PAHA Board’s Semi-Annual Meeting in Cazenovia, NY, June 9-10, 2015

During its 72nd Midyear Meeting at Cazenovia College, NY, the Polish American Historical Association put forward proposals for future research and the promotion of studies of the Polish diaspora and strengthened its links to local Polonia. Established in 1942, PAHA is an international scholarly association dedicated to the study of Polish immigration experience in the Americas. The meeting’s program included deliberations on a strategic vision for the organization’s future; a visit to the Polish Legacy Art Collection at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY; a meeting with representatives of local Polonia organizations; and a lecture by Dr. Iwona Drąg Korga, Executive Director of the Piłsudski Institute in New York City.

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Message from the President
By Grażyna Kozaczka

Dear Friends,

As I am sitting down at my desk ready to write the President’s column for the next issue of the PAHA Newsletter, I am very aware that the summer is almost imperceptibly morphing into the fall. For me, this is usually the time for looking back, not only at the excitement of the summer but also at the busy winter and spring. And the PAHA Board did a lot of work in these past months. The very successful Annual Meeting in New York City in January, was followed by the preparations for the next year’s Annual Meeting which will be held in conjunction with the AHA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, January 7-9, 2016. Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, PAHA’s First Vice-President solicited presentation submissions and organized strong and interesting panels. Thanks to her dedication and hard work, and support of Dr. Pien Versteegh, PAHA’s Executive Director, our Annual Meeting will again showcase the strength of the scholarship of PAHA’s members. If you are able to, consider attending PAHA’s Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

In winter, PAHA’s board of directors engaged in a self-study as is periodically practiced by many organizations and institutions to ensure their sound future. Our version of a SWAT analysis was to help us identify PAHA’s accomplishments and also find areas where more effort or a new approach was called for. An in-depth discussion of this analysis constituted the majority of our deliberations at the midyear board meeting hosted by Cazenovia College, June 9-10, 2015 in Cazenovia, New York, my home institution. We quickly recognized that our conferences and publications were strong and well regarded

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Paderewski Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina

The Second Annual Ignacy Jan Paderewski Festival will be held in North Carolina on November 12-16, 2015. Initiated in 2014, the Festival will feature four concerts by distinguished pianists and one formal lecture celebrating the life and artistic contributions of Paderewski and his teacher Theodor Leschetizky.

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by the scholarly communities both in the United States and overseas. However, we needed to increase the membership of PAHA, and especially target Junior Faculty and graduate students. So here is an appeal to all of you reading my message: think of who in your circle of friends, colleagues, students, etc. would both benefit from PAHA membership and at the same time become an asset to PAHA. In other words – please spread the news about PAHA! Any organization wishing to remain strong must grow.

The board members also considered new ways of using the expertise of PAHA to increase the visibility of Polish and Polish American topics to the general public. I am confident that during our annual meeting in Atlanta we will be able to commit to one or two new projects researched by our members.

I was fortunate to receive an invitation from Professor Dorota Praszałowicz from the Jagiellonian University and a PAHA board member, to represent PAHA at the opening ceremonies of the II Kongres Oświaty Polonijnej (The Second Congress of Polonian Education) held between 17th and 20th of July, 2015 at The Polonia House in Kraków. This Congress gathered teachers of Polish language and Polish culture both from Europe and from America with attendees arriving from such diverse Polonian centers as Ukraine, Belarus, Canada, the U.S. and Norway, for example. The purpose of this Congress was to provide a forum for an exchange of practical ideas about teaching techniques and develop collaborative projects as well as to receive methodological support from Polish language teachers and scholars in Poland. During the opening ceremony, I was reminded that Polish language education outside of Poland often needs much more than didactic help. In places like Belarus, political, moral as well as in some cases financial support for their endeavors has been urgently needed. For example, Mrs. Borys, a teacher from Belarus spoke movingly about the relentless attempts at Russification and an increasing persecution of Polish teachers in Belarus. Other themes signaled in the opening speeches included the need to increase the number of Polish language courses offered at colleges and universities outside of Poland as well as to educate Polish society about the Diasporic issues. As Professor Władysław T. Miodunka, director of Centrum Języka i Kultury Polskiej w Świecie na Wydziale Polonistyki UJ, emphatically stated, except for some vague knowledge of the Great Emigration, Poles in Poland know very little about Poles abroad.

Professor Miodunka’s concern notwithstanding, some casual browsing in well-stocked Kraków bookstores revealed a few publications, both nonfiction and fiction, that developed emigration themes. One of the more interesting recent publications is Marek Majewski’s Daktyle i Koniak (Dates and Cognac), a story of his success as a celebrity photographer in San Francisco of the 1970s and 1980s, as well as his observations on the hippie subculture and Polish Americans in northern California.

With good wishes for the upcoming Holiday season.

Grażyna Kozaczka,
PAHA President

PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL PROGRAM
► Tuesday, November 10, 7:00pm, City of Raleigh Museum (COR Museum), 220 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh. Lecture and reception: Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II, Honorary Consul, Republic of Poland, Raleigh – "Leschetizky, Paderewski, and Raleigh"

► Thursday, November 12, 7:30pm, Saint Mary’s School, Smedes Parlor
Pianist Hélène Tysman (Paris), Chopin Competition laureate (finalist) in Warsaw, 2010. She studied in Paris (Pierre-Laurent Aimard), Vienna (Oleg Maisenberg), and in Weimar.

► Friday, November 13, 11:00am - 2:00pm, Meredith College, Carswell Recital Hall. John Perry 2015 Master Class; Open to the public. A working session for piano professionals.

► Friday, November 13, 7:30pm, Cary Arts Center, Pianist Krzysztof Książek (Poland), Second Place Winner in the Paderewski Competition in Los Angeles, 2013. Invited to the 2015 International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

► Saturday, November 14, 2:30pm, North Carolina Museum of Art, Main Auditorium, Lecture by Adam Wibrowski (Paris, Kraków), Professeur de Piano, Conservatoire de Paris - "Theodor Leschetizky: Performer and Pedagogue.”

► Sunday, November 15, 2:30 pm, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. Pianist: John Perry (Los Angeles), student of Władysław Kędra in Warsaw and Vienna: in direct line to Paderewski and Leschetizky. Perry studied with Kędra at the Akademie für Musik and with Carlo Zecchi at Santa Cecilia in Rome. A legendary piano pedagogue of Southern California and Toronto, he has taught at many other major music schools. For more information visit the Festival's website: Paderewski-festival.org.
PAHA’s Annual Meetings, held each January, include numerous scholarly papers and presentations as they are a part of the program of the conference of the American Historical Association. The midyear meetings focus on planning the organization’s future, as well as on enhancing contacts with local Polonia organizations in various parts of the country. During the Cazenovia meeting, the PAHA Board reviewed the program for the 73rd Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, (to be held on January 7-9, 2016) and discussed the expansion of PAHA-sponsored electronic and print publications and resources. A separate topic was the marketing of PAHA’s Special Projects and publications, including the *Polish American Encyclopedia*, edited in 2011 by Dr. James S. Pula, and the *Polish American Studies* (ISSN 0032-2806; eISSN 2330-0833), which has been published continually since 1944 and is now edited by Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann.

A greater recognition is due to the venerable *Polish and Polish American Studies Series* of books published by the Ohio University Press, under the general editorship of Dr. John J. Bukowczyk. The book series now consists of 16 titles and will be expanded by adding another series of 10 books published with subventions from PAHA and from the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Chair at Central Connecticut State University. Notable topics include both research studies and translations, e.g., studies of Polish women’s reproductive rights (*The Politics of Morality* by Joanna Mishtal), gender issues in theater (*Taking Liberties* by Halina Filipowicz), the Catholic Church in Poland (*Rome’s Most Faithful Daughter* by Neal Pease), and the translation of literary works, such as the *Holy Week* by Jerzy Andrzelewski and *Testaments* by Danuta Mostwin.

