



# KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

THE AMERICAN CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE

## NEWSLETTER

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## CONSERVING THE ART COLLECTION AT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION



**JAN STYKA** (1858-1925)  
*Kościuszko at the Battle of Racławice*  
Oil on canvas, 51 x 38 inches



**ANIELA LEWANDOWSKA** (1896-1953)  
*Still Life with Blossoms*  
Oil on canvas, 23 x 28 inches



**BOLESŁAW JAN  
CZEDEKOWSKI**  
(1885-1969)  
*Weeping Madonna*  
24 x 19.5 inches



**JACEK MALCZEWSKI**  
(1854-1929)  
*Self Portrait  
with a Black Hat*  
Oil on canvas, 19 x 13 inches



**WOJCIECH KOSSAK** (1856-1942)  
*The Knight and the Maid*  
Oil on canvas, 46 x 39 inches

> See article, page 4



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
**DR. JOHN S. MICGIEL**

*Why bother? Is it that important?*

In April 2015, Connecticut's WNPR ran a story entitled "Museum in Chicopee, Massachusetts Collects Objects, Stories of Polish 'Plain People'." The article explained that "the town of Chicopee, Massachusetts first reported Polish settlers in 1880. It was the beginning of an influx of immigrants to the Connecticut River Valley to work as farmers and factory workers. Stanislaw, or Stas, Radosz is working to keep that history alive at the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning. Radosz is a storyteller and a historian. He's also a collector of things. 'It all started many decades ago,' Radosz said. 'A woman called me up and said, I have a trunk that belonged to my mother, and there's some wooden shoes in there.' He remembered his mother talking about the wooden shoes worn in her Polish village. He'd never seen them in person. The woman asked Radosz if there was a place to donate the shoes so they could be preserved. At the time, there wasn't. Now the shoes are long gone, unfortunately, because there is a perfect place for them – along with old wedding dresses, historical documents, folk art, ephemera, and pierogi boards.



Formerly housed in a library at Elms College, the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning took over the 150-year-old former Holy Name of Jesus Rectory in 2004. The old mansion had fallen into disrepair, and Radosz proposed to take it over to expand his museum celebrating Polish culture and heritage in the region.

It would take \$1.5 million – mostly donated material and labor – to upgrade the 18-room mansion. Radosz added a foyer and an elevator, repaired ceilings and walls, and transformed it into the museum it is today."

Visitors to the Center are appreciably surprised by the remarkable images of Polish and Polish American history displayed at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, Massachusetts – conveniently located near major highways and centrally located between New York City, Albany and Boston in a region rich in history and natural beauty. The primary mission of the Polish Center is to collect and safeguard objects, which define the material culture of ordinary people. Too often, the historical value of these materials are not recognized and eventually discarded by their

owners. The Polish Center also strives to emphasize that which is little known, or forgotten, by the general American public, as well as the Polish American community. It is determined to build a "living monument" to the Polish people, one to which everyone can relate.

The opportunity to build this monument presented itself to Stas, the founder and executive director in 1998 by Sr. Kathleen Keating, the President of Elms College. Radosz, who was then teaching a course entitled "Introduction to the Polish People", submitted a proposal to the College's Board of Directors, which was approved the following year. The Polish Center grew rapidly and in 2005 acquired the keys to a mid-19th century mansard style historic rectory whose 18 rooms were renovated and converted into a museum and educational resource center.

Today, when entering the museum, visitors are welcomed by a one-of-a-kind chandelier, made expressly for the Polish Center by artist Kaz Kielb, with the coats-of arms of three historical capitals of Poland, a hand-blown stain glass window executed by third generation glass artist David Guarducci employing traditional 12th century techniques, as well as a winged hussar.



Before moving up to the "Coming to America Gallery" on second floor, it is important to stop by the cast of the right hand of Pope John Paul II. Only two copies exist. The first resides in Poland while the second is at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning. The second floor displays trunks, clothing, and passports from pre-

World War I Poland, toy soldiers deemed precious by a young boy who had to leave Poland quickly with his family in 1939, fascinating archival material of a 13 year old sent to forced labor to Germany during World War II and much more.

Other galleries include a wide variety of exhibits such as a wall of photos from the past, curious items such as a 100-year-old cabbage shredder, beehive smoker from 1874 and cheese press. Among the wealth of material on display is memorabilia from the 1939 New York World's Fair Polish Pavilion and 1904 St. Louis Exposition, a 1781 copy of an inventory of laws of

the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, a diary from Siberia, and items of the Polish Second Corp (including an exhibit dedicated to Wojtek the Polish soldier bear). There are materials illustrating the ingenuity of the Polish immigrant, descriptions of especially well known Polish American organizations, and a replica of an early 20th century Polish cottage.

The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, with its wonderful variety of materials, is fast becoming a significant protagonist in the preservation of Polish history in America and the promotion of awareness of the Polish heritage among not only Polish Americans but also the American public over all. It maintains a strong relationship with organizations such as the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts (housed at the Polish Center), Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter, Polish National Alliance, Polish Junior League of Massachusetts, and Polish Women's Alliance.

The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning provides guided tours of its exhibits. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Other days and times may be arranged by appointment. Groups are welcome. The Polish Center is dependent entirely on grants and support from individual contributions.

For additional information, call 413-592-0001. Those interested may write to Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 or e-mail: [polishcenter@elms.edu](mailto:polishcenter@elms.edu).

Stas Radosz is a longtime member of the Kosciuszko Foundation and began his association in the early 1970s when he spent six weeks at the KF Summer Session at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. That visit inspired him to help realize the dreams and patriotism of his parents. A graduate of Indiana University with a B.A. in Slavic Studies, he received his M.A. at the same University in Slavic Studies and Library Science. From 1967 to 1998 he

served as Slavic Bibliographer and Coordinator for Collection Development at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where his job was to select and evaluate books, periodicals and newspapers dealing with East Central Europe. During his tenure at the University, he served on the Committee on Slavic and East European Studies. He also served as special advisor to students working on Polish subject honors papers at Smith College and Hampshire College.

Why bother? Is it that important? Silly questions. Of course it is important, otherwise why waste one's time working with volunteers and the New England Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation to provide people in the Northeast with an idea of what Polish immigrants to the United States experienced in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? Stas is not alone, although he may feel that way from time to time. Volunteers make activities possible among Polish-Americans, at Polish American institutions, and at the Kosciuszko Foundation. The members of our Board of Trustees are unpaid and provide their expertise, and money, to support our activities. The leadership of our various chapters are all volunteers and organize tremendously interesting programming throughout the country. To provide just one concrete example, two ladies, Drs. Mary Kay Pieski and Teresa Wojcik, have stewarded the Foundation's Teaching English in Poland program to provide an increased number of Polish students with the possibility to improve their English.

Important? The Polish Center for Discovery and Learning? Yes, very important. Stanislaw Ryszard Radosz, the Kosciuszko Foundation is proud to count you as a friend and member. We salute your educational efforts and look forward to continuing our cooperation. 🍷



# CONSERVING THE ART COLLECTION AT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

We are continuing the process of extensive renovations to the KF House in New York, as well as the art restoration program.

Many of you are well aware of the Van Alen Mansion, the “KF House,” home to Polonia over many generations. The building and street front have undergone extensive renovation, and the KF is raising funds to help cover further renovation expenses.

The artwork of the Foundation includes the Gallery of Polish Masters, an awe-inspiring collection of premier significance – including pieces by Matejko, the Kossak family, the Styka family, and Malczewski.

