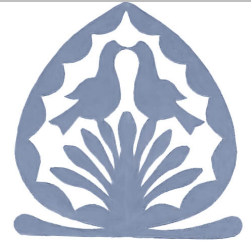




## Polish American Historical Association Newsletter

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### PAHA Elects its New President, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz of Poland



At the Awards Ceremony that closed the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association in Denver, Colorado, the Polish American Historical Association announced the election of its new President, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz of the University of Gdańsk, Poland who will serve in this role until January 2019. It is a historic moment and a result of increased collaboration and international communications (the internet, electronics, and air travel): for the first time PAHA will be led by a President based in Poland! In 2015-16, Dr. Mazurkiewicz served as PAHA's First Vice-President during the term of Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka, professor of English at Cazenovia College, NY. She also is a book review

editor for Poland, for PAHA's journal, *Polish American Studies* – sharing that honor with book review editor, Dr. Mary Patrice Erdmans of Case Western University. [Read about Dr. Mazurkiewicz and the President's Letter on p. 2](#)

### PAHA's Awards at the 74th Annual Meeting, Denver, January 2017

In her last duty as PAHA outgoing President, Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka of Cazenovia College announced the winners of PAHA's Annual Awards. On January 8, 2017 at the Polish Club in Denver, Colorado. The ceremony concluded the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the 131<sup>st</sup> annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, and featuring many notable presentations.

The **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. The 2016 Halecki Prize was presented to Prof. **Mieczysław B. B. Biskupski**, The Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, Central Connecticut State University for his book, *The Most Dangerous German Agent in America* (NIU Press, 2015). This is Prof. Biskupski's third Halecki Prize. Previously he was honored for: *Hollywood's War with Poland, 1939-1945* (2010), and *Polish-Jewish Relations in North America* (Polin Vol. 19, 2008), that he co-edited with Prof. Antony Polonsky in 2007. Prof. Biskupski also received the Miecislau Haiman Medal in 2003. [Continued on Page 3](#)



Photo, L to R: Awardees Maja Trochimczyk, Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf, Alicja Swica, President Grażyna J. Kozaczka, Awardees Brenda Bruce, Alvin M. Fountain II Tomasz Skotnicki, Honorary Consul of Poland, and Katarzyna Zak, the Polish Club.

## Letter from the President, Anna Mazurkiewicz

Dear Members of PAHA,

It is with great delight that I address this letter to You in the newly assumed capacity of a President of the Polish American Historical Association. As the first President of PAHA who permanently lives and works in Poland I consider it a great personal honor and a sign of trust that Poland and its academics are free, independent and equal partners to their American colleagues.

As with any academic organization my primary task is to serve its membership. I am indebted to my esteemed predecessor – Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka - who provided an outstanding service to our organization and I hope I will be able to live up to standards she set for this position. I would like to welcome new council members who will be joining the PAHA Board for the term 2017-2018: Dr. Dominic Pacyga, Bożena Nowicka McLees, and Dr. Joanna Wojdon; and thank these esteemed scholars who had completed their service. Dr. Thomas Napierkowski, Dr. Ann Gunkel, and Marta Cieślak all gave their time and skills to PAHA – a voluntary, professional organization established to study and promote the Polish American history and culture – Thank you!

I am taking over the presidency at the time PAHA is in excellent shape – thriving academically as evidenced by our conferences and the content of the peer-reviewed academic journal *Polish American Studies* proficiently edited by Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann. With young and emerging scholars as well as fellow academics studying other ethnic groups joining us for the conferences and publications, PAHA's network is expanding. At the same time interest in our activities among Polonia grows largely due to untiring efforts of our Communications Director Dr. Maja Trochimczyk. Our Facebook page maintained by Dr. Stephen Leahy has already attracted close to five thousand users. Taking all of this into consideration, my main task is to keep the momentum going – with the help of the talent of our newly elected First Vice President – Dr. Anna Muller, management skills of our Executive Director – Dr. Pien Versteegh and the financial genius of Treasurer Dr. James Pula.

The new term opened with a PAHA Annual Conference held in Denver in January 2017. In addition to the most interesting papers delivered at the Convention Center, PAHA's meeting in the "Mile-High City" meant also meeting the Polonia of Colorado. The PAHA Awards Ceremony was held at the Dom Polski in Denver. It's president Katarzyna Zak opened the doors of the Polish Home to PAHA offering its outstanding hospitality to the members and invited guests of honor. With the assistance of the Polish consulate in Los Angeles (consul Ignacy Żarski) the awards ceremony was enriched with a concert by two Polish American musicians: Karolina Naziemiec and Robert Lewandowski. I am truly grateful for their support.

Writing this letter in Gdańsk, I have to add that I plan to use the opportunity resulting from my location to strengthen the already established bridges of academic collaboration to promote PAHA and its accomplishments among wider audiences in Poland. PAHA's mid-year meeting will take place in Kraków in conjunction the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Polish Studies which will be held on June 16-18, 2017. PAHA is co-sponsoring a conference organized by the Emigration Museum in Gdynia on September 21-22, 2017 which will be entirely devoted to the Polish diaspora in North America. Our organization will also be represented at the Fifth Congress of Polish Scientific Associations Abroad (17-21 October 2017).

Should you have any ideas for the PAHA Board and Officers, or wish to initiate a project related to the Polish American experience - I certainly would like to hear from you. After all, any professional organization can only be as strong as its membership!

*Anna Mazurkiewicz*  
*University of Gdansk, Poland*  
*President of the Polish American Historical Association*

Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz is the Chair of the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Gdańsk. She was a fellow at the Notre Dame University, the University of Minnesota, SUNY Buffalo, and the Central European University in Budapest. Her scholarly interests include: the Cold War; the United States after World War II; U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations; media system in the United States; U.S. policy towards the countries of East Central Europe; political activity of refugees from East Central Europe in the United States after World War II; and political emigration from East Central Europe in 1945-1989. An author of three books, she edited three volumes, including *East Central Europe in Exile* (Cambridge Scholars, 2013) which won the Oskar Halecki Prize in 2015. She is the recipient of PAHA's Swastek Prize for the best article published in *Polish American Studies* (2012).





Pres. G. Kozaczka with Dr. Maja Trochimczyk (Creative Arts Prize), Brenda Bruce and Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II (Amicus Poloniae Award), and Tomasz Skotnicki, Honorary Consul of Poland in Colorado (Skalny Civic Achievement Award).

The **Amicus Poloniae Award** recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community. It was presented to **Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II and Brenda Bruce** who co-founded the Paderewski Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2014 ([paderewski-festival.org](http://paderewski-festival.org)). Dr. Fountain, the President of the Festival, is a former administrator with the State of North Carolina and for more than 25 years he taught history at North Carolina State University. In 2008, Dr. Fountain was appointed as an Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland. The Vice-President and Secretary of the Festival, Brenda Bruce is an accomplished pianist, harpsichordist, acclaimed teacher, and accompanist dedicated to the promotion of classical piano performance of the highest quality.

**Dr. Stephen Leahy** of Shantou University, China, received the **Distinguished Service Award**, given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization. Dr. Leahy's crucial role as the co-founder and moderator of PAHA's Facebook group is just one of his many achievements as a long-time PAHA Board member, dedicated to the promotion of the association and its research interests world-wide.