*The Polish-American Encyclopedia* (Mcfarland Publishing, 2011) should be found in every Polish home, as it comprehensively documents the history of the ethnic community, along with its organizations, leaders, traditions, and culture. Thanks to the financial support from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles, copies of the *Encyclopedia* recently found their way to Polish and American institutions, including the House of Poland in Balboa Park, San Diego; the Polish Art and Culture Foundation of San Francisco; the Millennium Polish Library in Los Angeles; the Polish Club of Denver, Colorado; and the library of the Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. Copies of the *Encyclopedia* and several books authored by PAHA members were also donated to the library of the Polish Home in Syracuse and to the Noreen Reale Falcone Library of the Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, the location of an impressive Polish Legacy Art Collection.

On June 10, the PAHA Board toured the Le Moyne College Library to see the display of 11 monumental artworks donated to the College after their presentation at the 1939 World Fair in New York. Their return to Poland was prevented by the outbreak of World War II. The *Seven Paintings* depicting eight centuries of Polish history were created by a group of eleven painters that portrayed the most notable events in Polish history: the encounter of Bolesław the Brave with Emperor Otto III (1000), the Baptism of Lithuania (1386), Granting of the Charter of Jedlnia (1430), the Union at Lublin creating the Polish-
Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569), the Warsaw Confederation granting freedom of religion in the Commonwealth (1573), the Relief of Vienna by the troops of King Jan Sobieski III that defeated the Ottoman Army (1683), and the democratic Third of May Constitution granting rights to Poland’s lower classes (1791). The collection also includes the Four Sobieski Tapestries by Mieczysław Szymański, celebrating the Polish king’s victory at Vienna that prevented the domination of Europe by the Ottoman Turks and preserved European Christianity from the attack by the Islamic empire (The Angel, Allegory of Victory, and The King with Emperor Leopold). The final tapestry celebrates the love of Sobieski for his queen, Marie Casimire d’Arquien of France, for whom he built the renowned Wilanów Palace near Warsaw. The four tapestries were first shown at the 1937 Paris exhibition; the seven paintings were specifically created for the 1939 New York World's Fair. Students and visitors may see the artwork prominently and safely displayed throughout the library – thus teaching generations about Polish history.

The PAHA Midyear Meeting ended at the Polish Home in Syracuse, where Polonia gathered under the leadership of Robert Synakowski, to hear a fascinating lecture by Dr. Iwona Korga, on the history of the Polish pavilion at the 1939 World’s Fair in New York City. It provided the audience with an important historical context for the Polish Art Collection at Le Moyne College. PAHA’s President, Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka, commented: “It was heartwarming to see so many young immigrant families who came to the Syracuse Polish Home to prove to us that we are still an ethnic group with a strong identity.” Dr. Kozaczka acknowledged Robert Synakowski, PAHA Board Member and President of the Polish Home, who introduced PAHA Board to this center of Polish American culture in Syracuse and organized a performance by children from the local Polish school.

As an additional event associated with the Board Meeting, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk gave a bilingual poetry reading for the Palace Poetry Group in Syracuse, focusing on her recent book of verse, Slicing the Bread (Finishing Line Press, 2014), filled with bitter family memories from World War II and its aftermath, the takeover of the country by the Stalinist regime.


The California Central Coast’s Paderewski Festival is a four-day musical festival held annually in November celebrating Paso Robles’ rich heritage and its most famous resident Ignacy Jan Paderewski - virtuoso pianist, composer, international politician, local landowner, grower and winemaker. Concerts featuring world renowned talent, exhibits, lectures, master classes and film screenings are accompanied by wine tastings and tours of local vineyards. The 2015 Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles (November 5-8, 2015) has an exciting line-up of talent for concert-goers to enjoy: Gala Concert artist Thomas Pandolfi, an American pianist with a significant Polish repertoire, City of Angels Saxophone Quartet, Motion Trio Ensemble, 2015 Youth Piano Competition winners and students from this year’s Youth Exchange Program to Poland. In addition, there will be a screening of Please find - Henryk Mikolaj Górecki (2012) and Paderewski Lecture Series: Paderewski’s Influence on Paso Robles and History of the Festival. If you are interested in learning more about musicians, please visit www.thomaspandolfi.com (the "Polish Masters" repertoire) and www.motiontrio.com/en. A youth piano competition, recital and student cultural exchange with Poland additionally honor Paderewski’s legacy. Visit: www.paderewskifest.com.
Polish Bilingual Day – Polonijny Dzień Dwujęzyczności in October

There is a new holiday in our calendars: Polonijny Dzień Dwujęzyczności, or Polish Bilingual Day, on Saturday, October 10, 2015. The Day was established by the Foundation DobraPolskaSzkola.com (www.dobrapolskaszkola.com) that, for the past three years has spearheaded a bilingual campaign among individuals of Polish descent in America and elsewhere. Entitled “W naszym domu mówimy po polsku!” (We speak Polish at home!), the campaign has included many meetings with parents, children and teachers, and numerous media reports, videos, and articles. The campaign has reached reaches Polonia scattered around the world: there have been activities in the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Canada, Italy, and the Netherlands.

Establishing this holiday helps highlight the benefits of bilingual education. First, we need to pass on to each Polish-child the education about their native tongue, Polish history and culture, thus opening a path for them to fully participate in Poland’s cultural and social life. Second, the new generations are then able to advocate for the Polish cause and become a bridge between Poland and their countries of residence, thus reducing the impact of stereotypes and helping fill in gaps in historical knowledge.

On October 10, 2015, there will be a multitude of events in six locations: New York, Mahwah (New Jersey), Wallington (New Jersey), Boston (Massachusetts), Copiague (Yew York) and Denver (Colorado). Children, parents and other guests will be able to attend theater, dance and music performances, bilingual workshops, art exhibits and lecture on the benefits of bilingual culture.

PROGRAM OF PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL IN PASO ROBLES, CA, NOVEMBER 5-8, 2015

► Thursday, November 5, 6:30 PM no host wine reception, 7 PM concert at Cass Winery. The City of Angels Saxophone Quartet celebrating the history of the saxophone.

► Friday, November 6, 2:00 PM at Park Ballroom, Paso Robles. Master class with pianist Thomas Pandolfi.

► Friday, November 6, 7:00 PM at Park Ballroom. Wine reception and concert with Motion Trio Ensemble, featuring works by Lutosławski, Górecki, Kilar and others.

► Saturday, November 7, 10:00 AM at Park Cinema. Screening of Please find - Henryk Górecki (director Violetta Rotter-Kozera, 2012), and exploration of this enigmatic composer and his unexpected worldwide fame.

► Saturday, November 7, 4:00 PM at Paso Robles Inn Ballroom. Recital of 2015 Youth Piano Competition winners.


► Sunday, November 8, 12:00 PM at Cass Winery. Recital of 2015 Exchange Program participants Daniel Ha and Kannan Freyaldenhoven.
Submit Your Paper for Publication in the *Polish American Studies*

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. 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.