Thank you to all those who have supported this important work (see page 31). We continue to reach out to all of our supporters: you can help to preserve the beauty of Polish-American culture.

In addition, we are pleased to offer museum quality reproductions of some of the art in our collections for sale. At present, five giclees are being offered for purchase by

artists – Boleslaw Jan Czedekowski, Wojciech Kossak, Aniela Lewandowska, Jacek Malczewski, and Jan Styka. These are masterpieces of Polish fine art, now available and affordable to collectors. Each reproduction is archivally printed on 17 mil acid free poly/cotton canvas with pigmented polychrome archival inks. The number of reproductions is limited to 100,



and each canvas comes numbered with a Certificate of Authenticity. A beautiful album entitled “Polish Masters from the Kosciuszko Foundation Collection” accompanies each giclee. Proceeds from the sale of this art goes toward conserving the Kosciuszko Foundation’s collection and the magnificent House it resides in.

To buy reproductions of KF Master Paintings or to donate to the KF Building and Art Restoration Fund, visit the KF website at: [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org), or call the Development Office at 212-734-2130. 🌟

# CONGRATULATIONS TO KF TRUSTEES AND PROMINENT MEMBERS



Congratulations to KF Trustee Sigmunt Rolat, a Holocaust survivor, on being honored by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio at an annual Jewish Heritage Month reception at the Jewish Heritage Museum on Thursday, proclaiming June 11th, 2015,

in the City of New York, “Sigmund Rolat Day.” “His efforts have rebuilt landmarks in Poland, created exhibits depicting life there before, during, and after the Holocaust and reunited families separated during the war. His work spearheading the development of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, which highlights the long history of Jewish life in Poland, is further evidence of Mr. Rolat’s leadership in preserving both Jewish and Yiddish culture,” mayor de Blasio told the attendees during his remarks.



Congratulations to Alex Storozynski, president & executive director emeritus and vice chairman of the KF for being appointed distinguished scholar and Polish chair of the Quinnipiac University

Central European Institute on May 19, 2015. “The addition of Alex Storozynski to our institute provides instant credibility

throughout Poland and here in the U.S.,” said Christopher Ball, István Széchenyi chair and executive director of the Central European Institute. “Alex is a respected, award-winning journalist, and champion for Poland, having let the most prestigious and effective Polish-American organization.”



Congratulations to KF Trustee Victor Markowicz on being honored by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski for his support of Polish culture. On June 26, 2015, during a celebration at the Presidential Palace Mr. Markowicz was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. The award is given to those who have rendered great service to the Polish nation.

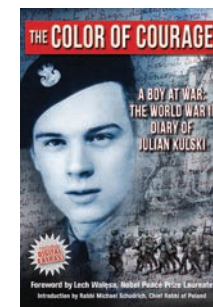


Congratulations to Prof. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski for winning the Dreyfus Prize in the Chemical Sciences. Prof. Matyjaszewski is a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation Collegium of Eminent Scientists. Prof. Matyjaszewski is best known for

developing atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP), a process cited by the Dreyfus Foundation as being the most important advance in polymer synthesis in half a century. 🌟

# THE COLOR OF COURAGE WINS PRESTIGIOUS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AWARDS

*WWII Diary of Boy Soldier Takes Honors in 2 Categories*



Los Angeles, California, April 13, 2015 — *The Color of Courage—A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski* (Aquila Polonica Publishing, Nov. 2014) won the Gold Award for Interior Design (1-2 Color) and the Silver Award for Autobiography/Memoir in the 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards.

Winners were announced at a ceremony held in Austin, Texas, Friday evening, April 10, 2015. Now in its 27th year, the Benjamin Franklin Award, sponsored by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), is the premier awards competition in independent publishing, recognizing excellence in independent publishing. There were nearly 1,400 entries this year. More info at: [www.polww2.com/2015BenFranklinAwards](http://www.polww2.com/2015BenFranklinAwards)

In his Foreword to this remarkable diary of a boy soldier during World War II, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Walesa calls *The Color of Courage* “a superb lesson of humanity.” The Chief Rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, writing the Introduction to the book, praises *The Color of Courage* as “an inspiring read.” Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Center for Strategic & International Studies, says: “Compelling, readable, and very moving.”

“We’re absolutely thrilled to learn that *The Color of Courage* has won the 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards,” said Aquila Polonica president Terry Tegnazian. “It’s so exciting to be both a Gold and a Silver winner! We knew we had something special with this rare look at World War II through the eyes of a young boy soldier, and we took special care in creating the book. We’re gratified that the Ben Franklin judges agree with us!” To learn more: [www.polww2.com/AboutCourage](http://www.polww2.com/AboutCourage)



Julian Kulski

Julian Kulski was a 10-year-old Boy Scout living in Warsaw when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939. His diary follows his wartime experience from ages 10 to 16. He quickly begins his own personal war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage but soon, at age 12, is recruited into the Underground Army by his Scoutmaster, where he is trained in weapons handling and military tactics. Kulski undertakes a secret mission into the Warsaw Ghetto, is captured by the Gestapo, beaten, sentenced to Auschwitz, rescued, fights in a

Commando unit during the vicious street fighting of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, and ends as a 16-year-old German POW... finally risking a dash for freedom onto an American truck instead of waiting for “liberation” by the Soviets. Watch the book trailer: [www.polww2.com/CourageTrailer](http://www.polww2.com/CourageTrailer)

Kulski’s diary is enriched by more than 150 photos and illustrations, 13 maps, and 11 “Digital Extras,” which are short videos created by Aquila Polonica from historical film and audio material that bring Kulski’s story to life in an unprecedented way. Watch sample Digital Extras: [www.polww2.com/SampleDigitalExtras](http://www.polww2.com/SampleDigitalExtras)

Interior design, typesetting and cover art are the work of talented Los Angeles designer Ewa Wojciak, Senior Lecturer of Fine Arts at the USC Roski School of Art and Design. Although this is her first book for Aquila Polonica, Wojciak has an extensive background as a designer and creative director primarily for the entertainment industry, with a client list that includes Disney, CBS, HBO, Sony, Universal Pictures and Fox, as well as in advertising agencies and print media. Winning the Gold Award for her design of *The Color of Courage*, Wojciak brings a fresh, contemporary look to this historical memoir, with pull quotes that draw the reader through the text, organic placement of images within the text, and an innovative use of thumbnail images and QR codes augmented by URLs to incorporate the multimedia Digital Extras into the print book.

Aquila Polonica is an award-winning independent publisher based in Los Angeles, specializing in publishing the Polish WWII experience in English. The company is a member of the Association of American Publishers (AAP) and the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA). Aquila Polonica’s titles are distributed to the trade in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Europe, Australia and New Zealand by National Book Network, [www.nbnbooks.com](http://www.nbnbooks.com).

All of Aquila Polonica’s books to date have won one or more awards. Aquila Polonica titles have been reviewed in major media such as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic* and *Publishers Weekly*; they have been chosen as Selections of the History Book Club, the Military Book Club and the Book-of-the-Month Club; audio rights have been acquired by Audible.com and Brilliance. Translation rights for various titles have been acquired by foreign publishers in a number of countries—including most recently Brazilian rights to *The Color of Courage*, which were acquired by Editora Valentina. 🌟

See more at: [www.AquilaPolonica.com](http://www.AquilaPolonica.com)

# WASHINGTON DC SAYS HELLO!

What a fantastic year we are having! With the newly elected DC Chapter Board's officers: President – Cecilia Kocinski, Vice-President – William Gilcher, Secretary – John Frendak, so much more is becoming possible!