The **Swastek Prize** is awarded annually for the best article published in a given volume of PAHA's peer-reviewed journal, the *Polish American Studies*. This award, established in 1981, is named in honor of Rev. Joseph V. Swastek (1913-1977), the editor of *Polish American Studies* for many years, and a past president of PAHA. The Editorial Board of the *Polish American Studies* recommended that the Swastek Prize be presented to **Dr. Paweł Ziętara** of Warsaw, Poland for "Troubles with 'Mela': A Polish American Reporter, the Secret Services of People's Poland, and the FBI" (PAS 72, No 1, Spring 2015). Prof. Ziętara's article assembles massive, painstaking research and presents a portrait of communist activity in the USA in the postwar period that is not well known. It brings to light a subject both significant and fascinating, and is based almost entirely on original archival sources.

The **Creative Arts Prize** was bestowed on **Dr. Maja Trochimczyk**, for her achievements as a poet, especially her two books dedicated to Polish victims of WWII, *Slicing the Bread* (Finishing Line Press, 2014), and *The Rainy Bread*, (Moonrise Press, 2016). Her books of poetry include *Rose Always*, 2008; *Miriam's Iris*, 2008; *Into Light*, 2016; and two anthologies, *Chopin with Cherries*, 2010, and *Meditations on Divine Names*, 2012. Dr. Trochimczyk received many honors for her work, including a Polish government's medal for the promotion of culture, fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, and PAHA's Distinguished Service Award and the Swastek Prize.

» [Continued on Page 4](#)

The **Skalny Civic Achievement Awards** honor 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. The 2016 Skalny Awards recognized the following individuals:



*President Kozaczka with Award winners, Marta Alicja Swica (Skalny Award) and Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf (Travel Grant)*

**Marta Alicja Swica** of Minneapolis, MN, a former Business Manager, Scholarship Program Chair, and member of the Executive Board of the Polanie Club Minneapolis and St. Paul, an important cultural association of Polish women, active since the 1927 and distinguished through their vast publishing activities. After the dissolution of the Club, Ms. Swica led the effort to secure its historical records and successfully negotiated their placement at the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, and the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

**Tomasz Skotnicki**, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Denver, CO, since 2005, is strongly linked to local Polonia communities, first in Santa Barbara where he organized Polish community events to celebrate national holidays. In Colorado, he co-organizes visits of representatives of Polish government including President Lech Walesa, organizes consular events, and cooperates with the Polish Club and the Kosciuszko Foundation. Mr. Skotnicki actively promotes Polish culture and history and helps Poles who are in need.

**Katarzyna Zak**, President of the Polish Club in Denver, who has made numerous contributions to the promotion of Polish culture and activities of local Polish society, including numerous events, support for the Polish library, and more. She is a member of the Polonia Council convened by the Consul General of Poland in Los Angeles.

President of the Polish American Film Society, **Elizabeth Kanski** and Artistic Director of the Polish Film Festival in Los Angeles, **Vladek Juskiewicz**, recognized by the 2016 Skalny Award for their work as organizers of the Film Festival, held in Los Angeles for the past 16 years and promoting Polish cinema and international film collaborations ([www.polishfilmla.org](http://www.polishfilmla.org)) through hundreds of screenings, lectures, and panel presentations in Los Angeles and Orange County, in collaboration with CSUN, USC, UCLA and other partners.

**The Graduate Student Research Paper Award** was presented to **Joanna Kulpińska** from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland for her paper "Multigenerational Migration Chains of Families from Babica: An Attempt at Typology." The newly instituted **Graduate Student/ Young Scholar Travel Grant** was offered to **Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf** from the University of Gdańsk, Poland, for her paper "Creating Identity: Discussion around Kashubian and Polish Identity in Canada and Poland." [!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010\_img.jpg\) \*Continued on Page 5\*](#)

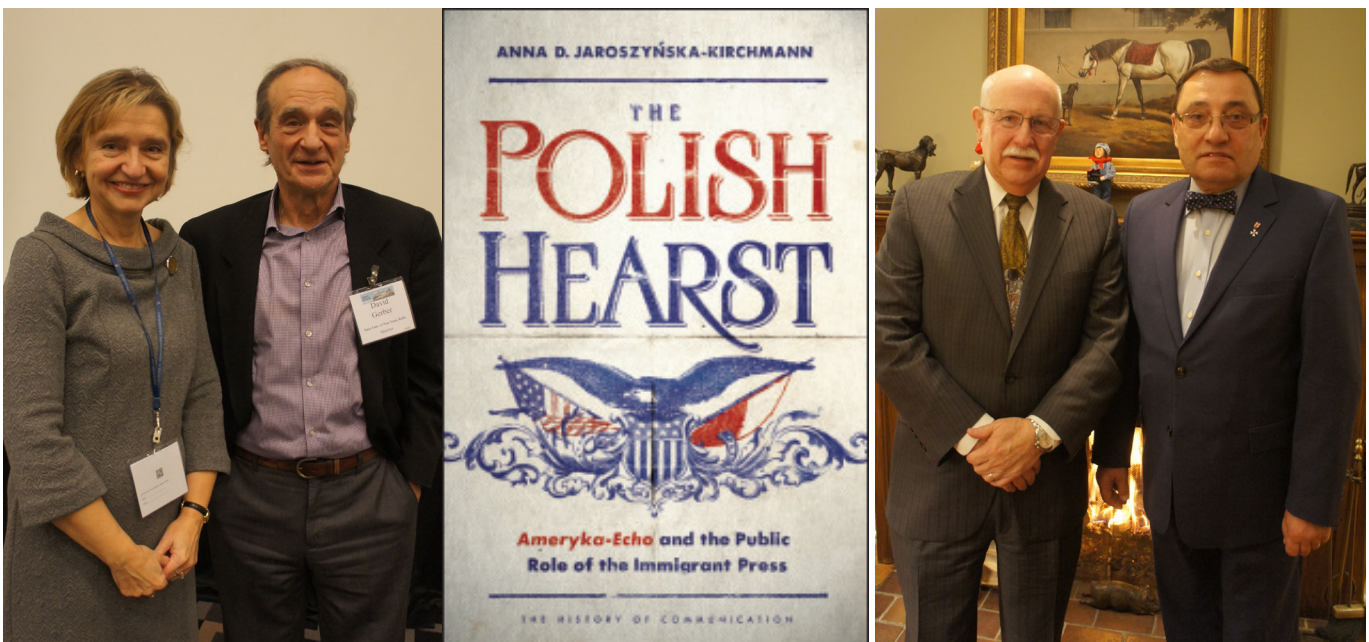




*Skalny Award Winner, Katarzyna Zak shared her award with the Vice-President of the Polish Club and musicians, Karolina Naziemiec, jazz vocalist and violist and Robert Lewandowski, pianist.*

The Awards Reception was held on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at the Polish Club of Denver. Jazz vocalist and violist Karolina Naziemiec and pianist Robert Lewandowski performed a concert of holiday music.

**The Program of PAHA's 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** highlighted diverse aspects of Polonia's culture, presented from historical, sociological, anthropological, and literary perspectives with a focus on immigration issues. Sessions included: *Immigrant and Ethnic Identity*; *Constructing Ethnicity in Polish American Literature*; *Narrating Migration: Subjectivities and Communities in Poland and the United States*; *Prominent Poles in America*; *Between Europe and North America: (Im)migration and Social Justice*; and *East Central Europe: What's in the Name? The View from Exile*. An "Author Meets Critic Session" explored *The Polish Hearst: Ameryka-Echo and the Public Role of the Immigrant Press* by Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann. Papers on architect Thomas Lewinski, pianist-composer-statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski, and writer Anthony Bukoski focused on eminent individuals. The meeting concluded with a Roundtable Discussion led by Anna Muller and Maja Trochimczyk, on *Polish-Americans for Social Progress, Jamestown through the 21st Century*.