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**Polish Government Sponsors Gifts of Polish American Encyclopedia**

In October 2013, PAHA applied to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via the Consulate General in Los Angeles) for a Polonia grant, designated to fund distribution of free copies of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* and other materials. The grant award was received in the summer of 2015 and several Encyclopedias were purchased and donated to the following organizations: The House of Poland, San Diego (a museum site in Balboa Park); the Polish Library Millennium in Los Angeles, where the Encyclopedia will be added to the collection that is now being catalogued electronically; the Polish Art and Culture Foundation in San Francisco, where the Encyclopedia will be added to the collection; the Library of the Polish Club in Denver, where the Encyclopedia will be available to the Polonian community; and the Arizona State University Libraries in Tempe, Arizona, where the Encyclopedia will be used by students in Slavic and Jewish departments, as well by the ASU faculty, and the larger community members.

PHOTO: Dr. Maja Trochimczyk with Millennium Library Director, Henryka Lazarz.
Longtime PAHA member and supporter Frederic Skalny was honored by the rector of the Jagiellonian University with the *Plus Ratio Quam Vis* (Reason before force) medal. First awarded to mark the 600th anniversary of Queen Jadwiga and King Władysław Jagiełło’s patronage of the university, it recognizes individuals who render distinguished services to the institution. The name comes from the inscription on the passageway in the Collegium Maius leading from the Assembly Hall to the Copernicus Room and is based on lines from the sixth century Latin poem *Elegy* by Maximianus.

Prof. Andrzej Mania, vice-rector for educational affairs at the Jagiellonian University, presented the medal to Dr. Skalny during a ceremony held at the University of Rochester on November 5, 2014, in which he stressed the recipient’s “invaluable contribution to the promotion of Polish science and culture in the United States, and the development of long-term cooperation between the Jagiellonian University and the University of Rochester.” The decoration was awarded for Dr. Skalny’s invaluable contribution to the promotion of Polish science and culture in the United States, and the development of long-term cooperation between the Jagiellonian University and the University of Rochester. Dr. Frederic Skalny comes from a Polish family which immigrated to the United States in 1907 and has actively promoted Polish science and culture in this country. Their achievements in this field include the establishment of the Louis Skalny Foundation, which sponsors the publication of an academic journal of the Polish American Historical Association (*Polish American Studies*) and funds scholarships for students in Polish studies.

The Foundation greatly contributed to the creation of the Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester in 1994. The unit, currently named the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies, plays a vital role in the promotion of Polish history and culture in the U.S. through sponsoring lectures, film screenings, conferences and other events. Thanks to the generous financial support of the Louis Skalny Foundation to the Skalny Center, it was possible to establish programs of academic staff exchange between the University of Rochester and a number of Polish institutions of higher education. The bilateral collaboration agreement between the Jagiellonian University and the University of Rochester signed in 1995 has enabled research stays of JU staff at the Skalny Center. In 2011 the bilateral collaboration was expanded to include student exchange.

The *Plus ratio quam vis* medal is awarded to honor persons distinguished for their eminent services to the Jagiellonian University. Minted to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the University’s revival by Queen Saint Jadwiga and King Vladislaus Jagiełło, it was first presented to Pope John Paul II, an alumnus and honorary doctor of the Jagiellonian University. Other persons awarded with the medal include: the Nobel Prize winner Dr. James Dewey Watson, the former prime minister of Portugal, Aníbal Cavaco Silva, the former President of France, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso.

PHOTO: Frederic Skalny at the awards ceremony at the University of Rochester.
Subtitled, "Ameryka-Echo and the Public Role of the Immigrant Press" this book from the University of Illinois Press (2015), focuses on Antoni A. Paryski who arrived in the U.S. in 1883 and climbed from typesetter to newspaper publisher in Toledo, Ohio. His weekly *Ameryka-Echo* became a defining publication in the international Polish diaspora and its much-read letters section a public sphere for immigrants to come together as a community to discuss issues in their own language.

Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann mines seven decades' worth of thoughts expressed by *Ameryka-Echo* readers to chronicle the ethnic press's role in the immigrant experience. Open and unedited debate harkened back to homegrown journalistic traditions, and Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann opens up the nuances of an editorial philosophy that cultivated readers as content creators. As she shows, ethnic publications in the process forged immigrant social networks and pushed notions of education and self-improvement throughout Polonia. Paryski, meanwhile, built a publishing empire that earned him the nickname "The Polish Hearst." Detailed and incisive, *The Polish Hearst* opens the door on the long-overlooked world of ethnic publishing and the amazing life of one of its towering figures.

"Who says creating a virtual community based on sharing information across space is new? Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann’s insightful study of Antoni Paryski, aka the Polish Hearst, the ethnic newspaper *Ameryka-Echo*, and the reader-writers who contributed to that Polish American paper, broadens our understanding of the letters of mobile people and how they created an ethnic public sphere." ~ Suzanne M. Sinke, author of *Dutch Immigrant Women in the United States, 1880-1920*

"In relating this resonant, deeply researched and broadly conceived story of Antoni Paryski, the classically self-made Polish American publisher, the author provides important insights into ethnicity, the hard-won American identities of the immigrants and their children, and the nature of community in modern, culturally diverse societies." ~ David A. Gerber, University at Buffalo Distinguished Professor of History

Published in 2014 in Montreal by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada (ISBN 978-0-9868851-1-2), *Senator Stanley Haidasz: A Statesman for all Canadians*, is a biography of a Polish-Canadian politician who has made a great impact on the life of the country. The publication of this book was supported by Canadian Polish Millennium Fund (Toronto), and Polish Socio-Cultural Foundation of Quebec (Montreal). http://www.biblioteka.info/haidasz.pdf

"Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm’s book about Senator Haidasz is not only an engaging personal account but also a contribution to a wider knowledge about the rising social significance of the Polish community in Canada.” ~ Zbigniew Brzezinski, Center for Strategic and International Studies, U.S. National Security Advisor for President Jimmy Carter

"Stanley Haidasz described in this book by Dr. Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm has left a permanent impact on the history of Canada as the first Canadian of Polish origin to enter the federal Parliament. I also believe that he was a perfect representative of his constituency. He was always accessible and never refused to give of his time and attention. He did not serve only the Polish community but helped and cared for all the ethnic minorities. He was very popular among them and well liked.” ~ Jesse Flis, member of Parliament for fourteen years, presently Director NATO Council of Canada, Council for Polish Studies-University of Toronto

“Throughout his life, Stanley Haidasz demonstrated a strong spirit of public service and a singular dedication to bettering his community and country. A highly esteemed physician and proud member of the Polish community, he brought unique talents and perspective to Canadian political life. Spanning five decades, his distinguish parliamentary career as a Member of the House of Commons, Senator and the first Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, leaves an impressive and enduring legacy.” ~ Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.
Aquila Polonica Publishing recently sold Finnish rights to its award-winning book, *The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery* by Captain Witold Pilecki, to Minerva Kustannus Oy, Helsinki. To date, the following translation rights have been licensed: Chinese–complex; Chinese–simplified; Finnish; German; Italian; Japanese; Portuguese (Portugal). *The Auschwitz Volunteer* is the first time that Pilecki’s most comprehensive report on his secret undercover mission at Auschwitz has been published in English. The book received rave reviews from major media, including *The New York Times* Sunday Book Review, which calls it “a historical document of the greatest importance.” *The New Republic* says: “Extraordinary memoir. Extraordinarily powerful prose. Deserves to be read alongside the accounts of Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel.” In his Foreword to the book, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, calls Pilecki “a shining example of heroism that transcends religion, race and time,” and concludes: “This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the Holocaust.” “We’re very excited to bring the story of Witold Pilecki’s heroic mission at Auschwitz, which is one of the most dramatic stories of World War II, to readers in Finland,” said Juhani Korolainen, Managing Director of Minerva Kostannus Oy.

