



# Polish American Historical Association Newsletter



 Volume 67  Number 1  April 2010 

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,


We had a very successful Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in San Diego. Though a smaller gathering than normal, it was wonderful to meet for the first time many people active in the *Polonia* community on the West Coast. I was also pleased to see that all of the sessions we held as part of the American Historical Association conference were well-attended, continuing PAHA's mission of disseminating knowledge of Polish American history and culture to a broader public.

 [see p. 2](#)

## PAHA ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, JANUARY 8-9, 2010



*PAHA President Dr. Brian McCook (R) with Award Winner Thomas J. Napierkowski.*

The 2010 PAHA Annual Meeting was held in San Diego, California, in the elegant Marriott Hotel and Marina. With panoramic views of the ocean glistening in sunlight...  [see p. 2](#)

Hi everyone,

## NOTE FROM FORMER EDITOR DR. STEPHEN LEAHY

I remember in January 2004 I volunteered to serve as Newsletter Editor on an interim basis. Like so many things in my life, I started on a temporary basis and just hung around. It has been a great six years, and the greatest pleasure of my assignment was getting to know everyone—if only by email. (And occasionally some of you enriched my life in the rare moments when we physically met.) Since I am in Bosnia now, it makes it so much harder for me to do the newsletter job. I hope that you all make as pleasurable for Maja as it was for me. I will still be active in the organization as Second Vice-President, chairing the Awards Committee. Please feel free to nominate worthy individuals for our awards, if only to give “Steve's Summer Book Club” something to do. Thank you all so much!

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Leahy  
Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*P.S. If you need a recent picture of me, here I am at the Fortress Kastel, Restoran, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, March 5, 2010.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, FROM P. 1

As you will see from this issue, the newsletter has a new look! Maja Trochimczyk, who joined our board last year, has become PAHA's new newsletter editor, taking over from Stephen Leahy whose many years of service will not soon be forgotten. Please feel free to contact Maja with news you may wish to share as well as any comments or suggestions you may have about the new format.

The upcoming year promises to be an exciting one. Thanks to the efforts of Board member Adam Walaszek, PAHA will hold for the first time ever its mid-year meeting and conference in Poland! From June 24-25, 2010, PAHA will be meeting in Kraków, heralding a new opportunity to make contacts with Polish scholars as well as spread knowledge of our organisation and the Polish-American experience to Poles in the homeland. There will also be a PAHA presence at the annual PIASA meeting to be held in Milwaukee in early June.

The Polish encyclopedia project is now complete and the 1000+ page volume should be published by McFarland Publishers this fall. This project has taken many years to complete and involved the support of many, so thanks to all of you who have contributed to ensuring its success. Particular thanks is due to Jim Pula, without whose efforts the encyclopedia would not have been possible.

PAHA's next Annual Meeting will be held in Boston from January 6-9, 2011. In this issue there is a Call for Papers as well as a call for nominees for PAHA's annual awards. I would kindly ask that you contact interested friends and family to spread the word about the conference and awards.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Boston!

*Dr. Brian McCook*  
President


## ANNUAL MEETING FROM P. 1.

.... PAHA's four sessions attracted sizeable and engaged audiences.

Session 1, on Twentieth Century Polonia was chaired by Neal Pease of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and included the following papers:

- *Learning to Move Up: Educating Poles in the United States, 1900–30*, Pien Versteegh, Tilburg University
- *Lajkonik of Tucson - A Piece of True Poland: Constructing Polish-American Identities in an Ethnically Heterogeneous Society*, Monika Głowacka-Musiał, Temple University
- *Z Polski do Anglii: The Polish Conservation Corps and the Making of Polish Britons*, Brian McCook, Leeds Metropolitan University
- *An Archangel at the Piano: The Images of Paderewski and His American Audience*, Maja Trochimczyk, Moonrise Press

With its mixture of sociology, social anthropology, history and musicology and a range of topics spanning the life of Polonian communities in the U.S. and the U.K. from 1890s to the present, the session provided a window into the rich variety of subjects and approaches in contemporary Polonia studies.

On Saturday morning, January 9, Session 2 was dedicated to Scholarly Publishing and e-Journals and chaired by Thomas Duszak, State Library of Pennsylvania. The single presenter, Tony Harvell, University of California at San Diego Libraries, gave an extensive and informative overview of *Scholarly Publishing and e-Journals: Quo Vadis—A Primer on the e-Journal Revolution in Academy*. Dr. Harvell's PowerPoint presentation is available online, at the eScholarship website maintained by the UC San Diego Libraries: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/2ns9999g>.  
Session 3: Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: Book Session on Recent Polish and Polish American Studies chaired by Winson W. Chu, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, focused on a recent major contribution to scholarship about relationships between Poland and the Vatican, i.e., Neal Pease's *Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and Independent Poland, 1914–39* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009). After the author's fascinating introduction  [see p. 3](#)

### NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR



As a long-time member of PAHA, I have been very pleased to be asked to join the PAHA Board of Directors and, just about immediately afterwards, to step in as the new Editor of the PAHA Newsletter. A first-generation American, born in Poland and educated in Canada, I bring to my new duties a wealth of experience as a scholar, music historian, editor, translator, and even a photographer and poet. Please, do stay in touch and tell me about your interests!