*Prof. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann with Prof. David A. Gerber, SUNY at Buffalo, after a session dedicated to her book, *The Polish Hearst*. Two Honorary Consuls of the Republic of Poland, Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II of North Carolina and Mr. Tomasz Skotnicki of Colorado during a reception for conference Participants on January 6, 2017.*



## Call for Papers for PAHA's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Due April 15, 2017



PAHA's 75th Annual Meeting will be held on January 5-7, 2018 in Washington, D.C. as part of the 132nd American Historical Association's Annual Meeting. The theme for the AHA conference is "transnational and global histories of race and ethnicity." (For more information visit the AHA website: [www.historians.org/annual-meeting/future-meetings](http://www.historians.org/annual-meeting/future-meetings)). The PAHA's focus within this theme is on the Polish-American experience in comparative perspective. We invite scholars who study the Polish American communities, the greater Polish diaspora as well as those who deal with migration, ethnic, and regional studies and would like to join the discussions related (but not limited) to the following topics:

- Migration, settlement and assimilation patterns
- Ethnic experience and interethnic encounters
- Intersections of ethnicity, class, gender and race
- Ethnic lobbying and occurrences of ethnic mobilization
- Polish Americans and the restoration of Poland's independence, 1918

We invite proposals for sessions as well as individual papers related to all aspects of the Polish American experience (in history, sociology, literature, art, music, etc.) on both American continents. The deadline for submissions is **April 15, 2017**. Abstracts for papers and panel proposals are now being accepted and should be submitted to PAHA President and Chair of the Program Committee, Anna Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D. Instytut Historii, Uniwersytet Gdański, ul. Wita Stwosza 55, 80-308, Poland, [anna.a.mazurkiewicz@ug.edu.pl](mailto:anna.a.mazurkiewicz@ug.edu.pl)

Electronic proposals in email and word format are strongly preferred. Individuals and session 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 (up to 250 words) for each participant
- Mailing and e-mail address for each participant
- Chair (required) and commentator (optional) for the session
- Audiovisual needs, if any.

Please be advised that it is not always possible for PAHA to provide AV equipment for all sessions due to the high cost of mandatory rental from AHA.

All presenters are encouraged to consider submission of their papers for publication in PAHA's peer-reviewed journal, *Polish American Studies*.

[www.polishamericanstudies.org/CallForPapers.html](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/CallForPapers.html)



## PAHA's Graduate Student Travel Grants - Apply by April 15, 2017



PAHA encourages graduate students and emerging scholars (up to three years after graduation) to apply for its Graduate Student/Young Scholar Travel Grant. Two such **grants of \$500.00 each** will be awarded to offset travel costs to attend the 2017 PAHA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The grants will be awarded by the Program Committee for two **best conference proposals dealing with the Polish American experience in any historical epoch, scholarly field, or aspect submitted by junior scholars**. To apply please submit:

- your paper proposal (as required by the general CFP)
- a brief letter of application (no template will be provided)
- a complete CV and one letter of recommendation from a senior scholar (e.g. thesis advisor).
- one letter of recommendation from a senior scholar (e.g. thesis advisor)

In order to receive the travel grant it is mandatory to present the paper at the conference in person. Awardees will receive remuneration during the Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C. Failure to present the paper in person at the annual meeting shall result in the immediate cancellation of the grant. The deadline for application, to be submitted with the paper proposal, is **April 15, 2017**. Please send your paper proposals and travel grant applications to Chair of Awards Committee, Dr. Iwona Drag Korga, [i.korga@pilsudski.org](mailto:i.korga@pilsudski.org).











## PAHA Seeks Nominations for Its Awards, Due July 15, 2017



Please submit nominations for PAHA's Awards to be bestowed at the 75th Annual Meeting in 2018 to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Dr. Iwona Drag Korga, at [i.korga@pilsudski.org](mailto:i.korga@pilsudski.org). Candidates for the following awards should be presented, with a brief citation explaining the reason they should receive a given award.

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



## Submit Ideas for Polonia's History in Objects by July 1, 2017



In 2018, the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the celebration, PAHA plans to publish an illustrated volume on the immigrant experience of Polish Americans, people who travelled across the Atlantic to establish a new life in North America. Everyday objects play an especially important role in the life of any immigrant. They remind of significant moments and experiences, and testify to the various paths taken and the aspects of heritage the immigrants want to pass on to the next generations. Such objects can tell a story of their past, emotional involvement, aesthetic preferences, ethical life choices, and leisure activities. They provide insight into the material culture, diverse ways of living, and pasts that they wish to either remember or forget. The materials objects carry both local and global dimensions; they can define us directly or indirectly through associations. Finally, the decision to keep certain objects not only speaks about our past life, but about us in the present as well.

The Polish American Historical Association is announcing a wide, American search for material objects that speak about and to the Polish American experience. We are looking for photos and description of objects that traveled with their owners as symbols of lives and homes left behind. We also seek objects acquired during the journey and after the arrival to the new place, as something that symbolizes individual activities and identity shaped here; for example, clothing, household items, toys, musical instruments, and various small or large self-made objects that tell a piece of a family's history. We are especially interested in the history that a given object carries, its individual story, values, joys, and tribulations it symbolizes; and particular events or people from the past it commemorates. Appreciating the importance and value that given objects play in personal life, we are NOT asking for objects themselves, but rather for a photo(s) (even a photo made with phone cameras) of a given object. The quality and setting of the photo is not relevant at the time of submission. Along with the photo itself, we are requesting a description of the object itself along with a family story for which the object is relevant. The photos we receive will be submitted to a committee, which will select some to be included in the publication. If needed, we will organize a professional photo session of a given object.

Please submit your photo(s) and short description of the chosen object, together with your names, address, and the best way to contact you by JULY 1, 2017, to Anna Muller at [anmuller@umich.edu](mailto:anmuller@umich.edu) or via mail to Anna Muller, Department of Social Sciences, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48128, USA.



The Polish American Historical Association's interdisciplinary refereed scholarly journal (ISSN 0032-2806; eISSN 2330-0833) has been published continuously since 1944. It appears biannually and is available world-wide through JSTOR, a database of full-text research journals. PAS is indexed in *America: History and Life*; *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*; *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*; *Bibliographic Index*; *Current Abstracts*; *Historical Abstracts*; *MLA International Bibliography*; *PIO - Periodical Index Online*; *PubMed*; and *TOC Premier*. The journal is also ranked by the Polish Ministry of Science and Education. To subscribe visit: [www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas.html).

The editors welcome scholarship including articles, edited documents, bibliographies and related materials dealing with all aspects of the history and culture of Poles in the Western Hemisphere. They particularly welcome contributions that place the Polish experience in historical and comparative perspective by examining its relationship to other ethnic experiences. Contributions from any discipline in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. The Swastek Prize is awarded annually for the best article published in a given volume of *Polish American Studies*. Manuscripts or inquiries should be submitted in Microsoft Word via e-mail attachment to the editor at [anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org). Manuscripts are evaluated based on their originality; relevance to the mission of the journal; the clarity of the thesis, presentation and conclusions; and the depth of research based upon the nature of the sources cited. Contributors whose first language is not English should have their work reviewed for clarity prior to submission. The journal employs a "double-blind" review process with each submission being read by a minimum of two reviewers, and usually three. Comments of the reviewers are summarized by the editors and provided to the authors.

