Polish American Historical Association for allowing me the honor



of serving as president of our organization and to my predecessor Professor Neal Pease and, indeed, to all the Officers and Board Members of the last two years for the diligent and professional manner in which they have guided PAHA. I pledge to do my best to fulfill the duties which have been entrusted to me and to continue the work which our previous administration has so ably initiated and managed.

At the same time, I must also note that members of PAHA have surrounded me with extraordinarily talented and dedicated fellow Officers and Board Members. Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, Dr. James Pula, Mr. Thomas Duszak, Dr. Pien Versteegh, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, and twelve exceptional Board Members guarantee that PAHA is in good hands.

The work of this team is already evident in the next two scheduled meetings of PAHA. Under the energetic and skillful guidance of Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, PAHA will hold its Midyear Meeting in Buffalo, NY, on May 15-16, 2013. See p. 2

# 🕮 PAHA BOARD MEETING IN BUFFALO 🕮

This year's midyear meeting of the PAHA Board will take place in Buffalo, NY on 16 May 2013. A day before – 15 May - upon the invitation from the Polish Arts Club in Buffalo, Dr.

James Pula will deliver a Program entitled Kościuszko's Return to America. In his lecture Professor Pula will describe Thaddeus Kościuszko's visit to the United States after the American Revolution, his "secret" diplomatic mission to France. and his famous



American will. On Thursday, 16 May 2013, PAHA will hold its midyear board meeting at the Cellino & Barnes Conference Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo. It will be followed by a tour of the Polish Room collections at the UB Lockwood Library. During the lunch break Dr. Stephen M. Leahy will host a discussion on the placement of the Polish Studies within the Global Studies programs.

In the afternoon, a session entitled Ethnic and Not Quite White: Poles and Others in Urban America will be held thanks to the support of the University at Buffalo, SUNY Polish Studies Program as well as the Department of Transnational Studies, and the Department of History.



## PAHA'S ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON 2-5 JANUARY 2014



PAHA's 2014 Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., on January 2-5, 2014as part of the American Historical Association's Annual Conference. The call for submissions of abstracts for the Meeting's Program is included in this issue of the newsletter. The proposals will be selected by a panel chaired by Dr. Thomas Napierkowski, PAHA President. The deadline is on April 15, 2013. Email the abstracts of your proposals to Dr. Thomas Napierkowski, at tnapierk@uccs.edu.

**PAHA Newsletter** Spring 2013

# **■ PRESIDENT'S LETTER, from p. 1**

In addition to conducting the midyear business of PAHA, the meeting will include events with the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo and with the Polish Studies Program, the Department of Transnational Studies, and the Department of History of the State University of New York at Buffalo. This will give PAHA an opportunity to connect with one of the most active Polish American communities in the nation and with scholars who share common interests.

In a similar way, under the direction of First Vice President Grażyna Kozaczka and Executive Director Pien Versteegh, PAHA's next Annual Meeting is taking shape. The meeting will be held on January 2-4, 2014, in Washington D.C. At this meeting the Officers and Board Members will conduct PAHA's Annual Business Meeting; but the heart of the Annual Meeting will, of course, be the scholarship presented and discussed over three days both formally in panels and sessions and informally in conversations.

I encourage all PAHA members to consider proposing papers or panels for the Annual Meeting. PAHA is the perfect forum for the dissemination of research on Polonia. We are also exploring the possibility that the Embassy of the Republic of Poland will be able to host PAHA's Awards Reception.

The Polish American Historical Association is a unique scholarly organization dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of scholarly materials focused on Polish American history and culture and on their European origins; this is a mission to preserve and evaluate the past of our community and to help shape its future—a future which looks bright.

Please share this newsletter and your commitment to PAHA with others.

Thomas Napierkowski

PAHA President

# PAHA BOARD MEETING, from p. 1



Photo by Anna Mazurkiewicz

The session will be opened by the Director of the Polish Studies Program at UB – Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler and the Vice President of PAHA – Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka. The keynote lecture will be delivered by Dr. John Bukowczyk. Professor Bukowczyk will explore the questions of racial prejudice among the Poles and other immigrants from Eastern, Southern, and Central Europe and suggest avenues for future research of white ethnic workers and their urban communities in the twentieth century. It will be followed by comments delivered by invited discussants from the University at Buffalo (SUNY): Dr. Keith P. Griffler, Chair of the Department of Transnational Studies and Dr. Victoria W. Wolcott, Professor of History.

After a short reception, there will be a round table discussion chaired by Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann. It will revolve around the theme of *Polish American Studies Today-challenges and opportunities*. The confirmed participants, members of the PAHA Council, include: Dr. Iwona Korga, Executive Director of the Józef Piłsudski Insitute of America, Dr. M.B.B. Biskupski, President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Thomas Napierkowski, President of the Polish American Historical Association. The Buffalo and Western NY Polish American community leaders and organizations which had already confirmed their participation are: the Polish Arts Club, the Polish Legacy Project, the Polish American Congress WNY, and Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Association.

#### PROGRAM HOURS AND LOCATIONS:

#### Wednesday, 15 May 2013

19:00–21:00 Program by James Pula, *Kosciuszko's Return to America* at the Polish Arts Club, 4255 Harlem Rd. Community Center (Amherst NY, 14226)

# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR 🍩





Every year we learn something new. This spring, I enjoyed the Persian New Year -Navruz, at the Spring Equinox, bringing new hope and joy with new brighter days, filled with sunlight. Now I have three New Years to celebrate - in

January, February and March!

