



# KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

THE AMERICAN CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014  
Volume LXIII, No. 1  
ISSN 1081-2776

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*At the KF's 79th Annual Dinner and Ball: (l-r) Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, Andre Zlotnicki, Helen Mary M. Tyszka, Henry C. Walentowicz, Esq., William J. Nareski, Krzysztof Rostek, Sigmund Rolat, Prof. Waldemar Priebe, Wanda M. Senko, Peter S. Novak, Piotr Chomczynski, Ph.D., Dr. John S. Micgiel, Cynthia Rosicki, Esq., Alexander Koproski, Alex Storozyński, Hanna Chroboczek-Kelker, Ph.D., Marian A. Kornilowicz, Esq.*

### THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION'S 79TH ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL



The KF elects its  
seventh President,  
**Dr. John S. Micgiel**  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT DR. JOHN S. MICGIEL

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Friends of the Kosciuszko Foundation met on April 26, 2014, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Park Avenue in New York City to celebrate in style the 79th Annual Dinner and Debutante Ball. Opera star, mezzo-soprano Edyta Kulczak offered a performance that evoked a standing ovation. Polish ski champion Justyna Kowalczyk was honored for her many achievements, including winning the gold medal at Sochi earlier this year. Nearly 500 people, among them surprise guests from the Polish acting world, crowded the Grand Ball Room and wined, dined, and danced their way into the wee hours. Photos of the gala can be seen on pages 8 and 9.

The Foundation offices in New York City and Washington D.C., and its local Chapters organize many events throughout the year, engaging members and guests with a wide variety of lectures, musical performances, and exhibitions. Accounts of some of their activities are included later in this *Newsletter*.

In March of this year, the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, led by Trustee Dr. Ronald J. Hagadus, interviewed candidates who wished to pursue scholarly projects in the United States. Some fifty scholarships in a wide array of disciplines were awarded, and details of the awards, along with those of a record number of domestic scholarship awardees will be published in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

The summer is upon us and with it, the annual trek to Poland of nearly 130 students and teachers attending summer programs at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the Jagiellonian University, and five additional sites where American teachers will provide English teacher training to their Polish counterparts. This activity caps the Foundation's programming for the fiscal and academic years, marking the 45th year of summer programs in Poland. A report detailing last summer's Teaching English in Poland is provided herein.

Times have changed in Poland, and the Polish government and the Kosciuszko Foundation are co-funding a special tuition scholarship program for undergraduate students of Polish origin. A \$2,000 scholarship will be offered to 30 promising undergraduate students studying in the USA and pursuing degrees at the intersection of media, communication, political science, social studies, law, and administration. Students seeking careers in media, government, and public affairs are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2014 and scholarship awards will be distributed for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic

year. The Foundation will administer the program, which was made possible by a \$60,000 grant from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Kosciuszko Foundation House, the historic Van Alen mansion, which the Foundation has owned and occupied for seventy years, is getting a facelift. Over the next eighteen months, the building will be repointed and waterproofed, the façade cleaned, the heating and cooling system repaired, the kitchen will be remodeled, and various other items repaired, touched up, or repainted. The landmark building will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2017, and we hope to be able to present the renovated House to the public before then. This will not be cheap and we are announcing a Capital Campaign to help us pay for the renovation. Its progress will be tracked on the KF website at [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org), and we encourage members and non-members alike to make financial contributions via the website.

Finally, it is sad to lose friends, and several long-time members of the Foundation have passed away recently, including Foundation Board Member Emeritus Maria Hagadus, Marya Markowski, William Sikorski, and former Foundation staff member Anna Utecht. We celebrate their lives and mourn their absence. ☹️

Dr. John S. Micgiel  
*President and Executive Director*



# NEW KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION TUITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF POLISH ORIGIN

## Over \$75,000 in Grant Funding Secured from the Polish Government for 2014

The Kosciuszko Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of the application process for a special tuition scholarship program for undergraduate students of Polish origin. A \$2,000 scholarship will be offered to 30 promising undergraduate students studying in the USA and pursuing degrees at the intersection of media, communication, political science, social studies, law, and administration. Students seeking careers in media, government, and public affairs are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2014 and scholarship awards will be distributed for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic year.

The key goal of the program is to identify and support highly motivated students of Polish descent who contribute or are likely to engage in community service or any initiatives that benefit or promote a positive image of Polish Americans. “This groundbreaking program will increase opportunities for Polish-American students enrolled in specific fields at universities throughout the United States. It is yet another example of the importance that the Polish government places on good relations with Polonia, and the confidence that it has in the Kosciuszko Foundation to implement this and other important projects,” said Dr. John S. Micgiel, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Full-time undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply. Scholarships are merit-based and are awarded for academic achievement, leadership qualities, motivation, interest in Polish subjects, and involvement in the Polish American community.

The scholarship program was made possible thanks to a \$60,000 grant secured by the Kosciuszko Foundation in the national competition “Cooperation with Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad in 2014” run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. An additional grant of over \$15,000 was awarded to the foundation for an update of the New KF English-Polish, Polish-English Dictionary, last published over a decade ago. The project – co-sponsored by The KF and the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union – has begun and will result in a thoroughly updated Dictionary, with online and app-based versions ready in 2015.