► **Editor:** Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University, [anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org)

► **Book Review Editor:** Mary Patrice Erdmans, Case Western Reserve University, [mary.e@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:mary.e@polishamericanstudies.org)

► **Book Review Editor for Poland:** Anna Mazurkiewicz, University of Gdańsk, Poland, [anna.m@polishamericanstudies.org](mailto:anna.m@polishamericanstudies.org)

► **Editorial Board:**

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## PIASA's Call for Papers for the 2017 World Congress, Due April 15, 2017



The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite proposals for PIASA's 74th Annual Conference to be held in Kraków, Poland, June 16-18, 2017. Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. Since the Institute values comparative sessions, individual papers need not focus on Poland or the Polish diaspora, but it is hoped that at least one paper in each session will do so. Sessions including presenters from more than one nation are encouraged. Each session is scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or about 20 minutes per paper. The conference language is English and all conference rooms will be equipped with AV for the use of PowerPoints and CD/DVD presentations. It is expected that acceptable conference papers will be submitted for possible publication in *The Polish Review* subsequent to the conference.

To submit a paper or complete session, please send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, a tentative paper title and brief abstract (one short paragraph is OK) for all presenters to the chair of the program committee at [jpula@pnw.edu](mailto:jpula@pnw.edu). The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2017. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee.





## OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN 2017-2018

**President: Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, University of Gdańsk, Poland**

### PAHA OFFICERS

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Mr. Robert Synakowski, Syracuse Polish Home  
Dr. Joanna Wojdon, University of Wrocław, Poland

### ABOUT PAHA

The Polish American Historical Association is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture, and its European origins. Founded in 1942 as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, PAHA became an autonomous scholarly society in 1948. As an affiliate of the American Historical Association, PAHA promotes research and dissemination of scholarly materials focused on Polish American history and culture, as part of the greater Polish diaspora. PAHA publishes a newsletter and a biannual scholarly peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *Polish American Studies* (published by the University of Illinois Press, with past issues on JSTOR, [www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/subscribe.php](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/pas/subscribe.php)). The organization sponsors an annual conference which serves as a forum for research in the field of ethnic studies. PAHA membership is open to all individuals interested in the fields of Polish American history and culture, and immigration studies.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT identifies the following goals:

- To promote the study of Polish American history and culture as part of the greater Polish diaspora.
- To encourage and disseminate scholarly research and publication on the Polish American experience in the fields of history, the social sciences, the humanities and the arts, and advance scholarly collaboration across disciplines.
- To support collection and preservation of historical sources regarding the Polish past in America.

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Hamtramck is a small city in Michigan that is surrounded by the city of Detroit. With its long tradition of immigrants settling within its borders, it is acclaimed as a model of American diversity. Initially a German settlement, the growth and expansion of Hamtramck in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century should be credited to the establishment of the Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company plant. Majority of its workers came from Poland or from the Polish communities in Pennsylvania, as a job in the car industry was much more attractive than working in the mines. Because of the large concentration of Poles, Hamtramck became almost an archetypical Polish American community. By the time the factory reduced its workforce and ultimately closed its doors in 1980, an overwhelming majority of Hamtramck's residents (close to 90%) were of Polish descent. Today the number of Polish Americans living in Hamtramck is less than 15% but their presence is still noticeable, with streets bearing familiar-sounding names interspersed with Polish churches, monuments or signs. Since 2005, the position of the mayor of the city has been held by one of the distinguished PAHA members, Dr. Karen Majewski. Herself of Polish ancestry, she works with America's first majority-Muslim City Council and thus continues the tradition of Hamtramck as an example of the American "salad bowl."

In 2015 two photo exhibits devoted to the Polish American community of Hamtramck (Michigan) were opened: one at the Hamtramck Historical Museum (Nov. 12, 2015) and another at the Emigration Museum in Gdynia (Dec. 5, 2015). These portraits of the residents of Polish descent and their private living spaces were accompanied by interviews with some thirty residents of the city as well as by special events – lectures and workshops organized at the time of the exhibitions' openings. The Hamtramck exhibition was meant to serve the local audiences, fostering mutual recognition and establishing better communication and contacts. It attracted many diverse inhabitants of the city. At its opening, the food that was served was a selection of traditional Polish, as well as Yemeni and Bengali dishes. On the other side of the Atlantic, the exhibit in Gdynia was prepared to portray Hamtramck from afar. The exhibition portrayed it as a city elevated to prominence by the blue-collar Polish Americans; a city which at present undergoes a major socio-cultural transformation.

The author of the photographs was Tomek Zerek, a Polish photographer, teacher and curator who lives and works in the Tri-cities (Gdynia/Sopot/Gdańsk). Zerek's photographs have been exhibited, amongst others, at Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, Florida, USA; the National Museum in Gdańsk, Poland; the Fotohof Gallery in Salzburg, Austria; the Kaunas Photo Festival in Lithuania; the Blekinge Museum, Karlskrona, Sweden and the Stylo Gallery in Oslo, Norway. He is the head of Photography Section at Gdynia Art School. When asked about the inspiration for the Hamtramck project, he said that it came from the New Deal Farm Security Administration project meant to portray America touched by economic crisis. In the 1930s, Roy E. Stryker (of the FSA Information Division) equipped the photographers he deployed with a thematic template to collect their accounts. So did Zerek, who grew fascinated by the story of a city abandoned by the great



industry. His idea was to create a visual documentation of Hamtramck as of 2015, within its relatively small geographic limits – its architecture, public and private spaces, communities and individuals etc.

Upon coming to Hamtramck, Zerek was impressed by what he calls the „sorry state of the city.” At the same time though, he was fascinated by the ongoing changes and energy of its people. He ventured on to portray immigrant peoples of Hamtramck – the Poles, but also the Yemeni, Bengali, Ukrainians and others. At the time he took the photos the city was going through profound cultural and religious changes, and his ambition was to take a snapshot of it as well. Zerek said that he was not interested in making his photos attractive, or sad, he wanted them to produce an authentic portrait of the city and of its inhabitants. The exhibition that resulted from his efforts consisted of four sets of photographs: the people and grassroots activities of Hamtramck, the Polish Americans and their private spaces, the new dominant cultural and religious groups of recent immigrants, and the geography of Hamtramck, reproduced on postcards printed especially for the exhibition.

The strongest part of the exhibition was not visible at a first glance. The series of 30 biographical interviews with people of Polish origin conducted by Dr. Anna Muller constitute an important and lasting contribution to the history of the Polish Hamtramck. At the time of the exhibition, only written excerpts were provided to the audiences in Hamtramck. In Gdynia, edited parts of the interviews were made available to the visitors in the audio format as well.



