CONSERVING THE ART COLLECTION AT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

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

JAN STYKA (1858-1925)
Kościuszko at the Battle of Racławice
Oil on canvas, 51 x 38 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
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 1800. It was the beginning of an influx of immigrants to the Connecticut River Valley to work as farmers and factory workers. Stanisław, 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 her 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Now the shoes are long gone, unfortunately, because there is a perfect place for them – along with old wedding dresses, historical documents, folk art, ephemera, and pierogi boards.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 workers. 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 St. Kathleen Kearing, 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 mansion 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 Kiell, with the coats-of-arms of three historical capitals of Poland, a hand-blown 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.

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. Stanisław 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 Styrcz 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 giclées are being offered for purchase by artists—Bolesław Jan Czadekowicz, Wacław Kossak, Amelia Lewandowska, Jacek Malczewski, and Jan Styrcz. These are masterpieces of Polish fine art, now available and affordable to collectors. Each reproduction is Archival Prints printed on 17 mil acid-free, cotton canvas paper featuring pigment- and polychromatic 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 Kosciusko Foundation Collection,” accompanies each giclée. Proceeds from the sale of this art goes toward conserving the Kosciusko 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 Renovation Fund, visit the KF website at: 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 Museum 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 Stornozyński, president & executive director emeritus and vice chairman of the KF for being appointed distinguished scholar and Polish chair of the Quin postpone University Central European Institute on May 19, 2015. “The addition of Alex Stornozyński to our institute provides instant credibility throughout Poland and here in the U.S.,” said Christopher Bull, Irvin Szczenzy 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 Bronisław Komorowski for his support of Polish culture. On June 25, 2015, during a celebration at the Presidential Palace Mr. Markowicz was awarded the Order ofMerit 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


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.pwb2.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 Brezinski, 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 Weronika 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 grateful that the Ben Franklin judges agree with us!” To learn more: www.pwb2.com/AboutCourage

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.pwb2.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.pwb2.com/SampleDigitalExtras

Interior design, typesetting and cover art are the work of talented Los Angeles designer Eva Wosniak, Senior Lecturer of Fine Arts at the USC Roski School of Art and Design. Although this is her first book for Aquila Polonica, Wosniak 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, Wosniak 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.

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
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 art 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 a 11-year-old Polish rising star pianist, a karaoke contest, trivia about Poland, a silent auction, and games for children.

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, a Member, the acclaimed architect and author Dr. Julian Kulski, at the elegant Cosmos Club in DuPont Circle. We promoted Member, the acclaimed architect and author Dr. Julian Kulski, at the elegant Cosmos Club in DuPont Circle. We promoted

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THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION
90 YEARS
of
International
Success

THE KF Annual Dinner & Ball

Guests dancing to the music of Gerard Carelli Orchestra

KF Pioneer Award Honoree Wanda Senko

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

Spirit of the KF Award Honoree Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz and William J. Narecki

KF Medal of Recognition Honoree Juliusz Machulski with Dr. Micgiel

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

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

KF Medal of Recognition Honoree Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz

KF Bowling Team of the Year

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

A: Andre Zlotnicki, Marian A. Kornilowicz, Esq., Dr. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, Krysztof Bartek, Helen Mary M. Tyszka, Hanna Chroboczek-Keller, Ph.D., Prof. Waldemar Prizek, Barbara Ciec, William J. Narecki, Cynthia Rolat, Esq., Wanda M. Senko, Alina Stwierzynska, Sigmund Rolat, Dr. Christopher Kolasa, Piotr Chomczynski, Ph.D., Alexander Kopnowski, Andrzej Benek, Dr. John Micgiel

Jr.: Anita Gallo, Melissa Meyer, Katharine Narecki, Michael Philips, Markus Guba, James Dawson, Williams J. Narecki, Alexander Van As, Cahill Van As, Janice Fitzgerald, Janyce Goba, Bernard Goba, Brett Carisio, Nancy Narecki

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

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

Mayor of Allentown, Ed Pawlowski with
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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 Juillliard 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 performed by ‘Trio Volo’. Martin Labazewitch – 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 Patrons 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 ‘Życie niebywałe. 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”.

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 Ryzyrof.


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 Małgorzata Sinica, Chief Guide of Polish Scouting and Guiding Association.

KF HONORED BY POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION

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AN ABRIDGED HISTORY OF THE KOŚCIUSZKO 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 presenting 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 Teaching English in Poland Program.