*Dr. Maja Trochimczyk*  
PAHA Newsletter Editor

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© Polish American Historical Association, 2010  
The *PAHA Newsletter* is published semiannually by the Polish American Historical Association, and is distributed to its members. Individual memberships are available at \$40 per year, or institutional memberships at \$98 per year. Maja Trochimczyk, *Editor*. John Guzlowski, *Poetry Editor*. James Pula & Brian McCook, *Contributors*. Mailing Address: PAHA at Central Connecticut State University 1615 Stanley St., New Britain, CT 06050. Email: Maja.Trochimczyk@gmail.com

### ANNUAL MEETING FROM P. 2.

Dr. Brian McCook made insightful comments and a lively general discussion touched upon numerous topics relating to political, sociological, and religious aspects of Polish Catholicism.


The academic portion of the proceedings concluded with *Session 4: Poetry Reading: The Immigrant Experience in Poetry*, organized by Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, and including four female poets who read their work relating to the themes of immigration, displacement, assimilation, exile, and nostalgia experienced by various generations of Polish Americans. *Linda Nemec Foster* of Michigan, a second generation American, wrote about the experiences of her grandparents and parents who raised her in the tranquility of Cleveland. *Lillian Vallee* (Modesto Junior College), was born in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany where her parents met after wartime trauma; *Maja Trochimczyk* and *Oriana Ivy* (sometimes known as *Ioanna Warwick*) came to California from their native Poland. Selected poems and the poets' introductions will appear in the next 2010 issue of an online journal, *The Cosmopolitan Review*, published in Canada, [www.cosmopolitanreview.com](http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com).

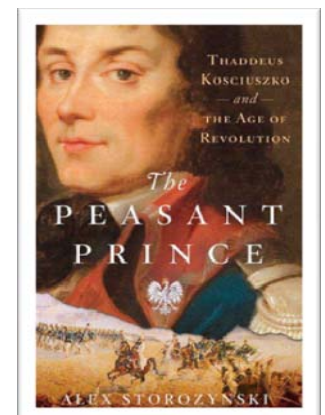
The Board Meeting was held, but there was no quorum to make binding decisions. The gathering of Polish American scholars and friends ended with the Annual Awards Dinner at the Indigo Grill, one of San Diego's most famous culinary attractions.



### PAHA ANNUAL AWARDS

Upon recommendations from the PAHA Awards Committee and with the full approval and support of the Board of Directors, the Associations bestowed its 2010 awards on a group of distinguished recipients: Dr. Alex Storozynski, Dr. Thomas J. Napierkowski, Dr. Paul Knoll, Richard Kobzi, Richard Wideryński, and the Polish Music Center at the Flora L. Thornton School of Music of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

**The Oskar Halecki Prize** is awarded annually to recognize an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. This year's winner is **Dr. Alex Storozynski**, a widely read author, journalist, and current President of the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York.  [see p. 4](#)



### **ANNUAL AWARDS FROM P. 3.**

He received this award for his groundbreaking recent work, *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2009) which provides a rich, detailed history of Kosciuszko and his critical role in fighting for American and Polish freedom.

**The Mieczyslaw Haiman Award** annually recognizes an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans. This year's winner is **Dr. Thomas Napierkowski**. Tom is Professor of English at the University of Colorado. Among his many research interests are: medieval literature and the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, minority and immigrant American literature, especially Polish American literature and Black American literature; Slavic literature; and the grammar and history of the English language. Tom has also contributed extensive time and effort to supporting PAHA and its activities. He served as PAHA president in 1982-83 and 1992-94. He has made numerous contributions to Polish American Studies on subjects relating to Polish American literature, music, and the intersection of history and culture.

**The Skalny Civic Achievement Award** honors individuals who have advanced PAHA's goals of promoting an awareness of the Polish experience in America and is named in honor of Louis and Nellie Skalny and the entire Skalny family who have contributed so much to supporting Polish American History and Culture in the United States. The 2010 Awardees are:

**Richard Kobzi**, a past National Director of the Polish National Alliance and a dedicated activist in the areas of Polish dance and culture. We honored his active service to the Polish community.



**Dr. Paul Knoll** (pictured left) Professor Emeritus and outstanding scholar in Polish and Medieval History and a long time member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America. We recognized his manifold contribution to scholarly and intellectual life of American Polonia.

**Richard Widerynski** (pictured right) has served as a leader of the PNA in Southern California for seven years and as president of the PAC of Souther California for 8 years. He has been an active PAHA members and aided in the

development of a monument honoring Ignacy Paderewski. He was honored for his service to the Polonia community.



**The Polish Music Center (PMC) at the University of Southern California**, is a research and information center devoted to gathering and disseminating knowledge about all aspects of Polish music to researchers, students, and music lovers. The PMC houses the largest collection of Polish music in the U.S. and is the only center at an American university devoted solely to Polish music. Founded in 1985 by its key benefactors, the late Dr. Stefan Wilk and Mrs. Wanda Wilk, the PMC collects manuscripts, books, music, and other publications about Polish music, publishes books, journals, newsletters, and organizes a full range of special events.

We congratulate all the Awardees and thank them for their dedication and tireless efforts benefitting Polish and Polish-American studies and the entire Polonia community.