Dr. Anna Muller, PAHA's First Vice President, is a historian and a political scientist. She received her doctorate from Indiana University in Bloomington. Since 2013, she has been teaching at the University of Michigan-Dearborn at the newly-created Faculty of Polish and Polish-American Studies (Padzieski Chair of Polish Studies). The university provided Dr. Muller with support (founding within the Research and Sponsored Programs, as well as student assistants Ann Taylor and Ahmed Fodhel) that enabled her to begin a project which eventually led to cooperation with the Emigration Museum. Funding was granted by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through a grant for 'Cooperation with Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad in 2015.' Other partners of the project were the PIAST Institute, Hamtramck Public Library and Hamtramck Historical Museum. Dr. Muller conducted her interviews with Polish-Americans in 2014 and 2015, on both occasions she was joined by Zerek who took portraits of her subjects and their surroundings.

Muller's professional training and extensive experience in collecting oral histories resulted in impressive primary source collection that is properly described, tagged, transcribed and edited for the use of both visitors and scholars. Most of the interviews follow a similar narrative: the immigration process, the arrival to Hamtramck, the family and its memory, Polishness expressed in a wide variety of forms, aspects of contemporary social and cultural life of the city. This narrative arose spontaneously; a single unified questionnaire did not exist; instead each of these interviews could be considered a life story. Many accounts were collected over a series of meetings with the same person. It was the interlocutors that picked the language of an interview, and it was them – on most occasions – who recommended some other people to be interviewed. During a recent PAHA conference in Denver (January 2017) where she spoke of this project, Muller divided her interlocutors into four groups: the early immigrants of 1920s, the post-World War II émigrés, the second generation of Polish Americans born in Hamtramck families, and the imagined Polish Americans who (re)constructed their Polishness based on a sense of belonging to a certain group. Muller confirms that the "Polishness" (ethnicization) aided Americanization of the Hamtramck Poles.

During the exhibition in Gdynia, parts of the interviews carried out by Muller were made available to the audiences in the form of blurbs added next to the Zerek's photographs. Longer excerpts were available in audio format in specially designed booths, located beyond the exhibition panels where headsets were provided for all visitors who wished to listen. The idea was great, yet the way it was organized in the exhibit hall did not quite do justice to the quality of these materials, as the "oral" was separated from the "visual."

Both Muller and Zerek highlight their fascination with this unusual multiethnic city as an inspiring example of religious and cultural coexistence of very dissimilar communities. It is a pity that the theme of mutual respect and the process of negotiating a shared living space among varied ethnic, national and religious groups were not included in the main narrative of the exhibit to a greater extent. While Polonia is dispersing, Hamtramck's legacy obviously lives on. The exhibition in Gdynia was well attended and it received a wide coverage in both local and national media.

More than a year ago the exhibitions were dismantled, packed in boxes and moved to the basement but the project lives on – and it has to be emphasized – in a most attractive form. The Emigration Museum posted the interviews online as part of its Oral History Archive project. These can be accessed by following this link: [http://www.archiwumemigranta.pl/pl/kolekcje/oblicza\\_polonii](http://www.archiwumemigranta.pl/pl/kolekcje/oblicza_polonii). "People of Hamtramck" should be considered a pilot program: the Museum has since initiated work on other Polish American communities, for instance Greenpoint in New York. It remains to be seen how soon the Emigration Museum will be able to provide us with stories of other Polish American communities scattered within the American "Patchwork Nation."

~ Anna Mazurkiewicz



*I would like to thank the authors Anna Muller, Tomek Zerek and Anna Krajka (Emigration Museum in Gdynia) for the back-stage information about the work on the exhibit.*

~ Anna Mazurkiewicz



## Winners of PAHA's Creative Arts Prizes



The Polish American Historical Association presented its 2016 Creative Arts Prize to Dr. Maja Trochimczyk for her poetry commemorating Polish civilians affected by World War II under the German occupation (*Slicing the Bread*) and due to Soviet deportations (*The Rainy Bread*). The latter book includes poems inspired by stories of Sybiracy, Polish survivors of Soviet deportations and gulags, who left Soviet Union with General Anders's Polish Army and later scattered around the world, from Australia, to Africa, and both Americas. [www.moonrisepress.com/the-rainy-bread-by-maja-trochimczyk.html](http://www.moonrisepress.com/the-rainy-bread-by-maja-trochimczyk.html).

The previous winners of the Creative Arts Prize include poets John Guzowski (2011) and Linda Nemec Foster (2007), and writers Antony Bukoski (2008 and 2003, recognized for his short stories), Brigid Pasulka (2012, *A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True*), Keith Mallard (2004, *Clarinet Polka*), and Susanne Strempek Shea (2000). Other winners are: filmmaker Adrian Prawica (2014), painter, printmaker and Op-Art pioneer, Julian Stanczak (2013), choreographer and dance historian, Ada Dziewanowska (1999), Lucyna Migala of the Lira Ensemble (2002), and Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel (2006).





## POETRY CORNER: WINNER OF CREATIVE ARTS PRIZE

### *The Rainy Bread. Poems from Exile - Maja Trochimczyk*



#### Amu Darya

Thank God, I've never seen the shores  
of Amu Darya, the deadly stretches  
of hot sand lining both sides of the river  
to the horizon. Thank God.

The boat of deportees slowly makes its way  
up to the inland Aral Sea. Very slowly.  
Crowded on old wood planks and rusty iron  
of the rickety deck, they are sardines  
in a can with the top opened  
to the merciless Amu Darya's sun.

All night, the boy lies next to a dying girl  
wrapped in blankets, crying — crying — crying —  
moaning through this starless shroud.

The old man's crying too, as he tells his story,  
again a helpless boy, he cannot silence her screams,  
or ease her pain. For more than sixty years, he's  
heard  
her voice, waking up in the middle of Amu Darya,  
under the burning, foreign sun.

There, he is awake and gets up quickly  
to show the guards that, still alive,  
he breathes and stands up straight and tall,  
despite the weight of pitiless darkness,  
huddled to the dying girl.

They pick her body up and throw her  
off the boat onto the pristine whiteness  
of the sand. She falls — and falls — and falls  
into a lifeless heap among the dead,  
discarded like the kitchen refuse, left to rot  
in the surgical glare of Amu Darya's sun.

She has no face, no name, just this moaning.  
No grave — her wrapped body lies unburied  
with all the others who had died that night.  
No time to let the people off the vessel.  
No time to dig the graves. Their floating  
coffin has to continue on its aimless journey,  
creeping along the empty shores.

No food, no water — just the heat  
is left and the pervasive stench of death.

Thank God, I've never seen  
the shores of Amu Darya —  
its piles of bones on salty sand.

Only one tenth survived the way.

#### Shambhala

Do children who die on the way  
carry bejeweled parasols in a Tibetan heaven?

Is Siberia too far from Shambhala  
for the bedraggled orphans to enter through  
its golden doorways, glistening with ten thousand  
ornaments, treasures from a galaxy with ten billion  
suns?

Are they too sick and dirty to walk on a shining path  
made for the birth of the Buddha — scented  
with sandalwood, adorned with an unsurpassed  
multitude of rarest gems.

When the Buddha was born, the Earth  
moved six ways, the wise man said.

Did it move at least once to mark your passage?

When you rolled in pain and moaned  
until the blessed moment of relief?  
Gave up your last breath like a crystal question mark  
in a frozen Siberian air? Convulsed  
in a sudden burst of gunfire, a bullet straight  
through your heart? Slipped away from  
a nightmarish dream? Froze to death in a convoy?  
Fainted on the floor of a railroad car?

There was no hooting of owls, they say,  
when the great Shakyamuni Buddha  
was born. Sweet sounding music floated  
through a myriad of flowering orchards,  
filled with a rainbow of gemstone trees.

