

The idea of an annual fund raiser benefiting The Polish Museum of America grew out of a genuine concern for its continued, viable existence....Your presence here tonight convinces us that the idea found full acceptance and that we have truly succeeded in establishing a tradition in the Polish American community: an annual Summer Ball for the benefit of The Polish Museum of America which will become even more elegant and profitable as the years go by.

Sabina P. Logisz & Walter L. Sojka Co-Chairs, Inaugural Summer Ball 1979



The poppy was chosen as the symbol of the Summer Gala because it is both a beautiful and common summer wild flower of Poland, symbolizing Flanders's field to Americans and Monte Cassino to the Poles.

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of its founding

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA 45TH SUMMER GALA



Friday, June 13, 2025 O'Hare Tech Center Schiller Park, Illinois

2025 Spirit Award Recipients

Krzysztof Matyszczyk

Polish American Police Association

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA 45TH SUMMER GALA COMMITTEE

Chair Agnieszka Bastrzyk

Program Book Micheline Jaminski

Appeals & Advertisements Małgorzata Kot, Richard Owsiany

Invitations Anna Sokolowski

Reservations Mary Jane Robles

Silent Auction Sharon Orlowski

Decorations Betty Uzarowicz, Julie Prado

Graphic Design Elizabeth Dziadulewicz

Administration Teresa Sromek

Technical Support Dariusz Lachowski, Kevin Ryba

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Mateusz Bomba

Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra

Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA Richard Jaminski, Artistic Director & Choreographer

O'Hare Tech Center management & staff

Artvision

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Iwona Bożek Lily Prado James Robaczewski Krzysztof Branka Barbara Kożuchowska Lucie Bucki Halina Misterka Sergio Romero Krzysztof Dolder Katarzyna Ogórek Jadwiga Rup Jan Góra Małgorzata Palka **Julita Siegel** Krystyna Grell Beata Pawlikowska Daniela Wojas



AGNIESZKA J. BASTRZYK CHAIR OF THE PMA 45TH SUMMER GALA

Agnieszka J. Bastrzyk was born in Chicago to a Polish family and is the perfect example of a well-rounded Polish American. She attended Holy Trinity Polish Mission Polish Saturday School with her future husband, Daniel, in Malgorzata Kot's class. She graduated with honors and earned her Polish matura. While attending Loyola University, she became an assistant in the PMA Library. As an assistant working in the library, Agnieszka translated the final chapters of the PMA guide into English. She became active in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), and has been a member since 2008. She has held numerous roles in the PRCUA over the past decade and, since 2018, serves as the PRCUA National Secretary-Treasurer.

Agnieszka is a symbol of enthusiastic involvement in the PMA community as well as the PRCUA. Her whole family, including her husband and three

children, Aleks, Natalia and Karol, regularly attend PMA events. She has always been eager to volunteer during book sales, concerts, workshops, and other events. She grew up alongside the PMA family. Her first visit to the museum was in primary school and she has been a cherished member of our community since.

Agnieszka maintains involvement with Chicago's Polonia. She served as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President of Internal Affairs of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce and has been on the board of the Illinois Fraternal Alliance. She currently serves as a board member of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation and as President of the Board of the Holy Trinity Parish Polish Language School.

MATEUSZ BOMBA TONIGHT'S MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mateusz Bomba is a multi-talented performer - actor, singer, and dancer, known throughout Chicago's Polish American community through his performances with the Polonia Ensemble of the PRCUA.

Mateusz was born in Rzeszow, Poland, and emigrated to Chicago with his parents in 2007 when he was 14 years old. To further engrain his Polish heritage, Mateusz matriculated from St. Ferdinand Polish High School. To cultivate his artistic talents, he joined the Polonia Ensemble also in 2007, travelling with them to promote Polish culture throughout the world. Mateusz continues to perform with Polonia at various events.



While pursuing a degree in Business Administration and Management, he found employment with the PRCUA in 2016, first in sales and marketing, then advancing to Fraternal Department Coordinator, and now as a Life Insurance and Annuity Specialist in the New Business Department.

As an active PRCUA member, Mateusz was elected President of PRCUA District 7, an office he has held since 2018. In this capacity, he has exhibited extraordinary leadership and organizational skills.

Mateusz married the love of his life, Victoria Gavaghan (a PRCUA member and Wesoły Lud alumna), and they are the proud parents of Milena (age 2).

Mateusz's contribution to the present and future of the Polish American community is both commendable and inspirational.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On October 15, 1935, the Polish Museum of America was founded as the Archives and Museum of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. For many years Polonia dreamed of establishing a museum that would highlight Polish culture, history and the contributions and accomplishments of Poles and Polish Americans. For two years, Mieczysław Haiman, along with PRCUA President Joseph Kania, appealed to Poles and Polish Americans in every corner of the United States to donate any artifacts, documents, books, maps, militaria, art, mementos, that chronicled Polish and Polish American heritage. As the donations were received, the PRCUA dedicated space in the building on the second floor where currently the Paderewski Room is found. As Haiman continued to gather important collections and Polonica, it was obvious that the Museum needed to expand. With the addition of the Polish Pavilion and the Paderewski collections, the Museum expanded into the Great Hall, the Library relocated to the first floor and the Archives occupied the fourth floor. The PMA continues to amass important items that today make the PMA a significant depository of our heritage that is not found anywhere in the world.

We can be proud of our 90-year history. Thanks to Mieczysław Haiman and all the officers, directors, employees, volunteers, members, donors and supporters throughout these 90 years, their efforts have made the PMA a world class museum. As we move forward, our past guides and inspires us to continue the work that was started in 1935. Tonight, we begin celebrating 90 years of "Preserving the Past to Benefit the Future" that will go through this year, culminating in October when the PMA officially was founded.

Congratulations to our 2025 Spirit Award recipients: the Polish American Police Association and Krzysztof Matyszczyk, Chairman of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, whose efforts and contributions have made an impact on Polonia and the PMA. I would like to thank the Chair of the 45th Summer Gala, Agnieszka Bastrzyk and the entire Committee for planning tonight's elegant evening. I also want to thank the 45th Summer Gala donors, supporters and attendees as well as all our patrons and friends throughout the year in supporting the Polish Museum of America. Finally, I want to thank the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America who has supported the Museum for 90 years. If it was not for the PRCUA, there would be no museum.

Your belief and commitment to the work that we do ensures that the PMA, one of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States, will continue its mission of preserving our heritage and maintaining the Polish Museum of America as the Treasure of Polonia. *Bog Zaplac*!

Richard Owsiany

SŁOWO DYREKTOR ZARZĄDZAJĄCEJ

Szanowni Państwo, Drodzy Przyjaciele Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,

Moja praca w Muzeum to 30 lat kolistej służby dookoła jednego celu i jednego tematu. Od lat zadziwiają i wspierają mnie Ludzie Muzeum. Wielu z Nich, z Was, znajduje się na tej Sali. Byliście ze mną Państwo w chwilach trudnych nawet silniej niż w radosnych. W roku jubileuszowym 90-lecia istnienia Muzeum zadaję sobie pytanie: "Czy dorastamy postawami i oddaniem poprzednikom: Panu Mieczysławowi Haimanowi, Pani Sabinie Logisz, Panu Józefowi Kani, czy mamy w sobie Ich upór, światło, wizję, wiedzę i charyzmat? Czy podobnie wytyczamy cele naszej placówce? Historia nas oceni.

Ogarniając wzrokiem 90-letnie dziedzictwo jakim jest nasze wspólne Muzeum, chcę wyznać, że jesteście drodzy Państwo wielką moją radością. Z każdej relacji wynoszę naukę. Nieprzebrane zbiory i kolekcje pięknie zabezpieczone przez moich nieocenionych i oddanych współpracowników czekają na możliwość wypłynięcia na wierzch. Takie chwile zdarzają się coraz częściej. Cieszy mnie radość badaczy, ich fascynacja, pochylanie nad zbieranymi od lat z pietyzmem pamiątkami, zachwyt nad poddanymi konserwacji dziełami sztuki. Zapamiętuję te chwile obrazami, nie zapominam odczuć, szczególnie pielęgnuję te miłe. Takie wspomnienia z historii MPA zbieram jak paciorki. Pracujemy jak zawsze zespołowo; pracownicy, wolontariusze, Rada Dyrektorów – oddani członkowie i sympatycy. Budujemy wspólnie kulturalne mosty wspieramy się w każdy możliwy sposób.

Współpraca z naszą matczyną organizacją, Zjednoczeniem Polskim Rzymsko-Katolickim w Ameryce układa się ogromnie pomyślnie. Powołani przez nich do życia jesteśmy jak w rodzinie i zawsze możemy liczyć na ich wsparcie i pomoc. Współpraca z Ministerstwem Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Ministerstwem Spraw Zagranicznych, Instytutem Polonika, Instytutem Piłsudskiego, Archiwami Państwowymi, Konsulatem RP w Chicago wiele nas uczy. Błogosławieni jesteśmy Osobami, które pozostają naszymi darczyńcami, cichymi Aniołami, które często nie podają do wiadomości publicznej nazwisk, a finansowo uskrzydlają nasze działania i jesteśmy za Ich pomoc z serca wdzięczni. Dziękuję naszym sponsorom, gratuluję Wszystkim, którzy przyczynili się do sukcesu Gali, w szczególności Komitetowi Balowemu pod kierownictwem naszej długoletniej wolontariuszki i współpracownicy Agnieszki Bastrzyk, którą poznaliśmy także od tej balowej utalentowanej strony. Dzięki Swojej pracowitości i zgodnemu charakterowi dojdzie daleko!