For more information please contact Ewa Zadworna at 212-734-2130 ext. 222.

*Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2014 and scholarship awards will be distributed for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic year.*

# POLISH AMERICAN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2014

HONORING OUR PAST, CHARTING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



Mary Kay Pieski, PhD. represented The Kosciuszko Foundation at the Polish American Leadership Summit 2014 held on March 11-12 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. The meeting was sponsored by the Polish American Congress and hosted by the Polish Falcons of America for the purpose

of gathering the heads of the national organizations of Polonia and leading representatives of the Polish government to discuss and develop a set of coherent actions intended to strengthen the Polish American community as a significant factor in American society. The Coordinating Committee included: Donald Pienkos, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, Timothy L. Kuzma, President and CEO Polish Falcons of America and Barbara Anderson, Ph.D., Director, National Office Polish American Congress. Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Embassy of Poland in Washington, D.C. was also in attendance.

The two-day session included panel presentations and group discussion with members from the Polish American Congress, Polish National Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Polish Women's Alliance of America, Polish National Union, American Council for Polish Culture, PIAST Institute, Orchard Lake Schools, Polish Priest's Association, Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences, Polish American Historical Association, Pangea Alliance, National Advocates Society/National Medical and Dental Association, Polish Teacher's Association, Polish American Journal, Polish Daily News, American Polish Advisory Council, and Polish Supplementary School Council of America.

The group discussed how to create ways in which Polish American organizations can energize the Polish American community as well as their own members' interest and engagement in the Polish heritage with the purpose of further enhancing the organization's visibility, appeal and viability. The participants shared ideas on how to build strategic coalitions and alliances with like-minded individuals and groups operating within and outside the organized Polish American community as well as how to involve young people of Polish origin in Polish American organizations. The representatives voiced their opinion on the need to support United States-Polish relations as well as spreading the word in promoting a wider interest in the activities, accomplishments and causes that are important to Polish Americans and Poland.

The Coordinating Committee will put forward a statement for public distribution that summarizes the recommendations of the Summit. ♡

## IN MEMORIAM



ANNA UTECHT

(March 3, 1949 - May 6, 2014)

Anna Utecht was born in Gniezno, Poland and was a certified teacher in her native country. She immigrated to the United States and was employed as the receptionist at the Kosciuszko Foundation. In addition, she served as Assistant to the Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching English in Poland (TEIP) and the U.S. Parliamentary Youth Leadership (summer) Programs at the Foundation's headquarters in New York City and on-site in Poland. She was a superb and conscientious representative of the Kosciuszko Foundation when communicating and interacting with Polish administrators and Polish and American teachers and students. While traveling in Poland with the program Director, Ania quickly expedited travel plans via local transportation so that deadlines for visiting the numerous K.F. English language camps could be met safely each summer. Her input was greatly appreciated when dealing with unexpected challenges during various aspects of the program.

Ania's teaching background, expertise in the Polish language and knowledge of Polish history, current affairs, traditions and culture were assets in her work that also included assisting at events held for the American public at the Foundation's headquarters.

Ania's dedication to sharing Polish culture with young people and American educators in the New York metro area was further demonstrated by her cooperation with the Polish American Teachers Association (PATA) in presentations of Polish cultural and educational programs for children at the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Ania's colleagues and friends at the Kosciuszko Foundation and teachers and students in numerous places across the United States and Poland, who participated in the TEIP Program, continue to remember her dedication, kindness and friendship. She will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

# DR. MAŁGORZATA MAZUREK

THE FIRST INCUMBENT OF THE  
POLISH STUDIES PROFESSORSHIP  
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



**Dr. Małgorzata Mazurek** has been selected by Columbia University as the first incumbent of the Polish Studies Professorship in the University's Department of History. Dr. Mazurek will assume the position on July 1, 2014.

The task of establishing the Professorship began in 2003, in talks between Kosciuszko Foundation

President Joseph Gore, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Witold Sulimirski, and Professor John S. Micgiel of Columbia University's East Central European Center. Thanks to a two-track strategy of providing visiting lecturers at Columbia, with financial support from the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Semper Polonia Foundation, professors representing different disciplines lectured on Poland at the University, while a campaign to raise \$3 million dollars for the creation of an endowment was devised by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland under the leadership of Consul General Krzysztof Kasprzyk and Consul Dr. Ewa Ger, Professor Włodzimierz Bolecki of the Foundation for Polish Science in Warsaw, and Professor Micgiel of the East Central European Center.

The Polish Studies Professorship at Columbia University was subsequently established thanks to the generosity of institutional and individual donors in Poland and the United States. The market value of its endowment is now in excess of \$5 million.

Donors include:

The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union

The Polish Army Veterans Association

The Foundation for Polish Science

Giełda Papierów Wartościowych

Krajowy Depozyt Papierów Wartościowych S.A.

ENEA S.A.

PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna S.A.

Bogdan Fiszer Silesia Capital Fund

Katowicka Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A.

Warmińsko-Mazurska Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A.

Pomorska Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A.