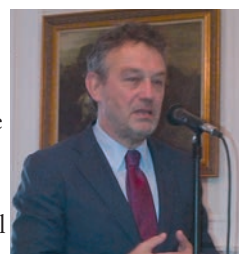
The Kosciuszko Foundation in Washington DC offers a truly wide spectrum of activities. We have a lot of music here: concerts and voice recitals, classical and jazz, performed by talented Polish-American musicians, young and old.



We have arts exhibits, theatrical performances, cabaret evenings, meetings with authors, journalists, and explorers. We host social gatherings and Polish food tasting.

We commemorate all important Polish holidays, and we continue "Talking about Poland" with experts on its history, politics, economy, and social issues. We celebrate Christmas while singing carols and enjoying traditional Polish holiday dishes.

Continuing a tradition, we will have an annual Polish Day again this July – a celebration of the bond between Poland and the US. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland will co-sponsor this event and Embassy officials will be our guests of honor. The Embassy Chef will prepare delicious classic Polish dishes for us. Along with those treats, we will offer a short Chopin recital by an 11-year-old Polish rising star pianist, a karaoke contest, trivia about Poland, a silent auction, and games for children.



Ambassador  
Ryszard Schnepf

We have recently started a new series "Playing in Polish" for our youngsters, with books, songs, crafts and games in Polish.

In October 2014, we honored a KF Board of Trustees Member, the acclaimed architect and author Dr. Julian Kulski, at the elegant Cosmos Club in DuPont Circle. We promoted Dr. Kulski's newest book, *The Color of Courage: A Boy at War*, which has recently won the Gold Award for Interior Design and the Silver Award for Autobiography/Memoir in the 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards.

Earlier this year, we celebrated the International Women's Day with our Polish and American female friends!

We also have officially started a JAZZ SEASON at the Kosciuszko Foundation, celebrating and promoting Polish-American jazz musicians. The grand opening took place on



Bogna Kicińska and her trio

June 13th with a concert by the great Polish jazz vocalist Bogna Kicińska and her trio.

Our plans for the upcoming fiscal year are rich and ambitious! We will continue bringing the highest quality music performances, stimulating panel discussions, meetings with authors, and fun social events. We will teach Polish language, history and culture,

play in Polish with our children, serve you our unique food, and create a welcoming space for anybody who is interested in strengthening Polish-American bonds.

In close collaboration with the Polish Embassy and other Polish-American organizations, the Kosciuszko Foundation is becoming more and more visible and appreciated not only on the local scene but also abroad and in Poland.

Recently, I was selected to participate in the celebrations of the Days of Polonia and Poles Abroad (*Dni Polonii i Polaków za Granicą*) organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw. Forty-two leaders of Polish organizations from all over the world gathered in Warsaw to meet other Polonia leaders as well as the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discuss our activities, plans, visions, and challenges.

We visited the newly built Museum of Emigration (*Muzeum Emigracji*) in Gdynia and enjoyed a wonderful performance of *Zemsta* in Warsaw's *Teatr Polski*. Here is a link to a short TV program about these meetings: <https://goo.gl/joMQ3d>

The membership of the KF in DC is growing and we are being recognized and appreciated as a friendly, creative and stimulating Center of Polish culture, right in the heart of the nation's capital.

Our DC Chapter is currently forming various committees (*fundraising, membership, marketing and outreach, long vision and endowment*) so please contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

Please visit us in Washington whenever you are in town! Make the Kosciuszko Foundation's Washington Center your home away from home. You will always be welcome!

Thank you and see you soon,



Barbara Bernhardt,  
Director of the KF in Washington, D.C.

# THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION POLAND IN 2014/15

The job announcement for the position of the Kosciuszko Foundation Visiting Professor at the University of Warsaw has been advertised for the second time. The idea to establish such a position was supported last year both by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation and the University of Warsaw. The position is financially co-sponsored by the University of Warsaw. This semester (February-May 2015) we have in our Collegium Artes Liberales a distinguished pianist and professor of music from College of William and Mary and former Kosciuszko Foundation grantee, Dr. Anna Kijanowska as the first holder of this Chair. Last year numerous American scholars applied for this position, in spite of the short notice. This is just one example of a new form of activity that makes us more visible in Poland and introduces a new form of cooperation with Polish academia.

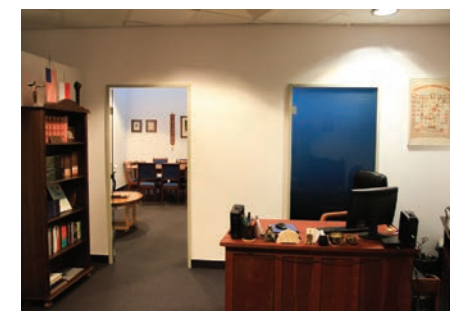
On May 23, I delivered a presentation about the activities of the Kosciuszko Foundation during the plenary meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Polish Universities and Colleges, bringing together all major Polish universities (including technical, agricultural and medical universities). Cooperation with the academic world in Poland is extremely important. Thanks to the support of the Warsaw University President and Provost in January I was able to move our office to one of the most famous and prestigious Warsaw landmarks – a building of the new Warsaw University Library.

Interviews for Polish candidates in 2015 were already held in this office.

We also have in Poland a leading non-academic program, "Teaching English in Poland", which has been developing with great success in the last 25 years thanks to its Founder, Christine Kuskowski and now continues its success under the energetic



Warsaw University Library where the Kosciuszko Foundation's new Warsaw office is located



New office of the KF Poland in the Warsaw University Library

leadership of Dr. Mary Kay Pieski and Dr. Teresa Wójcik.

The Alumni Association has also played an important role in promoting the Foundation. We have organized so far two seminars. First was in Łódź in 2014, devoted to "Cultural Identity of America and Immigration" with distinguished Polish Americans as invited speakers, organized by Dr. Robert Kulski, Vice-President of the Alumni Association.

This year in March in Warsaw I organized and chaired a panel on

Polish-American cultural and academic exchanges with distinguished panelists, including the US Embassy Cultural Attaché, Director of the Department of Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Polish-U.S Fullbright Commission, and Director of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute which is the main Polish governmental institution responsible for promoting Polish culture abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the panel financially. After the panel one of our Alumni Association Board members discussed with the Director of the Mickiewicz Institute the idea of co-organizing a project devoted to the presence in New York of numerous eminent Polish artists who were in the New York Westbeth Artists Community as Kosciuszko Foundation grantees. This would be the first, very excellent opportunity to show to the wider audience both in Poland and in America the achievements of the Kosciuszko Foundation in supporting the most prominent Polish artists in the last few decades.