Gratuluję zaprzyjaźnionemu z nami od lat i ceniącemu nasze zbiory Przewodniczącemu Rady Dyrektorów Polsko-Słowiańskiej Federalnej Unii Kredytowej Krzysztofowi Matyszczykowi, dziękujemy za wszechstronne wparcie, które sprowadza w nasze progi nowych i radosnych ludzi. Gratuluję także tym, którzy strzegą naszego pokoju i porządku, zawsze gotowi są wyciągnąć do nas pomocną dłoń, czyli członkom Stowarzyszenia Polsko-Amerykańskich Policjantów, Polish American Police Association (PAPA). Indywidualnie Pan Krzysztof Matyszczyk i członkowie PAPA jako organizacja otrzymują od MPA nagrodę Ducha Polskości w roku jubileuszowym 2025. Pięknie wpisujecie się Państwo w poczet nagrodzonych. To dla nas zaszczyt móc obcować z Wami!

Dziękuję wszystkim za pełen obchodów jubileuszowy rok! Życzę Państwu wspaniałej zabawy i rychłych odwiedzin w naszym wspólnym Muzeum! Niech Wam Bóg błogosławi!

Małgorzata Kot

Mationate Ket



PREZYDENT RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ Andrzej Duda

Warszawa, 30 maja 2025 roku

Organizatorzy i Uczestnicy 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Szanowni Państwo, Drodzy Rodacy!

Serdecznie pozdrawiamy zgromadzonych na 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce i wszystkich świętujących jubileusz 90-lecia tej zasłużonej placówki, zwłaszcza jej kierownictwo, pracowników i współpracowników oraz szerokie grono przyjaciół i dobroczyńców. Składamy też hołd pamięci założycieli Muzeum – działaczy Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego. To za ich sprawą na kulturalnej mapie Chicago oraz całych Stanów Zjednoczonych pojawiła się instytucja, która z biegiem lat zyskała wyjątkowy prestiż.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce to jedno z najstarszych i największych w USA muzeów związanych z przynależnością do jednego narodu i z jego kulturą, przyciągające nie tylko Polaków, Amerykanów polskiego pochodzenia i amerykańskich przyjaciół Polski. Goszczą tutaj uczeni, społecznicy, prominentne osoby ze świata polityki i mediów oraz liczni zwiedzający, którzy pragną lepiej poznać ponadtysiącletnią polską historię, kulturę i sztukę oraz dzieje i dokonania amerykańskiej Polonii. Cieszymy się bardzo, że i nam dane było odwiedzić to miejsce: w maju 2018 roku, podczas Narodowych Obchodów Setnej Rocznicy Odzyskania Niepodległości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, oraz niedawno, w marcu tego roku, podczas obchodów wspaniałego święta polskiej dumy, jakim jest Dzień Pułaskiego.

Trudno przecenić rolę, jaką odgrywa Muzeum w kontekście rozwoju społeczności polskiej w Stanach Zjednoczonych i popularyzacji wiedzy o Polsce. Opowiadając o kraju przodków, kierują się Państwo maksymą "ujrzeć znaczy uwierzyć". Unikalne zbiory Muzeum obejmują obszerne archiwa, zawierające dokumenty, starodruki, mapy i fotografie, jak również cenne dzieła sztuki i eksponaty związane z polskimi przywódcami i artystami tej miary, co król Stanisław Leszczyński, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Wojciech Kossak i Stanisław Szukalski. Oprócz stałych ekspozycji kostiumów historycznych, militariów, twórczości ludowej i pamiątek polskiego Chicago z XIX i XX wieku Muzeum wychodzi naprzeciw oczekiwaniom współczesnych miłośników poloniców, prezentując też ekspozycje wirtualne.

Jesteśmy przekonani, że społeczność skupiona wokół Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce nadal będzie realizować swoją niezwykle ważną misję. Jednocząc w poczuciu narodowej dumy wszystkich, którym drogie jest ich polskie dziedzictwo, oraz prezentując materialną i duchową kulturę polską współczesnym Amerykanom, umacniają Państwo więzy przyjaźni i współpracy między Polską i Stanami Zjednoczonymi, oparte na wspólnych wartościach: wolności, solidarności i pokoju. Z całego serca życzymy Państwu wielu dalszych sukcesów oraz kolejnych, równie szacownych jubileuszy.

Z GYRAZAMI SLAWAN

Mornhauser-Dude

DEMOCRATIC WHIP



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

June 13, 2025

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Polish Museum of America's (PMA) 45th Annual Summer Gala. This gathering is a special opportunity to recognize the great work of PMA and the Polish American community.

Since 1935, PMA has preserved the history of Polish Americans in the United States and has served as a resource for Polish culture and heritage. This year's gala commemorates PMA's 90th Anniversary and celebrates its unique history as the oldest ethnic museum in the country. Through exhibitions and activities, PMA shares the achievements of Polish Americans and offers visitors a chance to learn about the legacy of immigration in our country. I applaud your commitment to PMA.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to tonight's attendees for your dedication to PMA and the Polish American community. Congratulations on all your work and achievements.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Durbin United States Senator

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

FOREIGN RELATIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

June 13, 2025

Mr. Richard Owsiany 984 North Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, IL 60642

Greetings Friends:

I am pleased to welcome you to the 45th Annual PMA Summer Gala, hosted by the Polish Museum of America (PMA). I would like to thank the PMA for organizing this meaningful event.

This special occasion reflects the PMA's continued dedication to its mission of preserving the past to benefit the future. As we mark 90 years since the Museum's founding, we recognize the enduring contributions of those who have supported its growth and success. Congratulations to Krzysztof Matyszczyk for receiving the Polish Spirit Award in the individual category. His leadership and service to the community are truly commendable. I also extend heartfelt congratulations to the Polish American Police Association, honored in the organizational category, for their commitment to promoting heritage and supporting the Museum's work.

I join the community in thanking you all for your continued support. The Polish Museum of America plays a vital role in promoting cultural understanding, preserving history and enriching lives through education, exhibitions and public programs. We thank you for your remarkable contributions to the community.

My very best to all of you on this special occasion.

Sincerely.

Tammy Duckworth United States Senator

Tamay arbeit



207 STATE HOUSE SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER GOVERNOR

June 13, 2025

The Polish Museum of America 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, IL 60642

Greetings,

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 45th Polish Museum of America Summer Gala. This occasion offers an exciting opportunity for everyone in attendance to join fellow members of your association and generate ideas that implement solutions. I commend the work you have done to help make Illinois a stronger and more enjoyable state.

Illinois is proud to have enjoyed your service to our state. As you reflect on your accomplishments, I urge you to make plans for the future of your association that will build on your past successes. I am grateful for all the ways your organization has supported a strong future for Illinois.

I want to personally congratulate both Krzysztof Matyszczyk and the Polish American Police Association on being honored with the Polish Spirit Award. This is an impressive milestone. It takes hard work, dedication, drive, and, above all, a commitment to bettering your community. The work you both have accomplished to reach this point is admirable and has undoubtedly improved the lives of others. You and your families should be immensely proud.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely

Governor JB Pritzker



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

June 13, 2025

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I welcome all those gathered for the 45th Annual Polish Museum of America Summer Gala.

Founded in 1935 as a part of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Museum of America works to preserve, promote, and share the rich Polish history and culture with the greater community. Through thoughtful exhibitions, involved programming, and education research on the Polish experience in Chicago, across the country, and in native Poland, the Museum has helped to inform and inspire generations of visitors of all backgrounds.

This year's gala presents the opportunity to come together to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, raise vital funding for the museum, and look ahead to the future. Chicago is home to the largest Polish population outside of Poland and I am proud of the tireless efforts of the Museum's staff and members in curating projects, events, and collections that inform and inspire visitors. I am proud to recognize **Krzysztof Matyszczyk, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Board Chair**, and the **Polish American Police Association**, this year's *Polish Spirit Award* recipients, in the individual and organization category. I commend the Polish Museum of America for continuing to share an important legacy that will no doubt impact generations of visitors.

I hope you have an enjoyable event. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayo



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

June 2,2025

The Polish Museum of America 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60642

Dear Friends,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Polish Museum of America.

Museums are the guardians of cultural heritage and the foundation of cross-cultural understanding. They enable us to interpret the past and comprehend the future through journeys into achievements, traditions, and innovation. We are fortunate to have the Polish Museum of America (PMA) as a source of cultural awareness.