Kostryński-Słubicka Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna S.A.

Małopolska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A.

Fundacja Edukacji Rynku Kapitałowego

and many anonymous and individual donors.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is pleased to welcome Dr. Mazurek and looks forward to working with her to develop Polish Studies in New York City. ☺

## IN MEMORIAM



### MARIA J. HAGADUS

Maria Hagadus, a resident of Bedford Hills, NY, since 1969, an artist of international reputation, died peacefully at home on January 1, 2014, from the complications of a long illness. She was 86 years old. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Ronald J Hagadus MD, (Ophthalmologist), daughters Francesca Hagadus-McHale (William), Pleasantville, NY, Claudia Hagadus Long (Clyde), Lafayette, CA, and four grandchildren Julia, William, Timothy, and Thomas. She was predeceased by a son, James Matthew Hagadus MD.

Maria was born in Lodz, Poland before World War II, and came to the United States in 1945. The "War Years" through which she lived as a young girl, and the long postwar era of Poland's political and artistic isolation deeply affected her artistic sensibilities. The elusiveness of freedom is almost thematic in her most powerful paintings, some seen at her recent exhibit, "Images And Words—Six Decades" at galleries in Chelsea and The Kosciuszko Foundation in New York.

Maria studied formally at the Fleisher Art School in Philadelphia, and later was student and teacher with Bedford, NY, artists B. Shirley Carter and Anthony Toney. She founded the "Maria Hagadus Studio-Gallery" in Bedford Hills, NY, and in 1981 presented the exhibit "Poles Apart", held at Bedford Village Historical Hall, a landmark of the American Revolution and the struggle for freedom. All proceeds were donated to charities.

Among her eclectic talents and fluency in five languages, Maria was translator of Polish and German poetry, prose, and theater, including the works of Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz. In New York she was an early and continuing member of the "Byrd Hoffman Foundation", the theater workshop in Soho founded and led by the avant-garde director, Robert Wilson, and she frequently appeared in his Off-Broadway productions.

She served as Trustee and Trustee Emeritus of The Kosciuszko Foundation. Maria Hagadus was blessed with beauty, talent, and genius; she held herself to the highest standards, and judged only herself; she was loving and beloved; she was a woman of sublime style and elegance; she was ever the great lady.

# TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND

| FISCAL YEAR 2013 TEIP PROGRAM |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 21                            | TEACHERS                    |
| 23                            | TEACHING ASSISTANTS         |
| 4                             | STAFF LEADERS               |
| 20                            | AMERICAN STATES REPRESENTED |
| 300                           | POLISH STUDENTS             |

| SINCE 1991 |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 2,200      | AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS       |
| 10,200     | POLISH STUDENTS           |
| 112        | EDUCATION CAMPS IN POLAND |

The summer of 2013 marked the twenty-third anniversary of the *Teaching English in Poland Program* (TEIP), an innovative and highly effective cultural and educational exchange between the United States and Poland. This summer program is cosponsored annually by the Kosciuszko Foundation and independent, educational, nonprofit organizations and is under the honorary patronage of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.

To accommodate different schedules and interests and to satisfy the demand for such educational opportunities, the Kosciuszko Foundation and our Polish partners offered four choices to students: two English Language/American Culture Camp Programs and two Arts Enriched English Language Camp Programs. Both programs included students ages nine to eighteen. As a result of this expansion, a larger number of Polish students and American teachers and assistants had the opportunity to share in cross-cultural experiences.

This year, there were two English Language/American Culture Camp Program opportunities. The first was held at ZHP “Nadwarcianski Grod,” Zalecze Wielkie, and the second was held in The District Center for Culture, Education, Tourism, and Sport in Pinczow. Both camps were in session from July 19 to August 2. Both sites conducted a two-week English language emersion experience for Polish students. The Polish hosts at each site also offered a cultural tour of Poland for American teachers and assistants who volunteered their time to the program.

The purpose of the English Language/American Culture Camp Program is to provide Polish students, who demonstrate intermediate to advanced levels of proficiency, with opportunities to improve their conversational skills. The method of language emersion is employed during four daily class periods, in extracurricular activities, on field trips, and during meals and periods of free time. At the same time, participating teachers and students are exposed to the culture, history, language, traditions, and people of Poland. Dr. Teresa Wojcik, Philadelphia Chapter President served as the American Staff Leader in Pincow. Mrs. Dawn Woyak from Albuquerque, New Mexico served as the American Staff leader at Zalecze Wielkie.

The Arts Enriched English Language Camp Program celebrated its fifth year since its inception in 2009 in Zalecze Wielkie and a new camp was added this summer in Otwock. The camp in Zalecze Wielkie was in session from June 29 to July 20, and the camp in Otwock was in session from July 1 to July 12. Both programs held four classes per day and emphasized the importance of art, music, theatre, drama, and other creative forms of expression.