We have a lot to enjoy in Polish American communities. In this issue of our newsletter we announce the PAHA Award Winners 2013, a distinguished company of scholars, artists, and community activists. We also have the usual assortment of reports and notices, including a Welcome Letter from our new President, Dr. Thomas Napierkowski and a Farewell Letter from our Past President, Prof. Neal Pease.

Our Poet of the Spring is Linda Nemec Foster, but we also pay tribute to poet Stuart Dybek, recognized as a "genius" by his McArthur Prize. We are proud to share the honors received by textile artist Monique Chmielewski Lehman, whose travels to China brought magnificent results. Other honorees noted here are: Casimir Pulaski, Barbara Krafftówna, Poles of Jamestown, and yours truly. With 19 other activists of the 42-year old Modjeska Club, I'm happy to have received a medal for the promotion of Polish culture from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage in Poland. I'm sure lots of you have such medals already, but mine is quite new!

# Maja Trochimczyk, Ph.D.

PAHA Newsletter (ISSN-0739-9766) © Polish American Historical Association, 2013. Published semiannually by the Polish American Historical Association, and distributed to its members. To join PAHA or subscribe to Polish American Studies: www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html. Individual memberships: \$40 per year. Institutional memberships: \$98 per year. Mailing Address: PAHA at Central Connecticut State University 1615 Stanley St., New Britain, CT 06050. Maja Trochimczyk, Editor. maja@moonrisepress.com. Contributors: John Guzlowski, Poetry Editor, James Pula, Peter Obst, Anna Mazurkiewicz, Thomas Napierkowski, and Neal Pease.

# PAHA BOARD MEETING, BUFFALO, from p. 2

#### Thursday, 16 May 2013

10:00–13:00 PAHA Board meeting Cellino & Barnes Conference Center (509 O'Brian Hall, UB North Campus, Amherst NY, 14261)

13:30 – Lockwood Library Polish Room tour, followed by the lunch break

17:00–18:45 Academic Session: John Bukowczyk, Ethnic and Not Quite White: Poles and Others in Urban America; Invited Discussants: Keith P. Griffler, Victoria W. Wolcott.

19:00 - Reception (Conference Center)

19:30–21:00 Polish American Studies Today-challenges and opportunities – round table.

> For more information and assistance call/e-mail: tel. (716) 645-0665; annaalic@buffalo.edu



PAHA Board in New Orleans, January 2013. L to R: James Pula, Grażyna Kozaczka, Thomas Napierkowski, Neal Pease, Thomas Duszak, Thomas Zawistowski and Anna Mazurkiewicz.

# CALL FOR PAPERS - PIASA 2013 MEETING

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America will be held at Hyatt Arlington Hotel, on Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15, 2013. The Program Committee encourages submissions in all aspects of Polish Studies. Complete sessions are preferred, but individual papers will be considered. Sessions are two hours in length and include three papers of about 25 minutes, with Moderator and, where possible, Commentator. Panels of up to five shorter presentations can also be proposed. Proposals should be sent to Paul W. Knoll at: knoll@usc.edu by 15 April 2013.



# NOMINATIONS FOR PAHA'S 2014 AWARDS DUE BY JULY 15, 2013



The Polish American Historical Association solicits nominees for PAHA's 2014 Awards. PAHA encourages members and non-members to nominate members and non-members for its awards. Please send nominations by July 15, 2013 to the chair of the Awards Committee, Anna Mazurkiewicz (Department of History, University of Gdansk), anna.a.mazurkiewicz@gmail.com

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.

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

Joseph Swastek Award is given in recognition of an outstanding scholarly contribution to Polish American Studies.

Skalny Civic Achievement Awards honor individuals or groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research and awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas.

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

Creative Arts Award recognizes contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas.

Kulczycki Prize recognizes an important dissertation on the Polish experience in the United States offered to a graduate student or younger scholar within the first five years after awarding of the doctorate degree to assist in the publication of a book or monograph.

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

Call for nominations and applications for the Graduate Student Research Paper Award -Due by July 15, 2013

This award recognizes a substantial original research paper on Polish-American history and culture produced by a young scholar in the humanities or social sciences. Papers should be sent via e-mail to: anna.a.mazurkiewicz@gmail.com before 15 July 2013. In addition to the recognition and paper publication offer from the interdisciplinary, refereed scholarly journal Polish American Studies, the winner will receive a \$500 travel grant to present the paper at the PAHA 2014 Annual Meeting (January 2-5, 2014, Washington D.C.). The conference is held in conjunction with the American Historical Association. The candidate for the award must be a graduate student at the time of the application or nomination.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** Any submission must contain: a paper (up to 25 pages, 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman 12 pt.), its author's (a graduate student) short biographic note, 250-word abstract, and one letter of reference. The results will be announced by September 1, 2013.



PAHA Past President Prof. Neal Pease with Prof. Ewa Thompson, 2013 Skalny Civic Achievement Award Recipient in New Orleans, January 2013. Photo by Karen Majewski.



# **PAHA 2013 AWARDS WINNERS**

# by Neal Pease



As the concluding event of its recent annual meeting in New Orleans in early January 2013, PAHA held its yearly awards banguet at the Bourbon House restaurant in the French Quarter. On that occasion, the following list of awardees was announced:

Mieczyslaw Haiman Award, for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans:

Professor Emeritus Richard Lukas, who earned his doctorate in History in 1963 from Florida State University, has published a series of significant books that deal with Poland, Polish-American relations, and Polonia's place in these matters.