In September 1940, Captain Witold Pilecki, a Polish Army officer, volunteered for an almost certainly suicidal secret undercover mission: to get himself arrested and sent to Auschwitz as a prisoner, with the goal of smuggling out intelligence and building a resistance organization among the prisoners. Barely surviving nearly three years of brutality, starvation and disease, Pilecki accomplished his mission before escaping in April 1943. *The Auschwitz Volunteer* won the 2012 PROSE Award for Biography & Autobiography from the Association of American Publishers, the only independently published book to win a PROSE award that year; and the 2013 Silver Benjamin Franklin Award for Autobiography/Memoir. It was a Featured Selection of the History Book Club, and a Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club and the Military Book Club. It is available in hardcover, paperback, and an audiobook.

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and Gift from the Heart Foundation (Dar Serca) celebrated their 5th Anniversary of cooperation with a very special ART FOR HEART 2015 EXHIBITION held on September 19-25, 2015. The exhibit was a unique opportunity for Chicago’s Polish and Polish-American artists to showcase their art while bringing the community together to support two important Chicago foundations. The exhibition’s events offered opportunities to expand networks of contacts for many industries and organizations in the beautiful setting of contemporary art. All original artwork, as well as less expensive prints were available for sale and 100% of proceeds jointly benefited the Gift from the Heart Foundation (Dar Serca) and The Polish Museum of America. The Gift from the Heart Foundation, or Dar Serca, is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that helps children with disabilities receive the medical treatment that they urgently need.

For those interested in the górale culture of the Podhale area in the Tatra Mountains and its dispersion around the world, a current source of information is the *Tatrański Orzeł/Tatra Eagle*, a bilingual newsletter edited by Thaddeus Gromada and Jane Kedron. To subscribe to the newsletter, partly published in the górale dialect, or for more information contact jkedron@gmail.com or tgromada@mindspring.com.
TETA

— for my great-aunt

Teta, it’s winter in Pittsburgh again — darkbrick city of smokestacks and soot — and we’re walking up Broadway Avenue, past billboards and vacant lots, through the slush of snow and cinders as the streetcars slur past — ghosts in our flowered babushkas and shabby coats, shopping bags weighing down our arms.

We’ve bought cans of beets, heads of cabbage, meat ground fresh that we’ll squeeze into fists, D.P.’s, at our backs; we’re not ashamed anymore, at last, to have come from nowhere, nothing, dirt — the village you fled as a young girl, gone, the houses burned and the fields you worked into rows of green grown wild again.

Once you spooned honey into my mouth because my arms and legs were like sticks because I itched and wept and wanted, more than sweetness, to know who I was. But you sighed, No one wants to remember that stuff — how you came to this new country, stinking of ship; how you sold bootleg hootch for cash, your own smooth flesh for a rich man’s song — the fat growing fat on the fat of the land while you buried one child in a pauper’s grave, raised two others on blood money, prayer. All your sins in a basket too heavy to lift and your body already a heap of grief the day you slipped in the alley and fell in that garden you’d made of ground bone, ash, under a slit of tin-washed sky.

And then you never stood up again. I watched as you shrank in your narrow bed, blind, but you gripped my hand and sang the old song of the little bird in a tongue I still don’t understand — dark syllables fluttering just out of reach — until you were shadow, whisper, less — your whole life a ragged story stitched into breath, unstitched again.

Teta, we’ve never been much in this world, although we were many, too many, once — the children’s children who circled your table, blowing out candles, eyes tilted like yours;

[continued]

our faces the same face all over again, the face of the stranger wherever we turned — my cousin the Cossack, the Gypsy, the Jew; my cousin the dark Slav, my cousin the slave.

And we’ll never belong to this place where you came with your one suitcase tied with rope, with your shape like a shadow risen from earth— some mute root pulsed from a meadow where wildflowers blazed in the summer and winter lay down. This is America, Teta, you’re dead, and our dying means nothing here.

Give me your bags.


CECILIA WOLOCH is the author of six collections of poems, most recently Carpathia (BOA Editions 2009). The French translation of her second book, Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem, was issued in France, as Tzigane: le poeme gitane by Scribe-l’Harmattan in 2014. Tsigan has also been adapted for multimedia performances in the U.S. and Europe. Her novella, Sur la Route, a finalist for the Colony Collapse Prize, is forthcoming from Quale Press in 2015. Other literary honors include The Indiana Review Prize for Poetry, The New Ohio Review Prize for Poetry, the Scott Russell Sanders Prize for Creative Nonfiction, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, CEC/ArtsLink International, Chateau de la Napoule Foundation, the Center for International Theatre Development and many others. The founding director of Summer Poetry in Idyllwild and The Paris Poetry Workshop, she has also served on the faculties of a number of creative writing programs and teaches throughout the U.S. and around the world.
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IN 2015-2016

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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 (EIN 362729972). 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, and its European origins. 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). The organization sponsors an annual conference, in conjunction with the American Historical Association, 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. In 2011, PAHA sponsored the critically acclaimed Polish American Encyclopedia, published by McFarland and edited by Prof. James Pula.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT identifies the following goals:
- To promote the study of Polish American history and culture
- 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
The Annual Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association will take place on January 7-9, 2016, in association with the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, held at the downtown Hilton in Atlanta, Georgia.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016
PAHA Board Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2016: 3:30 PM-5:30 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Executive Boardroom

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016
Session 1. Polish Immigrant Adaptation and Cultural Transition
Friday, January 8, 2016: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209
Chair: Mary Patrice Erdmans, Case Western Reserve University
Papers:
- *Polish Miners in the Ruhr Area, 1920–30*  
  Pien Versteegh, Avans University of Applied Sciences
- *The Eviction of the Kashube Fisherman of Jones Island, Milwaukee*, Anne Gurnack, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
- *Kashubian pustô noc in America: Comparative Perspective of Death Rites, Poland and Canada*, Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf, University of Gdańsk
- Comment: The Audience

Session 2. Polish Americans: Family, Home, Career
Friday, January 8, 2016: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209
Chair: Pien Versteegh, Avans University of Applied Sciences
Papers:
- *Biatek Family: A Case Study in Polish Immigration History*  
  Barbara D. Pulaski, Mount Ida College; Francis S. Wolenski, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- *Three Second-Generation Polish American Women of Success and Their Stories*, Joanna Wojdon, University of Wrocław
- Comment: The Audience

Session 3A. Foreigners’ View on the American Civil War
Friday, January 8, 2016: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209; Chair: Dominic A. Pacyga, Columbia College Chicago
Papers:
- *Polish Participation in the Antislavery Crusade*  
  James Pula, Purdue University North Central
- *Writing German Lives during the American Civil War: The Letters of German Immigrant Soldiers*  
  Daniel P. Kotzin, Medaille College
- *The Polish View on the American Conflict: The Civil War from the Perspective of Count Adam De Gurowski*  
  Piotr Derengowski, University of Gdańsk
- Comment: Christopher Blackburn, University of Louisiana at Monroe, The Audience

Session 3B. Émigré Political Activism during the Cold War
Friday, January 8, 2016: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 210; Chair: Anna Mazurkiewicz, University of Gdańsk
Papers:
- *Central European Federalists in the United States during the Cold War Period*  
  Sławomir Łukasiewicz, Catholic University of Lublin and the Institute of National Remembrance
- *Between Neighbors, Between Immigrants: Poles and Ukrainians in the United States during the Cold War, A Few Reflections*, Anna Fiń, Pedagogical University of Kraków
- *Serving the United States and Afghanistan: The Role of the Afghan Americans in the Cold War, 1978–92*, John K. Baden, Case Western Reserve University
- Comment: The Audience