The purpose of the Arts Enriched English Language Camp Program is to strengthen students’ appreciation for creativity and the innovation that art provides. The program in both Zalecze Wielkie and Otwock invited students to gain a deeper appreciation for the arts, to learn about American culture, and to foster creative growth through a strong personal and global sense of identity. Toward the end of the experience, Polish students demonstrated their artistic abilities through an Art Expo. The exposition was open to students’ family members, friends and showcased their creative works and talents. Mr. Thomas Rusnak Sr. from Brookfield, Illinois was the American Staff Leader for the second consecutive year at Zalecze. Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, from Tallmadge, Ohio initiated the new camp and served as the American Staff Leader.

The Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO cooperate to prepare and implement specific components of the TEIP Program. The Foundation recruits and selects American teachers and assistants; organizes the staffing of each camp; provides training sessions for American participants; facilitates the educational aspects of the program as outlines in the curriculum guide. In addition to preparing lessons and activities, the participants are encouraged to raise funds, solicit donations of equipment, educational materials, and books to be shipped to Poland. The TEIP Program has been awarded grants and in excess of \$14,000 from Delta Kappa Educational Foundation to help purchase equipment for the Arts Enriched English Language Camp Program. Mr. Al Koproski, Trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation and member of the board of the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation facilitated the donation of baseball equipment to both the Otwock and Pincow camps.

Mary Kay Pieski Ph.D, volunteer director of the TEIP Program, together with Teresa G. Woycik Ph.D, volunteer assistant director, facilitated the American aspects of the program; supervised the implementation of the program at each Polish camp site. Mrs. Christine B. Kuskowski has recently been appointed the Director Emeritus for the TEIP Program. Mrs. Kuskowski has served as the program director for twenty-one years. Mr. Krzysztof Haranczyk is the newly appointed TEIP Program coordinator at its headquarters in New York City. Cooperating Polish directors included Ewa Barbara Musiejko (administrator, *Powiatowy Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury* Michała Elwiro Andriollego w Otwocku), Krystyna Mikita (administrator, *Ósrodek Szkoleniowo-Wypoczynkowy ZHP "Nadwarciański Gród"*), and Tomasz Dziurak (administrator, *Powiatowy Ósrodek Kultury Turystyki i Sportu Pińczów*).

This summer a total of 300 Polish students attended the camps located in Zalecze Wielkie, Otwock, and Pinczow. The Foundation has selected four group leaders, twenty-one American teachers and twenty-three teaching assistants to participate in the TEIP Program. Participants hailed from the following twenty states included: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont. Since the TEIP Program began in 1991, the Kosciuszko Foundation has organized a total of 112 educational camps throughout Poland.

The volunteer American teachers and assistants are instrumental in effecting the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission of promoting closer ties between Poland and the United States. The reciprocal nature of the TEIP Program enables large numbers of Polish students and American participants to share in educational, scientific and cross-cultural exchanges.

The Kosciuszko Foundation expresses its gratitude to Dr. Joseph A. Polizzi, Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania for assisting with recruiting teaching assistants and securing funding for registration fees. The following Kosciuszko Foundation chapters contributed financial support for shipping costs for the program: Ohio Chapter, Philadelphia Chapter, and Chicago Chapter. 🍷

Mary Kay Pieski, Ph.D.  
*Director, Teaching English in Poland Program*

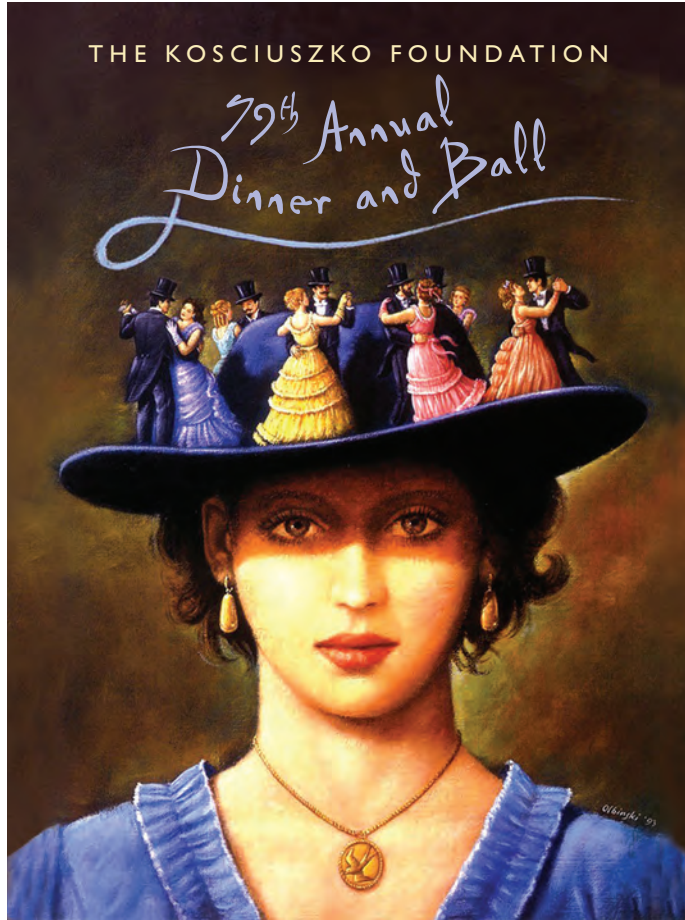
## NEW KF PRESIDENT DR. JOHN S. MICGIEL



The Board of Directors of the Kosciuszko Foundation announced at its semi-annual meeting on April 25, 2014 the election of its seventh President, Dr. John S. Micgiel of Columbia University. Professor Micgiel taught for twenty-five years at the University's School of International and Public Affairs, where for many years he directed the Institute on East Central Europe, the East European, Russian, and Eurasian National Resource Center, and several other Institutes and Centers. He is on the faculty of Warsaw University's Eastern Studies Center and the Estonian School of Diplomacy in Tallinn. Professor Micgiel was instrumental in organizing the campaign to raise an endowment, now valued at \$5.2 million for a newly-filled Professorship in Polish Studies in Columbia University's History Department.

