

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW
PRESIDENT:
DR. MARTA CIEŚLAK**



It is both thrilling and intimidating to be following in the steps of so many of my academic heroes, who have served as presidents of the Polish American Historical Association before me. As I am standing on the shoulders of giants, I certainly feel the weight of responsibility in the eighty first year of PAHA's continuous existence. Asked to reflect on the near future of PAHA, however, I feel a sense of excitement and curiosity. Just look at the program of our recently concluded 79th annual conference, held in Philadelphia in early January. First, after the difficult years of the COVID-19 pandemic, when we had to cancel our annual gathering or saw limited attendance due to illness, travel restrictions, and understandable anxiety caused by the idea of returning to in-person conferences, we are back! Our conference days were longer, our panels were bigger, and our presentations forced us, yet again, to expand our thinking about what Polish American means and entails. Explorations of the experience of Polish Americans in the West of the United States and in the far corners of Canada, Polish protestants in the US, or American basketball players in Poland during the Cold War immensely enriched the more commonly known images of predominantly Catholic Polish American communities in the industrial cities of the North-East and the Midwest.

We also saw examples of novel methodological approaches, as research on Polish American foodways, transfer of American goods and ideas into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the 18th century, or reconstructing family secrets and stories based on photographs provoked vibrant discussions. The conference, which brought scholars from several countries spanning two continents, from academia and from outside of academia, as well as familiar faces and new attendees, reminded us of what PAHA is all about. We are here to pose questions, seek answers, and never be satisfied with what we already know. We are here to forge and develop connections between academia and the community and blur lines between academic studies, community activism, and research driven by the passion of storytelling. Finally, we are here to connect with old and make new friends as PAHA remains the only professional organization, of which I am a member, where comradery is as important as scholarly activities. I am looking forward to the coming two years with hopes that what we witnessed and experienced in Philadelphia is a clear demonstration of the future. As we remain faithful to our mission "to promote the study of Polish American history and culture as part of the greater Polish diaspora," we recognize that its meaning is never static and always expands as our knowledge of Polish American history and culture and of the Polish diaspora expands too.

PAHA 2023 Conference and 2022 Award Winners

On January 5-8, 2023 PAHA members met during the Annual Meeting to present their research in Philadelphia, PA. PAHA's annual conference is an outstanding opportunity to hear about our colleagues' newest research projects and admire the innovation and energy of our field. Please join us in 2024 in San Francisco!

The annual conference also gave us a chance to recognize and congratulate our 2022 award winners during a special awards ceremony. A heartfelt **gratulacje** to our 2022 winners:

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

Winner: William Hal Gorby, *Wheeling's Polonia: Reconstructing Polish Community in a West Virginia Steel Town*, Morgantown, West Virginia University Press, 2020

The **Skalny Civic Achievement Award** honors individuals or groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research and awareness of the Polish American experience. Possible initiatives may include preservation of artifacts or broader community initiatives related to Polonia.

Winners:

Peter and Beverly (Flynn) Glofcheskie
Polish People's University in Philadelphia
Polish American Cultural Center and Museum (PACCM)
Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia (PHSP)

The **AMICUS POLONIAE AWARD** recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish-American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish American community.

Winners: David Strathairn, actor; Clark Young, script writer; Derek Goldman, writer and producer for "Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski"



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

Winner: Grażyna Kozacka, Cazenovia College

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

Winner: Karolina Wacławiak

The **GRADUATE STUDENT/YOUNG SCHOLAR TRAVEL GRANT** recognizes outstanding research into Polish- American history and culture by two graduate students or young scholars in the humanities or social sciences. The winners receives a travel grant to present a paper at the PAHA Annual Meeting.