His book, The Strange Allies: The United States and Poland, 1941-1945 (1978) was one of the earliest scholarly works to study in depth the World War II relations between the United States and Poland's exile government. In this book, Dr. Lukas brought to light the role of American Polonia and its political action organizations (in particular the National Committee of Americans of Polish Descent, KNAPP, and the Polish American Congress), and their place in Polish-U.S. relations. This book remains as current and relevant today as it was years ago when it first appeared. His second major work, Bitter Legacy: Polish-American Relations in the Wake of World War II (1982) dealt with, among other significant matters in post war Polish history and Polish-American relations, the little appreciated subject of the humanitarian efforts on Poland's behalf that were organized on behalf of the Polish people.

In addition, Dr. Lukas's subsequent book, The Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-1944 (1986), remains the most complete and fair-minded effort to place what the Nazis did in Poland to all its inhabitants in its proper context. This work is also of special importance for Americans of Polish origin who otherwise would have practically no serious source of information about the Holocaust in occupied Poland except that which has focused on the tragedy that befell the country's Jewish citizenry. This book has won high praise and a third edition has recently appeared, again with a forward by the eminent historian Norman Davies. In 1994 Prof. Lukas was honored to receive the Janusz Korczak Award from the Anti-Defamation Committee of the B'nai B'rith.

Oskar Halecki Award, for an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States, published in the two years prior to the year of the award:

**Brian McCook**, Borders of Integration: Polish Migrants in Germany and the United States, 1870-1924 (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2012).

Borders of Integration compares Polish immigrant miners in Pennsylvania in the United States and in the Ruhr Valley in Germany. McCook challenges the views that immigrants assimilated into their host societies. It represents the best of international research. Brian McCook is an Associate Dean at Manchester Metropolitan University.

**Distinguished Service Award**, for valuable and sustained service to PAHA:

Dr. Thaddeus Gromada and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America

Thaddeus Gromada joined PIASA in 1961, holding posts such as Secretary General, Vice-President, and Executive Director. He also served as a Professor of European History at New Jersey City University. While he edited and contributed books dealing with Polish history, Gromada and PIASA constantly supported the many activities of PAHA.

**Swastek Prize**, for an outstanding article in a given volume of Polish American Studies, as nominated by the editorial board of the journal:

Myron Momryk, "Ignacy Witczak's Passport, Soviet Espionage and the Origins of the Cold War in Canada," Polish American Studies 68, no. 2 (2011): 67–84.

Amicus Poloniae Award, for significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community:

Harlan J. Berk, founder and president of Harlan J. Berk, Ltd., Chicago, IL, was the person who noticed that items brought to his business for sale had come from the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. He did the right thing and notified authorities, thereby setting in motion the recovery of some \$5 million worth of irreplaceable artifacts missing from the Polish Museum collections.





# PAHA 2013 AWARDS, continued from p. 5

Skalny Civic Achievement Awards, for 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:

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel has worked effectively to raise funds for causes like the Polish Cultural Center in Washington, District of Columbia, and for the establishment of the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish History, initially established at the University of Virginia. She served as president of the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs and was an agent of change in promoting the advancement of this organization, now the American Council for Polish Culture.

David Motak, a graduate of Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, has actively and continuously promoted Polish culture in a host of ways over the years. He even traveled to Asia in December 2011 to educate countless people about Polish Christmas customs. Motak is also the highly talented editor of the Polish Falcon fraternal magazine. This outstanding multi-color 32 page fraternal publication appears six times a year and is filled with interesting information about Poland past and present, the Polish American heritage, and Polish Falcons activities. His work has helped make this fraternal publication one of the best in the Polish American community.

Mary Anselmo, President of the Illinois State Division of the Polish American Congress and Member of the PAC Council of National Directors. As already noted, Mary deserves recognition for her dedicated leadership as president of the Illinois PAC. Of further note is her service on the special national PAC committee that successfully revised the Mission Statement of the Polish American Congress in 2011 to take into account the Congress's duties and goals in the world of free and democratic Poland, one of America's staunchest allies in NATO.

Professor Roman Solecki, a retired professor of mechanical engineering from University of Connecticut. Prof. Solecki is the author of a popular website "Prominent Poles," an active participant of Polish cultural internet discussion groups, and a tireless defender of Poland's good name in the internet and the American media.

**Professor Ewa Thompson** of Rice University, a scholarly specialist in the field of Polish literature, is the founder and Editor of the Sarmatian Review, which since 1981 has taken up a host of subjects relevant to Poland, Polonia, and Polish American studies, always in an engaging thought-provoking fashion.

Creative Arts Award, for contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas:

Brigid Pasulka, the descendant of Polish immigrants, lives and works in Chicago. In the early 1990s, Pasulka spent a year in Kraków, Poland, learning the language and exploring Polish history and culture. While in Kraków, she witnessed the economic and social transformations, which Poland went through after the fall of Communism. A Long Long Time Ago and Essentially True is Pasulka's first breakthrough novel, which brings the readers to the early 1990s Kraków, while at the same time recalling a love story as it unfolds in the small village in the Polish mountains in the times of World War II and the Stalinist period. A Long Long Time Ago is a winner of several national awards, including PEN Hemingway and a National Geographic Traveler Book of the Month.