Outgoing President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Mr. Alex Storozynski, commented that "Dr. John Micgiel is the perfect choice to be the next President of the Kosciuszko Foundation. John's knowledge of Polish history and culture, his decades long connection to the Foundation, and his success in establishing the chair of Polish Studies at Columbia University are just some of the examples of his proven track record for success. John Micgiel will be a fantastic President."

Dr. Micgiel has been recognized by the Governments of Poland and Romania for his work on behalf of educational exchange and cooperation, and has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and scholarships awarded by various institutions including the Kosciuszko Foundation. Assistant to late President Eugene Kusielewicz, long-time member of PIASA, with 23 years' service on the Board of the Pilsudski Institute, member of various scholarship committees including those of the Polish Student Organization and the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, Dr. Micgiel maintains an outstanding record of service to the Polish-American community and to Poland. 🍷







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**A** Debutante Sophia Rose Kolankiewicz with her father Dr. Luiz Kolankiewicz

**B** President and Executive Director Dr. John S. Micgiel with wife Barbara

**C** Members of the PSFCU Supervisory Committee Anna Wojnarowska and Edward Pierwola

**D** Cadet with guest

**E** Alex Storozynski with actress Malgorzata Potocka and actor Pawel Delag

**F** Opera Star Mezzo-Soprano Edyta Kulczak and Trustee Dr. Piotr Chomczynski with wife Judith

**G** National Advisory Council Chairman and this year's Ball Chairman Andre Zlotnicki with Trustee Cynthia Rosicki, Esq.

**H** This year's honoree Olympic and World Champion Skier Justyna Kowalczyk dancing the Polonaise with a member of the Polish American Folk Dance Company

**I** Cadets from USMMA Fanfare Trumpet Squadron, Kings Point

**J** Member of The Polish American Folk Dance Company

**K** Guests with KF staff and The Polish American Folk Dance Company

**L** Aleksandra Mencil, Lauren Katharina Senko, Debutante Patroness Janyce Nareski Goba, Debutante Council Chairwoman Dawn Polewac, Sophia Rose Kolankiewicz and Monica Leigh Sincel

**M** Chairman William J. Nareski with his sister and this year's Debutante Patroness Janyce Nareski Goba

**N** Justyna Kowalczyk receiving the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition

# Debutantes Invited!

The Kosciuszko Foundation is looking for debutantes to present to society at the Annual Dinner and Ball. Many of you know Miss Polonias and young ladies of distinction who would make perfect candidates for the debutante class of 2015. *Please help us spread the word!*

The Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner and Ball is a dazzling evening of dining, dancing, and networking, attended by debutantes, dignitaries and celebrities in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Waldorf Astoria. For 79 years the Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner and Ball has been the premier social event in the Polish American community. Next year we will mark the 80th anniversary of the Ball. It will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

As the highlight of the evening, debutantes are presented under the guidance of the Debutante Patroness, who is selected each year for her service and commitment to the Kosciuszko Foundation. At the conclusion of the debutante presentation, honored guests and dignitaries lead the entire assemblage in the historic and stately Polonaise.

This will be a night these young ladies will remember for the rest of their lives. In fact, many Polish-Americans have met their wives and husbands attending this prestigious event.

To request an application or for more information about the Debutante Presentation please call Kaya Sawczuk at the Kosciuszko Foundation at (212) 734-2130. ☺



*Debutantes of 2014*

## 2014 DEBUTANTE LUNCHEON



*The Debutante Council Chairwoman Dawn Polewac*

This year's Debutante Luncheon was held on April 6, 2014 at the famous Tribeca Grill. It was the kick-off event to the KF Ball season and this year's event was quickly sold out. The Debutante Luncheon is the first introduction to society of the year's Debutantes and Patroness. It is attended by many former Debutantes and Patronesses, as well as members of other Polonia organizations including: PATA, Polish Children's Heartline, MSCPWA, and PNA of Brooklyn. *We can't wait for next year's luncheon!*





# HELLO FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL: THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

## A lot has been going on here!

Our Center is becoming increasingly visible and popular as a cultural touchstone promoting *all things Polish* in our area. We are a showcase for Poland's best, both in culture and intellectual life.

🍷 In October of 2013, we had an elegant and successful Fundraising Dinner at the Army and Navy Club, where we honored Polish-American General Edward Rowny.