Did you hear an owl hoot when you died?  
Oh, hungry child of gulags, the lost child  
of Siberia — Did the Earth move?  
Were there parasols, or owls?





45 years ago, the publication of the late Michael Novak's *Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics*<sup>1</sup> gave rise to a renaissance of ethnic pride among European Americans as well as marked its ascendance in the larger culture. Just as "Roots" (which marks its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year) signaled African American pride in origins, so *Ethnics* demonstrated—five years earlier—a European American interest in roots, especially among Slavic Americans.

That shouldn't be surprising: the Great Immigration of 1880-1920 brought to America waves of Europeans, primarily from the continent's south and east, which in Novak's day was largely in its third generation. According to Hansen's Law, the grandchildren wanted to remember what the father wanted to forget. They were also the groups targeted by American Nativism: "baskets of deplorables" to the WASPs, who were excluded by the restrictive immigration legislation of the 1920s and who had, by the 1970s, become objects of derision. Perhaps they didn't melt away, but they could be laughed away: is it a coincidence that Michael Novak's book appeared almost simultaneously with "All in the Family's" "Polack jokes"?

Novak was a proud Slovak American. Two priests, Geno Baroni and Leonard Chrobot, promoted ethnic consciousness and pride among Italian Americans and Polish Americans, respectively. Chrobot, then dean and soon to be president of now defunct St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan, wrote his doctoral dissertation at Wayne State in the 1970s on the "integrated pluralist."<sup>2</sup> For Chrobot, Polish American culture was a creative fusion of the wisdom of the traditional Polish *Gemeinschaft* with the urbanized pluralism of the American *Gesellschaft*. American society best realized itself, he argued, as a cultural mosaic, in which America's ethnic groups contributed through their conscious identity to the unity and development of American culture. They did this not as a melting pot, in which everything became one, an overdone stew which still suspiciously had a WASP-ish taste on the secular side and an Irish brogue on the religious. They did this as a cultural mosaic, where their culture maintained its integrity.

Chrobot admitted his own debt to Fr. Walery Jasiński, long-time professor of theology at Orchard Lake and editor of its publication, *Sodalis Polonia*, an early and indefatigable advocate of the right of Poles to ethnic ministry. (I still remember the topic Fr. Jasiński gave me for the first term paper I ever wrote in theology: "The Teaching of Vatican II on Culture"). Chrobot was, of course, joined by others, like Paul Wróbel, in the study of Polish pride. Wróbel's 1979 *Our Way*<sup>3</sup>, a study of family, church, and community in Hamtramck, was pioneering. Suddenly, too, an organization like PAHA was recognized for its role in preserving the history of American Polonia.

Eventually, though, "Roots" fueled ethnic consciousness among African Americans but Novak's *Unmeltable Ethnics* fizzled. "Diversity" instead became a code word for racial and sexual difference. Europe, which has managed to produce 50+ national cultures on a relatively small territory, suddenly became just "Europe" again, homogenously white (with all the unspoken assumptions about that). If you have any doubt about how irrelevant European Americans are to "diversity," consider a thought experiment. If a college today was recruiting for a faculty position and had a choice between a young academic with a thesis entitled "Cultural Adaptations in the Religious Practices of Muslim Surinamese Americans" and another with a thesis entitled "Cultural Adaptations in the Religious Practices of Catholic Slovak Americans," whom do you really believe would get the job? Which of these two dissertation writers would get picked for an interview: "Americans and Reggae as Creative Cultural Appropriation" or "Americans and Polkas as Creative Cultural Adaptation?" Why bring this up now? Because *perhaps* there is an opening for a revival of interest in European American ethnics today.

<sup>1</sup>Michael Novak, *The Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics: Politics and Culture in the Seventies* (New York: Macmillan, 1972); reissued as *Unmeltable Ethnics: Politics and Culture in American Life*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New Brunswick: Transaction, 1996).

<sup>2</sup> Leonard F. Chrobot, *The Integrated Pluralist: An Alternate Design for the Study of Ethnicity in Education*. Diss. Wayne State University, 1975.

<sup>3</sup>Paul Wróbel, *Our Way: Family, Parish, and Neighborhood in a Polish-American Community* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1979). See also his *An Ethnographic Study of a Polish Neighborhood and Parish*, Diss.: The Catholic University of America, 1975, and *Polish-American Men: As Workers, as Husbands, and as Fathers* (Detroit: Merrill-Palmer Institute, 1976).



There is no denying that the 2016 Presidential election—particularly in the “Rust Belt”—was affected by perceptions of neglect among white working/middle class voters, including ethnic voters. While some Polish American scholars seem fascinated by sparks of socialism in American Polonia, the really interesting political fact is that, starting with Ronald Reagan, there has been a shift among Polish Americans towards Republican candidates, even if Polonia did not necessarily embrace all the positions of classical economic conservatism.

I defer to the political scientists to study how Polonia voted in 2016. I am more interested in the larger picture about how working class and lower middle class white voters, alienated by an economy they felt left them behind, seem again to be asserting themselves in public life. They are asking why the Rust Belt should be condemned to rust and why people who held traditional values—the “baskets of deplorables”—should have to apologize for them.

Granted, Polonia in the second decade of the twenty-first century is different from Polonia in the 1970s. Another generation of assimilation has taken its toll. The *emigracja polityczna*, which revitalized Polonia in the postwar era, has largely passed from the scene. The immigrants of *Solidarność*, never nearly as numerous as the World War II political émigrés nor as involved with either Polonia or its institutions, had nowhere near the same impact. Contemporary immigration from Poland is declining. The fall of the Iron Curtain has made Poland less exotic and more “normal” and accessible. Polonia today lacks even the two institutions of higher education that back in the 1970s it could call its own: Alliance and St. Mary’s Colleges. Finally, the decimation of the Polish American parish network, which numbered in the 700s in the late 1970s and is probably at best 200 today, has struck a powerful blow at the community.

That said, does the Trump era augur renewed interest in the working class and, by extension, European ethnics? Cynics might debate the President’s commitment to this group in general, but I will take him at his word. Trump policies—social conservatism, a strong America not taken advantage of by the world, a social safety net—may not be classical conservatism, but it does resonate with the political outlook of many Polish Americans. Pundits have found the “forgotten working class,” and some—like J.D. Vance (in *Hillbilly Elegy*<sup>4</sup>) have identified both its winsome side and its warts. Is this a way back to recovering interest in the working class? Will there be an opportunity to look at them with more sympathy?

The problem for Slavic Americans, of course, is their “Slavic-ness:” they were valuable labor in the working class, but they were different, non-native, foreign: working class West Virginia is one thing, working class Hamtramck another.<sup>5</sup> Can Slavic Americans latch on to newfound interest in the working class? Should they? Has Polonia moved on? Have its great grandchildren abandoned the ethnic ghetto (and lost the ethnic parish) and instead become part of the gentrifying generation? Is there anything of a Polonia “working class” left? I deliberately want to provoke more questions than answers. Let it stimulate our collective reflection as Polonian scholars? Where is our community now, and where is it headed? And do we, as “unmeltable ethnics,” have a window of opportunity right now at least at another fifteen minutes of fame? Engaging these questions right now seems at least prudent.