The awards banquet is always one of the highlights of PAHA's annual activities. On this occasion, attendees had the additional pleasure of the company of two of the honorees, **Professor Thompson and Mr. Motak**, who were able to accept their awards in person.



#### 🚳 AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION SEEKS NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES 🚳



As part of its ongoing effort to develop our service to members, the AHA is expanding its outreach for the Member News section of Perspectives on History and the AHA Today blog. As an affiliate member of the AHA, we are encouraging your organization to submit news and announcements about AHA Members through the Perspectives on History web submission (http://www.historians.org/perspectives/upload/), or by email, perspectives@historians.org. News may include announcements of awards, prizes or other distinctions new publications, mentions in the press, etc.



# **PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

# by Neal Pease





The recent conclusion of my two year term as president of the Polish American Historical Association provides an occasion to look back on the accomplishments and activities of the organization during that time. My guess is that few

would contest a list of highlights for 2011-2012 that looked something like this:

- The publication of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* by McFarland Press in 2011.
   Edited by James Pula, with contributions from many PAHA members based both in the United States and abroad, this outstanding reference work fills a major gap in the scholarly literature in our field. It is so valuable and well carried out that it is hard to imagine how we did without it for so long.
- Two consecutive very successful annual conferences, one in Chicago, the veritable "capital" of the American Polonia, and most recently amid the charms of New Orleans, the "Crescent City."
- A spectacular midyear 2012 meeting in Poland held in conjunction with the international conference "East Central Europe in Exile," organized and hosted by PAHA's newly elected second vice president, Professor Anna

Mazurkiewicz and her colleagues at the University of Gdańsk. A few days earlier, PAHA had a strong presence at another conference on "American Ethnicity: Rethinking Old Issues, Asking New Questions," held at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, organized by Professor Dorota Praszałowicz. Participation in meetings such as these, bringing together scholars with common interests from many lands, will not only broaden the horizons of PAHA, but will increase its usefulness and presence within the world of scholarship.

And, of course, all these things were entirely my doing... Just seeing if you were paying attention, there. Actually very little of this is to my credit. You know, it's really pretty easy to serve as president of an organization that is full of smart, dedicated people who are willing to take initiative and pitch in for the common purposes we share. You just sort of sit back and let them do what they do so well.

So, thanks to the officers, members, and staff of PAHA, the people who really make the association run. So as I look back, I'm confident that under the leadership of our new president, Thomas Napierkowski, PAHA will continue to prosper as the flagship organization for the study of Polish American history and culture for many years to come.

Neal Pease

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



# PETER OBST'S PHOTOGRAPHS IN A BOOK ON PHILADELPHIA





Peter Obst contributed 42 color photographs to a new book just published by Shiffer Books: *Monuments and Memorials of Philadelphia* written by Allan M. Heller.

The three prominent Polish-American monuments in the city (Kościuszko, Pulaski and Kopernik) are included among the 170 views of Philadelphia sculpture.

For more information see: <a href="https://www.polishcultureacpc.org/books/Phila">www.polishcultureacpc.org/books/Phila</a> monuments.html



# OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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# PADEREWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND – CONCERT ON APRIL 21, 2013



Each year the Paderewski Fund sponsors a Polish college student to come to Georgetown University for a semester to study American style democracy. To learn more about the Fund go to: www.paderewskischolarship.org. This year's Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 3:00 pm at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland Auditorium located at 2640 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. The American Virtuosi (Borowsky Family) have offered their performance free of charge to benefit the Fund. Please see www.theamericanvirtuosi.com for information on this marvelous group which has won worldwide acclaim. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland has donated their auditorium and reception space for this event, organized by the Paderewski Fund's President, Ed Rowny, who commented: "Last year John Robilette donated his brilliant piano performance and the Fund was able to raise \$16,000 after expenses through ticket sales, ads in the concert program and through donations. I would like to raise even more money this year to expand the scholarship program. I have set a goal to raise at least \$25,000 through ticket sales, program ads and donations. Since there won't be any rental fees this year, I am positive that this goal can be reached. Please support our Fund in any way that you can. You can place ads in the concert program, purchase tickets for the performance, and donate to the Fund by going to www.padpiano.org."



# 🕮 ASSOCIATION FOR SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES 🥯



The next annual meeting of the ASEEES, (formerly the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies) will take place in Boston, on November 21-24, 2013. The call for proposals is now closed. The association's Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies is awarded annually for the best book in any discipline, on any aspect of Polish affairs. This prize was known as the Orbis Prize until 2011 and is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Jerzy Kulczycki, former owners of the Orbis Books Ltd. of London, England. In 2012 the Kulczycki Prize was awarded to Brian Porter-Szűcs, for Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland (Oxford University Press). The jury of the 2013 Kulczycki prize includes: Keely Stauter-Halsted, University of Illinois, Chicago, Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Tamara Trojanowska, University of Toronto. More information may be found on the ASEEES website: http://www.aseees.org/





# PAHA'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. JANUARY 2014 PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS DUE BY 15 APRIL 2013

Please submit abstracts of your papers that you wish to present at the PAHA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., by April 15, 2013, to PAHA President, Dr. Thomas Napierkowski who will chair the Program Committee. The email is: <a href="mailto:thapierk@uccs.edu">thapierk@uccs.edu</a>. PAHA's Meeting is associated with the Annual Conference of the American Historian Association, full information about the AHA conference can be found at www.historians.org.