🍷 Shortly afterward, we started a new series, "Let's Talk About Poland" and have already held six conversations with speakers from both Poland and the United States. The idea of the series is to create a comfortable space for discussing various aspects of contemporary life in Poland, one in which experts facilitate a conversation and guests actively participate. All the meetings so far have been well-attended and inspired lots of interest among our Polish-American community.

🍷 In December, we invited members to celebrate Christmas with us, while caroling together and enjoying delicious traditional Polish holiday dishes. To take advantage of the great reputation

of our national food, we have also started a series "*Smaczne* – Celebrating Polish Cuisine." The opening event turned out to be a great success and we are planning more events that will promote Polish traditional food. "Polish Donut Day" – *Thusty Czwartek* – was a real hit. We had over 200 people at the Center who came to purchase the famous Polish donuts.

🍷 In cooperation with the Washington International Piano Council we organized several piano concerts – all greatly attended and enjoyed.

🍷 Sea Shanties – *Piosenka Zeglarska* brought to our Center almost 100 people, who enjoyed a sing along with the Polish Sea Shanties star Jerzy Porebski.

🍷 We have had several book promotion events and meetings with authors. We have organized evenings of arts and poetry, and art exhibits promoting our local artists.

🍷 We celebrated the opening of the Jan Karski Room on the third floor of our building with the Ambassador of Poland and other government officials. We hosted a Kosciuszko Squadron from West Point Military Academy.

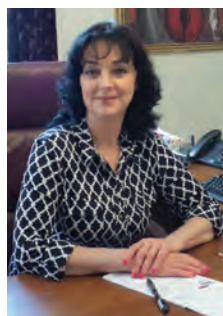
🍷 On Polish Constitution Day, May 3rd, we presented a wonderful one-man show by a famous Polish actor, Stanislaw Gorka, which was filled with beautiful songs and patriotic references.

🍷 A few days after the performance, we had a full house again – this time drawing the admirers of a Polish explorer Aleksander Doba, who as the first man in history kayaked across the Atlantic Ocean. His 7-meter long kayak was parked outside of the KF, attracting more than 100 spectators.

🍷 We also hosted two very talented classical singers: Delia Zielinski, soprano, and Victorya Koreneva, mezzo-soprano. They delivered a breathtaking performance of classical arias and duets.

🍷 Throughout the year we run a Polish Language and Culture Program, offering classes for all levels: from beginning to advanced sessions. The summer session will start in the beginning of July.

Membership is growing as we attract more Polish-Americans to our center. We are also reaching out to other Polish and European organizations to become more present on the European scene in Washington DC. Please visit our website at [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org) to see photos from the events mentioned above. 🍷



Thank you!

Barbara Bernhardt  
Director, *The Kosciuszko Foundation*  
Washington DC

## CHICAGO CHAPTER



*The Wall Speaks Project Exhibit*

On October 3rd, 2013 the Chicago Chapter participated in “The Wall Speaks Project Exhibit,” “voices of the unheard,” an interactive multimedia event featuring large format photography, video, and special artifacts dedicated to Polish children and teenagers who experienced “the subhuman cataclysm” of World War II, and all those today, no matter what ethnicity, religion or color, whose voices are unheard and who suffer at being treated as less than fully human. The evening celebration commences with a classical music concert and featured the music of Maurice Ravel, Witold Lutoslawski and Jaroslaw Golembiewski, performed by the Chicago Clarinet Ensemble led by its founder Dr. Rosa Sperrazzo, and winners of the Concerto Competition: Kongrad Pawelek and Elizabeth Kostencki. The exhibit ran from October 3rd till the 25th.

On October 27th, the Chapter celebrated Kosciuszko’s Name Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Chicago Chapter. The program included music of Karol Szymanowski performed by pianist Pawel Checinski and soprano Ewa Kowcz-Fair, soloist with the Lira Ensemble. Lucyna Migala, the



*Unveiling Ceremony of the restored Kosciuszko monument in Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Artistic Director and General Manager of Lira, also a co-founder of the Chapter, served as master of ceremonies. The event took place at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Dr. Ewa Radwanska was this year’s awardee.

In November, the Chicago Chapter assisted in organizing the Polish-American Heritage Celebration with the Council of Educators in Polonia and Diversity Center of Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

On November 11th, Czeslawa Kolak, member of the Executive Committee represented the Chapter at the unveiling ceremony of the restored Kosciuszko monument in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Chapter’s name is listed on the monument as one of the donors who assisted in its restoration.

That same month the Chicago Chapter hosted Dr. Tomasz Pudlocki from Jagiellonian University during his short visit to the University of Chicago.

On March 1st, 2014 the Chapter organized a meeting with Bozena Jankowska who presented her new book “*I ciag dalszy nastapil.*” The event took place at Polonia Bookstore in Chicago.

On April 12th, the Chapter participated in the fundraising event for the Woodstock Mozart Festival at the Sanfilippo Estate, Barrington Hills, in Illinois. The Chapter sponsored the performance of Igor Lipinski, KF scholarship recipient from the Northwestern University Ph.D. Music program.

The Chapter co-sponsored the screening of the movie “Karol-the man who became a Pope” directed by Giacomo Battiato.