## POETRY CORNER



Edited by John Z. Guzowski



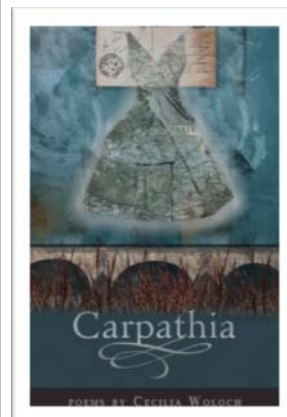
Cecilia Woloch

### Postcard to X from Warsaw, Ulica Piękna ("Pretty Street")

Cecilia Woloch

The old woman selling flowers next to the archway at ulica Piękna was wearing orange lipstick today. Shiny orange lipstick, and a smile; her black kerchief knotted under her chin. She was smoking a cigarette, all her tulips arranged in plastic tubs at her feet — gaudily purple and yellow and red. I could tell she felt quite the coquette, and it made her mouth look lovely, in fact. That slick of peach on her lips as she sat with her back to the flat gray wall. The building behind her a relic, too. My friend says the communists built these apartments *to show the workers how they might live*. Though only the highest officials — most brutal, most damned — were given such balconies, of course. Everyone else in the dreary blocks built on the ash of the murdered, the crushed, stinking forever of cabbage and piss. But today there was rain, here in Warsaw, then sun. The wind had shifted, then shifted again. The clouds moved like swans across the sky. And the old woman — I passed her twice — made a few zlotys on flowers, I'd guess. She sat there for hours on Pretty Street, her mouth like a pearl in her wrinkled face. And you — you know who you are; you tried to be human once but you failed — could not have touched this woman. Ever. She, with her tulips. Not bitter. Nor I.

"Postcard from X" appears in Cecilia Woloch's most recent book *Carpathia* (BOA editions 2009).



<http://www.amazon.com/Carpathia-American-Continuum-Cecilia-Woloch/dp/1934414263>

Read more about Cecilia Woloch's new book at *Writing the Polish Diaspora*.

<http://writingpolishdiaspora.blogspot.com/2009/11/cecilia-wolochs-carpathia.html>



## **GETTING READY FOR PAHA'S 2011 MEETING IN BOSTON, MASS.**

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS**

The Polish American Historical Association solicits nominations for its Annual Awards, which will be given out at its Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the American Historical Association Annual Meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts, January 6-9, 2011. All nominations are due on June 30, 2010 to Dr. Stephen M. Leahy at [skilleahy@gmail.com](mailto:skilleahy@gmail.com).

PAHA strongly encourages nominations of members and non-members by members and non-members for the following awards:

- *Mieczyslaw Haiman Award* 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 and Polish-American experience.
- *Amicus Poloniae Award* recognizes significant contributions that enhance knowledge of the Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish-American community.
- *Distinguished Service Award* is given to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization.

### **PAHA CALL FOR PAPERS**

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) will be held in Boston, Massachusetts from January 6-9 as part of the American Historical Association Annual Meeting. Conference papers and panel proposals are now being accepted. Paper and/or panel proposals should be submitted via e-mail to PAHA Conference Coordinator, Dr. Brian McCook ([b.mccook@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:b.mccook@leedsmet.ac.uk)) by May 10, 2010.

A proposal should include the following:

- Paper/panel title (of no more than 20 words)
- Paper/panel abstract (up to 500 words)
- Biographical paragraph or c.v. summary (up to 250 words) for each presenter
- Correct mailing and e-mail address for each presenter
- Chair and commentator (optional) for the session

The Polish American Historical Association holds its Annual Conference in conjunction with the American Historical Association. Full information about the AHA conference can be found at [www.historians.org](http://www.historians.org). PAHA members who only plan to attend PAHA conference need not register for the AHA conference, but are required to register for the PAHA conference by November 1, 2010. Registration may be done on-line at [www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org) or by sending the \$20.00 registration fee to the PAHA Headquarters c/o Magda Jacques, CCSU, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050. The organizational details for the PAHA awards banquet and its cost will also be available in November.



## PAHA ENCYCLOPEDIA PROJECT



Edited by James S. Pula



As the encyclopedia project nears completion, we have over 1,000 completed entries prepared by more than 120 authors who have contributed to the project. The final manuscript will be over 630,000 words, which equates to 1,000 typed pages, single spaced. This is a massive effort which was only possible through the dedicated efforts of so many people. At this time, we expect the encyclopedia to be advertised and available through McFarland Publishing in the fall of this year.

For those of you that wish to know more about McFarland, or to see information on the publication of the encyclopedia when it is available, the URL for the publisher is **[www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com)**. It is a prominent publisher of reference and academic works including several Polish-related titles that have already been released.

When the Encyclopedia is available, further information will appear in the *PAHA Newsletter* and on the PAHA web site at **<http://www.polishamericanstudies.org>**. Naturally, a project of this magnitude requires significant funding. PAHA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all of the following individuals and institutions who contributed generously toward preserving our heritage for future generations.