#### POLISH AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



The 3rd Annual Meeting and Open House of the



Polish American Librarians Association took place on Sunday, February 24, 2013, noon to 4 p.m., at the Polish Museum of America, 984 North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago. Award-winning Polish-

American author Stuart Dybek delivered the keynote address, took questions from the audience, and signed copies of his books. The author program was followed by a performance by the Music Academy of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra and "Little Stars" Theater Workshops.

The Annual Meeting included a luncheon buffet, a short general meeting and an interactive discussion with some of the movers and shakers of the Polish American Library Association—an opportunity to get involved in PALA's goals and objectives. Information was available about the role of librarians in the newly formed Jan Karski Educational Foundation and in the "All of Polonia Reads to Kids" initiative. Tours of the Polish Museum of America and the Museum Library were available at the end. The meeting also featured the presentation of the second Vera May Barnes Zubrzycki Scholarship to a student from Dominican University.

The mission of the Polish American Librarians Association is to positively impact services





# PULASKI'S 268<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



The annual commemoration of Casimir Pulaski's birthday at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., took place a day after the actual anniversary of his birthday (6 March 1745) on Thursday, 7 March. The ceremony, with Poles in America Foundation's President Jack Pinkowski and his wife Monica, was held at the bust of Pulaski inside the Capitol building. This fine white marble portrait of the General, who is one of only seven individuals granted honorary U.S. citizenship, is the work of the talented Polish sculptor Henryk Dmochowski.



Jack Pinkowski and his wife Monica at the bust of Casimir Pulaski within the US Capitol, March 2013.

The ceremony of honoring General Pulaski's true birthday was originally instituted to call attention to the fact that he was born in Warsaw and baptized on March 6, 1745, with several pairs of godparents that included Mazowsze Voivode Stanisław

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### POLISH AMERICAN LIBRARIANS, from p. 9 provided to library patrons of Polish descent and individuals interested in Polish culture and to enhance professional knowledge by developing forums for discussion and networks of communication among library staff working with Polish collections and patrons of Polish origin.

Annual membership dues for librarians are \$25. Library support staff, students, retirees, and others are eligible for a \$15 special rate. Membership in PALA includes admission to the Annual Meeting and Open House; you can join or renew at the PALA website www.palalib.org

PULASKI'S BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION, from p. 9 Poniatowski, father of Stanisław August, the last Polish king. For additional information about Pulaski Birthday Commemoration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., see:

www.poles.org/Pulaski

NOTE: The other six Honorary Citizens of the U.S. are: Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965), Raul Wallenberg (1912-1947, a Swedish diplomat who saved many Jews), William Penn (1644-1718, founder of Pennsylvania), Hannah Callowhill Penn (1671-1726, his wife, Pennsylvania's administrator), Mother Theresa (1910-1997), and Marquis and General La Fayette (1751-1834, a French aristocrat who became an officer in the American Revolution.



#### STUART DYBEK AT THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

by Janusz Zalewski 🏻 🕮





Polish-American writer and MacArthur Fellowship recipient Stuart Dybek delivered the Keynote Address at the meeting of the Polish-American Librarians

Association, held at the Polish Museum of America on 24 February. Stuart Dybek began the lecture by reading his poem "Penance," from his first collection Brass Knuckles (1979) reprinted in 1980 in an anthology of Polish-American poetry *Blood of Their Blood*, edited by Victor Contoski. Then, because this was a librarians' meeting, he talked about his countless visits to Chicago libraries, which were to him both secret and sacred places in his childhood, where he could immerse himself in dreams, and "sail with Magellan, Jack London" and others. Marshall Square Library was the one he said he attended most. He talked about being a reader and about the act of reading being a form of art. Readers, Dybek says, are dreamers and artists. Reading is definitely a more active form of perception than viewing other forms of art, which are closer to plain consumption. [...]

Dybek said that on the East or West Coast he is known as a Chicago writer, but for someone who lives in Chicago it is clear that Chicago writers are categorized as neighbor-hood writers. As much as Saul Bellow wrote about Hyde Park, and Farrell and Algren wrote about their neighborhoods, Dybek's writing is immersed in Chicago's South Side, in particular Pilsen. One of the

reasons he keeps writing about his neighborhood is that it is inescapable. Assimilation, race, ethnicity (which is a currency of Chicago writing), dreams of democracy, promise of America, all this makes a microcosm, in which it's easier for a writer to meet his readers. Ethnicity especially is an enormous gift to a writer, says Dybek. The writer also addressed his heritage and talked about Busia (grandma), how much she affected him. He referred to a story "Blood Soup" as a tribute to her. Finally, interacting with the audience, he recalled his multiple other stories, e.g., one about his Dziadzia (grandpa), who along with a mule was the only one to survivor a disaster in a coal mine.