I applaud the work of the Polish Museum of America and encourage all to partake in its valuable contributions to Chicago and the Midwest.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Michael Frerichs

Illinois State Treasurer

State Capitol Room 219 Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: (866) 458-7327 Fax: (217) 785-2777 TTY: (866) 877-6013 555 West Monroe Street 14th Floor Chicago, IL 60661 Phone: (866) 458-7327 Fax: (312) 814-5930 TTY: (866) 877-6013 Marine Bank Building 1 East Old State Capitol Plaza Springfield, IL 62701 Phone: (866) 458-7327 Fax: (217) 524-3822 TTY: (866) 877-6013

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on the 90th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America was founded in Chicago by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America on October 15, 1935; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America's first curator was Mieczyslaw Haiman, who began cataloging a sizable and invaluable collection of documents, which opened to the public on January 12, 1937 as a single room museum; it continued to grow over the decades and now fills four floors; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America gained autonomous status in 1960 and was reincorporated in 1971; its library opened on April 18, 1915 as the library of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and was consolidated with the museum in 1960; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America's library includes more than 100,000 titles; its archives hold almost 400 unique collections, and its photography archives consist of over 5,000 photos; the music collection is comprised of 840 titles of printed sheet music and 5400 record titles cataloged online; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America and its collections have been recognized internationally; it was bestowed the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture (Gloria Artis Medal) by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland in September 2016; documents from the Polish National Department, the first collection of the museum, were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in September 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America has received numerous distinguished visitors, including Pope Saint John Paul II, when he was Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, President Barack Obama as a U.S. Senator, Poland President Lech Walesa, Cardinal Joseph Glemp, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski, Gen. Jozef Haller, and Poland President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America has hosted the official State of Illinois Pulaski Day Observance on the first Monday in March since 1987; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America is an integral part of the dynamic mosaic of cultural life in Chicago and across the United States, and its mission is to promulgate the rich cultural history of the Polish people by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and displaying materials related to this heritage and to integrate these resources into appropriate programs, activities, and exhibitions that enrich the intellectual and artistic lives of all members of society; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the Polish Museum of America on the 90th anniversary of its founding, and we wish it many more wonderful years; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Polish Museum of America as a symbol of our respect and esteem.

OFFERED BY:

John F. Curran

Senate Minority Leader State Senator, 41st District

MAY 28, 2025





Cook County Treasurer

June 13, 2025

Richard Owsiany President The Polish Museum of America 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60642-4101

Dear President Owsiany:

I am pleased to offer my congratulations as the 90-year-old Polish Museum of America presents its 45th Summer Gala to further its work as one of the world's greatest treasuries of the heritage of a people.

So splendid is the Museum that I have always left it awed at the heritage it has acquired, preserves and presents with such sensitivity and pride. Its materials, documents, artwork and a library of more than 100,000 books are a fountain of Polish history and life.

Now celebrating its 90th year of existence, the Museum was created by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America in 1935 as the Museum and Archives. That became the Polish Museum of America, an institution of great renown, but at no small cost and with great effort.

Four years after the founding, World War II began with the dual invasions of Poland by Germany and the Soviet Union. Poles gathered artifacts and brought them to the Polish Museum of America, where they inform and inspire us today.

I congratulate the recipients of your Polish Spirit Award, a coveted and admired distinction: Krzysytof Matyszczyk will receive this honor in the individual category and the Polish American Police Association will receive it in the organization category. Their work supports the Polish cause and helps the Museum realize its mission of preserving Polish heritage for the generations of today and tomorrow.

May your guests at this 2025 Gala enjoy an inspiring program that celebrates "Preserving the Past to Benefit the Future."

Sincerely

Maria Pappas

Cook County Treasurer

118 North Clark Street • Room 212 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • Telephone (312) 603-6202 • FAX (312) 603-2113

A resolution

adopted by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois



Presented by Alderman Ruth Cruz

on _ May 21, 2025

Whereas, the Polish Museum of America was founded on October 15, 1935, by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) as its Archives and Museum; and,

WHEREAS, the Library of the PRCUA was established on April 18, 1915,

WHEREAS, the original, single-room museum opened to the public on January 12, 1937, and now extends across four floors of space; and,

WHEREAS, the Archives, Museum, and Library consolidated and became the autonomous Polish Museum of America in 1960, reincorporating in the State of Illinois in 1971; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Museum, one of the largest and oldest ethnic museums in the United States, "as an integral part of the mosaic of cultural life in Chicago, Illinois, and across the United States, is to promulgate the rich cultural history of the Polish people by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and displaying materials related to this heritage; and to integrate these resources into appropriate programs, activities, and exhibitions that enrich the intellectual and artistic lives of all members of society;" and,

WHEREAS, the Museum is host to a unique permanent collection as well as temporary exhibits, and presents workshops, programs, and films to preserve Polish folk arts, customs, and traditions, its Archives preserves historic materials, documents, maps, and photographs from Polish and Polish American individuals and organizations, and its library holds tens of thousands for research and lending, and collections of Polonica, rare prints, and periodicals; and,

WHEREAS, the Museum collection is extensive, containing the personal and professional mementos of noted statesman and pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1914), art and artifacts from the Polish Pavilion of the 1939 World's Fair in New York City, and many paintings and sculptures, especially from the Inter-war period and onward; and,

WHEREAS, the Library contains a collection of 100,000 books, half of which are

circulating, including a 1508 book by the writer and philosopher Wawrzyniec Korwin (Laurentius Corvinus); and the Archives contains nearly 400 unique collections, including photographs, music, documents, and maps dating back to the 15th century; and, since 1987, PMA has hosted the official State of Illinois Pulaski Day Observances on the first Monday in March; and,

- WHEREAS, the PMA and Pulaski Day celebrations have been visited by many distinguished persons, including Pope Saint John Paul II when he was Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, on two occasions; President Barack Obama as a US Senator; President of Poland Lech Walesa (2000); Cardinal Joseph Glemp (1991); Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski (1941); Gen. Jozef Haller (1940), and, most recently, President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda on Pulaski Day 2025; and,
- WHEREAS, the PMA and its collections have been recognized internationally, including award of the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture Gloria Artis by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland in September 2016; and,
- WHEREAS, the PMA Summer Gala, the Museum's largest annual general operations fundraiser, celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2025; and,
- WHEREAS, the Polish Spirit Award has, since 1987, recognized of the commitment of an individual and/or organization in promulgating Polish and Polish American heritage, culture, and community, as well as supporting the PMA; and,
- WHEREAS, the PMA's 90th Anniversary and Polish Spirit Awards will be celebrated at the Summer Gala on June 13, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS, this year's Polish Spirit Award winners are Krzysztof Matyszczyk, entrepreneur, community leader, and Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Board Chair, and the Polish American Police Association; and,
- WHEREAS, the PMA's 90 years will also be celebrated on site at the Museum during a formal anniversary event on October 11, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS, the work of the PMA would not be possible without the distinguished service of the Museum's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and staff, now, therefore,
- **BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby honor and commend the Polish Museum of America on its 90th anniversary and the 45th anniversary of its Summer Gala, and recognize the PMA's special contributions not only to the Polish-American community, but also the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and nation at large; and,
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we thank and commend the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and staff of the PMA for their tireless work maintaining the Museum as a vibrant cultural institution and repository of Polish arts, culture, and learning; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate Krzysztof Matyszczyk and the Polish American Police Association on their 2025 Polish Spirit Awards; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Polish Museum of America, its leadership and staff, and its awardees in recognition of the PMA's 90th anniversary and their individual and group achievements to the Museum and the Polish community.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA

Minister Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego

Pan **Ryszard Owsiany** Prezes Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce

Pani **Małgorzata Kot** Dyrektor Zarządzający Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce

Szanowni Państwo,

pragnę przekazać gratulacje i podziękowania dla Organizatorów i Uczestników jubileuszowej 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Uroczystość ta, będąca świętem wszystkich, dla których ważne są losy zbiorów zgromadzonych w Muzeum, na stałe wpisała się w kalendarz wydarzeń Polonii Amerykańskiej. Jest też pięknym dowodem na to, że pełniona od tak wielu lat misja zachowania i popularyzowania bezcennego polskiego dziedzictwa poza granicami kraju znajduje wielu ambasadorów.

Ten rok jest szczególny również ze względu na fakt, iż Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce obchodzi 90. rocznicę utworzenia. Placówka dokumentująca losy Rodaków od samego początku była centrum życia polskiej społeczności za oceanem. Pracownicy i wolontariusze opiekują się bezcennymi dla Narodu Polskiego zbiorami, m.in. pamiątkami po Ignacym Janie Paderewskim czy obiektami z pawilonu polskiego z Wystawy Światowej w Nowym Jorku w 1939 r.

Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego docenia i wspiera Muzeum w jego działalności. Wierzę, że środki przekazywane w ramach programu "Wspieranie Archiwów, Bibliotek i Muzeów poza Krajem" przyczyniają się do rozwoju tej instytucji i pomagają jego pracownikom i wolontariuszom w pełnieniu znaczącej misji - ochrony polskiego dziedzictwa kulturowego.