*John M. Grondelski is former associate dean of the School of Theology, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, and now an independent scholar.*



## **John Z. Guzowski’s Book a Finalist for the Montaigne Medal**



*Echoes of Tattered Tongues: Memory Unfolded* by John Guzowski (Aquila Polonica, 2016) is a Finalist for the 2017 Montaigne Medal that is awarded to the most thought-provoking books of the year. These are either books that illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. Winners will be announced in May 2017. In *Echoes of Tattered Tongues*, Guzowski uses an innovative structure of poetry and prose unfolding backwards in time to tell the story of Polish war refugee immigrants in America. Raw and at the same time compassionate, *Echoes of Tattered Tongues* is a portrait of Guzowski’s family: his parents taken as slave laborers to German concentration camps during World War II; his sister and he born in Displaced Persons camps; the family struggling to build a new life in an America that did not want them.

<sup>4</sup> J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* (New York: Harper, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, few note how many Poles labored in the mines of West Virginia: see <http://www.wvculture.org/history/government/immigration05.html>



**Anna Mazurkiewicz**, *Uchodźcy polityczni z Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej w amerykańskiej polityce zimnowojennej, 1948-1954 (Political Exiles from East Central Europe in the American Cold War Politics, 1948-1954)*, Warsaw-Gdańsk 2016, pp. 543. The Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, University of Gdańsk. Series: „Monographs”, vol. 121.

This book unveils the complicated relationship between the US government and the exiled political leaders from East Central Europe who sought American support after World War II. Examining the circumstances in which émigré ideologies and political programs were developed, attention is given to US political plans, organizations, mechanisms and projects that envisioned political cooperation with exiles from those countries in Europe that were independent in 1939 and then fell prey to the Soviets. Cooperation with East Central European exiles constituted a part of a broader US Cold War effort, which is commonly referred to as psychological warfare. The United States supported the Cold War refugees for humanitarian reasons, but they also used them for intelligence, propaganda and political purposes – both in the United States and abroad (including behind the Iron Curtain). Moreover, the United States wanted to maintain the intellectual abilities of the exiled elites and retain them within their sphere of influence in case Communist regimes were overthrown. For these reasons, political, material and administrative support were extended to them. The exiles, who refrained from referring to themselves as immigrants, became partners with the US government in the Cold War struggle against communism. They were, however, in a very complex and delicate situation. Deprived of unfettered communication channels with their homelands, and lacking political backing for their activities on the international arena, the exiled political leaders built (and in the case of the Polish government-in-exile upheld) organizations that – during the Stalinist era – became essentially the only tangible form of organized anticommunist opposition. Their goal was to lobby Western powers to support their agenda: the restoration of basic rights that had been stripped from the so-called “captive nations.” A partnership with the United States promised both much-needed backing for establishing international contacts as well as material support that enabled them to maintain their political and social activities in exile.



### Photos from PAHA's Past Sought for Anniversary Publication



To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, the Polish American Historical Association will publish a book about the history of the organization, edited by Prof. James Pula. All PAHA members and friends are encouraged to submit photographs from PAHA's past meetings and other events, to ensure that the history of the organization and its contributions to Polish and American cultures will be well documented and illustrated.

The editor will collect the articles that have previously been written about PAHA's history, adding an introduction and an additional article to bring the history up to date. The previous articles include, from *Polish American Studies*, those authored by: Tony Turhollow (Autumn 1980), Konstantin Symonolewicz (Spring-Autumn 1970), John Bukowczyk (Autumn 1993), and Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann (Spring 2008). The book will be approximately 200 pages including photographs, an index, and selected documents.

Please send your photographs and other information pertaining to PAHA's history to Prof. James Pula, the book's editor, at [jpula@pnw.edu](mailto:jpula@pnw.edu), or by mail, to James Pula, 378 Ballenisle Court, Chesterton, IN, 46304.

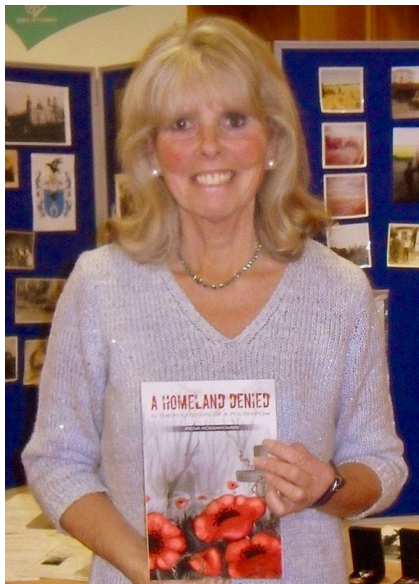




Janina Gromada Kedroń and Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Co-editors of the Tatra Eagle quarterly have announced that the Jubilee issue V. 20, no.1 has been released. The sister and brother team has been at the creation of the publication in 1947, Passaic, NJ when they were just completing their high school studies. Many scholars and critics have credited the publication for helping to maintain *góral* (highlander) and folk culture not only in America but also in Poland during the Cold War. For the past seven decades the editors encouraged its readers in Polish and English to become more conscious and appreciative of the folk culture of Podhale and its impact on Poland's high culture. This folk culture was and still is a source of inspiration for many Polish creative artists. For more information write to Tatra Eagle Press, 31 Madison Ave. Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604 or email [thadgromada@gmail.com](mailto:thadgromada@gmail.com)



### Irena Kossakowska's Story of her Father – *A Homeland Denied*



In October 2016, Irena Kossakowska Clarke published a book based on the war-time memories and experiences of her father, Waclaw Kossakowski. *A Homeland Denied* ([ahomelanddenied.com](http://ahomelanddenied.com)) follows his harrowing journey as a young Warsaw University student whose peaceful life was changed dramatically on the fateful day of September 1, 1939. From imprisonment in the notorious Kozielsk prison to a forced labor camp in the Siberian Arctic Circle, the story tells of suffering and brutality impossible to imagine. Forced to dig runways in temperatures reaching as low as minus 50°C while under constant threat from sadistic guards, he experienced a living hell with death his only companion. He endured and witnessed atrocities, which haunted him for the rest of his life, with so many friends murdered or frozen to death in the unforgiving cruelty of Siberia. But fate intervened and the icy wasteland was replaced by the blistering heat and dry deserts of the Middle East, where the student was taught to fight – and fight he did, in the Italian campaign, at Monte Cassino, Ancona and Bologna. Yet the desire to return to his homeland never left him and only memories of the idyllic life before the war and his intense yearning to return sustained him when

he sank to the lowest despair. Yet how could he know of the terrible suffering of his family or the sacrifices of his countrymen as they fought so desperately to keep Warsaw, only to be denied their homeland in the cruellest way imaginable. For though ultimately the victors, they lost everything. Their home, their loves, their country and nothing would ever be the same again. Whittles Publishing, ISBN 978-184995-264-4.





## Jan Jarczyk Fund Honors a Polish-Canadian Jazz Pianist



On 24 March 2017 a Rush Hour Jazz Concert for Two Pianos / Six Hands was held at McGill University in Montreal to honor a Polish-Canadian Jazz pianist Jan Jarczyk. A jazz pianist, composer, arranger and all around musician, Jan Jarczyk, had a profound impact on his students and colleagues at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. He was at the heart and soul of the jazz program for almost three decades: even those who weren't lucky enough to study with Jan are well acquainted with stories that speak of his formidable musical skills, powerful mind and humorous spirit.