Poetry Reading - Slicing the Bread, Children’s Survival Manual in 25 Poems
Friday, January 8, 2016: 5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209
Poetry Reading, Maja Trochimczyk, Moonrise Press
Session 4. Polish Immigrant and Polish American Ethnic Women
Saturday, January 9, 2016: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209
Chair: Barbara Rylko-Bauer, Michigan State University
Papers:
- Warsaw, East London, and Detroit: Ravensbrück Camp Inmates Searching for a Home
  Anna Muller, University of Michigan-Dearborn
- Women, Immigration, and Ethnicity: A Review of Sociological Studies
  Mary Patrice Erdmans, Case Western Reserve University
- Forbidden Desires: Women and Transgressive Sexuality in Polish American Fiction
  Grażyna Kozaczka, Cazenovia College
Comment: The Audience

Session 5. The Reception of Polish Culture in the United States
Saturday, January 9, 2016: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209
Chair: Grażyna Kozaczka, Cazenovia College
Papers:
- Digested: Tadeusz Różewicz and the Polish Americans
  Maja Dziedzic, University of Gdańsk
- Poland, Polish-Americans, and Georgia
  John P. Dunn, Valdosta State University
  Michał Mydłowski, University of Warsaw
- Teaching Resources in the Maintenance and Development of Polish Language and Culture in the United States
  Monika Wołoszyn-Domagała, University of Zielona Góra
Comment: The Audience

Special Session. Honoring Victor Greene: Immigration and Ethnic History since the 1960s
Saturday, January 9, 2016: 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
Hilton Atlanta, Room 209
Co-Sponsor(s): Immigration and Ethnic History Society
Chair: Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University
Comment: James R. Barrett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Ronald H. Bayor, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dominic A. Paczyga, Columbia College Chicago; James Pula, Purdue University North Central; Dorothee Schneider, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016
19:00-21:00 AWARDS BANQUET – at the historic Mary Mac's Tea Room (224 Ponce De Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308). Register to attend: $50.00/

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
PAHA's 73rd Annual Meeting will take place at the Hilton Atlanta (255 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303) and the Awards Banquet will be at the Mary Mac’s Tea Room. Registration for the Meeting is FREE and for the Awards Banquet $50. Please visit our website, Oct. 15 to Dec. 30, 2015: www.polishamericanstudies.org/registration.html

PIASA’s Call for Papers for the 2016 Conference, Due April 15, 2016

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite proposals for PIASA’s 74th Annual Conference to be held in Washington, DC, June 16-18, 2016.

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@pnc.edu. The deadline for proposals is April 15, 2016. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee.
During the summer of 1934, two Polish amateur-pilots, Joe (Józef) and Ben (Bolesław) Adamowicz, who immigrated to the US more than twenty years earlier, flew over the Atlantic on a single-engine plane Bellanca. Their trip took them from New York to Warsaw; they were the first Poles to do so. They became instant celebrities, favorites of the journalists, photographers, and the public on both sides of the Atlantic. Alas, their triumph was short-lived, followed by a fall from grace, to imprisonment and bankruptcy. Their forgotten story comes to life in this richly illustrated book, written by a historian, journalist and educator Zofia Reklewska-Braun and director, writer, scholar, and author of over 50 books, Dr. Kazimierz Braun. Across the Atlantic: The Adamowicz Brothers, Polish Aviation Pioneers (Moonrise Press, September 2015; originally published in Poland in 2011). ISBN 978-0-9963981-2-1, paperback, 240 pages; ISBN 978-0-9963981-3-8, e-Book download.

**Fragment of Chapter 14: “Across the Atlantic”**

The Bellanca Pacemaker aircraft called Warsaw, with Ben Adamowicz at the controls, took off from Harbour Grace in Newfoundland, Canada, on Friday, June 29, 1934, at 6:06 a.m. Joe was sitting in his designated place and Ben was the pilot. There were about 300 people bidding them farewell. Ben and Joe planned to fly to Ireland on the first leg of the whole trip. This part of their flight was to take about eight and a half hours. However, they did not want to land in Ireland, but rather to continue on to Warsaw. They calculated that the whole flight would have spanned the distance of about 4,410 miles. They had more than enough fuel to make it.

Their family and friends from New York gave them food provisions for the journey: sandwiches, oranges, water, and some coffee in a thermos. This coffee turned out to be really bad. “In addition to that, we got a grilled chicken in Harbour Grace” – recalled Ben. “Consul Marchlewski advised us to also take chocolate. He explained that in the case of landing on water chocolate might save us for quite a long time.” Ben’s list of provisions and equipment for the flight includes a signaling pistol with 24 rockets, to be used also in the case of landing on water, to signal to passing ships. Additionally, the huge main tank was equipped with a special clutch, able to quickly release fuel, and thus lessen the weight of the machine before landing on water. The tank could also serve as a floating device. “We remembered that Hauser was floating on his Bellanca for the whole week thanks to the waterproof tank.” The option of splashing down on the waves was quite frankly debated and they were prepared for it.

“I was at the left joystick and it was I who had to pilot first” – recalled Ben. So, here they are in their Bellanca, ready to go. Ben writes in the flight log: “June 29. Take off 5 o’clock from Harbour Grace for Warsaw, Poland.” Ben hands over the log to Joe. He sits more comfortably in the seat. He puts his left hand gently on the joystick and the right hand on the throttle. He is ready.

The takeoff was perilous. There was no real runway at Harbour Grace. As we have said, the airstrip was simply a stretch of flat, natural terrain, barely cleared of bushes and boulders. “The manager, Mr. Simon, was kind enough to remove many stones. I thought that the runway was long enough for us, about 900 feet.” But at its end were ponds and just beyond them rocks and hills. “If only I could get the machine in the air before these rocks! Later it would be easy.” He
firmly pressed the brake pedal. He pushed forward the gas knob. The engine responded with an increasing roar. When the engine reached 1,900 revolutions per minute, Ben released the brakes. The rest was history: “The machine kicked forward and started to run. It was running faster and faster, but the dangerous rocks at the end of the strip were approaching with equally high speed. Finally, the airspeed indicator showed 105 mph. I pulled the joystick towards me and the machine painfully and slowly rose into the air. Yet, at the end of the runway we were only at the altitude of about 30 feet. The runway below ended and we were approaching the rocks ahead of us; rising as high as 150 feet. These rocks blocked the trajectory of the plane. I knew that I should not raise the nose too high, because the airplane might lose speed and stall, falling tail down. The other option was to turn, but it was equally dangerous because a too deep turn might have resulted in sliding to one side and, again, down. Even though this was dangerous, I chose the second option. I am not a coward but I clearly knew what was at risk. The plane, obeying the controls turned to the left and narrowly avoided the rocks. I aligned the machine back to the original flight path. It obeyed again and there we were in the air, high over the ground, flying towards the ocean.”

They flew above the Atlantic, towards Poland, towards the great adventure. The American and Polish press published news items about their departure for the transatlantic crossing. A daily newspaper in Warsaw made a big deal of it, with a headline: “The Adamowiczes Fly Happy!” Below, in a large font, the report confirmed that “Brothers Benjamin and Joseph Adamowicz have departed from the airport at Harbour Grace on Newfoundland en route over the Atlantic to Poland. The departure took place at 6:30 a.m. local time in very favorable flight conditions. The weather over the Atlantic is good. They have a supporting western wind from the back. If everything goes well they might accomplish the flight in 40 hours, and thus land in Warsaw on Sunday between 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. in the morning.”