W ten uroczysty wieczór dziękuję wszystkim Państwu za dotychczasową pracę, wytrwałość i zaangażowanie. Życzę Państwu pięknych wspomnień z 45. Gali, Muzeum zaś, gratulując jubileuszu, życzę kolejnych lat wartościowych osiągnięć i sukcesów, które tworzą przyszłość i rozwój tej ważnej dla polskiej kultury placówki.

Z wyrazami szacunku

Warszawa, 13 czerwca 2025 r.



Podsekretarz Stanu Henryka Mościcka - Dendys

Warszawa, 28 maja 2025 r.

Wielce Szanowna Dyrekcjo,

Szanowni uczestnicy 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,

Bardzo dziękuję za zaproszenie do udziału w 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce z okazji jubileuszu 90-lecía istnienia Muzeum. Niestety z uwagi na obowiązki slużbowe nie będę mogla wziąć osobiście udziału w tym ważnym wydarzeniu. Pragnę jednak wyrazić głęboką wdzięczność wszystkim zaangażowanym w funkcjonowanie Muzeum za Państwa pracę, pasję i oddanie misji upamiętniania polskiej obecności w USA.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce jest jednym z najstarszych muzeów w Stanach Zjednoczonych, dokumentujących historię polskiej emigrącji do Ameryki. Od momentu powstania w 1935 roku jest także jednym z najważniejszych punktów na mapie polskich miejsc w Stanach Zjednoczonych promujących wiedzę o polskiej historii, kulturze i sztuce wśród Amerykanów. Na szczególną uwagę zasługuje upamiętnienie w Muzeum postaci Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego – wielkiego pianisty, kompozytora i męża stanu, który jako Minister Spraw Zagranicznych II RP oraz niezłomny orędownik sprawy polskiej pozostaje inspiracją dla kolejnych pokoleń polskich dyplomatów.

Głęboko doceniam również wkład Muzeum w promocję polskiej kultury i sztuki poprzez organizację wystaw oraz prezentacji polskiej literatury, teatru i filmu. To również dzięki Państwa działalności i zaangażowaniu, wielu Amerykanów nie tylko wciąż poczuwa się do swoich polskich korzeni, ale często podejmuje wysiłek, by ich szukać.

Korzystając z okazji przekazuję zarządowi, zespołowi i sympatykom Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce oraz Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego serdeczne życzenia pomyślności i dalszego rozwoju, a nade wszystko satysfakcji z wykonywanej pracy. Niech tegoroczny jubileusz będzie dla Państwa nie tylko powodem do radości, ale również bodźcem i inspiracją do dalszego działania na rzecz polskiej społeczności i kultury w Stanach Zjednoczonych w kolejnych latach.

Z wyrazami szacunku,

Tel: +48 22 523 7241

hmoscickadendys.seliretariat@msz.gov.pl

www.gov.pl/dyplomacja

AL J. Ch. Szucha 23 00-580 Warstawa



Ambasada Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Waszyngtonie

Szanowni Państwo.

jest dla mnie wielkim zaszczytem móc zwrócić się do Państwa by przekazać pozdrowienia oraz gratulacje z okazji 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Gala, która odbywa się już od tak wielu lat, jest nie tylko piękną tradycją, ale i dowodem na Państwa najwyższej próby patriotyzm.

Szerzenie wiedzy o Polsce, o jej dokonaniach i historii jest w dzisiejszych czasach szczególnie ważnym zadaniem. Ze Stanami Zjednoczonymi, nas Polaków łączą historyczne więzi, umilowanie wolności i wartości demokratycznych. Amerykańska Polonia nieprzerwanie od lat buduje mosty między naszymi narodami i pomaga obu stronom w zrozumieniu siebie nawzajem. Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce odgrywa w tym przedsięwzięciu szczególną rolę. Od 1935 roku jest ważnym ośrodkiem polskiej kultury, sztuki i niezwykle cennym miejscem spotkań dla ludzi z calego świata, zainteresowanych historią jaką mamy do opowiedzenia. Prowadzenie Muzeum i przekazywanie wiedzy kolejnym pokoleniom Polaków i Amerykanów jest nie tylko wyzwaniem, ale i dużą odpowiedzialnością.

Chciałbym podziękować za to, że podjęli się Państwo tej pracy. Dziękuję, że mimo wielu codziennych spraw znajdują Państwo czas by podtrzymać polskie dziedzictwo w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Jestem wdzięczny za pasję i oddanie z jakimi troszczą się Państwo o to, aby Muzeum Polskie przyciągało coraz więcej odwiedzających i było wizytówką naszego kraju.

Z najlepszymi życzeniami satysfakcji z pracy i wielu sukcesów zarówno na polu prywatnym jak i zawodowym,

Bogdan Klich Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

w Stanach Zjednoczonych Ameryki

Chicago, June 13th 2025



Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago

> Mr. Ryszard Owsiany President The Polish Museum of America

Ms. Małgorzata Kot Managing Director The Polish Museum of America

Dear Mr. Owsiany, Dear Ms. Kot,

It is my pleasure to leave my remarks at the 45th Gala of the Polish Museum of America and the 90th Anniversary of the Museum's founding by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate your commitment, hard work, and ongoing efforts on behalf of the Polish American community in United States of America.

The Polish Museum of America cultivates the memory of the achievements of Poles in the United States, not only in military, but also in science, literature, politics and culture. As a proud guardian of Polish heritage, the Museum helps pass on a sense of patriotism and respect for our shared history to future generations.

Your work to promote Poland and Polish culture in the U.S. strengthens the identity of the Polish American community and helps foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Poland's rich history, culture and the achievements of outstanding Poles.

I would also like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to this year's Polish Spirit Award recipients, Mr. Krzysztof Matyszczyk and the Polish American Police Association. Their contributions are truly inspiring.

Thank you for many years of service and cooperation, and I wholeheartedly wish you continued success in your important mission.

Sincerely,

Regina Jurkowska

Consul General of the Republic of Poland



IDzGP/2025/72

Warszawa, 3 czerwca 2025 r.

Pan Ryszard Owsiany Prezes Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Pani Małgorzata Kot Dyrektor Zarządzająca Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Szanowni Państwo,

uprzejmie dziękuję za zaproszenie na 45. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce – wydarzenie od lat trwale wpisuje się w historię i misję Państwa niezwykle zasłużonej Instytucji. Z żalem informuję, że – z uwagi na zobowiązania zawodowe – nie będę mogła osobiście uczestniczyć w tegorocznej, jubileuszowej Gali. Proszę o przyjęcie moich serdecznych pozdrowień, które kieruję zarówno do Organizatorów Gali, jak i wszystkich Gości zgromadzonych podczas tego wyjątkowego, jubileuszowego spotkania.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce, powołane do istnienia w 1935 roku jako Muzeum i Archiwum Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce (a formalnie utworzone dwa lata później), należy do grona najstarszych i największych muzeów etnicznych w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Podziw i dumę budzą imponujące kolekcje Państwa Instytucji, poloniki, od dziewięciu dekad gromadzone ofiarnym wysiłkiem kolejnych generacji amerykańskiej Polonii. Od wielu lat Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce pozostaje też jednym z najważniejszych ośrodków życia kulturalnego Polonii na kontynencie północnoamerykańskim. Na podkreślenie zasługuje fakt, że we wrześniu ubiegłego roku byliście Państwo gospodarzami sesji Stałej Konferencji Muzeów, Archiwów i Bibliotek Polskich na Zachodzie – dorocznego spotkania najważniejszych instytucji kultury i pamięci polskiej diaspory z całego świata.



Kierowany przeze mnie Instytut POLONIKA, od chwili swego powstania, podjął bliską i aktywną współpracę z Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce. Jej wymiernymi efektami są liczne wspólne przedsięwzięcia, w tym m.in. konserwacja w ubiegłych latach ponad pięćdziesięciu dzieł wybitnych polskich artystów: obrazów, rzeźb, zabytków rzemiosła artystycznego, witraży. Wierzę głęboko, że ta owocna współpraca będzie kontynuowana w kolejnych latach, tak na polu konserwacji, jak badań i popularyzacji polskiej spuścizny kulturowej z kolekcji Muzeum.

Korzystam ze sposobności, by złożyć serdeczne gratulacje Pani dyrektor Małgorzacie Kot, obchodzącej jubileusz trzydziestolecia pracy w Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce.

Z wyrazami szacunku

Biektronizmie podpisany przez Katarojna Sokołowska Osta, 2023 06.05 15.3950 4 02'00'

Katarzyna Sokołowska dyrektorka Instytutu POLONIKA



Paweł Pietrzyk

Szanowni Państwo
Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes
Małgorzata Kot
Dyrektor Zarządzający
Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce

Nasz znak: DPD.79.1.5.2025 Data: 26.05.2025

Szanowni Państwo,

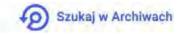
Pragnę serdecznie podziękować organizatorom za zaproszenie na 45. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce (MPA), upamiętniającą 90. rocznicę powołania do życia placówki przez Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie w Ameryce. Żałuję, że ze względu na inne obowiązki służbowe, nie mogę osobiście wziąć udziału w tej niezwykle ważnej uroczystości.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce jest jednostką o zasadniczym znaczeniu dla kultywowania i rozwoju zarówno polskiego, jak i wspólnego polsko-amerykańskiego dziedzictwa.