The event took place on April 24th and was organized in cooperation with the Department of the World Languages and Cultures at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) and NEIU Polish Students Association (NEPSA) in celebration of the canonization of John Paul II. 🇨🇵

Prof. Lidia Filus,  
*KF Chicago Chapter  
President*

# NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

True to the mission of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the New England Chapter sponsored a variety of events that informed, engaged and promoted Polish arts and culture in the region. From film to politics to the etudes of Chopin, the New England Chapter continually worked to bring pride and knowledge of Poland to those of Polish descent and to others in our community a general appreciation of the contributions of a country that symbolizes perseverance and an indomitable love of freedom.

## Highlights of the Year:

In October 2013, KF/New England presented the 12th annual Polish Film Festival at Elms College. For five Wednesdays, a selection of Polish films with English subtitles were screened to full houses with accompanying commentary and post-film discussion followed by a reception.

October is also Polish Heritage Month – a time to celebrate tradition – and the New England Chapter did so with its *Imieniny* gathering to toast and honor the name day of Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Held at the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning on October 25th, attendees saluted the legacy of the namesake of our organization with music, champagne and Polish delicacies in a surrounding that showcases historical memorabilia and artifacts helping to preserve the legacy of all things Polish.

The XV Kosciuszko Award Ceremony and Concert was held on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at Mount Holyoke College. With one of the largest audience's to date in attendance, a luncheon was held celebrating the accomplishments of students and graduate students who have received scholarships from the Kosciuszko Foundation and are of Polish descent, or who are studying in disciplines related to Poland or Eastern Europe. Also honored were grant recipients from Poland doing research at universities in New England.

A special highlight of the ceremony is the recognition of the Distinguished Polish-American of the Year. For 2014, the KF New England Chapter was pleased to bestow this award to Mary Mazurek Heslin. Her professional career has spanned over four decades, and she has served, among many civic positions, as the Deputy Mayor of Hartford and Commissioner of Consumer Protection for the state of Connecticut.

On May 2, 2014 the Irena Sendler Award was presented to Peter Madol, a young man from the Sudan, who at the age of 7 was separated from his family during a raid by Sudanese soldiers. Two of his brothers died during the civil war in Sudan including his father who was tortured to death. His early childhood was spent in refugee camps in Africa. At 15 he arrived in the US, learned the language, got a job to support himself and now 10 years later will graduate from Elms College with a degree in social work. 🇺🇸



*Sendler Awardee Peter Madol with Lauren Bunce, Peter's mentor and advisor, friends, Francine Jasinski Hayward, KF/NE Director, Scott Hartblay Associate Professor of Sociology at Elms College, Grazyna Vincunas, KF/NE Director*

Carolyn Topor,  
KF New England Chapter President

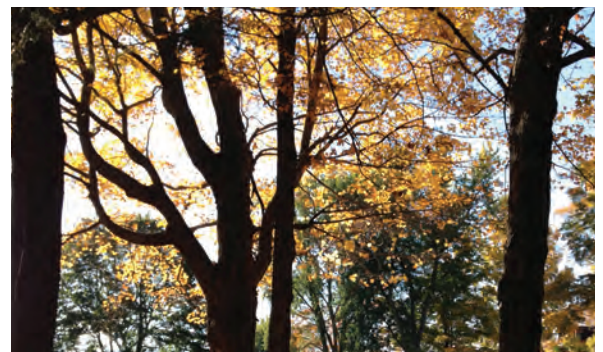
## IN MEMORIAM



### MARYA J. MARKOWSKI

September 21, 1929 – January 31, 2014

Marya was born in Boston, MA and spent many of her adult years traveling between Boston and New York City, her “two homes.” She graduated from Boston State College with a BS in Education and Columbia University where she earned her masters degree in English. Marya was an accomplished and well-educated woman who began her education career teaching Polish and English to high school students at the Warren Harding High School in Bridgeport, CT. She continued teaching Polish to the Bridgeport adult community for many years and English for more than fifty years at Warren Harding High School. Marya is remembered for having a great appreciation for culture, art, music, opera and ballet. She was also a great lover of animals and nature. Her ultimate goal was to instill in her students a respect and pride for their Polish heritage. Marya's generous donation to the Kosciuszko Foundation is made with the intention that scholarships be provided to support American students of Polish descent in their graduate studies.



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# TEXAS CHAPTER

In March of 2013, the Texas Chapter and its members supported the visit and the performance of the Polish National Ballet in Houston at the 18th Dance Salad Festival at the Wortham Center. There, they presented the US premiere of Krzysztof Pastor's iconic work, "And the Rain will Pass," to the music of Henryk Gorecki. A special welcome reception, honoring the Polish National Ballet, was held at the Anya Tish Gallery.

In May, the Chapter supported Houston's 7th Annual Polish Festival, which was held on the grounds of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. All proceeds from the Festival were used to complete the construction of the Pope John Paul II Parish Hall and the Polish School.

In September, the Chapter was one of the sponsors of the Polish Harvest Festival in Houston. The festival is a celebration of the food, music, language, customs and culture of the Polish people and is organized by Our Lady of Czestochowa parish. Day-long entertainment, delicious food, a silent auction and great weather brought thousands of visitors of various national backgrounds to the celebration.