Piotr Wilczek  
Professor of the University of Warsaw  
President of the Kosciuszko Foundation Poland and the Kosciuszko Foundation Alumni Association



Panel about Polish-American academic and cultural relations, from the right to the left: John Micgiel, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation; Grzegorz Kozłowski, Director of the Department of Americas, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Keisha Lafayette, Deputy Cultural Attaché, US Embassy in Warsaw; Piotr Wilczek, President of the Kosciuszko Foundation Poland and the KF Alumni Association



Midshipmen from the USMMA, Kings Point



Debutante Christina Lee Baker, Debutante Patroness Dawn Polewac, Debutante Natalia Claire Kolasa, Debutante Patroness Juliana Fazio, Debutantes Alexandra Marian Baker and Barbara Ann Baker



l-r: Andre Zlotnicki, Marian A. Kornilowicz, Esq., Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, Krzysztof Rostek, Helen Mary M. Tyszka, Hanna Chroboczek-Kelker, Ph.D., Prof. Waldemar Priebe, Bianca Cox, William J. Nareski, Cynthia Rosicki, Esq., Wanda M. Senko, Alex Storzynski, Sigmund Rolat, Dr. Christopher Kolasa, Piotr Chomczynski, Ph.D., Alexander Koproski, Andrzej Rojek, Dr. John Micgiel



KF Pioneer Award Honoree Wanda Senko



Tamara de Lempicka, *Young Lady with Gloves* 1930, Oil on plywood © 2015 Tamara Art Heritage Licensed by MMI NYC



Guests dancing to the music of Gerard Carelli Orchestra



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



Piotr Chomczynski, Ph.D., Krzysztof Rostek, Spirit of the KF Award Honoree Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz and William J. Nareski



l-r: Anita Gallo, Melissa Meyer, Katharine Nareski, Michael Philips, Marissa Goba, James Dawson, William J. Nareski, Alexander Van As, Cabill Van As, Jacquie Fitzgerald, Janyce Goba, Bernard Goba, Brett Carisio, Nancy Nareski



Piotr Chomczynski, Ph.D. with wife Judith Chomczynski



Ball Chairwomen Mary Kay Pieski, Ph.D. and Christine Kuskowski



Spirit of the KF Award Honoree Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz



KF Medal of Recognition Honoree Juliusz Machulski with Dr. Micgiel



Mayor of Allentown, Ed Paulowski with Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Urszula Gacek



Spirit of the KF Award Honoree Sigmund Rolat with Dr. Micgiel

# ALL ABOUT THE CULTURE

We've had some very inspiring events this past season. Here are just a few highlights:

♥ In January 2015, the Kosciuszko Foundation in collaboration with The Isadora Duncan International Institute presented a Live Performance of Music and Dance. Directed by Jeanne Bresciani with Carlos Rodriguez, pianist. Danced by Jeanne Bresciani and the Isadora Duncan International Institute Dancers. Special guest artists Cynthia Word and Ingrid Zimmer.



♥ Also in January 2015, the KF presented a piano recital by Malgorzata Goroszewska. Malgorzata earned her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance under Professor Joseph Kalichstein at the Juilliard School (New York).



Program included selected pieces of J. S. Bach, S. Rachmaninoff, F. Chopin, F. Couperin.

♥ In March, the KF featured a Chopin Birthday Bash – Anniversary Concert. All Chopin program preformed by 'Trio Volo'. Martin Labazevitch – Piano, Destiny Ann Mermagen – Violin, Michael Mermagen – Cello.



♥ 2015 Debutante Luncheon This year Patronesses Juliana Fazio and Dawn Polewac introduced Debutantes Natalie Kolasa, Alexandra Baker, Barbara Baker and Christina Baker to a sold-out "Le Grande

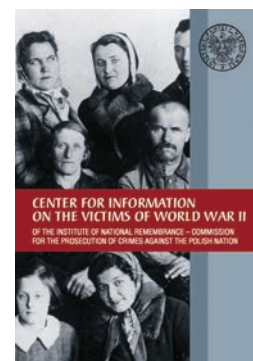
Luncheon" held on March 29th at the famous Tribeca Grill's Skylight Room. True to history, many former Patronesses and Debutantes attended in celebration and welcomed them into the KF's society. Members of Polonian organizations PATA, Polish Children's Heartline, PNA of Brooklyn and MSCPWA joined them for the festivities.



♥ Later in March, the KF presented an evening with author Ryszard Horowitz. A discussion of his autobiography 'Zycie niebywale. Wspomnienia Fotokompozytora'.



♥ 'A Look Inside Secret Nazi & Communist Archives. The fate of many Poles arrested by Germans and Russians during World War II and after still remain a mystery. On April 23rd, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted experts from Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) to explain their latest project, the Information Issuing Center for Victims of World War II.



♥ In May, violinist, composer Elektra Kurtis and her quintet Ensemble Elektra presented their 2015 CD release concert. The concert featured selected compositions from all Ensemble Elektra albums including "Polish Fantasy on Folk Themes" premiered at The Kosciuszko Foundation event in November 2013 "Bridges from the East".



PHOTO: Marra Monko



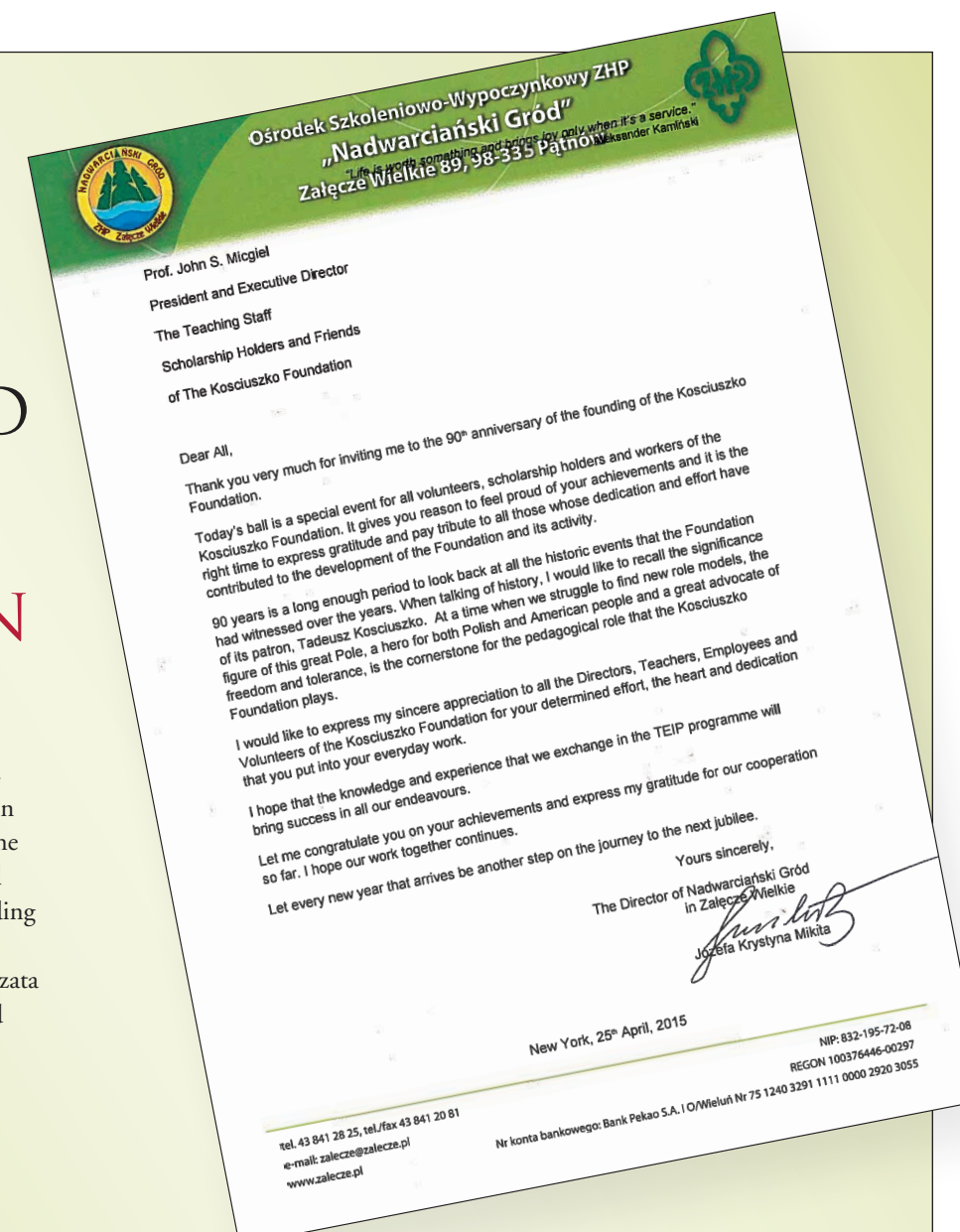
♥ Also in May, the KF hosted "Master & Student, Music Meets Art," a mini exhibit of Mariola Landowska's paintings, concert by Huan Li (piano), Renata Bonar (dramatic soprano) & 20 young artists, with Art Director Teresa Rysztof.