Archiwa Państwowe od lat starają się wspierać organizacje polonijne. Stawiamy sobie za cel zachowanie i powiększanie zbiorów istotnych z punktu widzenia kraju i Polonii. Z Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce współpracujemy od wielu lat m.in. umożliwiając wizyty polskich archiwistów i ekspertów oraz współdziałając w Stałej Konferencji Muzeów, Archiwów i Bibliotek Polskich na Zachodzie. Jestem przekonany, że nasza wspólna działalność daje widoczne i trwałe efekty. Ich przykładem są wydane przez Archiwa Państwowe publikacje: "Informator o zasobie archiwalnym Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce" z 2016 roku wraz z anglojęzyczną wersją wydaną w 2019 roku oraz "Rada Polonii Amerykańskiej [1936] 1938-1974 [1982]. Przewodnik po zespole archiwalnym" wydana w 2024 roku, która omawia zawartość największego i jednego z najcenniejszych zespołów archiwalnych przechowywanych w Archiwum Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce.







Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych - ul. Rakowiecka 2D, 02-517 Warszawa telefon: (22) 56-54-600; email: ndap@archiwa.gov.pl; www.archiwa.gov.pl

Dziękuję Panu Prezesowi Ryszardowi Owsianemu i Pani Dyrektor Małgorzacie Kot za wieloletnią, owocną współpracę, a przede wszystkim za niezłomne zaangażowanie w pielęgnowanie i promowanie polskiego dziedzictwa i kultury za oceanem.

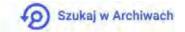
Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce życzę udanych obchodów jubileuszu i wielu kolejnych lat dynamicznej działalności – pełnej nowych pomysłów, inspirujących projektów i wspólnych działań na rzecz utrwalania polsko-amerykańskiego dziedzictwa i kultury.

Mam nadzieję, że już w niedalekiej przyszłości będę miał okazję spotkać się z Państwem osobiście.

Łączę wyrazy szacunku dr Paweł Pietrzyk









Warszawa, 3 czerwca 2025 roku

Dariusz Piotr Bonisławski Prezes Stowarzyszenia "Wspólnota Polska"

> Szanowny Pan Ryszard Owsiany Prezes Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Szanowny Panie Prezesie, Szanowni Państwo,

z okazji jubileuszu 90-lecia Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce pragnę złożyć najszczersze gratulacje oraz wyrazy uznania dla całej społeczności Muzeum, Pracowników, Wolontariuszy i Przyjaciół. To wyjątkowe miejsce od dziewięciu dekad pełni niezastąpioną rolę w pielęgnowaniu i promowaniu dziedzictwa polskiego w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

Od momentu swojego otwarcia, w styczniu 1937 roku, Muzeum stało się nie tylko skarbnicą bezcennych eksponatów, ale przede wszystkim przestrzenią, w której historia, kultura oraz tradycje polskie są żywe i dostępne dla kolejnych pokoleń. Dzięki zaangażowaniu wielu pokoleń Polonii, Muzeum gromadzi i prezentuje bogate zbiory, w tym dzieła sztuki, dokumenty, fotografie i pamiątki, które świadczą o wkładzie Polaków w rozwój Stanów Zjednoczonych oraz o ich niezłomnym duchu i przywiązaniu do ojczystych korzeni.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce jest nie tylko miejscem przechowywania historii, ale również aktywnym uczestnikiem życia kulturalnego i edukacyjnego. Organizując wystawy, wykłady, koncerty i warsztaty, instytucja ta inspiruje i edukuje, budując mosty między przeszłością a teraźniejszością, między Polską a Polonią.

W imieniu Stowarzyszenia "Wspólnota Polska" oraz własnym, dziękuję za nieoceniony wkład w zachowanie i promocję polskiego dziedzictwa za oceanem. Życzę dalszych sukcesów, nieustającej pasji oraz wsparcia społeczności, aby Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce mogło kontynuować swoją misję przez kolejne dekady.

Z wyrazami szacunku i serdecznymi pozdrowieniami

Dariusz Piotr Bonisławski

Prezes Stowarzyszenia "Wspólnota Polska"

076

Warszawa dnia 22.05.2025 r.

PREZES

Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej Komisji Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu dr Karol Nawrocki

sygn. BIK-062-196(4)/25

Uczestnicy 45. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Szenowai Parotwo,

z okazji 90. rocznicy powołania do istnienia Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce pragnę serdecznie pogratulować wszystkim Pracownikom tak wspaniałego jubileuszu.

Z zaangażowaniem i niesłabnącym entuzjazmem, od prawie wieku, realizują Państwo cenne inicjatywy budzące zainteresowanie polską historią i obyczajami, ale przede wszystkim podtrzymujące kontakt z językiem – najtrwalszym spoiwem i fundamentem tożsamości narodowej. Dzięki Państwa działalności Polonia amerykańska ma w Was silne oparcie, dające poczucie jedności z Ojczyzną.

Słowa uznania kieruję do tegorocznych laureatów nagrody "Duch Polskości" przyznawanej za wybitny wkład w dzieło promowania polskiej kultury i dziedzictwa narodowego na obczyźnie. Uhonorowanym nią – Panu Krzysztofowi Matyszczykowi – przewodniczącemu zarządu Polsko-Słowiańskiej Federalnej Unii Kredytowej oraz organizacji prospołecznej Polish American Police Association życzę dalszych sukcesów na niwie kształtowania i podtrzymywania polonijnej wspólnoty z dala od granic kraju.

W imieniu własnym i całego Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej pragnę zapewnić o życzliwości i poparciu dla Państwa nieocenionej działalności na rzecz krzewienia i pielęgnacji postaw patriotycznych. Niechaj udział w celebracji jubileuszu będzie czasem wielu wspomnień i wzruszeń, ale przede wszystkim niechaj napełnia Państwa dumą ze współtworzenia ponadczasowego dzieła zakorzenionego w żarliwej miłości do Polski.

I næjlepszymi pozdvowicerian

Z upoważnienia
Prezesa Instytutu Parajęci Narodowej
ZASTĘPCA PREZESA

dr hab. Karol Polejowski

Instytut Pamięci Narodowej Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu ul. Janusza Kurtyki 1, 02-676 Warszawa tel.: (22) 581 85 22 | fax: (22) 581 85 24 ipn.gov.pl

1/1

Polish Scouting Organization – Z.H.P, Inc.

National Headquarters



Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego

Zarząd Okręgu w Stanach Zjednoczonych



email: okregusa@zhp.org website: okregusa.zhp.org

Szanowni Państwo, Zarząd oraz Pracownicy Polish Museum of America,

Z okazji Jubileuszu 90-lecia istnienia Polish Museum of America, w imieniu Zarządu Okręgu Związku Harcerstwa Polskiego w Stanach Zjednoczonych, składam najserdeczniejsze gratulacje oraz wyrazy głębokiego uznania za wieloletnią, niezastąpioną działalność na rzecz zachowania dziedzictwa i historii Polonii w Ameryce.

Od chwili powstania Muzeum z inicjatywy Zjednoczenia Polskiego Rzymsko-Katolickiego w Ameryce, instytucja ta pełni kluczową rolę jako strażnik naszej wspólnej pamięci narodowej. Przez dziewięć dekad gromadziliście i pielęgnowaliście bezcenne pamiątki kultury, sztuki i historii, które są nie tylko źródłem wiedzy, ale i dumy dla kolejnych pokoleń Polonii.

Dla Związku Harcerstwa Polskiego w USA Muzeum było i jest nieocenionym partnerem w wychowaniu młodzieży w duchu patriotyzmu, służby i przywiązania do polskich korzeni. Współpraca między ZHP a Muzeum trwa niemal od początku naszej obecności w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Harcerze i harcerki regularnie odwiedzają Muzeum, uczestnicząc w lekcjach historii, wystawach i wydarzeniach, które pozwalają im lepiej zrozumieć i poczuć bogactwo polskiego dziedzictwa.

Wasza misja ma szczególne znaczenie w dzisiejszym świecie, gdzie budowanie tożsamości młodych ludzi wymaga świadomego kontaktu z historią i kulturą. Polish Museum of America nie tylko chroni przeszłość, ale kształtuje przyszłość – inspirując, ucząc i jednocząc.

Z całego serca życzę dalszych sukcesów w realizacji tej ważnej misji. Niech kolejne lata przyniosą Muzeum jeszcze więcej odwiedzających, nowych inicjatyw oraz nieustającego wsparcia ze strony Polonii i społeczności amerykańskiej.

Z wyrazami szacunku i harcerskim pozdrowieniem,

Czuwaj!

Zbigniew Pisanski, hm

Przewodniczący Zarządu Okręgu

Elgenia Pisawell

Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego w Stanach Zjednoczonych

PILSUDSKI INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

FOR RESEARCH IN THE MODERN HISTORY OF POLAND, INC. 138 Greenpoint Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11222, tel. 212-505-9077 email: office@pilsudski.org website: www.pilsudski.org

Nowy Jork, 29 maja 2025

Ryszard Owsiany, Prezes

Malgorzata Kot, Dyrektor Wykonawczy

Szanowni Państwo,

W imieniu Instytutu Piłsudskiego w Ameryce, składam najlepsze życzenia z okazji Jubileuszu 90 - lecia działalności Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce.