In October, the Chapter supported the Eighth International Chopin Youth Competition. The Chopin Youth Competitions bring together young piano students from different places, backgrounds, upbringing and ethnic groups united by the same love and language of Chopin's music. The competitions were organized by the Chopin Society of Houston and were led by its president, Ms. Anna Golka.

Also, in October and November, the Texas Chapter continued the tradition of being a sponsor for the Annual Polish Film Festival in Houston under the leadership of The Honorary Consul of Poland in Houston, Dr. Zbigniew Wojciechowski. The Festival took place at AMC 30 Studio.



from left : Mariusz Smolij, Kamila Smolij, Marcin Dylla, Teresa Szwarcrocka-Priebe, Waldemar Priebe

Houston enjoyed Marcin Dylla's Guitar Recital on Saturday, March 29, 2014, organized by the Texas Chapter. Hailed by Washington Post as "among the most gifted guitarists on the planet" Polish guitarist, Marcin Dylla is a rare phenomenon in recent history of Classical Guitar. Many music critics, connoisseurs, and music lovers certify that Marcin Dylla is among the world's elite of classical guitar players. 🍷



Marcin Dylla

Prof. Waldemar Priebe,  
*KF Texas Chapter President and KF Trustee*

## IN MEMORIAM



### WILLIAM F. SIKORSKI, JR.

1931–2014

Mr. William F. Sikorski of Adams, Massachusetts, died on January 9, 2014. He was born in Adams and attended St. Stanislaus Elementary School, and graduated from the former Adams High School in 1949. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Boston University, and then earned his Master's Degree in Russian Studies from Middlebury College. He was a Veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving with the US Army from 1954 until receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1956. Mr. Sikorski worked as a teacher in the Social Studies Department of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown for 28 years, until retiring in 1990. Earlier, he had taught for 6 years at T.C. Plunkett School in Adams. He was a communicant of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Cheshire. He was a Past President and Board Member of the Adams Historical Society, and member of various other organizations including the Kosciuszko Foundation, who he remembered in his will.

I would like more information on making a planned gift to the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Please contact me at my:

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## GIVING TO THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION: HOW TO FULFILL YOUR WISHES THROUGH A CHARITABLE BEQUEST

Much of the financial strength of the Kosciuszko Foundation has come through the years from its members and friends who provided for the Foundation in their wills. It is easy to insert a charitable bequest into your will when it is written or as a revision. You may also add a bequest through a codicil – a separate document that provides an amendment to your existing will. Regardless of the size of your estate or of your bequest, the full value of your gift may be deductible for federal estate tax purposes.

### Here are ways you can support the Kosciuszko Foundation through your will:

A **specific bequest** is a gift of a specific dollar amount or a particular piece of property. For example, “I bequeath [dollar amount or description of property] to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.”

A **residuary bequest** is a gift of all or part of the property remaining in your estate after debts, expenses and specific bequests have been paid. For example, “I give, bequeath and devise [all, or \_\_\_% of] the rest, residue and remainder of the property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.” The Kosciuszko Foundation encourages gifts by residuary bequest. If your gift is stated as a percentage, this method automatically adjusts the size of your bequest according to your current financial position. This gives you flexibility and peace of mind that your bequest will not be larger or smaller than you had intended, in the event of unexpected changes in the size of your estate. Residuary bequests are also beneficial for the Foundation. People are often surprised by how much their assets can grow over time – and by how large an ultimate gift they are able to make to support the Foundation’s mission.

A **contingent bequest** is a gift that takes effect only if the primary beneficiary or beneficiaries of the bequest should



predecease you. For example, “If neither my husband nor any descendant of mine survive me, then I give, bequeath and devise all the rest, residue and remainder of the property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.”

Perhaps the most effective asset to bequeath is the **remainder of your retirement plans**, such as pension funds or IRAs. When left to someone other than your spouse, they can be subject to income and estate taxes – both of which combined could erode up to 63% of the remaining benefits! If bequeathed to the Foundation, these funds would escape both income and estate taxes, and reduce your taxable estate.

### How will the Kosciuszko Foundation use my gift?

An **unrestricted bequest** is the simplest and most immediately beneficial kind of bequest to the Kosciuszko Foundation. The amount received through an unrestricted bequest can be used at the discretion of the Foundation’s Trustees and administration for its most important needs, which may change from time to time. Your will may read, “I give, bequeath and devise [dollar amount, description of property or portion of residuary estate] to The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. for its general purposes.”

A **restricted bequest** provides cash or property to be used by the Foundation for a specific Foundation program or named scholarship fund. If you are considering a restricted bequest, please call the Foundation’s Development Office at 212-734-2130 and we will be happy to talk to you about your wishes and provide you with a personal outline of funding requirements and possibilities.

**Whichever method you choose, remember that your gifts may take many forms and serve many purposes, including honoring the memory of someone you love.**

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THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

# 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Ball

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015

The Waldorf Astoria  
Park Avenue at 50th Street  
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