Winners:

Dorota Choińska (University of Wrocław)

Natalie Cornett (McGill University)



POLONIJNE NAGRODY

PODZAS TEGOROCZNEJ KONFERENCJI POLSKO-AMERYKAŃSKIEGO TOWARZYSTWA HISTORYCZNEGO (POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - PAHA), KTÓRA ODBYŁA SIĘ W FILADELFI, WIELE OSÓB I ORGANIZACJI OTRZYMAŁO NAGRODY W UZNANIU ICH ZASŁUG.



Grupa z PAHA przed Muzeum Kościuski w Filadelfii



Wycieczka podczas ceremonii rozdania nagród w Domu Polaków w Filadelfii



Peter Olaf - prezes Towarzystwa Świadectwa Polskiego w Filadelfii, oraz Dwa Rucznik - prezes Polsko-Amerykańskiego Stowarzyszenia Bibliotekarzy

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THE AWARDS CEREMONY WAS ALSO FEATURED IN ONE OF POLONIA'S LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPERS THE NOWY DZIENNIK. YOU CAN ACCESS THE ARTICLE HERE: [HTTPS://DZIENNIK.COM/POLONIJNE-NAGRODY/](https://dziennik.com/polonijne-nagrody/)

Congratulations to our 2022 PAHA Award Winners!

During the PAHA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, attendees had the opportunity to visit Thaddeus Kościuszko's National Memorial

INTRODUCING PAHA's 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections for PAHA's Board of Directors were held late last year. We are pleased to introduce the 2023-2024 Board Members!

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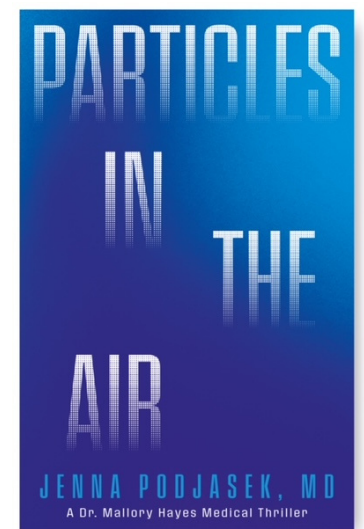
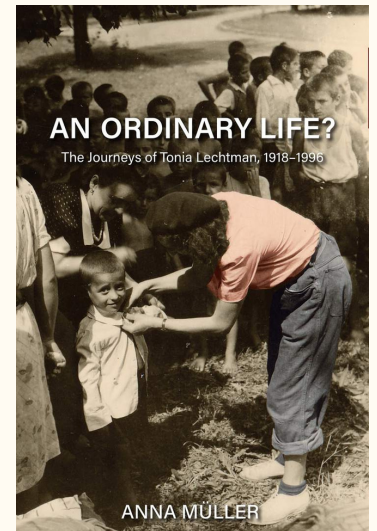
Robert Synakowski, Syracuse Polish Home

Dr. Michał Wilczewski, Northwestern University

PERSONALIA

Anna Müller published her second book, *An Ordinary Life?: The Journeys of Tonia Lechtman, 1918–1996* with Ohio University Press in March 2023. The Press explains that the book tells the story of "Tonia Lechtman... a Jew, a loving mother and wife, a Polish patriot, a committed Communist, and a Holocaust survivor. Throughout her life these identities brought her to multiple countries—Poland, Palestine, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Israel—during some of the most pivotal and cataclysmic decades of the twentieth century. In most of those places, she lived on the margins of society while working to promote Communism and trying to create a safe space for her small children."

Jenna Podjasek, MD published her debut novel, *Particles in the Air* (Bancroft Press, 2023), a medical thriller, focused on main character Dr. Mallory Hayes, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) medical investigator, who is a committed physician and researcher quietly battling anxiety. When a tsunami devastates the coast of Southern California, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) establishes a camp to house the tens of thousands of people displaced by the disaster. Mallory is dispatched to the camp to prevent the potential spread of disease from contaminated water. What she discovers is far worse than anything she could have imagined. Soon, Mallory finds herself immersed in a terrifying world in which common, everyday microbes prove deadly. Will the virus itself or humanity's response to the virus be more destructive? *Particles in the Air* is a shockingly realistic tale only an immunologist could write.