Historia zbiorów i działalności Muzeum to piękna karta przeszłości Polonii w Stanach Zjednoczonych, to codzienny wysiłek kolejnych pokoleń Polaków mieszkających na Obczyźnie, którzy dzięki swej determinacji stworzyli i przeprowadzili przez kolejne dziesiecjolecia wyjatkowa instytucję.

Muzeum nie tylko zabezpiecza polskie dziedzictwo w Ameryce poprzez opiekę nad cennym archiwum, biblioteka, kolekcją sztuki i zbiorem artefaktów historycznych, ale prowadzi akcję edukacyjna, wykłady i szkolenia dla wszystkich grup wiekowych. To w Muzeum odbywają się lekcje historii, koncerty i wystawy.

Bardzo dziękuję władzom i pracownikom Muzeum za pasję, profesjonalizm i wytrwałość w realizacji misji. To dzięki Wam historia Polonii jest bezpieczna i kolejne pokolenia mogą z niej czerpać.

Z okazji 45 Balu Letniego składam serdeczne gratulacje nagrodzonym: Krzysztofowi Matyszczykowi, przewodniczącemu Rady Dyrektorów PSFCU oraz Polish American Police Association.

Przesyłam życzenia dalszych sukcesów i nieustającej działalności na rzecz Polonii i Polski.

Z wyrazami szacunku,

Dr Iwona Korga

Prezes i Dyrektor Wykonawczy

woner Lorgan



Copernicus Foundation 5216 W. Lawrence Avenue Chicago, IL 60630 May 16th, 2025

Polish Museum of America 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, IL 60642

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Copernicus Foundation, it is with great pride and heartfelt congratulations that we extend our warmest wishes to the Polish Museum of America as you celebrate the remarkable milestone of your 90th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1935 by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Museum of America has stood as a beacon of cultural preservation, education, and community pride. Over the course of nine decades, you have upheld a noble mission honoring the history, contributions, and enduring spirit of the Polish American community. Through your extraordinary exhibitions, and educational programs, the Museum has kept alive the rich heritage of Poland and its people, inspiring generations both locally and nationally.

The Copernicus Foundation is proud to count itself as a longtime friend and supporter of the Polish Museum of America. We have always admired your dedication and professionalism in curating and sharing the treasures of Polish history, art, and identity. Your work not only preserves the past but also strengthens the cultural fabric of our present and future.

As you mark this historic jubilee, we commend all those whose vision, leadership, and passion have shaped the Museum into the world-class institution it is today. May this 90th anniversary celebration serve as a testament to your legacy and a launching point for many more years of continued success.

With sincere appreciation, Sto lat!

Hubert Cioromski

Chairman of the Board Copernicus Foundation Mario Mikoda President

Copernicus Foundation

Kamila Sumelka Executive Director

Copernicus Foundation

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POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

May 29, 2025

Dear Members of the Polish Museum of America,

On behalf of the Polish American Congress, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on celebrating a remarkable 90 years!

Over the past nine decades, the PMA has served as a vital cornerstone of our community, uniting us through our shared story as Polish Americans. The Museum has done an outstanding job preserving our history, allowing us to learn from those who came before us, cherish their stories, and pass them on to future generations. It offers a space for all of us to embrace our pride and shared identity as Polish Americans.

From showcasing extraordinary artifacts and hosting workshops, lectures, and cultural events, to organizing tours for Polish school students, the PMA continues to provide meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to connect with our heritage.

The PMA has also played an important role in preserving key aspects of the history of the Polish American Congress, a contribution for which we are deeply grateful.

To all who have contributed to the PMA's remarkable success, I offer my heartfelt wishes for continued achievements and many more years devoted to preserving and celebrating our Polish-American heritage.

Congratulations!

Best regards,

Frank J. Spula, FLMI

President

Serving the interests of Polish Americans since 1944



May 29, 2025

Dear Friends of the Polish Museum of America,

Congratulations on celebrating 90 incredible years!

The Polish Museum of America is a true treasure of the Polish-American community. As the largest institution of its kind, the PMA has spent decades preserving our shared history, documenting the triumphs, artistry, and accomplishments of Polish Americans.

Thanks to the dedication of countless benefactors and volunteers, the PMA continues to welcome all who seek to immerse themselves in the rich and beautiful history of Polish Americans. Its diverse collections feature prestigious artifacts spanning various time periods and associated with prominent historical figures.

The Polish National Alliance deeply values its long-standing relationship with the PMA. Thanks to the PMA's dedication, the histories of individual organizations, including our own, are also preserved, enriching the vibrant mosaic of our community.

I commend all those behind the PMA's outstanding legacy and wish you continued success in preserving and celebrating our Polish-American story for many more years.

May the Polish Museum of America continue to inspire pride, unity, and cultural appreciation for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula, FLMI

President



June 13, 2025

Dear Friends of The Polish Museum of America,

I want to welcome everyone to the 45th Annual Summer Gala of the PMA and its 90th Anniversary. It is great that we can be with each other in person once again to celebrate and support the treasure that is the PMA!

During this gala, we will be awarding two Polish Spirit awards. The first award is to The Polish American Police Association which, for over 60 years, has dedicated itself to promoting Polish-Slavic culture, community service, and professional development. It is a fraternal organization of law enforcement professionals from local, state, federal, and international agencies.

The second award is for Krzysztof Matyszczyk. Mr. Matyszczyk is the chair of the board of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union and has been a board member since 1987. As chair, he has assisted in expanding to number of branches of the PSFCU, which has allowed it to support more charitable organizations including the Polish Museum of America.

I would like to thank both awardees for the work they do in our community, for supporting Polonia and furthering Polish American values. It is not always easy, but it is something we should all strive to do; put forth the effort, work, and time to give back to our communities. You may not always be able to help financially, but if you can volunteer your time at a local charity, such as serving the poor, volunteering at your church or other local not-for-profits, such support is extremely valuable and necessary.

If you do not already, please consider supporting the endeavors of The PMA. The Polish Museum is there for all Poles - from recent immigrants to fifth, sixth or further generations Americans of Polish decent.

Wishing The Polish Museum of America prosperity, success in its endeavors and all attendees a wonderful time.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Robaczewski, ALMI, FIC, ACS

Chair of the Board

The Polish Museum of America

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America | PRCUALife™

A Legal Reserve Fraternal Benefit Society | Founded 1873

984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60642-4101 | PRCUA.org | 🛐 🔟 🔟

James J. Robaczewski, NATIONAL PRESIDENT | (773) 782-2602 | fax (773) 782-2741 | james-robaczewski@prcua.org

POLISH SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Since 1987, the Polish Spirit Award is given in recognition of the commitment of an individual and/or organization in promulgating Polish and Polish American heritage, culture, and community as well as supporting the Polish Museum of America in "Preserving the Past to Benefit the Future."

2024	Prof. Ewa Radwańska, MD, PhD
	Polish Scouting Organization of Illinois
2023	Halina and Stanisław Urbaniak
	The Kosciuszko Foundation
2022	Dziennik Związkowy – Polish Daily News
	Polstudios Inc. – TV Polvision
2021	Frank J. Spula
	Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America
2020	Izabela Roman, M.D., Ph.D.
	Holy Trinity Polish Mission
2019	Deborah L. Greenlee
	Paderewski Symphony Orchestra
2018	Maria Bronny Ciesla, President Emeritus, Polish Museum of America
	Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union
	Copernicus Foundation
	Polish American Chamber of Commerce
	Gift from the Heart Foundation & Shriners Hospital for Children, Chicago
	Joann S. Ozog
	Polish Teachers Association in America
	Kazimiera Bober, Founder, Kasia's Deli, Inc.
	Alex Storozynski, President, Kosciuszko Foundation
	The Ted and Alice Przybylo Family of White Eagle Banquets
	Teresa N. Abick, Vice President, Polish National Alliance
	Polish and Polish American Veterans Association
	Alliance of Polish Clubs in the U.S.A.
	Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America
	Walter L. Sojka
	Chet & Dolores Schaefer
	Donald V. Versen, Sr. & Joan Versen
	Stanley & Barbara Stawski
	Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
2000	Chicago Society Polish National Alliance
	LOT Polish Airlines
	Polish Women's Alliance of America
	Matt L. Rodriguez, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department
	His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit
	Polish American Medical Society
1994	The Honorable Mary Ann McMorrow, Justice, Supreme Court of IL

- 1992 U.S. Congressman Dan Rostenkowski
- 1991 Chester S. & Stella T. Sawko

1993 PeKaO Trading Corporation

- 1990 I. George & Joan Kosinski
- 1989 Legion of Young Polish Women
- 1988 His Excellency Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz, D.D.
- 1987 Aloysius A. Mazewski, President, Polish American Congress & Polish National Alliance

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

proudly presents the

POLISH SPIRIT AWARD

to

KRZYSZTOF MATYSZCZYK

in the individual category

and to the

POLISH AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

in the organization category

in recognition of their commitment to American Polonia in promulgating Polish and Polish American heritage, culture, and community as well as supporting the Polish Museum of America in its mission

KRZYSZTOF MATYSZCZYK

Krzysztof Matyszczyk was born in Elbląg, Poland. He graduated from the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw. In the late 1970s, he emigrated to the United States, where he continued his studies at New York universities, including Columbia University and Baruch College. In 1984, he founded Fidelity Tax & Insurance Brokerage Corporation – a company specializing in tax and insurance services. Since 1994, he has served as an authorized representative for his clients before the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. His work in the field has garnered recognition from New York officials, who have described him as "an outstanding entrepreneur and community leader."