[Report abridged and reprinted from John Z. Guzlowski's blog, Writing the Polish Diaspora]

Born in Chicago in 1942, **Stuart Dybek** is the author of three books of fiction: I Sailed With Magellan, The Coast of Chicago, and Childhood and Other Neighborhoods. Both I Sailed With Magellan and The Coast of Chicago were New York Times Notable Books, and The Coast of Chicago was a One Book One Chicago selection. Dybek has also published two collections of poetry: Streets in Their Own Ink and Brass Knuckles. His fiction, poetry, and nonfiction have appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's, The Atlantic, Poetry, and many other magazines, and have been widely anthologized, including Best American Fiction and Best American Poetry. Among Dybek's numerous awards are a PEN/Malamud Prize, a Lannan Award, a Whiting Writers Award, an Award from the Academy of Arts and Letters, several O.Henry Prizes, and fellowships from the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 2007, Dybek was awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He teaches at Northwestern University. [Adapted from NU website]



# 🕮 A NEW HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILED IN JAMESTOWN by Peter J. Obst 🕮





On the afternoon of July 20, 2012, a group of officers and members of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), accompanied by government officials, dignitaries and guests gathered on the roadside of Virginia Route 31 near the entrance to the site of the historic Jamestown Settlement. It was here, in the vicinity of historical markers devoted to German and African settlers of Jamestown and the Indian Princess Pocahontas, that a new marker has been placed, to record the arrival of Polish craftsmen at the site in 1608. These men came on the second supply ship, the "Mary and Margaret," early in the history of the settlement when skilled hands and industrious individuals were needed to help the struggling English colony survive.

Dedication ceremonies began with Debbie Majka, president of the ACPC, welcoming the approximately 50

persons who assembled on the grassy area near the marker. At the same time a sporadic light summer shower started sprinkling the area necessitating the use of umbrellas. After her greeting, Father Philip Majka, of no relation to Debbie, offered up a prayer.

Several guests speakers commented on Polish contributions to American history including: Mayor of Williamsburg Claude Haulman, Wendy Musumeci from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and Colonel Lafayette Jones of the US Army, Retired. Tom Payne, chairman of the marker committee, explained how the marker came about while Piotr Konowrocki, Consul General of the Polish Republic, who came from Washington DC, rounded out the ceremonies. Then, Edward Pinkowski, 95 years old, one of Polonia's most respected historians and a person who initiated the installation of several historical markers in Pennsylvania, pulled on the cover and as those present applauded, the marker was officially unveiled.

President Debbie Majka read out the words written in black script on the silver surface of the marker: Skilled craftsmen of Polish origin recruited by the Virginia Company began arriving in Jamestown aboard the "Mary and Margaret" about 1 Oct. 1608. Poles contributed to the development of a glass factory and the production of potash, naval stores, and wood products. Soon samples of their work were shipped back to England. The workers were so highly prized that they were assigned apprentices so that their skill "shall not dye with them." Capt. John Smith praised their work ethic in his writings. Court records indicate that as a result of a dispute, Poles were granted full voting rights on 21 July 1619.

Fr. Thomas Machalski, Rector of the Polish Seminary at Orchard Lake Michigan delivered the closing prayer. Additional photographs of the ceremonies may be seen on www.poles.org. Information about the American Council for Polish Culture is on: www.PolishCultureACPC.org.

PHOTO CAPTION: Tom Payne, marker committee chairman, holds umbrella over the head of Polish-American historian Edward Pinkowski as he unveils the Jamestown maker.

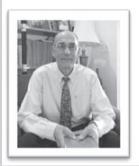


#### SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLORE ASSOCIATION & FOLKLORICA



The Slavic and East European Folklore Association is devoted to an exchange of knowledge among scholars interested in Slavic and East European Folklore. SEEFA promotes instruction and research in Slavic and East European folklore, organizes panels on the subject at national and international conferences, encourages the preparation of teaching materials and translations, and fosters exchanges. The Association's journal is Folklorica and is available by subscriptions (3 years) and digital archives. More information: www.seefa.org

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# POETRY CORNER Edited by John Z. Guzlowski Linda Nemec Foster



#### In the Old Town--Warsaw, 2003

In the center of the old town: the two policewomen talking constantly with their short mini-skirts and black stiletto heels; the old woman with the hunched back and iridescent red hair; the young child tethered with the yellow plastic harness; the bored street vendor selling collapsible multicolored spheres filled with empty air; the man in the blue shirt, comfortable with his armless torso; the homeless woman in the church vestibule feeling the wooden legs of the crucified Christ and wanting to believe they are real; the crippled man obsessively rubbing his fingers with holy water; the effusive expatriate from America who used to live in Detroit and now owns a fashionable cafe. "Anyone can be anybody in this part of the reinvented world," he says to you with your borrowed map and constant stare. "You should try it."

#### The Waterfall in the Mountains

The young boy is in love with the waterfalls in Jelenia Gora. He can never get enough of the sound of water flowing over rocks. "Turn on the faucet in the mountains--more and more," he cries. His mother can only give him stones to throw into the pooling ponds. She can say "I love you" in six different languages. Not enough, never enough. Tomorrow they leave to go home to the gray of Katowice. Tomorrow the mother will offer him nothing but her two arms, quiet and empty.

Linda Nemec Foster is the author of nine collections of poetry including Amber Necklace from Gdansk (finalist for the Ohio Book Award) and Talking Diamonds (finalist for ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year).

Her poetry from *Ten Songs* from Bulgaria (Cervena Barva Press) has been rendered into song by Hungarian musician Laszlo Slomovits and is recorded on the CD, Cry of Freedom (Moringa Records, 2013).

She is the founder of the **Contemporary Writers Series** at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI.