In 1995, the Kosciuszko Foundation in cooperation with the NIDA Foundation (Niezdzicka 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 Scouting Organization’s (ZHP) educational, environmental, and recreational center, “Nadwarciański Golf”, located in Załęża 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: Lomża, Ustka, Kraków, Pułtusk, Gdańsk, Bawa, Okłany, Zakopane, Puławy, Przytok at Złotna Góra, Myślenice, Tczew, Wieliczka, Goldap, Gostków Wielkopolski, Limanowa, Załęża Wielkie, Barlewiczy, Ortwicz, Przeczów, Myślibórz, and Sieroszewo. 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. Mogiel, Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, Director 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 Frers Funds), The NIDA Development Foundation, Nidzica, Poland, The Delta Kappa 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 Paladsi 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.
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 Rustak, American staff leader and Mrs. 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 experiences 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 audience 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 twenty-five years of (TEIP). She also described the responsibilities of Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, Director of (TEIP) to Mrs. Kuskowski that acknowledged her twenty-five years of (TEIP). She also described the responsibilities of Mrs. Wanda Senko, Vice-Chairwoman of the 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. Miecz, President and Executive Director of the KF and his staff especially, Ms. Kasia Prokosc, Mr. Robert Karada and Ms. Maria 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/teachingenglish_in_poland.  

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 the family 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 Trilogie Veterans Club in Redmond, WA explained Michalak who is a musician. 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 62 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.


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 Rustak, American staff leader and Mrs. 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 experiences 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 audience 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 twenty-five years of (TEIP). She also described the responsibilities of Mrs. Wanda Senko, Vice-Chairwoman of the 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. Miecz, President and Executive Director of the KF and his staff especially, Ms. Kasia Prokosc, Mr. Robert Karada and Ms. Maria 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/teachingenglish_in_poland.  

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CHICAGO CHAPTER

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; Wilder: 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 In memoriam to honor and remember 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 Skinny and focusing on 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 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 Alumni 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 student 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 in Poland; 14 students participating as teaching assistants in the Teaching English Program in Poland. Also recognized were Gleidy Maria and Peter Madal, 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, Westfield State University, KF/NE Distinguished Polish-American for 2015 with the KF/NE Chapter President Carolyn Topor.

The Chapter celebrated Chopin's 205th Birthday by sponsoring a concert by Cracow Duo: Jan Kalinowski, cello and Marek Slezé, 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 Kulka, 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.

16. Polish and American musicians presented music by a selection of Polish composers born in the 1970s. Composer, performer, and curator of the project Krzyçuof Wulek, School of Music, University of Louisville, a passionate advocate of contemporary acoustic and electronic music and multimedia compositions was joined by composers and soprano Agata Zabel, composer, improvisor and pianist Cezary Duchnowski, composer and improvisor Pavel Hendrich, pianist Malgorza Włodzimirowicz, and the Illinois Modern Ensemble of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, conducted by Stephen Taylor.

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by Prof. Lidia Filiu
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 30. The program included a presentation of “Jewish Music in the Białystok Ghetto” by Danuta Berger, piano and Marek Slezé, piano.

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.

Representatives from the Chicago Chapter, l-r: World Dziewołowska, Lidia Filiu, Anna Kordyleska, Hanna Suchocka, former Prime Minister of Poland and Ambassador in the Holy See, Cezary Duchnowski and Robert Rusiecki, Deputy Consul General.

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The Philadelphia Chapter has much to report since the publication of the last newsletter! Our President, Teresa G. Wojcik, did not seek re-election, but will continue to serve the Chapter as a member. For over a decade, Ms. 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**

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Ela Bochenek, Marie Hajnow, Regina Hoffman, Dorothy Koteski, Wanda Mohr, Charles Pydych, Kris Walski, Maria Werner-Wasik, Monica Winter, Teresa G. Wojcik, Andre Zlotnicki

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 established 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
MALGORZATA MARCINIAK
Malgorzata is a Sponsor & Branding Manager, with over six years of experience with New York University, 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 in B2B, Public Relations, and Events Management. She recently graduated from 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.

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 brand management, content strategies and digital marketing. New York University with a certificate in Digital Marketing. She has a proven track record in B2B, Public Relations, and Events Management. She recently graduated from 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.

KONSTANCJA MALEZYSNKA
Konstancja graduated with a Master of Arts degree from Fordham University in New York in 2011, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. A Poznan 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, learning and gardening.

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 art, design and photography. She also loves to travel and learn about different cultures.
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Mr. Vincent J. Guzik
Mr. John Guarino
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IN MEMORIAM

Janice Sot

Janice (nee Brouna), 93, a Ruthenian resident for 60 years, passed away peacefully with her de-
voted family by her side on May 12th, 2014.

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

Janice is predeceased by her hus-
dband of 46 years, Dr. Alexander, Sot, MD (1951). She was deeply missed by her son, Richard Sot and his wife Marlies, her daughter Janina Bortol and her husband Paul DeGrado, Esq. and Andrew Boral. She was blessed with her grandchil-
dren, Alicia DeGrado and her husband Paul DeGrado, Esq. and Andrew Boral, Jr. and her nieces and nephews, Paul, Alexander, Bianca and Alexis.

The loss of her intelligence, knowl-
edgeable guidance, friendship and love leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of her family.

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Thank you to all.
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