♥ In June 2015, Eart'Acte Concert, by Hector Martinez Jr. – Pianist/Composer, Glen Flax – Guitarist/Composer, Stephen C. Josephs – Flutist/Composer with guest Vocalist – Lisa Joy. Eart'Acte has performed from Brussels to Manila – New York City to San Francisco.

## KF HONORED BY POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION

On April 17th, 2015, the Kosciuszko Foundation was granted, in Warsaw, the HONORARY SILVER BADGE OF THE FRIENDS OF SCOUTS MOVEMENT in gratitude for their care and dedication to the education of children and teenagers and all the help that the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (ZHP) has received from the Kosciuszko Foundation. Signed by Malgorzata Sinica, Chief Guide of Polish Scouting and Guiding Association.



AN ABRIDGED HISTORY OF THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION  
**TEACHING ENGLISH  
 IN POLAND PROGRAM**  
 1991-2015

In 1991, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the Polish Ministry of National Education (MEN) invited the Kosciuszko Foundation to cooperate in meeting the growing English language needs of Polish youth after the fall of communism. The Kosciuszko Foundation developed the *Teaching English in Poland Program* (TEIP) to provide Polish high school students with instruction and practice in conversational English within an American cultural context at summer language immersion camps throughout Poland. The program also gave American teacher and student volunteers the opportunity to become acquainted with the people, history, language, culture and educational system of Poland.

The Western New York Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation recruited ten American teachers to implement the 1991 pilot program in Bydgoszcz. One hundred Polish students enrolled in the program that summer. In 1993, the President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Joseph E. Gore, Esq., appointed New York state educator and curriculum specialist, Christine B.

Kuskowski as the Director of TEIP.

Christine authored the curriculum guide for the two 1992 camps and under her leadership, the program rapidly expanded, reaching a record high of nine camps per year in 1995-1997. During the program's foundational years, Mrs. Kuskowski was assisted by Regional Coordinators, U.S.A. Col. Anthony J. Smaczniak (Ret.) and Mrs. Theresa Rivard of the Western NY Chapter; Mr. Walter J. Kuskowski, a former Social Studies teacher in the New York City public schools and co-founder of Polish American Teachers Association; and by Ms. Anna Utecht, a former teacher certified in Poland who served as the Assistant Director of TEIP. The efforts of the Kosciuszko Foundation staff members from the Warsaw office: Robert Kirkland, Agata Prewysz-Kwinto and Joseph Herter, greatly facilitated the program's development.

In 2003, the Kosciuszko Foundation in cooperation with the NIDA Foundation (Nidzicka Fundacja Rozwoju, Nidzica, Poland) provided a six-day teacher training program for Polish teachers of English. In 2007, Christine

Kuskowski was nominated by the Polish National

Commission for UNESCO and received the Commission of National Education Medal of the Republic of Poland. In 2009, the Polish Ministry of National Education withdrew its financial support from all summer foreign language camps. Despite this setback, the Kosciuszko

Foundation continued the program through partnerships with local governments, community entities, and independent Polish non-profit organizations. That same year, Dr. Mary Kay Pieski introduced a second curriculum option for TEIP called the Arts Enriched English Language

Camp in collaboration with Mrs. Krystyna Mikita, Director of the Polish Scouts Organization's (ZHP) educational, environmental, and recreational center, "Nadwarciański Gród", located in Załęcze Wielkie. The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation supported the development of the Arts Enriched camp by providing grants. In early

2012, Mrs. Kuskowski withdrew from active participation in TEIP to care for her ill husband. Dr. Mary Kay Pieski was appointed the Director of the program.

In its first quarter century, the TEIP Program, under the aegis of the Kosciuszko Foundation, has hosted 123 camps throughout Poland at twenty-two locations: Łomża, Utska, Kraków, Płock, Gdańsk, Iława, Olsztyn, Zakopane, Puławy, Przytok at Zielona Góra, Myślenice, Tczew, Warszawa, Goldap, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Limanowa, Załęcze Wielkie, Barlewicki, Otwock, Pińczów, Mińsk Mazowiecki, and Siennica. More than 12,500 Polish students and almost 2,000 Americans have benefited from this program. The American volunteer participants in the TEIP program are vital in effecting the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission of



promoting educational and cultural exchanges between the United States and Poland and of increasing American understanding of Polish culture and history. Under the present leadership of Kosciuszko Foundation President and Executive Director, Dr. John S. Micgiel, Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, Director



*Dr. Teresa Wojcik teaching a class of elementary students about her hometown Philadelphia*

of TEIP, Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik, Assistant Director of TEIP, and Professor Piotr Wilczek of the Warsaw Office, the *Teaching English in Poland Program* continues to be dedicated to furthering its long-standing tradition of commitment to excellence, intercultural exchange, and educational innovation.

Heartfelt thanks to our partners in Poland who have participated in and supported the TEIP Program: the Polish National Commission for UNESCO for promoting the program under its patronage and the Polish Ministry of National Education for providing funds in Poland for camp sites (1991-2008), for hiring Polish staffs, and for providing the stipends and end-of-program tours for American participants. The following entities in the US and Poland contributed to the functioning and development of the TEIP Program: The Educational Enterprise Foundation, The Kosciuszko Foundation (Wysocki and Frees Funds), The NIDA Development Foundation, Nidzica, Poland, The Delta Kappa

Gamma Educational Foundation, The Polish American Teachers Association, The Marie Skłodowska Curie Professional Women's Association, The Chicago, Ohio and Philadelphia Chapters of The Kosciuszko Foundation, The Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation, The Cleveland Society

of Poles, The Pulaski Association of Business Professional Men etc. and individual donors.

We extend warmest thanks to the Polish Directors and staffs for their hospitality and efforts in introducing the KF American volunteers to "everything Polish". We applaud the administrators and Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation for their foresight and trust by enabling an atmosphere of viable outreach in accepting the *Teaching English in Poland Program* as a vital component in promoting the mission of the Kosciuszko Foundation. In particular, we applaud Mrs. Christine Kuskowski for her visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to the program's success. We look to the future, building on the achievements of the first twenty-five years to even greater successes in years to come.

*by Christine B. Kuskowski and  
 Mary Kay Pieski, Ph.D.*

## TEACHING ENGLISH IN POLAND HONORS CHRISTINE B. KUSKOWSKI

By Mary Kay Pieski, Ph.D.

On Saturday, June 6 approximately seventy-five former participants, friends and supporters gathered at the Kosciuszko Foundation headquarters in New York to honor Mrs. Christine B. Kuskowski, Director Emerita of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland Program, (TEIP) celebrating its twenty-fifth year this summer. Mr. Thomas Rusnak, American staff leader and Ms. Mary Rita Mitchell, former teacher in (TEIP) both from Chicago greeted guests at the door.

Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, Director of (TEIP) welcomed guests who travelled near and as far as Seattle, Washington to the elegant luncheon and award program. Former and present participants shared happy memories of their experience at the camps in Poland as well as a delicious luncheon complete with Polish selections and desserts.

Bogna McGarrigle, a former recipient of a Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship and daughter-in-law of Mrs. Patricia McGarrigle, an alumna of (TEIP), entertained the attendees with her beautiful voice and a short piano performance of various composers. The award program and concert took place in the beautiful oak paneled gallery of the Kosciuszko Foundation graced with the works of many famous Polish artists.

Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik, Assistant Director of (TEIP) introduced the award program by touching on the highlights of the past 25 years of (TEIP). She also described the responsibilities of Mrs. Kuskowski as Director of (TEIP) in its earlier days as she forged the way to effecting the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission of promoting educational and cultural exchanges between the United States and Poland.

Dr. Mary Kay Pieski presented the award from the Kosciuszko Foundation to Mrs. Kuskowski that acknowledged her contribution to (TEIP) for over twenty years. Mrs. Kuskowski graciously accepted the award and in her remarks described to the audience the scope and depth of (TEIP) sprinkled with her personal stories from the heart. She recounted her Father's words to her as a young adult, "A few years after the end of WWII and the imposition of communism in Poland,



my Father presented me with the following challenge: "Maintain your proficiency in the Polish language, study about its people, their history and culture. Be prepared because someday you might be in a position to do something good for the country of your grandparents' birth."

A highlight of the program was the personal testimonies underlining the importance and impact (TEIP) had on their lives.

The program concluded with a slide show prepared by Ms. Natasha Polewac, who served and will serve this year as a teaching assistant at the Arts Enriched English Language Camp in Zalecze. Natasha is the daughter of Ms. Dawn Polewac, KF National Advisory Council member and granddaughter of Mrs. Wanda Senko, Vice-Chairwoman of the KF Board of Trustees, both in attendance. Mrs. Wanda Senko offered comments on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

A special thank you to Prof. John S. Micgiel, President and Executive Director of the KF and his staff especially, Ms. Kasia Prorok, Mr. Robert Karauda and Ms. Mariola Sosnowska for their assistance at the event. For more information on (TEIP) or to send donations please visit the KF webpage, [www.thekf.org/kf/programs/teaching\\_english\\_in\\_poland](http://www.thekf.org/kf/programs/teaching_english_in_poland). 📄



## FALLEN HEROES PROJECT TO HONOR POLISH SOLDIERS

By Theresa Poalucci

Robert Michalak of Redmond, Washington is American born and raised. His grandparents emigrated from Poland in 1914 and his family has kept ties with Polish relatives ever since. Michalak has visited Poland, and although he loves the country of his ancestors he never expected to connect Polish war heroes with the Fallen Heroes Project, here in the US.



Michael Reagan

The Fallen Heroes project provides, free to the family, a portrait of those who have given their life in the fight on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Artist Michael Reagan draws each portrait from a photograph provided by the family. He then ships it to them, again at no charge. The Fallen Heroes Project works to raise funds to pay for the supplies, framing and shipping. Reagan works for free. To date he has completed 4,200 portraits.

"I asked Mike to come and speak at a Trilogy Veterans Club in Redmond, WA explained Michalak who is a member. During his talk Reagan delivered drawings to two mothers whose son's had died in the war on terrorism.

"I saw first hand how Mike's drawings of the fallen heroes affects those who are left behind," said Michalak.

Michalak asked Reagan if he would draw portraits of the Polish soldiers who fell on the war on terrorism and his response was yes, providing that Michalak did the footwork on finding the families. He did and now several sets of photographs have arrived at his studio from the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C. Reagan has completed eight of the portraits already. There are 42 drawings to do in total.

Reagan's biggest concern is that money must be raised to pay for the framing and shipping across the Atlantic to get these drawings to the families. Each family will receive the original portrait and then Reagan is making a duplicate that the Polish government will feature in a museum.

To donate to the Fallen Heroes Project visit <http://www.fallenheroesproject.org> 📄

## IN MEMORIAM



### DR. DONALD F. MUSHALCO 1930-2014 A Tribute Mary Lou Ellena

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and all of Pittsburgh Polonia lost a staunch supporter, a creative educator, and a dear friend with the death of Dr. Donald Mushalko on December 28 2014 at the age of eighty-four. Dr. Mushalko's gradual health decline escalated with the death of his beloved wife and soul mate Helen in 2011.

Born in McKeesport on April 6, 1930, Donald Mushalko developed a love of music from early childhood. He graduated from Carnegie Institute of technology where he studied violin and music education and served as concert master of the school's orchestra for five years. He then went on to teach in the Baldwin -Whitehall School District for ten years before earning his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. He then spent the next forty years teaching music at the Falk Laboratory School on the Pitt Campus. He was also president of the Polish Room, one of the nationality rooms located in the Cathedral of Learning.

Those who knew Dr. Mushalko were aware of his love of all things musical and all things Polish. He paired those loves first through his church Holy Family Polish National Catholic Church in McKeesport where he served at various times as choir director and organist. He named the Polish Dance Troupe of the parish "Lajkoniki" and saw that authentic costumes for the group came from Poland. He shared his skill with the Polish community at large, first through the former Central Council of Polish Organizations and more recently through the Polish Cultural Council as the founder and first director of the Karuzela Chorus and Dancers. Dr. Mushalko was the chairperson of the very first Bal Polonaise and continued in that capacity for about ten years. He initiated the tradition of debutantes leading the grand Polonaise.

Donald Mushalko was one of the founders of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and served as its only recording secretary. Dr. Mushalko was also on the Board of Directors of the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City for many years. He was instrumental in bringing many vocalists and musicians to Pittsburgh as part of the early cultural mission of the organization. He frequently arranged concerts by the winners of the Kosciuszko Foundation sponsored Chopin Competition.

Whether he was instructing the Karuzela chorus or his church choir on the proper pronunciation of Polish lyrics, organizing the food for the Nationality rooms annual open house, leading the Polish hymns at the outdoor Mass at Polish Day at Kennywood Park or planning the favors and flowers for the Bal Polonaise, he approached every task with perfection, expertise and love.

Pittsburgh Polonia has lost a true friend with the passing of Donald Mushalko. He is survived by his brothers George and Edwin and a sister, Jean Jasiewicz of McKeesport as well as several nieces and nephews.



## CHICAGO CHAPTER



Representatives from the Chicago Chapter, l-r Witold Pawlikowski, Lidia Filus, Anna Kordyleska, Hanna Suchocka, former Prime Minister of Poland and Ambassador to the Holy See, Czesława Kolak and Robert Rusiecki, Deputy Consul General.

by Prof. Lidia Filus  
*Chicago Chapter President*

On October 28, 2014, the Chicago Chapter celebrated Kosciuszko's Name's Day. On this occasion, the Chicago Chapter honored Maria Zakrzewska for her leadership and dedication to the Chicago's Polish Community. The program included presentation of Thaddeus Kosciuszko: Hero and Symbol by Dr. Donald Pienkos (Professor Emeritus in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Chairman of its Polish Studies Committee) and a musical program by Danuta Berger, piano and Sarah Berger, cello.

On October 30, members of the Chapter participated in a meeting with Hanna Suchocka, former Prime Minister of Poland and Ambassador to the Holy See. The meeting took place at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago.