#### 🕮 COSMOPOLITAN REVIEW: A TRANSATLANTIC REVIEW OF THINGS POLISH, IN ENGLISH 🗐



A transatlantic quarterly for people who like to read, write and think about Poland... in English. CR covers a broad range of topics: books, art, theatre, films, education, media, and contemporary life, as well as style in all forms including architecture, fashion and food. Commentary, whether expressed in op-ed, interviews or conversations, communicates ideas among Poles and non-Poles alike, bridging expats in Poland with the Polish diaspora worldwide and the growing number of Poles in the "Heart of Europe" who enjoy reading in English. CR provides a home for readers and writers to share views, often leavened with a touch of humor, about the many challenges and joys of being Polish: the language, the names, the tough 20th century, the best poetry and the bravest men and women in the world, the North American passion for folk dancing, the faith and the irreverence, music both classical and jazz, and just plain tenacity. More information: www.cosmopolitanreview.com



#### SARMATIAN REVIEW ON POLISH & POLISH AMERICAN AFFAIRS



# THE SARMATIAN REVIEW

The Heritage of Polish Republicanism



Sarmatian Review is an academic tri-quarterly on Polish and Polish American affairs. It is available by subscription (Harvard and Stanford subscribe to it). Its website is hosted by Rice University (www.ruf.rice.edu/~sarmatia). Back issues are free of charge and are available at the above address.

Last year's issues include a seminal article on the tradition of Polish Republicanism by Krzysztof Koehler (UKST, Poland), an analysis of Polish political strategies by Gen. Walter Jajko (IWP, Washington, DC), a bold analysis of Czeslaw Milosz's and Tadeusz Gajcy's poetry by Brigitte Gautier (University of Lille, France), and a splendid prose translation of Adam Mickiewicz's Pan Tadeusz (in installments) by Christopher Zakrzewski (Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, Canada). There are also book reviews in each issue, as well as a unique SR Data section.

SR was conceived by a group of American Polish scholars who noted a remarkable absence of Polish points of view in American scholarly periodicals. SR is aware of the requirements of scholarly objectivity, but the choice of topics and epistemological assumptions of writers defy these requirements. SR is a periodical for people who

desire serious discussion of Polish affairs and are willing to make an effort to participate in it. If you like SR, please click "Like" on our FB page (Sarmatian Review - Polish Institute of Houston). Thanks!



#### MODJESKA ART AND CULTURE CLUB GIVES AND RECEIVES AWARDS 🍩



On October 9, 2012, at the opening gala of the Polish Film Festival in Los Angeles, the renowned Polish actress Barbara Krafftówna received the 2012 Modjeska Prize awarded by the Modjeska Club for lifetime achievement. The eminent actress started her career in 1946 and is celebrated for hundreds of theater, film and TV theater roles in Poland and California. Her oeuvre includes 62 outstanding theatrical roles (in theaters in Gdynia, Łódź, Wrocław, Warszawa, and Los Angeles), 33 roles in TV theater and over 43 film roles (Wojciech Has's Jak być kochang, 1962; Andrzej Wajda's Popiół i diament, 1958; etc.). She specialized in the theater of the absurd (Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz and Witold Gombrowicz) and is beloved for her cabaret roles, including the legendary Kabaret Starszych Panów. Krafftówna received over 20 awards and medals from the government of Poland, including the Commodore Cross of Polonia Restituta, Medal Gloria Artis, and more. In 1983, for the title role in Mother (Matka) by Witkacy, directed by Leonidas Dudarew Ossetyński in Los Angeles, Krafftówna received 11 awards.



On March 15, 2013, 20 past presidents and board members of Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club in Los Angeles, received medals from the Polish government for their contributions to over 40 years of promoting Polish culture in America. The founder of the Club, Ossetyński (1910-1989) received the Knight Cross of Merit of Poland (Polonia Restituta) while 19 others were the recipients of the Order of Merit for Polish Culture awarded by the Minister of Culture, Arts and National Heritage. Dr. Franciszka Tuszyńska and Mr. Tadeusz Bociański received their distinctions posthumously. Other awardees were: Jerzy Gassowski, Wanda Baran, Stefanie Powers, Stefan Wenta, Vitold and Zofia Tchaikovsky, Edward and Maria Piłatowicz, Tadeusz Podkański, Jolanta Zych, Krystyna Kuszta, Krystyna Okuniewski, Danuta Żuchowski, Andrzej Maleski, Dorota Olszewska, Maja Trochimczyk, and Elżbieta Kańska.



# MONIQUE CHMIELEWSKI LEHMAN – "MY LIFE" IN CHINA











In November 2012, a tapestry "My Life" by Polish-American artist, Monique Chmielewski Lehman, was featured at the Seventh International Biennale "From Lausanne to Beijing" in Nantong, China. The tapestry so impressed the organizers that they used its copy on posters and banners around town. Monique Lehman said: "I created the tapestry My Life in summer 2012. Most of the artists organize retrospective exhibit at the mature point of their artistic career but I decided to create one large artwork where I could use all my skills and knowledge about art and tapestry medium. The 2.5-meter square tapestry has a diagonal composition with my portrait as a young girl looking at hills and valleys of my life. Brighter and lighter colors represent the happy times and dark browns hide my sorrows and tears. Life of an emigrant separated from friends and European culture was not easy in the first years of my life in America 35 years ago." She then explained her technique: "The tapestry My Life was woven sidewise like most of my tapestries. The design was planned on the computer, but all the details were added during weaving. All the colors and shapes have symbolic meaning. My technique is different from that of the American artists. My colors and values are painterly. I am able to achieve this by dyeing my own wool. Tapestry weaving is my favorite technique. It allows me to create huge art pieces which can be easily transported and displayed. Tapestry is a much slower technique then painting but more durable. Even if the colors will fade away in a few thousand years, the design will be still recognizable because it is embedded in the weaving structure."