PHOTOS: 1) Book cover; 2) Ben & Joe Adamowicz with their plane and Ambassador Chłapowski in Paris; 3) Pola Mokotowskie, 1934.

Professor M. B. B. Biskupski Receives Polish Citizenship

On September 17, 2015 the Consul General of Poland awarded Polish citizenship to Professor Mieczysław B. Biskupski. He commented: “This is something very dear to me.” Prof. Biskupski is a Polish-American historian and political scientist, with focus on Central European (and particularly Polish) history and international relations. He held professorship appointments at St. John Fisher College, University of Rochester and University of Warsaw. In 1997 he was a Fellow of the Central European University of Budapest. Since 2002 he is the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University and currently serves as the President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA). Biskupski is the recipient of several academic and national awards, such as the Honor Roll of Polish Science by the Polish Ministry of Education (2001), and the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (2000). In 2004 he received PAHA’s Mieczysław Haiman Award. He served as the member of the Board of Directors of the Józef Piłsudski Institute of America and is a Past President of PAHA.
I started writing my novel *Suitcase Charlie* about sixty years ago when I was 7 years old, just a kid.

At that time, I was living in a working-class Polish neighborhood on the near northwest side of Chicago, an area sometimes called Humboldt Park, sometimes called the Polish Triangle. A lot of my neighbors were Holocaust survivors, World War II refugees, and Displaced Persons. There were hardware-store clerks with Auschwitz tattoos on their wrists, Polish cavalry officers who still mourned for their dead comrades, and women who had walked from Siberia to Iran to escape the Russian Gulag. They were our moms and dads. Some of us kids had been born here in the States, but most of us had come over to America in the late 40s and early 50s on US troop ships when the US started letting us refugees in.

As kids, we knew a lot about fear. We heard about it from our parents. They had seen their mothers and fathers shot, their brothers and sisters put on trains and sent to concentration camps, their childhood friends left behind crying on the side of a road. Most of our parents didn’t tell us about this stuff directly. How could they? But we felt their fear anyway.

We overheard their stories late at night when they thought we were watching TV in a far off room or sleeping in bed, and that’s when they’d gather around the kitchen table and start remembering the past and all the things that made them fearful. My mom would tell about what happened to her mom and her sister and her sister’s baby when the German’s came to her house in the woods, the rapes and murders. You could hear the fear in my mom’s voice. She feared everything, the sky in the morning, a drink of water, a sparrow singing in a dream, me whistling some stupid little Mickey Mouse Club tune I picked up on TV. Sometimes when I was a kid, if I started to whistle, she would ask me to stop because she was afraid that that kind of simple act of joy would bring the devil into the house. Really.

My dad was the same way. If he walked into a room where my sister and I were watching some TV show about World War II – even something as innocuous as the sitcom *Hogan’s Heroes* – and there were some German soldiers on the screen, his hands would clench up into fists, his face would redder in anger, and he would tell us to turn the show off, immediately. Normally the sweetest guy in the world, his fear would turn him toward anger, and he would start telling us about the terrible things the Germans did, the women he saw bayoneted, the friends he saw castrated and beaten to death, the men he saw frozen to death during a simple roll call. This was what it was like at home for most of my friends and me. To escape our parents’ fear, however, we didn’t have to do much. We just had to go outside and be around other kids. We could forget the war and our parents’ fear with them. We’d laugh, play tag and hide-and-go-seek, climb on fences, play softball in the nearby park, go to the corner story for an ice cream cone or a chocolate soda. You name it.

This was in the mid-50s at the height of the baby boom, and there were millions of us kids outside living large and – as my dad liked to say – running around like wild goats! In the streets with our friends, we didn’t know a thing about fear, didn’t have to think about it.

That is until *Suitcase Charlie* showed up one day.

It happened in the fall of 1955, October, a Sunday afternoon.

Three young Chicago boys, 13-year old John Schuessler, his 11-year old brother Anton, and their 14-year old friend Bobby Peterson, went to Downtown Chicago, the area called the Loop, to see a matinee of a Disney nature documentary called *The African Lion*. Today, the parents of the boys probably would take them to the Loop, but back then it was a different story. Their parents knew where they were going, and the mother of the Schuessler boys in fact had picked out the film they would see and given the brothers the money to pay for the tickets. At the time, it wasn’t that unusual for kids to be doing this kind of roaming around on their own.

We were “free-range” kids before the term was even invented. Every one of my friends was a latch key kid. Our parents figured that we could pretty much stay out of trouble no matter where we went. We’d take buses to museums, beaches, movies,
swimming pools, amusement parks without any kind of parental guidance. There were times we’d even just walk a mile to a movie to save the 10 cents on the bus ride. We’d seldom do this alone, however. Kids had brother and sisters and pals, so we’d do what the Schuessler brothers and their friend Bobby Peterson did.

We’d get on a bus, go downtown, see a movie and hangout down there afterward. There was plenty to do, and most of it didn’t cost a penny: there were free museums, enormous department stores filled with toy departments where you could play for hours with all the toys your parents could never afford to buy you, libraries filled with books and civil war artifacts (real ones), a Greyhound bus depot packed with arcade-style games, a dazzling lake front full of yachts and sailboats, comic book stores, dime stores where barkers would try to sell you impossible non-stick pans and sponges that would clean anything, and skyscrapers like the Prudential Building where you could ride non-stop, lickety-split elevators from the first floor to the 41st floor for free.

And if you got tired of all that, you could always stop and look at the wild people in the streets! It was easy for a bunch of parent-free kids to spend an afternoon down in the Loop just goofing off and checking stuff out.

Just like the Schuessler Brothers and their friend Bobby Peterson did.

But the brothers and Bobby never made it home from the Loop that Sunday in October of 1955.

Two days later, their dead bodies were found in a shallow ditch just east of the Des Plaines River. The boys were bound up and naked. Their eyes were closed shut with adhesive tape. Bobby Peterson had been beaten, and the bodies of all three had been thrown out of a vehicle. The coroner pronounced the cause of death to be “asphyxiation by suffocation.”

The city was thrown into a panic.

For the first time, we kids felt the kind of fear outside the house we had seen inside the house. It shook us up. Where before we hung out on the street corners and played games till late in the evening, now we came home when the first street lights came on.

We also started spending more time at home or at the homes of our friends, and we stopped doing as many things on our own out on the street: fewer trips to the supermarket or the corner store or the two local movie theaters, The Crystal and The Vision. The street wasn’t the safe place it once had been. Everything changed.

And we were conscious of threat, of danger, of the type of terrible thing that could happen almost immediately to shake us and our world up.

We started watching for the killer of the Schuessler Brothers and Bobby Peterson. We didn’t know his name or what he looked like, nobody did, but we gave him a name and we had a sense of what he might look like. We called him Charlie, and we were sure he hauled around a suitcase, one that he carried dead children in. Just about every evening, as it started getting dark, some kid would look down the street toward the shadows at the end of the block, toward where the park was, and see something in those shadows. The kid would point then and ask in a whisper, “Suitcase Charlie?”

We’d follow his gaze and a minute later we’d be heading for home.

Fast as we could.

The Archives of Change 1989-1991 – by Paweł A. Stefański

Responding to the request from the Secretary of the Polish Senate, the Polish Library in Washington DC joined the project "Archives of Change 1989 - 1991" (Archiwa Przełomu 1989 - 1991) - more information is at http://www.archiwaprzelomu.pl/ (in Polish).