James S. Pula

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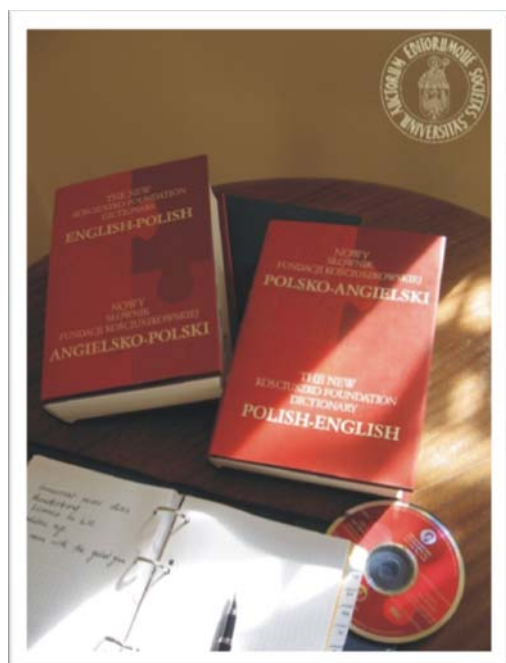
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## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

### June 3-5, 2010

68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Polish Institute of Arts and  
Sciences of America,  
Milwaukee, WI  
[www.piasa.org](http://www.piasa.org)

### June 29 – July 2, 2010

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
on New Directions in the  
Humanities, Los Angeles  
[thehumanities.com/  
conference-2010/](http://thehumanities.com/conference-2010/)

### July 14-18, 2010

62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the  
American Council for Polish  
Culture, Rapid City, SD,  
[polishcultureacpc.org/  
index.html](http://polishcultureacpc.org/index.html)

### September 16-18, 2010

Third International  
Conference on Polish Studies,  
University of Michigan, Ann  
Arbor  
[www.ii.umich.edu/crees/eve  
nts/polishconf](http://www.ii.umich.edu/crees/events/polishconf)

### November 11-13, 2010

Chopin and Paderewski  
Conference, Loyola  
University, Chicago, IL.

### November 18-21, 2010

42<sup>nd</sup> National Convention of  
the American Association for  
the Advancement of Slavic  
Studies, Los Angeles, CA

### January 6-9, 2011

125<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
American Historical  
Association, Boston, MA



## PERSONALIA



**Geraldine Balut Coleman** is chair of the Paderewski Room Renovation Committee of the Polish Museum of America and secretary of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America.

**Marsha Della Giustina** is a journalism professor at Emerson College in Boston. She is advisor to the student TV station which has received the Associated Press College News Station of the Year Award for six of the last eight years.

**Hedwig Gorski** presented at the Jozi Spoken Word Fest in Johannesburg, South Africa, in July 2009. A DVD of the video presentation is available through the U.S. Consulate Speakers Bureau in Washington, DC.

**J. William Gorski** is editor-in-chief of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, vice president of the Friends of Polish Art of the ACPC, and collector for more than thirty years of the J. William Gorski Historical and Genealogical Collection at the State Library and Archives in Lansing, Michigan. He is the recipient of the 2008 Reymont Award from the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan.

**Thaddeus V. Gromada** participated in a symposium on the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall that was sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City in November 2009.

**Douglas W. Jacobson** is the author of *Night of Flames: A Novel of WW2* which is set in Poland and recently won the "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Wisconsin Library Association.

**Rev. Philip Majka** serves as the Duszpasterz Polski (Chaplain to Polonia in Washington D.C.) and is the Catholic Chaplain to Washington Dulles International Airport.

**James S. Pula** published "Polish-American Catholicism: A Case Study in Cultural Determinism" in the *U.S. Catholic Historian* (Vol. 27, no. 3) and "Polish Workers and Strikes, 1900-1937," in *The Encyclopedia of Strikes in American History* (M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 2009).

**Maja Trochimczyk** edited an anthology *Chopin with Cherries: A Tribute in Verse* (Moonrise Press, 2010), celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin with 123 poems by 92 poets. She presented it at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual PIASA in Jersey City, NJ, in June 2009, and at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Chopin Congress, in Warsaw, Poland, February-March 2010. [www.moonrisepress.com/chopin.html](http://www.moonrisepress.com/chopin.html).

**Joseph W. Wiczerzak** presented a paper on Erazm Jerzmanowski at the annual meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in Jersey City, NJ, in June 2009 marking the 100th anniversary of Jerzmanowski's death. St. Anthony of Padua Church in the city was among Jerzmanowski's many Polish charities.

## **“The Polish Diaspora in America and the Wider World” PAHA Conference**

### **Kraków, Jagiellonian University, June 25-26, 2010 – Preliminary Program**

#### **Friday, June 25, 2010:**

9:00 – 10:30am – Mid-Year Board Meeting of the Polish American Historical Association (Board Members only)

#### **Session 1: Polish-Americans and their Communities since World War II (11:00am–1:00pm)**

Chair: Dr. Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, Professor of History, Eastern Connecticut State University

- “Polish American Reactions to the Civil Rights Struggle in Milwaukee” – *Dr. Stephen Leahy, Assistant Professor, American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- “Educational and Occupational Trends of Polish Immigrants in America, 1960-2000” – *Dr. Mary P. Erdmans, Professor of Sociology, Central Connecticut State University*
- “Polish-American Organizations in New York City – History and Current Developments” – *Dr. Iwona Korga, Executive Director, The Piłsudski Institute of America*

1:00– 2:30pm – Lunch

#### **Session 2: Poles and the Polish Diaspora in Europe (2:45–5:00pm)**

Chair: Prof. Adam Walaszek, Professor of History, Director of the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University, Kraków