The Chapter co-sponsored a concert "Polish Music: The Open Borders Generations" that took place in the Constellation in Chicago on November

16. Polish and American musicians presented music by a selection of Polish composers born in the 1970s. Composer, performer, and curator of the project Krzysztof Wolek, School of Music, University of Louisville, a passionate advocate of contemporary acoustic and electronic music and



Chicago chapter annual meeting on May 16, 2015. New Executive Committee with musicians: Joanna Turska and Danuta Berger, and with Joanna Kulska, KF fellow.

multimedia compositions was joined by composer and soprano Agata Zubel, composer, improviser and pianist Cezary Duchnowski, composer and improviser Pawel Hendrich, pianist Malgorzata Walentynowicz, and the Illinois Modern Ensemble of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, conducted by Stephen Taylor.

The Chapter celebrated Chopin's 205<sup>th</sup> Birthday by sponsoring a concert by Cracow Duo: Jan Kalinowski, cello and Marek Szezer, piano. The event took place on February 28, 2015 at the residence of Dr. Kornelia Krol in Winnetka, IL.

The Annual Chapter meeting took place on May 16. The meeting was followed by a presentation Faith-based Diplomacy by Dr. Joanna Kulska, the KF fellow at the University of Chicago, and a recital by Joanna Turska, flute and Danuta Berger, piano. There was also a raffle to support KF Teaching English in Poland Program. 🍷

by Carolyn Topor  
*New England Chapter President*

From film to politics to the etudes of Chopin, the KF/New England Chapter continually worked to bring pride and knowledge of Poland to those of Polish descent and to others in our community to gain a general appreciation of the contributions of a country that symbolizes perseverance and an indomitable love of freedom.

### Highlights of the Year:

In October 2014, KF/New England presented the 13th annual Polish Film Festival at Elms College. Each film was screened to a full house (150 people), with accompanying commentary and post-film discussion. As 2014 was a year of special historic milestones in Poland, the festival featured films highlighting these momentous events and included: *Honor of the City: the Warsaw Rising*; *Out of the Ashes—Warsaw Story*; *Hiding in the Spotlight*; *Walesa: Man of Hope* by Andrzej Wajda; *The Nine Days that Changed the World* and *Jerzy Popieluszko: The Messenger of the Truth*.

In October, Polish Heritage Month, the KF/New England Chapter hosted an *Imieniny* to toast and honor the name day of Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Held at the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning on October 10th, the highlight of the evening was a performance by two local young Polish jazz musicians, as well as a champagne toast and a display of museum memorabilia.

The KF/ New England Chapter, the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, and the Social Work Department at Elms College collaborated to make possible several events. In February, a screening of *In the Name of Their Mothers*, a documentary film directed by Mary Skinner chronicling the heroic work of Irena Sendler during World War II, was presented to more than 400 people at Elms College. On March 29, the play *Life in a Jar*, staged

## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER



The 2014-15 Scholarship recipients at the New England Chapter 16th Annual Awards Gala on April 26th, 2015 at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

by the Kansas high school students who researched Irena Sendler's heroic exploits for a history project, held more than 450 people spellbound. From March 19 to May 30th *Forbidden Art*, an exhibit of photographs of 20 works of art made by prisoners in Nazi concentration camps, was on view in the Alumnae Library at Elms College. Recently shown at the UN in NYC, the exhibit was well received by the community and many field trips and tours for high school students were arranged.

The XVI Kosciuszko Award Ceremony and Concert was held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at Mount Holyoke College. The gala luncheon celebrated the accomplishments of students and graduate students who had 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. At the Awards Ceremony, KF/New England Chapter recognized the following: 14 tuition scholarship recipients studying at colleges and universities such as Johns Hopkins (medicine), Washington and Lee (law), Cornell (public administration) George Washington and Tufts (international affairs) among others; nine grants for research, teaching and advanced study at Brown, MIT, Yale, Harvard and Boston College; four students participating in study abroad programs in Poland; four students at summer studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow; and three students participating as teach-



l-r: Marek Lesniewski-Laas, Honorary Consul, Republic of Poland, Kenneth Lemanski, Vice President, Westfield State University, KF/NE Distinguished Polish-American for 2015 with KF/NE Chapter President Carolyn Topor

ing assistants in the Teaching English Program in Poland. Also recognized were Gleidy Maria and Peter Madol, recipients of the KF/NE Irena Sendler Award at Elms College. A special highlight of the ceremony, the Distinguished Polish-American of the Year, was bestowed on Kenneth Thomas Lemanski, Vice President, Advancement and University Relations from Westfield State University, who had recently initiated a student exchange program with Krosno University in Poland. The day concluded with a solo piano concert by internationally acclaimed Czech pianist Martin Kasik.

On May 1, 2015 the Irena Sendler Award was presented to Jennifer Brzezinski from Greenfield, MA, and a graduate from Elms College with a degree in social work. Sponsored by the KF/New England Chapter, the \$500 Sendler Award has been given to an Elms College student who is pursuing studies/career in the human services/social services area and honors the memory and sacrifice of Irena Sendler. 🍷

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

by Teresa G. Wojcik, Ph.D.  
*Philadelphia Chapter President*

The Philadelphia Chapter has much to report since the publication of the last newsletter!

The Chapter collaborated with the Jan Karski Educational Foundation to sponsor the display of the exhibit, *"The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity"* at two locations in and near Philadelphia between August 19 and September 30, 2014. First, the exhibit was on display in the Visitor's Center during the Polish-American Festival at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Following the festival, the exhibit was transported to Penn Hillel, the Jewish Student Association at the University of Pennsylvania.

The fall season included the Chapter's annual participation in the Philadelphia Pulaski Day Parade, which was held this year on Sunday, October 5. Chapter member and long-time supporter, Mr. Raymond Wyszynski, was honored as the



(l-r): Mrs. Barbara Wyszynski, Parade Grand Marshal Raymond Wyszynski, Theresa Romanowski, "Kazimierz Pulaski" depicted by Richard Piascik.



Chapter members at the 2014 Philadelphia Pulaski Day Parade

2014 Grand Marshall of the parade. For over a decade, Mr. Wyszynski has sponsored a young female student to participate in the Jagiellonian University Summer Study Program of Polish Language and Culture in Krakow. Ms. Marta Wolnicki received the 2014 Frances E. Wyszynski Memorial Scholarship. At the end of the month of October, the Chapter hosted a concert by pianist Jolanta Ziemska and classical guitarist Maciej Ziemski, who perform as DuoKlavitarre.

The event also offered guests an opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of a new book published by Chapter member Romuald Roman, *Ośrodek Zero*. On



*DuoKlavitarre members Maciej and Jolanta Ziemska, with Chapter President Teresa G. Wojcik, Ph.D.*

Friday, November 14, the Chapter co-sponsored the Annual Polish Poetry Reading of the Overbrook Poets Society at the Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia. For this year's event, the Overbrook Poets read works by their favorite Polish poets. The event annually brings together individuals of various ethnic backgrounds to celebrate the rich Polish literary tradition.

Our Annual Polish Christmas Celebration took place on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at the Overbrook Golf Club in Radnor, PA. The celebration featured appetizers, a delicious dinner, the sharing of the *oplatek*, Christmas caroling in Polish and English and a fantastic concert by soprano Małgorzata Kellis.