He has been a member of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union for 45 years. In 1997, he was elected to the PSFCU Board of Directors as Treasurer, and for the past decade, he has served as Chairman. Under his leadership, the Credit Union has experienced significant and steady growth, opening new branches and surpassing 120,000 members. He actively represents PSFCU, participates in major Polish-American events such as the Pulaski Day Parade, and engages with public officials from Poland and the United States.

Mr. Matyszczyk is a co-founder and long-time treasurer of the Polish-American Business Club, which has promoted Polish cultural heritage in the U.S. for many years. In 2019, he was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his service to the Polish diaspora. Most recently, in 2024, he was honored by New York City Mayor Eric Adams for his contributions to the Polish-American community.

Privately, he is a proud husband and father of three, and as of two months ago, he is a grandfather of little Konrad.



THE POLISH-AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

Serving with Honor, Celebrating Heritage, Strengthening Community



Founded in 1964, the Polish-American Police Association (PAPA) proudly supports law enforcement professionals of Polish and Slavic heritage, as well as those who share a commitment to justice, service, and community.

What began as a small group of officers seeking camaraderie and cultural connection has grown into a respected organization with a broad impact, locally, nationally, and internationally. PAPA stands as a beacon of heritage, professional excellence, and civic engagement.

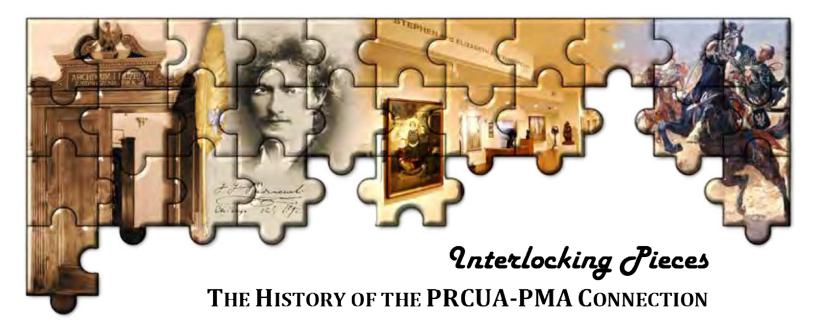
Our mission is to empower members to connect, grow, and lead, in their careers, their communities, and their cultural identity. Through a range of programs and initiatives, we work to:

- Celebrate and preserve Polish heritage through cultural events, language, and traditions
- Advance professional development through mentorship, training, and career networking
- Strengthen community ties with public outreach and charitable efforts
- Advocate for policies that support law enforcement and Polish-American interests
- Foster fellowship and camaraderie among law enforcement professionals

PAPA also remains deeply committed to public service and philanthropy, supporting causes both at home and in Poland.

As we gather to honor distinguished individuals tonight, we also celebrate the enduring values that unite us: duty, heritage, integrity, and service.

Thank you for supporting the mission of the Polish-American Police Association. Together, we continue to build a lasting legacy, rooted in tradition, driven by purpose.



The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) is the oldest Polish fraternal organization in the United States still in existence. Since 1873, its mission has been to provide financial security to its members through life insurance and annuity products, and offering opportunities for cultural, educational and spiritual growth. In serving the cultural needs of the Polish American community, the PRCUA was instrumental in the founding of the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA which evolved into the Polish Museum of America (PMA).

It was in 1935 that the foundation of what is now known as the Polish Museum of America was laid. The idea, however, was cultivated much earlier. By the 1890's, the population of Poles in America had reached 800,000, with the majority in Chicago. In 1891, a Polish library and national museum was established in Chicago, but was later moved to Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. In 1931, a fire destroyed all the collections at the college leaving Polonia without a site attesting to its presence.

The need for a Polish museum in the United States was again on the forefront of discussions within Polish circles, but it was the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America that brought it home, literally, back to Chicago. It is within the headquarters of the PRCUA that the heart of Polonia – the Polish Museum of America – beats, residing on several floors of this historic building.



Credit goes to PRCUA President Joseph L. Kania, who in 1935 acted upon the motions of delegates of the 39th and 40th Conventions of the PRCUA to collect documents regarding Poland and Polonia for study by future generations within a single institution. He re-searched museums in Poland and, upon his return, President Kania

enthusiastically stated, "That it is the museums and archives that most accurately reflect national culture and historic events, and that they not only record the high degree of a nation's learning but serve also as a center and workshop for academic and scientific research,

contributing to the growth of enlightenment, and that there, in Polonia, they will evoke the respect of others for Poles in America. I propose the establishment of a permanent museum and archives of Polonia at the Polish Roman Catholic Union."

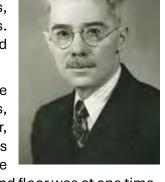


President Kania introduced Mieczyslaw Haiman as the first curator, archivist, and librarian to undertake this monumental task. It was Haiman who started collecting historical me-mentos through appeals via press releases for artifacts such as old books, newspapers, periodicals, program books, letters, photographs, old coins, and medals. The response was enormous and very soon, the Museum needed to expand and continues to do so to this very day.

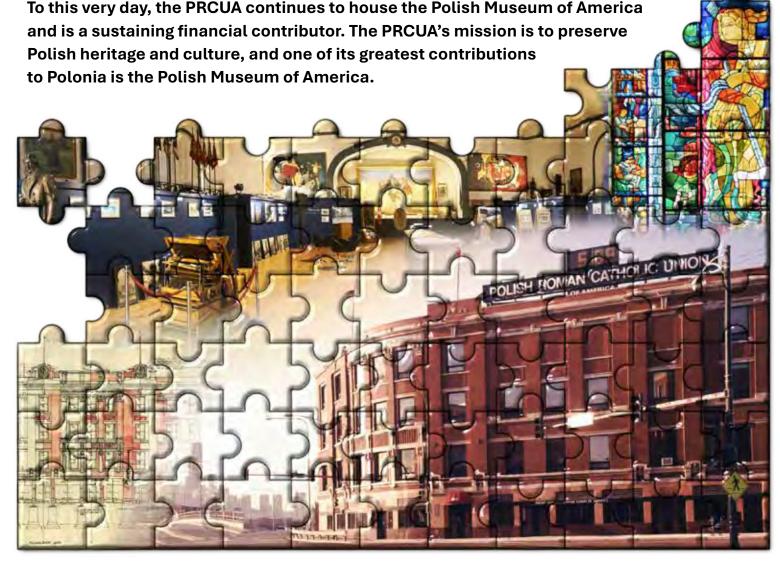
Today's Great Hall of the Polish Museum was originally a banquet/performance venue with a balcony. The first floor had multiple storefronts, accommodating five stores,



including a printer, diner, recruitment center for Haller's army and a haberdashery. The



Paderewski room on the second floor was at one time divided into offices for a doctor and a lawyer. The modifications of the PRCUA building lasted throughout 1936, and in 1937, the Polish Museum of America was officially opened with a grand gala in the Great Hall, attended by many dignitaries including Polish Consul Waclaw Gawronski and Chicago Mayor Edward Joseph Kelly, with President Kania as the "man of the hour."



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PMA

One of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in America, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) is dedicated to preserving the Polish American past for future generations. The Museum showcases a unique permanent collection as well as temporary exhibits, and sponsors workshops, programs, and films to preserve Polish folk arts, customs, and traditions for all generations. Its Archives preserves historic materials, documents, maps, and photographs from Polish and Polish American individuals and organizations. Its Library holds over 100,000 books for research and lending, and collections of Polonica, rare prints, and periodicals. In recognition of its years of contributions to and protection of culture and heritage, the PMA was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture – Gloria Artis by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland in September 2016.

The PMA was founded in 1935, and officially opened to the public on January 12, 1937. The museum was created by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), the oldest Polish American fraternal organization, headquartered in Chicago. Originally known as the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA, it gained autonomous status in 1959 as The Polish Museum of America, and was formally incorporated in the state of Illinois in 1971.

The first motion to establish the Polish Museum was introduced in 1928 at the 39th PRCUA Convention. Delegates from Council 11 of Brooklyn, NY, suggested that a Polish museum be established in the United States for the purpose of "collecting Polish and Polonian documents and materials for historical study by our future generations." In January 1931, the museum of Polish immigration material at Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, PA, was lost in a fire. Many voices called for the creation of a new Polish American museum, and the idea was again proposed at the 40th PRCUA Convention later that same year by Council 69 of Chicago, emphasizing that "Polonia ... although numerous and affluent, does not have a single institution, not one place, in which to deposit the documents and evidences of our labors for this country and for Poland."