- “Poles and the Assembly of the Captive European Nations” – *Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, Institute of History, University of Gdańsk*
- “Poles Apart? Refugees, British Society, and the Building of an Anglo-Polish Identity, 1945-1955” – *Dr. Brian McCook, Senior Lecturer, Leeds Metropolitan University*
- “Polish Miners in Belgium and the Netherlands, 1920-1934” – *Dr. Pien Versteegh, Managing Director, Tilburg School of Economics and Management (TISEM), Tilburg University*
- “Together or Apart. Organizational Cooperation between Refugees from behind the Iron Curtain” – *Prof. Anna Siwik, Professor of History, University of Science and Technology, Kraków*

5:00 – 7:00pm – Walking Tour of Kraków

7:00– 9:00pm – Dinner

#### **Saturday, June 26, 2010:**

#### **Session 3: New Directions in Polish and Polish-American Studies (10:00am – noon)**

Chair: Dr. Brian McCook, Senior Lecturer, Leeds Metropolitan University

- “Four Generations of Polish and Polish American Women: Gender Roles, Changing Positions in Society, Cultural and Social Contexts and Achievements” – *Dr. Anne Gurnack, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Parkside*
- “A Reappraisal of *The Polish Peasant in America?*” – *Dr. James Pula, Professor of History, Purdue University*
- “*Oświata dla Ludu*: Antoni A. Paryski, *Ameryka-Echo*, and Polish American Positivism, 1889-1935” – *Dr. Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, Professor of History, Eastern Connecticut State University*

Noon – 1:30pm – Lunch

#### **Session 4: Cultures and Interpretations (2:00 – 3:15pm)**

Chair: TBA

- “Global Górale and Postmodern Polskość: Polish Roots Music & the Post-Communist Recovery of Folk” – *Dr. Anne Hetzel Gunkel, Associate Professor and Director of Cultural Studies, Columbia College, Chicago*
- “Chopin in Polish American Poetry - Lost Home, Found Beauty” – *Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, President, Moonrise Press, Los Angeles*
- “Contemporary Polish Americans in the Polish Press” – *Dr. Joanna Wojdon, Professor of History, Institute of History, University of Wrocław*
- “Polish-Americans and the U.S. Policy toward Poland in 1956-1970” – *Dr. Jakub Tyszkiewicz, Professor of History, Institute of History, University of Wrocław*

3:15 – 3:30pm – coffee break

#### **Session 5: Conference closing discussion (3:30 – 4:30pm)**

Reception – 5:30 – 7:00pm

Dinner – 8:00 – 10:00pm



## Nobel Prize Winners from Poland




How many Poles have won the Nobel Prize? This depends on how you count it. The full list of everyone with Polish ancestors and those born in what is now or was Poland includes 16 names and 17 Nobel Prizes: Poles, Americans, Canadians, French citizens, an Israeli and a Swiss. They won five Nobel Prizes in Literature, four in Physics, three in Physiology or Medicine, three Peace Prizes, and two Nobel Prizes in Chemistry. A short list of Poles from Poland would include: Henryk Sienkiewicz, Władysław Reymont, Lech Wałęsa, Wisława Szymborska and Czesław Miłosz (though he defined himself as and both a Pole and a Lithuanian, from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania). A longer list of scientists who became double (or triple) citizens would consist of: Maria Skłodowska-Curie (French), Tadeusz Reichstein (Swiss), Georges Charpak (French), Andrew Schally, Frank Wilczek and Jack W. Szostak (Canadian-American). Isidor Rabi, Isaac Bashevis Singer (who wrote in Yiddish so should perhaps be recognized as a Jew), Roald Hoffmann, and Joseph Rotblat were both American and Jewish, with more or less distant roots in Poland. Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, was born in Poland and served in the Polish Army under Gen. Anders, but spent most of his life in Israel.

**1. Marie (Maria) Skłodowska-Curie, Nobel Prize for Physics, 1903, Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1911:** Known to many as Madame Curie, Maria was born on November 7, 1867 in Warsaw. She left Poland for Paris in 1891 to study sciences, following in the footsteps of her sister Bronisława. She was the first female professor at the University of Paris, funded the Curie Institutes in Paris and Warsaw. She worked with her husband Pierre Curie, with whom she shared a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 (alongside Henri Becquerel). Maria Skłodowska-Curie created the theory and name of radioactivity, discovered techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes and is credited with the discovery and naming of two new elements, polonium and radium. She also pioneered the treatment of cancer using radioactive isotopes. She is the first person honored by two Nobel Prizes. Her 1911 award was given "in recognition of her services to the advancement of chemistry by the discovery of the elements radium and polonium, by the isolation of radium and the study of the nature and compounds of this remarkable element."

**2. Henryk Sienkiewicz, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1905:** Born on May 5, 1845 (as Henryk Adam Aleksander Pius), on his family estate in Wola Okrzejska, Podlasie, a part of the Russian Empire, Sienkiewicz belonged to impoverished gentry family and became a journalist and novelist. A prolific author of historical fiction, Sienkiewicz wrote over 60 volumes of novels, stories, essays, and travelogues. His adventures in California with a group of emigrants headed by Helena Modrzejewska gave rise to his first successful travel reportage and his recognition as a journalist. He received the Nobel Prize for his "outstanding merits as an epic writer." Sienkiewicz's historical fiction like the *Trilogy* and the *Teutonic Knights* contributed to the national fervor in Poland and paved the road to regaining independence. He died on November 15, 1916.