If you have any updates you'd like featured in the newsletter, write to michal.wilczewski@northwestern.edu.

PAHA MISSION STATEMENT

PAHA's goals are: to promote the study of Polish American history and culture as part of the greater Polish diaspora.; to encourage and disseminate scholarly research and publication on the Polish American experience in the fields of history, the social sciences, the humanities and the arts, and advance scholarly collaboration across disciplines; and to support collection and preservation of historical sources regarding the Polish past.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR POLISH AMERICAN STUDIES

The Polish American Historical Association's interdisciplinary refereed double-blind 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; TOC Premier and EBSCO. To subscribe visit: 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 groups. 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 anna.k@polishamericanstudies.org (the Editor, Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Eastern Connecticut State University, Department of History, Webb Hall 333, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT 06226). Manuscripts should be no longer than 8,000-10,000 words plus notes, tables, etc. They should include an abstract of 200 words, and a brief author's biographical information, their affiliation, and email address. It is the author's responsibility to obtain all copyright permissions for illustrations and images. Editors will not review works previously published in any form or ghost-written. Authors should follow The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition. Contributors whose first language is not English should have their work reviewed for clarity and style prior to submission.

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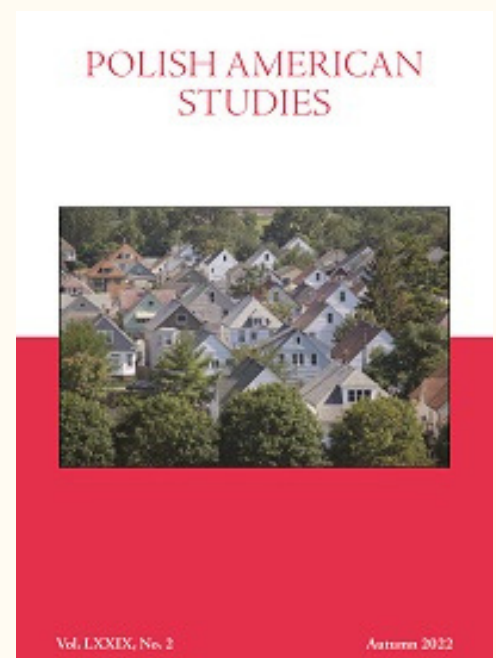
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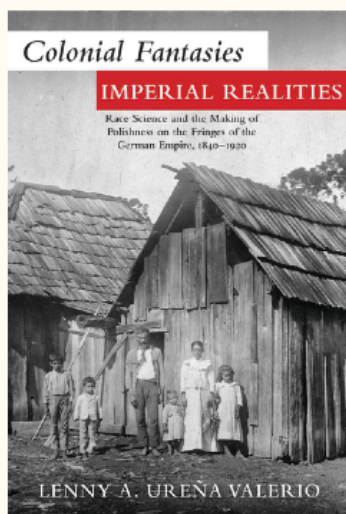
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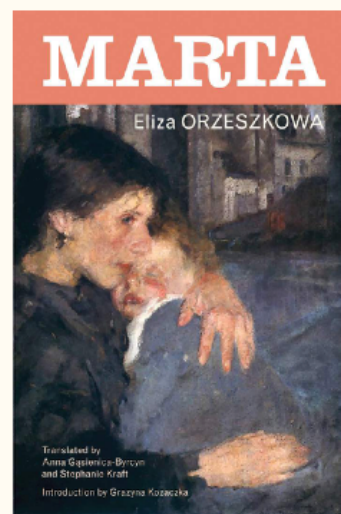
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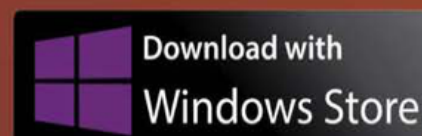
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