To honor Jan's devotion to his students and his love of music, the Jan Jarczyk Fund has been established at McGill to provide financial support to outstanding jazz piano students. Jan has left great gifts for both the current and future generations to enjoy. His music will continue to exist through the wealth of his recorded material and in live performances of his compositions. His teachings will keep guiding all those that he touched. Above all else, Jan will serve as inspiration to artists around the world in their pursuit of what he loved most: music. To contribute to the fund, visit [mcgill.ca/seedsofchange](http://mcgill.ca/seedsofchange).

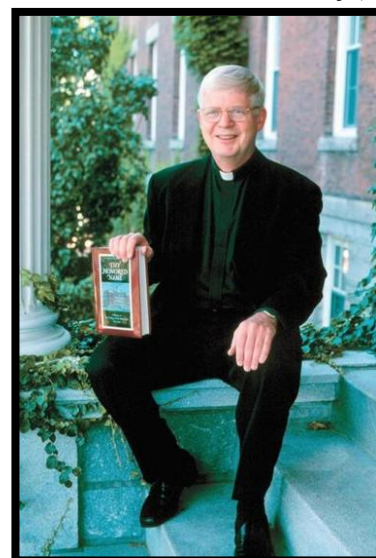


## Dr. Anthony Kuzniewski, PAHA Past President, Dies at 71



It is with sadness that we wish to inform our PAHA colleagues of the passing, on Dec. 16, of Dr. Anthony J. Kuzniewski, S.J., past president of PAHA (1983). Born in 1945, Rev. Kuzniewski received a Bachelor's degree from Marquette University (1966), followed by a Master's degree (1967) and a doctorate (1973) from Harvard University, all in history. Rev. Kuzniewski, who was a board member for institutions including The Nativity School of Worcester, to which he donated the honorariums he received for weddings and baptisms, died of cancer Dec. 19 in Campion Health Center in Weston. He was 71 and had taught at College of Holy Cross for about four decades.

Dr. Kuzniewski was widely regarded as an eminent scholar of American urban social and political history. His study of the history of the Polish church in Wisconsin in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (*Faith and Fatherland: The Polish Church War in Wisconsin, 1896-1918*, University of Notre Dame Press, 1980) was recognized by PAHA with the Oskar Halecki Prize in 1981 and was honored as the best book in American Catholic studies. A member of the Jesuit order, he was also an expert historian of Jesuits in America. After retiring from his position of professor of history at the College of the Holy Cross, he taught part-time and volunteered as chaplain for the College's sports teams. Below are excerpts from his obituary posted on the College's website:



"In a late entry on his blog, the Rev. Anthony J. Kuzniewski, recalled that he would often tell people "summer passes more swiftly than the other seasons; but, come to think, they all pass quickly." That was certainly the case in his position as a history professor at the College of the Holy Cross, and it "is true in my role as athletic chaplain. The wait seems endless for a team's season to begin; then it seems to go by in a flash." Known on campus simply as Father K, he was the college's historian and chaplain to several of its sports teams. "You could find a thousand 'Father K changed my life' and 'Father K was so important to me' stories," said Edward T. O'Donnell, an associate professor of history at Holy Cross who had a story of his own, having changed his career path as an undergraduate to teaching history after becoming one of Father Kuzniewski's students. "He combined a real studious, scholarly, engaging lecture approach with a lot of low-key humor that was always an important part of his delivery," O'Donnell added. "Straight up lecturing has sort of fallen out of fashion at colleges, but all of his classes sold out all the time. He was a real master of that format. I would say he was old-school in the very best possible sense of that phrase."



The Piast Institute announces the establishment of the Polish Women's Hall of Fame. The virtual exhibit, hosted at [www.FamousPolishWomen.com](http://www.FamousPolishWomen.com) raises awareness of and honors women's lives and contributions to culture and history of Poland and the world. The project provides biographies, photographs, bibliographies, and articles on women in Poland and the diaspora. Ashley Fallon, the director of the virtual project, explained that the Hall of Fame will serve as a resource for the Polish community, for schools and universities, and especially for young Polish women—and for women everywhere. While individuals like Marie Skłodowska Curie are well-known, the overall story of the achievements and contributions of Polish women has long been overlooked. "We can never fully understand who we are until we join the stories of our mothers to those of our fathers," said Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President of the Piast Institute.

Nominations from the general public are accepted in six categories: Science and Education, Arts and Humanities, Religion, Public Life and Service, Philanthropy, and Sports. Final selections for Hall of Fame inductees will be made by a distinguished international panel. For more information, please visit the website at: [www.FamousPolishWomen.com](http://www.FamousPolishWomen.com) or call Ashley Fallon at the Piast Institute at (313) 733-4535 ext. 105.



### PERSONALIA



In November 2016, **JOHN BUKOWCZYK**, Professor of History at Wayne State University, presented the Fiedorczyk Lecture, sponsored by the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Chair in Polish and Polish American History at Central Connecticut State University. The title of Professor Bukowczyk's talk was "In-Between Ethnicity: Personal Biography and Polish-American Identity." In January 2017, Bukowczyk presented an abridged version of this talk at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

In January 2017, Dr. **ANNA MAZURKIEWICZ** –assumed the duties of the President of PAHA. Her recent book, *Political Exiles from East Central Europe in the American Cold War Politics, 1948-1954* was published in Poland in December 2016. In June 2016 she received an Individual Rector's Award for her service to the University of Gdańsk. In October 2016 she delivered a paper: "Polish American scholarly interest in Tadeusz Kosciuszko as evidenced in the „Polish American Studies”, 1944-2014" at the academic conference devoted to the legacies of Tadeusz Kosciuszko which took place in Gdańsk. PAHA was a Partner of this important event ([www.konferencjakosciuszkowska.ug.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PROGRAM\\_OSTATECZNA.pdf](http://www.konferencjakosciuszkowska.ug.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PROGRAM_OSTATECZNA.pdf))

**Dr. JAMES S. PULA** published "Civil Rights for Some, Stereotyping for Others: Two Views of the Open Housing Movement of the 1960s," in *Studia Migracyjne-Przegląd Polonijny* (Vol. XLI, no. 4, 121-132) and "Whose Bones Are Those? A Study of the Evidence for the Pułaski Burial," a refutation of the myth that Gen. Pułaski's bones are buried in his monument in Savannah, in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Volume C, No. 1 (Spring 2016). He gave a paper titled "Is the New Immigration Really New? A Comparison of 1910 and 2010" at the "American Ethnicity and Ethnic Community Building" conference at the Polish Academy of Science in Kraków, Poland; presented the paper "Thomas Lewinski: America's Forgotten Architect" at the annual meeting of the Polish American Historical Association in Denver, Colorado; and made a public presentation on "Poland in World War II" in Rochester, New York. He was also honored with the first Faculty Research Award offered by Purdue University Northwest.

In January 2017, Dr. **MAJA TROCHIMCZYK** was reappointed PAHA's Secretary and Communications Director, and received PAHA's 2016 Creative Arts Prize. At PAHA's 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting she gave a paper on "Paderewski in Brighton" and at the *Homage to Alexander Tansman International Conference* in March 2017 in Wrocław, Poland she presented "The American Years of Alexander Tansman, 1941-1946." Three of her poems about Van Gogh's paintings appeared in the *Van Gogh Poetry Anthology* (2017); other new poems were published in *Pirene's Fountain*, *Spectrum*, *Altadena Poetry Review*, and other poetry journals.



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