**3. Władysław Reymont, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1924:** Born on May 7, 1867 in a village of Kobiele Wielkie near Radomsko, Reymont (b. Rejment, he formally changed his name) was largely self-taught. A certificate as a journeyman tailor was his only proof of formal education. He first tried to establish himself as an actor, repeatedly running away from home to join travelling theater groups, but having failed in that, turned to writing full-time, and started publishing short stories and novels. His prolific literary output consists of 30 volumes. The Nobel Prize recognized the merits of his naturalistic novel *Chłopi* (*The Peasants*). Reymont died on December 5, 1925.

**4. Isidor Isaac Rabi, Nobel Prize in Physics, 1944:** Born on 29 July 1898 in Rymanów, Galicia, a part of Austro-Hungarian Empire now in Poland, Rabi came to the U.S. the next year and is known as an American physicist of Jewish descent. He graduated from Cornell University (B.A.) and Columbia

 **NOBEL PRIZES FROM P. 13** ... University (Ph.D., 1927). After graduation, he stayed at Columbia, specializing in nuclear physics. His discovery of the magnetic resonance detection method was recognized by the Nobel Committee in 1944. His research had practical results in the creation of radar, laser, and atomic clock. He died on 11 January 1988 in New York.

**5. Tadeusz Reichstein, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1950:** Born on July 20, 1897 in Włocławek, in central Poland, then a part of the Russian Empire, he moved with his family to Kiev, Jena and to Zurich, Switzerland, where he became a Swiss citizen and embarked on his career. Associated with the University of Basel, Reichstein is recognized for his invention of a method of synthesizing Vitamine. His prize, shared with two scientists, rewarded his work on the hormones of the adrenal cortex and the discovery of the cortisone. He died on August 1, 1996 in Basel.

**6. Andrzej "Andrew" Viktor Schally, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1977:** Born on November 30, 1926, in Wilno, the capital of Lithuania (then in Poland, now Vilnius in Lithuania), Schally is a son of Brigadier Kazimerz Schally, chief of cabinet for President Ignacy Mościcki. Schally was educated in the U.K. and received his doctorate from McGill, Canada (1957). In his Nobel Prize autobiography, he described himself as being of "Polish, Austro-Hungarian, French and Swedish ancestry" and he became an American citizen in 1962. As an endocrinologist he worked at Tulane University and is now at Miami VA Medical Center in Florida. His prize was shared by Roger Guillemin ("for their discoveries concerning peptide hormone production in the brain") and Rosalyn Yalow.


**7. Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1978:** Born on November 21, 1902, in the village of Leoncin near Warsaw, in the Russian Empire, Singer came from a prominent Hassidic family; his father was a rabbi and they lived in Jewish quarters in Radzymin, Warsaw, and Biłgoraj. Singer's religious studies were not finished and in 1935 he emigrated to the U.S., where he worked as a journalist and established his literary career. He wrote novels and short stories in Yiddish to save the language from oblivion, and helped translate his works into English. Singer died on July 24, 1991.

**8. Menachem Begin, Nobel Peace Prize, 1978:** Born as *Mieczysław Biegun* on August 16, 1913 in Brest-Litovsk (Brześć Litewski), Poland, in a Jewish family, and educated at the Mizrahi Hebrew School and the Polish Gymnasium (High School). He studied law at the University of Warsaw (1935) and was involved in nationalist Zionist movements. In 1940 he was arrested by the Soviets and spent a year in a gulag in Siberia, before being released under the Stalin/Sikorski agreement, and joining the Anders Army that took him to Palestine. Since 1943, he was active in Palestine and then Israel as a leader and politician. While serving as the sixth Prime Minister of the State of Israel, he negotiated a peace treaty with Egypt, for which he shared a Nobel Peace Prize with Anwar Sadat.

**9. Czesław Miłosz, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1980:** Born on June 30, 1911 in the village of Seteniai in Central Lithuania, a part of the Russian Empire, Miłosz came from a Polish noble family. He refused to identify himself as either a Pole or a Lithuanian – and both nations claimed him, but his choice of language, Polish, made him a Polish poet. In 1951, while working as a cultural attaché in the Polish Embassy in Paris, he claimed political asylum, and in 1960 he emigrated to the U.S., where he was a professor at the University of California, Berkeley from 1968 to 1998. After retiring, he returned to Poland, settling in Kraków, the magnet for poets, where he died on August 14, 2004.

**10. Roald Hoffmann, Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1981:** Born on July 18, 1937 in Złoczów (now in Ukraine), Hoffmann came from a Jewish family and the majority of his relatives perished in the Holocaust. He and his mother survived and Hoffmann later funded a monument to the victims in his hometown. He emigrated first to England and then to the U.S., where he studied at Columbia University (B.A.) and Harvard (M.A. and Ph.D. in Chemistry). Hoffmann teaches at Cornell University, Ithaca. The Nobel Prize (shared with Kenichi Fukui) recognized his contributions to chemistry,



 **NOBEL PRIZES FROM P. 13** ... including work on reaction mechanisms and the discovery of the "isolobal principle" in organo-metallic chemistry. He is also a published poet, author of a play and broadcasts about arts and science. He is named after a Norwegian discoverer, Roald Amundsen.