The Lifelong Learning Program of Temple University contacted Chapter President Teresa G. Wojcik and asked her to organize a 6-week course on Poland for its adult learners at the Ft. Washington campus. Dr. Wojcik coordinated six lectures by six different guest speakers, several of whom were Chapter members. The following individuals volunteered their time and talent to make the course on Polish History and Culture a great success: Teresa G. Wojcik (Introduction to Poland); Paul Krzywicki (Polish Contributions to World Music); Peter Obst (Polish Literature); Andrew Wisniewski (Polish History), Miron Wolnicki (Economics in Poland); and Daniella Goral (Polish Culture and Traditions). The course was organized and promoted as a service of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

On April 16, 2015, the Chapter co-sponsored with the Penn Language Center a lecture by former KF grantee

Dr. Tomasz Pudłocki entitled: "Hidden Desires or True Piety?: The Mentality of Central Europeans before 1914." Dr. Pudłocki is a professor of history at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The event took place in Fisher-Bennett Hall on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The Chapter extends sincere thanks to Agnieszka Dziedzic, instructor in Polish Language at UPenn for her assistance and collaboration.

In March, 2015, the Philadelphia Chapter accepted nominations for new officers and held a Chapter election. After volunteering as Chapter President for 13 years, Teresa G. Wojcik did not seek re-election, but will continue to serve the Chapter as a member of the Board of Directors. She is also the Assistant Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland Program. Effective May 1, the new administration of the Philadelphia Chapter is:

**PRESIDENT**  
Jolanta Roman

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Miron Wolnicki

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Peter Obst

**TREASURER**  
Marcia Geary

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Dariusz Urlata

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Vincent Rospond

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Dorothy Koteski, Wanda Mohr, Charles Pydych,  
Kris Walski, Maria Werner-Wasik, Monica Winter,  
Teresa G. Wojcik, Andre Zlotnicki



New officers of the Philadelphia Chapter (l-r): Miron Wolnicki, Ph.D., Marcia Geary, Charles Pydych, Jolanta Roman, Teresa G. Wojcik, Dariusz Urlata, Peter Obst

### A NOTE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE KF PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

It is my honor and a great pleasure to start serving our Chapter as the new president.

Twenty five years ago, together with my husband Romuald and a group of friends, we establish the Philadelphia Chapter. We had a lot of enthusiasm and ideas at that time. We started tradition of Christmas Concerts and organized art exhibitions. Years passed, some of us moved from Philadelphia, others focused on professional growth and raising families. And new, younger people replaced us, and started carrying our mission. Among them, no one did more for the Foundation than Teresa Wojcik. She had a crucial role in all activities and ideas leading to the survival and growth of our Chapter.

For fourteen years, she was carrying the torch of the KF, initiating and organizing cultural and social events. Many of us have helped her, but our Chapter would not survive without you, Teresa.

Thank you Dear Friend. We wish you all the success and happiness.

Yolanta Roman  
*KF Philadelphia Chapter President*

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



## PAULINA ZAWADZKA

Paulina is a recent graduate from CUNY Hunter College. She finished with a double major in English and Education with honors. She is an active member of the Polish Girl Scouts Organization and has earned her "instructor ranking". In her free time, Paulina enjoys classical singing and blogging. In the future, she hopes to pursue her Masters in the field of Speech Pathology. Paulina is currently a pre-school teacher in Brooklyn, NY.



## KONSTANCJA MALESZYNSKA

Konstancja graduated with a Master of Arts degree from Fordham University in 2011, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. A Poznań native, she has lived in New York since 2006, and has been active in the city's Polish-American community as an event organizer and interpreter. Konstancja works for Fordham University School of Law as an administrator. Konstancja's interests include literature, cooking, gardening, and learning languages.



## JUSTYNA WITKOWSKA

Justyna is a senior at the law and society major in Brooklyn Technical High School. She will be attending Fordham University in the fall and plans to major in international studies. She loves history and last summer she volunteered at the Warsaw Uprising museum in Warsaw. She is a big soccer fan and in her free time likes to play volleyball and bike. She also likes to travel and learn about different cultures.



## MALGORZATA MARCINIAK

Malgorzata is a Sponsoring & Branding Manager, with over six years of experience in B2B, Public Relations, and Events Management. She recently graduated from New York University with a certificate in Digital Marketing. She has a proven track record of corporate sponsorship collaborations and alliances and is passionate about brand management, content strategies and digital marketing. She loves art, design and African wild life.



## ANGELIKA PODOLA

Angelika has completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Music in Szczecin and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, majoring in both acoustics and sound engineering. Her passion is music. She also loves to learn about different cultures by traveling. She said that volunteering at the Kosciuszko Foundation gave her a new experience and allowed her to rediscover her Polish cultural heritage.

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## IN MEMORIAM



### JANICE SZOT

Janice (nee Brozyna), 93, a Rutherford resident for 60 years, past away peacefully with her devoted family by her side on May 12th, 2014.

Mrs. Szot was a registered nurse earning her degree at Michael's Hospital in Newark. She was a member of St. Michael's Parish in Lyndhurst where her husband, the late Dr. Alexander Szot had a general medicine practice. Janice also was an active member of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish University Club and St. Mary's Hospital Guild.

Janice is predeceased by her husband of 47 years, Dr. Alexander Szot, MD (1991). She will be deeply missed by her son, Richard Szot and his wife Marlies, her daughter Janina Boral and her husband Dr. Andrew Boral. She was blessed with her grandchildren, Alicia DeGrado and her husband Paul DeGrado, Esq. and Andrew Boral, Jr. and her four great-grandchildren, Paul, Alexander, Bianca and Alexis.

The loss of her intelligent, knowledgeable guidance, friendship and love leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of her family.

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## IN MEMORIAM



### THADDEUS J. OBAL

OBAL, Thaddeus J., (Ted), 92, of Hillsdale, NJ, passed away Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Born in Belleville, IL, to Joseph and Victoria Obal. Polish was the language of the home as Ted grew up. He learned English through the grade school nearby. Ted was active in FFA and won many awards for raising animals and for writing newspaper articles. He served his country proudly in the US Army during WWII. Thaddeus earned a Doctorate Degree in economics. He was a devout parishioner of St. Andrew's Church in Westwood, NJ. He was a proud member of the Polish American Club and loved to do research in Polish genealogy. He also was a member and supporter of the Kosciuszko Foundation. He was an avid sports fan and coached baseball and softball in Michigan and New Jersey.

Ted loved the Good Samaritan parable and did his very best by helping others generously throughout his life. His family and extended family considered him the "patriarch" of the family – as many would ask his advice & counsel year after year. Beloved husband of the late Regina Obal; loving father of Stephen and his wife Rebecca, Keith and his wife Zinta, Philip and his wife Melinda, Kathleen Obal Carlstrom and her late husband Bryan Carlstrom, and the late Gregory Obal; dear brother of Joseph Obal, Clara Tebbano, the late Helen Smith, and Stanley Obal; and cherished grandfather of 11 and great grandfather of 7.






# THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

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New York, NY 10065

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## THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION MARCELLA SEMBRICH INTERNATIONAL VOICE COMPETITION

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DR. MALGORZATA KELLIS

NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2015  
at Ida K. Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College  
695 Park Ave, New York, NY 10065

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

[www.thekf.org/kf/programs/competitions/](http://www.thekf.org/kf/programs/competitions/)

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**1st stage: Application & Audio Recording Deadline**  
*Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

**2nd stage: Live Audition at Hunter College**  
*Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

**3rd stage: Finals - Live Audition at Hunter College**  
*Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

~OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, Tickets \$10  
available on presale or at the door~

## THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

*The American Center of Polish Culture*  
15 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10065  
Tel. (212) 734-2130  
Fax: (212) 628-4552  
e-mail: [info@thekf.org](mailto:info@thekf.org)

### Washington, DC Center

2025 "O" Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel. (202) 785-2320  
Fax: (202) 785-2159

### Warsaw Office

ul. Dobra 56/66, 3rd floor (BUW)  
00-312 Warsaw, Poland  
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