The core idea is to identify, describe and provide an electronic copy of any source materials (documents, leaflets, photos, video recordings, etc.) which provide eyewitness account of that period of time, with focus on changes which were happening in Poland or in Polish diaspora. Any and all materials which relate to this early period of transformation are likely to be of interest to project organizers. Only references and electronic copies are collected - the original materials remain with their owners.

Individuals or institutions, who want to join this effort, are asked to contact the Polish Library in Washington, D.C., by email to mailbox@polishlibrary.org. Please forward this request to others who may be interested.
During World War Two, the African country of Northern Rhodesia (today: Zambia) had four camps for Polish refugees. Those Poles came from Siberia, went via Uzbekistan to Persia and were later deported to Eastern and Southern Africa. For my Master Thesis for African Studies at the Leiden University, I researched the last Polish camp that was built in Zambia: the Abercorn Camp in the remote north of the country.

The project started in December 2013. I was on holidays in the Northern Province of Zambia and came across Mbala, which was called Abercorn in the colonial times. It is a small town in the middle of nowhere with quite a famous museum, called the Moto Moto Museum. When I went to Moto Moto, the staff was setting up a temporary exhibition about the so called Polish Abercorn Camp, which was located in this area between 1943 and 1948. I had never heard of Polish deportees in Northern Rhodesia. It was a fascinating story. Back home, I started searching for information about this subject and found out there was hardly any.

I had just commenced working on my Master’s Degree at the Leiden University and when my professor, who was part of a team which reorganised the archives in Zambia, told me the Zambian archives are very good, I decided to make Abercorn Camp my thesis subject. I went back to Zambia. My professor turned out to be right about the richness of the archives, maintained in the Zambian capital, Lusaka: the archives contain official letters, telegrams and receipts from British authorities in Northern Rhodesia, in Southern Africa and in Nairobi; from Polish authorities and Polish camp commanders in Northern Rhodesia; and even letters and pictures from Polish camp inhabitants.

The paperwork in the archives is about all four Polish camps in Northern Rhodesia, including the Lusaka Camp, the Fort Jameson Camp, the Bwana Mkubwa Camp and the Abercorn Camp. I concentrated my research on the Abercorn Camp and found a lot of information about the camp construction, the journey and arrival of the refugees, the camp rules and problems, and the closure of the camp.

From Lusaka I went back to Mbala where I explored the former site of the camp, investigated ruins and examined the field opposite the former camp. In this field, one Polish grave tomb remains and many Polish refugees are allegedly buried in the ground. In the storerooms of the Moto Moto Museum, I took pictures of the artifacts left by the Polish deportees, like boots, shovels and other tools.

I also interviewed three Zambians who lived in Abercorn when the Polish refugees arrived in 1943. Although the interviewees were small boys at that time, their memory was still fresh. They told many stories about the contact with the Polish refugees. In the next Newsletter I will elaborate on their stories, on the arrival of the deportees, on life in Abercorn camp and its closure.

MARY-ANN SANDIFORT is a Dutch journalist. For the past 25 years she has spent a lot of time in Africa. In 2015, she graduated with a Master’s degree in African Studies.

PHOTO (R): Children at the Centennial Celebrations of the Polish Museum of America’s Library in Chicago.
On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Polish Museum of America Library officially celebrated its Centennial. Exactly a century ago, Rev. Jan Obyrtacz blessed the newly opened Library of the PRCUA. One hundred years later to the day, Rev. Andrzej Maslejak of Holy Trinity Parish, blessed the Library Reading Room and the newly renovated Rare Books Room, adjacent to the Library on the first floor. Following his blessing, the jubilee celebrations commenced in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. Over 200 guests were welcomed by Managing Director Małgorzata Kot (and immediate past Head Librarian since 1995); then, the Master of Ceremonies, Jacek Niemczyk, led the formal program with great zest and enthusiasm.

The first speaker, Michele Jaminski, PMA Vice-Chair and PRCUA Vice-President congratulated the Library on its 100th anniversary. Shortly after, the large crowd was entertained by a musical performance by the Grażyna Auguścik Group. The jazz music harkened the crowd back to the start of the 20th century and was appreciated by all guests – some whom dressed in the style of the early 1900s.

Next, the speaking portion of the evening began with a presentation by Hon. Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Having toured the exhibition prior to program, she spoke in very heartfelt words on the Library's mission to preserve such historic publications that were on display. She congratulated the Library for its achievements, wishing it another 100 years. At her behest, Halina Misterka, Head Archivist, led the audience in a slightly revised rendition of the traditional Polish song, “Sto Lat” – this time wishing the Library “200 years” in chorus.

PMA President Richard Owsiany spoke about the Library's history. Iwona Bożek, Head Librarian, and curator of the centennial exhibition, discussed the selected books on display (the oldest printed in 1508), and their importance not only to Polonia but also to Polish historiography and literature. The winners of the “Bookmark Contest” for children and youth were announced, and met with great applause. The selection of the nine winners in three age groups was not an easy task for the contest judges, as over 150 participants submitted their artwork; all were displayed during the celebration. In addition to cash prizes, the winners received books and PMA Library memberships. The winning selections were immediately printed on official bookmarks commemorating the centennial.

A beautiful cake specially baked for this occasion and decorated with the Library Centennial logo was presented and cut by Mrs. Kot. Wine and refreshments prepared by the Friends of the PMA Library were served, as ragtime music played by Włodek Zuterek filled the Great Hall. Guests had the opportunity to examine the specially prepared exhibition of old and rare prints, commenting with the amazement on the printed editions that served so many before us – and hopefully, will be as useful to many future generations of readers. As the Library moves forward through this 100th year, you are invited to visit, explore, and attend special events.

IWONA BOŻEK is the Head Librarian for Special Collections at the PMA Museum in Chicago.
The March 2015 commemoration of Casimir Pulaski’s birthday took place in Savannah’s Monterey Square at 11:00 am. The gathered crowd was greeted by Glenn Ball, Chair of the Savannah General Pulaski Committee. A processional consisting of the Knights of Columbus Color Guard; the Coastal Heritage Society Fife and Drum Corps; with members of the Daytona Beach, FL; Jacksonville, FL and the Polonia Society of Korona, FL Polish-American clubs led the march into the square where General Pulaski is memorialized with a tall marble monument and tomb.

After the playing of the national anthems of Poland and the United States by the Benedictine Military School band, two Revolutionary War "soldiers," Brian Carney and Aaron Bradford, re-enactors from the Georgia Coastal Society, fired a musket salute in honor of Pulaski. United States Congressman "Buddy" Carter made a few topical remarks. Deborah M. Majka, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, spoke on behalf of the Polish government. Fr. Frank Ziemialewicz offered a prayer and representatives of the three Polish societies who came from Florida to take part in the observance, the American Council for Polish Culture, and the Savannah General Pulaski Committee, placed wreaths on Pulaski’s monument.

Among those present at the observance was Polish-American journalist Edward Pinkowski, and his son Jack (President of the Poles in America Foundation) with wife Monica. Later, the group retired to the Plantation Club at The Landings for a very tasty Polish style banquet. There the 98-year-old Mr. Pinkowski, who has spent most of his life researching Pulaski’s history, was honored with a rendition of the traditional Polish song Sto Lat [May he live 100 years] for which occasion the one-hundred was raised to two-hundred. Also at the very sociable banquet were resident Savannah writers Joan Wilson and Mel Gordon who are researching a future book about Pulaski. During the event Mr. David Duckworth, a concert pianist, played selections from Chopin and other classical composers. Thanks go to the organizing committee: Chairman Glenn Ball and his wife Janina, Vice-chairman Joseph Warenzak, Secretary Edward Krolakowski, Treasurer Andrew Boguszewski, and Publicity Chair Ray Piechocki.