**11. Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize, 1983:** Born on 29 September 1943, in Popowo, Wałęsa was an electrician by training and a Gdańsk shipyard worker by avocation, before becoming the leader and spokesman of Solidarity, the first free-trade union formed in an Eastern Block country in 1980. The rise of the Solidarity movement was a decisive step in the fall of the communist system and the Soviet empire. Walesa later became a politician and served as the President of Poland (1990-1995).

**12. Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize in Physics, 1992:** Born on August 1, 1924 in a village Dąbrowica, now in Ukraine, he moved to France as a child. Spending his entire career as a nuclear physicist, he was the inventor of particle detectors for which he received the Nobel Prize as a sole winner. During the war, Charpak was active in the resistance, captured and imprisoned at Dachau. He became a French citizen in 1948 and received his doctorate in nuclear physics in 1954 from College de France, later working in the lab of Frederic Joliot-Curie. He is an advocate for peaceful uses of nuclear power.

**13. Joseph (Józef) Rotblat, Nobel Peace Prize, 1995:** Born on November 4, 1908 in Warsaw, Rotblat came from an affluent Jewish family and became a nuclear physicist, with a doctorate from the University of Warsaw (1938). A specialist in nuclear fission, he worked with James Chadwick (who had won a Nobel Prize for discovering the neutron) at Liverpool University and together they joined the Manhattan Project. Rotblat left the Project due to his anti-war views and returned to England where he continued his research on nuclear fallout. His discoveries led to banning aerial nuclear bomb tests and he became one of the most vocal opponents of the nuclear arms race, serving as the president of the influential Pugwash Conferences. The Nobel Peace Prize recognized him and the Pugwash Conferences for this work. He died in Paris on August 31, 2005.

**14. Wisława Szymborska, Nobel Prize in Literature, 1996:** Born in 1923 in Bnin, since 1931 she lived in Krakow. After spending the war years in Germany as a forced laborer, she attended Jagiellonian University, but never graduated. She is known as a poet, essayist and translator. Since 1945 she published a relatively small, but highly regarded body of about 250 poems, while working as a poetry editor for the weekly *Życie Literackie*. She writes in Polish.

**15. Frank Wilczek, Nobel Prize in Physics, 2004:** Born in 1951 in the U.S., Wilczek's family came from Poland on the father's side and Italy on his mother's side. In his Nobel Prize autobiography he stated, "my grandparents emigrated from Europe in the aftermath of World War I, as young teenagers; on my father's side they came from Poland and on my mother's side from Italy, near Naples. My grandparents arrived with nothing, and no knowledge of English." He was educated in public schools in Queens, NY, and graduated from the University of Chicago and Princeton where he selected physics for his career, now working at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Nobel Prize is shared with his former mentor David J. Gross and H. David Politzer, "for the discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of the strong interaction."

**16. Jack William Szostak, Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine, 2009:** Born on November 9, 1952, in London, and raised in Canada (in Montreal and Ottawa), Szostak is a biologist and professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School. He also works for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He shared the Nobel Prize with Elizabeth Blackburn and Carol W. Greider, "for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase." He also constructed the world's first yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) that helped map the location of genes and contributed to the development of the Human Genome Project.

Based on the biographies on the website of NobelPrize.org and two different award listings by Wikipedia.  
Quotations from *Les Prix Nobel. The Nobel Prizes*, published by Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, 2000-2009.

# IN MEMORIAM

10 April 2010

1. **Lech Kaczyński**, the President of Poland.
2. **Maria Kaczyńska**, the President's Wife.
3. **Ryszard Kaczorowski**, the last President of Poland's government-in-exile.
4. **Joanna Agacka-Indecka**, President of the Polish Bar Council.
5. **Ewa Bąkowska**, Katyń Families.
6. **Andrzej Błasik**, Lieutenant General, Commander of the Polish Air Force.
7. **Krystyna Bochenek**, Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Civic Platform. Party
8. **Anna Maria Borowska**, Katyń Families.
9. **Bartosz Borowski**, Katyń Families.
10. **Tadeusz Buk**, Major General, Commander of the Polish Land Forces.
11. **Miron Chodakowski**, Archbishop Brigadier, Orthodox Ordinary of the Polish Army.
12. **Czesław Cywiński**, President of the World Association of Home Army Soldiers.
13. **Leszek Deptuła**, MP (Member of Parliament), Polish People's Party.
14. **Zbigniew Dębski**, Lieutenant Colonel, Member, Chapter of the Order Virtuti Militari.
15. **Grzegorz Dolniak**, MP, Civic Platform Party.
16. **Katarzyna Doraczyńska**, Staff from the Chancellery of the President.
17. **Edward Duchnowski**, Katyń Families.
18. **Aleksander Fedorowicz**, Interpreter of the Russian language.
19. **Janina Felcińska**, Senator, Law and Justice Party.
20. **Jarosław Florczak**, Lieutenant Colonel, Government Protection Bureau.
21. **Artur Francuz**, Government Protection Bureau.
22. **Franciszek Gągor**, General, Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces.
23. **Grażyna Gęsicka**, MP, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Caucus of the Law and Justice Party.
24. **Kazimierz Gilarski**, Brigadier General, Commander of the Warsaw Garrison.
25. **Przemysław Gosiewski**, MP, Law and Justice Party.
26. **Bronisław Gostomski**, Prelate, Katyń Families.
27. **Robert Grzywna**, Major, Aircrew.
28. **Mariusz Handzlik**, Secretary of State, Chancellery of the President, Foreign Affairs.
29. **Roman Indrzejczyk**, Prelate, Chaplain of the Chancellery of the President.
30. **Paweł Janeczek**, Lieutenant, Government Protection Bureau.
31. **Dariusz Jankowski**, Staff in the Chancellery of the President.
32. **Natalia Januszko**, Aircrew.
33. **Izabela Jaruga-Nowacka**, MP, Democratic Left Alliance Party.
34. **Józef Joniec**, Priest, Katyń Families.
35. **Sebastian Karpiniuk**, MP, Civic Platform Party.
36. **Andrzej Karweta**, Vice Admiral, Commander of the Polish Navy.
37. **Mariusz Kazana**, Head of the Diplomatic Protocol.
38. **Janusz Kochanowski**, Polish Ombudsman.
39. **Stanisław Komornicki**, Retired Brigadier General, Chancellor, Order Virtuti Militari.
40. **Stanisław Jerzy Komorowski**, Deputy Minister of National Defense.
41. **Paweł Krajewski**, Government Protection Bureau.
42. **Andrzej Kremer**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.
43. **Zdzisław Król**, Priest, Katyń Families.
44. **Janusz Krupski**, Head of the Bureau for Veterans and Repressed Persons.
45. **Janusz Kurtyka**, President of the Institute of National Remembrance.
46. **Andrzej Kwaśniak**, Priest, Katyń Families.
47. **Bronisław Kwiatkowski**, Lieutenant General, Commander of the Polish Armed Forces, Operational Command.
48. **Wojciech Lubiński**, Colonel, MD, President's Physician.