The artist participated in the Contemporary International Fiber Art Exhibitions for several years and served as a jury member in 2011 and 2012. For her achievements in the field of fiber arts, Monique Lehman received an honorary degree of Professor from Zibo Vocational Institute, in the city of Zibo, Shandong Province, China. The Institute hires overseas experts to give lectures (http://zbvc.cn/english/6.asp).

A graduate of the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, Monique Lehman is an accomplished and original tapestry artist whose work may be found in museum collections around the world (the Vatican, Long Beach Museum of Art, Central Museum of Textiles in Lodz, Poland and the Space Museum in Cape Canaveral, FL), as well as in many American public buildings, city halls, churches, hospitals and synagogues. Her monumental tapestries such as the parochet for Temple Beth El, La Jolla, CA, or the Portrait of St. Francis, typically take several years to complete. Her tapestries were shown in exhibitions in Poland, the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and China. She promotes tapestry art by organizing international shows in Europe, China and USA. One of her internationally exhibited projects for 100 artists from 20 countries was Memorial Tapestry commemorating the victims of 9/11. Her most recent promotional project is creating short videos based on photographs of tapestries sent by artists from around the world.

PHOTOS: "My Life" as a banner in Nantong, China; the artist with her work; a tapestry fragment; Monique Lehman with her Honorary Diploma.





Thomas Hollowak, Langdale Library's associate director for Special Collections at the University of Baltimore, will retire on 30 June 2013. Hollowak has directed the Special Collections Department for more than 22 years, but has worked in libraries for an amazing 40 years. Hollowak's extensive career includes a long list of teaching credits, presentations, honors and awards, including the UB Alumni Association's Spirit of Excellence Award. Among his publications are the books University of Baltimore: A 75th Anniversary History; From Mobtown to Charm City; and Baltimore 68: Riots and Rebirth in an American City. The latter two are anthologies he co-edited with Jessica Elfenbein. In 2009, Hollowak and his colleagues received the Award of Merit for the preservation and interpretation of state and local history by the National Council of Public Historians, as well as the Outstanding Public History Project award, and the rarely given Wow Award from the American Association for State and Local History. Hollowak has had a long and continuing association with Baltimore's Polish

community, has been involved in a number of community organizations, and has researched the groups' early history. During retirement, he will continue his extensive newspaper research in preparation for writing a variety of books on different aspects related to the Polish community, during the period 1868 to 1914.

Linda Nemec Foster taught poetry workshops for the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in February. On January 26, she was invited by Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell to read her poem, "La Grande Vitesse," as part of the program for his State of the City address to community leaders. Linda has had new poems published in recent issues of Artful Dodge, The MacGuffin, I-70 Review, basalt, Passages North, Presa, and Song of the Owashtanong: Grand Rapids Poetry in the 21st Century. Three of her poems published in literary journals in 2012 have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Her collaboration--Cry of Freedom--with Hungarian musician Laszlo Slomovits will be released on CD in April. The project involves Foster's poems from her chapbook, Ten Songs from Bulgaria (Cervena Barva Press), that have been rendered into original songs by Slomovits. For more information, contact Linda at MFApwGRR9@aol.com

James S. Pula published "Poles and Polish Americans to 1870," in Vol. I of Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration (Elliott Barkan, ed.), "Poles and Polish Americans, 1870-1940," in Vol. II and "Poles and Polish Americans, 1940-Present," in Vol. III, and edited Vol. 57, no. 3 (Summer 2012) and Vol. 57, no. 4 (Autumn 2012) of The Polish Review. He gave a paper on "New Orleans Polonia in 1860" at the annual meeting of the AHA/PAHA, New Orleans, LA, January 2013, made a presentations on "Taduesz Kościuszko's Role in the American Revolution" at the Polish Center in Milwaulkee, and spoke on the development of U. S. immigration policy at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also co-authored with PAHA member Eugene Dziedzic the book New York Mills, a volume in the Arcadia series of community histories.

Maja Trochimczyk published "Created by Stalin, Embraced by Emigrants? Mazowsze, Śląsk and the Polish Folk Dance Movement in America" in Cosmopolitan Review vol. 4, no. 1-2, Winter-Spring 2013. Her poetry and photography appeared in the Epiphany Magazine no. 16 (October 2012), and her poems were also published in Quill and Parchment (vol. 141, March 2013), Loch Raven Review (Winter 2012), the Original Van Gogh's Ear Anthology, Poetry and Cookies anthology, and various collections by Poets on Site. She stepped down from her role as President of the Modjeska Club, while joining the Board of Directors of the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Greater Los Angeles Chapter.





Louis L. Patalita, 88, of Dewitt, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. He was born in Utica, New York, on October 14, 1924, and graduated from Holy Trinity School, Utica Free Academy and the University of Cincinnati, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Mr. Patalita was a licensed professional engineer in the state of New York. He worked at Carrier Corporation for nearly 40 years in a variety of engineering and management positions in New Orleans, New York City and Syracuse before retiring in 1986. He was a founding member of the Polish Heritage Club of Syracuse, serving as editor of its newsletter for many years.

> **PAHA Newsletter** 15 Spring 2013



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