This and other topics are subjects for discussion about the "Hero of Two Nations" at the International Casimir Pulaski Conference organized by the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom and the Pułaski Museum in Warka, Poland, on October 6-7, 2015. Scholars, students, and the general public had an opportunity to learn more about Pulaski’s life. More information is found on the website: www.poles.org/Pulaski/Conference.html

PHOTOS: 1) Hon. RP Consul Deborah M. Majka, Congressman "Buddy" Carter, "Krakowianka" Janina and Glenn Ball. 2) The Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and people at the Pulaski Monument, Savannah, GA. 3) Soldier re-enactors on the scene. 3) Attendees showed Polish Pride through folk costumes.
A New Documentary, Kościuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time

A new documentary, Kościuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time, premiered on October 1, 2015 in Chicago, was written and directed Alex Storozynski (President Emeritus of the Kościuszko Foundation) and produced by Eve Krzyżanowski. Narrated by Blair Underwood, the story is told through reenactments at West Point, Saratoga, Philadelphia, and Poland, along with dramatic readings by screen actors such as Olek Krupa. It includes interviews with experts such as Former U.S. National Security Advisor Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, UCLA Prof. Gary Nash, Purdue Prof. James Pula, and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Alex Storozynski.

A military strategist, Kościuszko’s plan won the Battle of Saratoga - the turning point of the war. He also built Fortress West Point, which Benedict Arnold tried to sell to the British in the most infamous act of treason in American history. The Polish hero Kościuszko gave his salary from the American Revolution to Thomas Jefferson and told him to buy slaves - and free them. In his quest for liberty, Kościuszko worked with George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and the French Revolutionaries while struggling against the tyranny of Russia’s Catherine the Great and Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1791, when Poland passed the first democratic Constitution in Europe, Russian, Austrian and Prussian monarchs sent armies to crush this new democracy. Kościuszko led an army against the invaders. Napoleon called Kościuszko "the hero of the North," and Russian Czarina Catherine offered a reward for anyone who could capture him "dead or alive." Jefferson called Kościuszko "as pure a son of liberty, as I have ever known."


The Butterfly’s Choice—A Volume of Poetry by Joanna Kurowska

The Butterfly’s Choice (Broadstone Books 2015) is a new poetry collection by Joanna Kurowska. Like the titular butterfly trapped in a headlamp, the poetry in this collection occupies the boundaries and extremities of our human condition, probing and challenging what it means to live "half-eaten" but still grasping at the possibility of hope and meaning, "yielding half-beauty to the world." Informed on the one hand by the poet’s immigrant experience of shifting between homelands and languages, and underpinned by her exploration of Gnosticism, these are works of clear-eyed observation and studied contemplation, fulfilling in the end her own description of poetry: “a camera / has made a picture / it shows / the exterior and the interior sides / of things.”

PERSONALIA

MIECZYŚLAW B.B. BISKUPSKI received Polish citizenship on September 17, 2015.


MARY PATRICE ERDMANS, Associate Professor of Sociology at Case Western Reserve University, published (with Timothy Black) On Becoming a Teen Mom: Life Before Pregnancy (University of California Press) that recently won the 2015 Book Award from the Association for Humanist Sociology.

JOHN M. GRONDELSKI published five reviews, of: Bartkowicz, Bardzo Dobry! East Baltimore’s Polish Community; Kowalski, Polish Parishes of the Diocese of LaCrosse (WI); Mikos, Poles in Wisconsin; Siemaszkiewicz, Wallington’s (NJ) Polish Community; and Wilczenski, Polish Community of Salem (MA); all in Studia Polonijne, 35 (2014): 125-31. Studia Polonijne is the annual of the Ośrodek Badań nad Polonią i Duszpasterstwem Poloniijnym of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

ANNA MAZURKIEWICZ has been nominated Chair of the Department of Contemporary World History at the Institute of History, University of Gdańsk, Poland. In March she organized an international conference, “East European Migrations during the Cold War,” as a part of the IPN Central Research Project „Polish Political Emigration 1939-1990,” directed by Sławomir Łukasiewicz. Members of the research team from eight countries discussed the current state of research and the locations of major archival collections. An edited volume of studies will be published in 2016.

JAMES S. PULA published “Kościuszko’s Influence as an American Military Leader” in The Polish Review (Vol. 58, No. 3: 5-23), “Fellow Cadets” — Charles Petigru’s Dedication of the Kościuszko Column at West Point” in The Polish Review (Vol. 58, No. 3: 95-106), and “Kto prawdę mówi, wielu słów nie potrzebuje” in Polish American Studies (Vol. LXXII, No. 1: 5-6). He also made a presentation on “The Kościuszko Squadron in the Battle of Britain” at the Kościuszko Conference, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, May 1, 2015.

EWA THOMPSON, editor of the Sarmatian Review and Research Professor of Slavic Studies, Department of Classical and European Studies at Rice University, Houston, Texas, is pleased to announce that two of her books were published in translation this month. A third edition of “Understanding Russia: The Holy Fool in Russian Culture” (1987) was published in Chinese in Beijing, and “Imperial Knowledge: Russian Literature and Colonialism” (2000) was published in Hungarian in Budapest. See more at:
http://news.rice.edu/2015/09/21/people-papers-and-presentations-243/#sthash.y9XIIx7P.dpuf.

MAJA TROCHIMCZYK edited the second, revised version of Frédéric Chopin: A Research and Information Guide (co-authored with William Smialek, Routledge, June 2015). Margaret Seine’s reviews of her poetry books, Miriam’s Iris (2008), and Rose Always (2011) appeared in the California Quarterly (October 2015). Trochimczyk’s poems were published in the Spectrum, heARTbreak: reimagined and Drawn to Light anthologies, as well as in Femmewise Cat, SGVPQ, Hometown Pasadena, Colorado Boulevard, and other venues. Her articles about composers Maria Szymanowska and Marta Ptaszyńska ppearred in Polish in Ruch Muzyczny (March, July 2015); and about pianist Eric Lu in MEA Kultura (September 2015).
NEW BOOKS IN POLISH STUDIES FROM OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS

Taking Liberties: Gender, Transgressive Patriotism, and Polish Drama 1786–1989

By Halina Filipowicz

As narrow, nationalist views of patriotic allegiance have become widespread and are routinely invoked to justify everything from flag-waving triumphalism to xenophobic bigotry, the concept of a nonnationalist patriotism has vanished from public conversation. Taking Liberties is a study of what may be called patriotism without borders: a nonnational commitment compatible with the universal principles and practices of democracy and human rights, respectful of ethnic and cultural diversity, and, overall, open-minded and inclusive.

Moving beyond a traditional study of Polish dramatic literature from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries, Halina Filipowicz turns to the plays themselves and to archival materials, ranging from parliamentary speeches to polemical pamphlets and verse broadsides, to explore the cultural phenomenon of transgressive patriotism and its implications for present-day society.

The Politics of Morality: The Church, the State, and Reproductive Rights in Postsocialist Poland

By Joanna Mishtal

After the fall of the state socialist regime in 1989, Polish society experienced a sense of relief from the tyranny of Soviet control and an expectation that democracy would bring freedom. After this initial wave of enthusiasm, however, political forces that had lain concealed began to emerge and establish a new religious-nationalist orthodoxy. As the church emerged as a political force, it precipitated a rapid erosion of women’s reproductive rights, especially the right to abortion, which had been relatively well established under the former regime.

The Politics of Morality is an anthropological study of this expansion of power by the religious right and its effects on individual rights and social mores.
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