49. **Tadeusz Lutoborski**, Katyń Families.  
 50. **Barbara Maciejczyk**, Aircrew.  
 51. **Barbara Mamińska**, Head of the Staff Office, the Chancellery of the President.  
 52. **Zenona Mamontowicz-Łojek**, Katyń Families.  
 53. **Stefan Melak**, Katyń Families.  
 54. **Tomasz Merta**, Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage.  
 55. **Andrzej Michalak**, Officer, Aircrew.  
 56. **Dariusz Michałowski**, Captain, Government Protection Bureau.  
 57. **Stanisław Mikke**, Katyń Families.  
 58. **Justyna Moniuszko**, Aircrew.  
 59. **Aleksandra Natalii-Świat**, MP, Law and Justice Party.  
 60. **Janina Natusiewicz-Mirer**, Katyń Families.  
 61. **Piotr Nosek**, Second Lieutenant, Government Protection Bureau.  
 62. **Piotr Nurowski**, President, Polish Olympic Committee, Member, Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committees.  
 63. **Bronisława Orawiec-Löffler**, Katyń Families.  
 64. **Jan Osiński**, Father Lieutenant Colonel, Secretary of the Field Bishop.  
 65. **Adam Pilch**, Father Colonel, Evangelical Field Ministry.  
 66. **Katarzyna Piskorska**, Katyń Families.  
 67. **Maciej Płażyński**, Chairman of the Polish Community Association, Co-founder of the Civic Platform Party.  
 68. **Tadeusz Płoski**, Bishop Major General, Military Ordinariate of the Polish Army.  
 69. **Agnieszka Pogródka-Węclawek**, Government Protection Bureau.  
 70. **Włodzimierz Potasiński**, Major General, Commander of the Polish Special Forces.  
 71. **Arkadiusz Potasiuk**, Captain, Aircrew.  
 72. **Andrzej Przewoźnik**, Secretary General of the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites.

73. **Krzysztof Putra**, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Law and Justice Party.  
 74. **Ryszard Rumianek**, Rector of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University.  
 75. **Arkadiusz Rybicki**, MP, Civic Platform Party.  
 76. **Andrzej Sariusz-Skapski**, President of the Federation of Katyń Families.  
 77. **Wojciech Seweryn**, Katyń Families.  
 78. **Sławomir Skrzypek**, President of the National Bank of Poland.  
 79. **Leszek Solski**, Katyń Families.  
 80. **Władysław Stasiak**, Chief of the Chancellery of the President.  
 81. **Jacek Surówka**, Government Protection Bureau.  
 82. **Aleksander Szczygło**, Head of the National Security Bureau.  
 83. **Jerzy Szmajdziński**, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Democratic Left Alliance Party.  
 84. **Jolanta Szymanek-Deresz**, MP, Deputy Chair of Democratic Left Alliance Party.  
 85. **Izabela Tomaszewska**, Head of the Protocol Team, Chancellery of the President..  
 86. **Marek Uleryk**, Government Protection Bureau.  
 87. **Anna Walentynowicz**, former Solidarity leader.  
 88. **Teresa Walewska-Przyjałkowska**, Katyń Families.  
 89. **Zbigniew Wassermann**, MP, Law and Justice Party.  
 90. **Wiesław Woda**, MP, Polish People's Party.  
 91. **Edward Wojtas**, MP, Polish People's Party.  
 92. **Paweł Wybych**, Secretary of State, the Chancellery of the President.  
 93. **Stanisław Zając**, Senator, Law and Justice Party.  
 94. **Janusz Zakrzeński**, Actor, Programme Council of the Piłsudski Association.  
 95. **Artur Ziętek**, Aircrew.  
 96. **Gabriela Zych**, Katyń Families.

## IN MEMORIAM