In 1934, several discussions were held by the PRCUA on forming a historical society, which would engage in organizing the papers of the Polish National Department/ Wydział Narodowy Polski, housed in the PRCUA headquarters. A real opportunity to establish an institution arose in 1935, when newly elected PRCUA President Joseph L. Kania proceeded with great enthusiasm to create the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA.

On October 15, 1935, Kania stated to the PRCUA Board of Directors: "In consideration that it is the museums and archives that most closely reflect cultural and national history, and that they not only characterize the level of a nation's learning, but also serve as a center and workshop for academic advancement, contributing to the growth of enlightenment, and that here – in Polonia – would evoke the respect for Poles from others in America – I propose the establishment of a permanent museum and archives of Polonia at the PRCUA."

The first and most important step was appointing Mieczysław Haiman as Museum Curator, who was already serving as PRCUA Librarian. Material began to be quickly acquired as early as in 1935, thanks to the appeal made by Curator Haiman, addressed to American Polonia and published in its press: "Old books and newspapers, all manner of publications printed in America, especially books commemorating parish and society jubilees, proclamations, photographs, letters, convention badges and buttons of various celebrations, medals, old coins – all of this is suitable for the Archives and Museum." The response was profound; with the swells of Polish immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s, these recent Americans wanted their history remembered.

World War II had a considerable impact on the form of the PMA – the role and tasks of the Museum were altered. Haiman described this in his report as curator: "The tasks of the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA, as the largest Polish cultural institution in the USA, gained immense importance in view of the recent occurrences. Doubtlessly, many museums have been destroyed and pillaged by barbarous invaders and a considerable number of valuable Polish mementoes have been lost for good [...] during the previous long enslavement of the Polish people, the largest and the most well-known shelter for protecting Polish mementoes of historic importance outside of Polish borders was the Polish Museum in Rapperswil. Many objects of value had to be stored there lest they should be taken away by the oppressors. After the World War was over, the entire collection of that Museum was transported to Warsaw. God only knows whether or not it has remained intact. Our Museum became its spiritual successor. Quite recently, during better times for Poland, it has earned for itself the honorable title of 'American Rapperswil.' Today, the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA is an 'American Rapperswil' not only in name, but also in reality. Being one of the few great focal points of Polish culture outside of Motherland's borders, the Museum is beyond the reach of violence and repression, surrounded by kindness emanating from the hearts of Poles abroad."

With the destruction of Europe, materials from the homeland began to disappear. Acquisition was spurred even further; items were actively obtained by the PMA that would have otherwise been destroyed or dispersed under the Nazi and Soviet regimes. The Museum became a central point where Polish national mementoes were collected. Thanks to Haiman's relentless efforts, the PMA obtained some of its most impressive collections under his stewardship: Polish Pavilion of the 1939 New York World's Fair and the I.J. Paderewski collections, both in 1941, and the Kosciuszko collection in 1945.

Throughout its 90 years of existence, the PMA strives to celebrate the story of Poland and Polish Americans. Its collections continue to grow as a reflection of the Polish immigrant experience in America and the lives of the generations that follow. The PMA does not only preserve these stories – it presents them to all visitors, creating an engaging space to learn about the Polish American past and present.

- CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF THE PMA -

- Founded 1935, as the Archives & Museum of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA)
- Opened to public on January 12, 1937
- Autonomous status 1960 as the Polish Museum of America (PMA)
- Reincorporated in State of Illinois in 1971
- Awarded the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture

 Gloria Artis by the Ministry of Culture and
 National Heritage of the Republic of Poland,
 September 2016





- First collection:
 - 1934- Polish National Department/ Wydział Narodowy Polski, approx. 115 linear feet of documentation
 - Historical recognition, September 2018- select documents from the Polish National Department were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register



Collection highlights:



- Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941), statesman and pianist, personal and professional mementos in the I.J. Paderewski Room
- Inter-War era paintings and sculptures in the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery
- Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair, art and artifacts
- Largest artifact, Symbol of Poland Reborn, stained glass designed by Mieczysław Jurgielewicz, 1939
- o Large-scale canvases on display: *Pulaski* at Savannah by Stanisław Batowski, 1933; Great Figures of Poland's Past and Future Poland by Jan Henryk Rosen, both 1939; and Reminiscence of Childhood Charge of the Circassians down Krakowskie Przedmieście by Wojciech Kossak, 1891
- World-renowned artists in permanent collections: Olga Boznanska, Jacek Malczewski, Maria Werten, Zofia Stryjenska, Stanislaw Szukalski
- Over 4500 objects cataloged online





- o Approximately 400 unique collections identified & cataloged
- Oldest document, June 17, 1555 parchment with royal wax seal of Zygmunt II August, King of Poland (reign: 1548-1572)
- Oldest map, woodcut print of Krakow from 1493 from the Nuremberg Chronicle
- Oldest periodical, *Poland*, published in New York in 1841
- Largest collection, American
 Relief for Poland/ Rada Polonii
 Amerykanskiej Collection, at over
 400 cubic feet guide to collection
 published in 2024
- The first ever guide to Archives collections was published in Polish in 2016, followed by the English version in 2019
- Photo collection: over 9000 photos digitized and cataloged online, oldest from 1860s
- Music collection: 840 titles of printed sheet music and 5400 record titles cataloged online







Library:

- Opened April 18, 1915 as the Library of the PRCUA; consolidated with PMA in 1960
- o 100,000+ titles in entire collection
- o 50,000 circulating titles
- o Oldest book, Wawrzyniec Korwin (Laurentius Corvinus, c. 1465-1527) Compendiosa et facilis diuersorum carminum structura cu



exemplis aptissimis ac ad vnguem elaboratis. Cologne, Martin von Werden, 1508

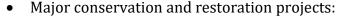
Smallest book, Polish poetry anthology (title unknown), originally owned by Zbigniew Chalko, who kept it safe during the Warsaw

Uprising, internment in German POW camps, and throughout his journey to America and life in Chicago, measuring $1^{3}/8^{\circ}$ x $1^{1}/16^{\circ}$ x $7/16^{\circ}$

Collection programs, ongoing: Rare Book Conservation, Save-the-Book, and Adopt-the-Book

Renovations:

- 2024-2026- Behind the Stage Storage
- o 2022- Green Room
- o 2021- Costume Room
- o 2018- Deborah Greenlee Room
- o 2017- Mieczysław Haiman Rare Documents Archive
- o 2015- Dr. Halina J. Presley Przydatek Rare Books Room
- o 2014- Lobby & Gift Shop
- o 2011- Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery
- o 2009- I.J. Paderewski Room



- o 2024- *Symbol of Poland Reborn*, stained glass designed by Mieczysław Jurgielewicz
- 2023-2024- Stained glass collection: Crucifixion, Sobieski, Paderewski, Holy Mother of Częstochowska, St. Salomea, Copernicus
- o 2021-2022- 19th century wooden sculptures collection
- o 2019-2024- Stations of the Cross from the first Polish Settlement in America, Panna Maria, Texas
- o 2019- Transportation Room ceiling mural Gdynia America Line













- Republic of Poland financial grant and in-kind support received from:
 - o Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
 - o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Senat
 - POLONIKA

- o Consulate General in Chicago
- Head Office of the State Archives
- National Library
- o Institute of National Remembrance

Annual events:

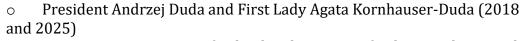


- Official State of Illinois
 Pulaski Day Observance, first
 Monday in March
- Polish Constitution Day Parade, first Saturday in May
- Summer Gala, in June
- o Highlander's Day, in October
- Seasonal workshops Easter pisanki, Christmas ornaments



- First Chairman, Joseph Kania (also serving as PRCUA President, 1934-41 and 1946-53)
- First Curator, Mieczysław Haiman, served 1935-49
- Current leadership, 22 person Board of Directors, headed by an Executive Committee
- Staff (current):
 - o 6 full-time, 8 part-time, and 3 contract employees
 - o Over 200 years of combined PMA experience
 - o 8 Master's degrees in related fields, in addition to continuous professional development
- Membership:
 - o 2,900 current members
 - o 129 at Life Member status
 - o 15 at Life Heritage Member status
 - o 2200 as Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Sponsoring Organization program members
- Distinguished visitors:





- Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and Minister of Culture and National Heritage Piotr Gliński (2023)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacek Czaputowicz (2019)
- Minister of Culture and National Heritage Małgorzata Omilianowska
 (2016)



- President Barak Obama as a US Senator (2006)
- o President Lech Walesa (2000)
- o Cardinal Joseph Glemp (1991)
- Pope Saint John Paul II when he was Cardinal Karol Wojtyła (1969 and 1976)
- Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski (1941)
- Gen. Jozef Haller (1940)





Highlights of past exhibits:

- 100 Years of Polish Sailing, in cooperation with National Maritime Museum, Gdańsk, Poland, 2024-25
- o PRCUA: 150 Years of Cultural, Financial, and Spiritual Growth, 2023
- o Jan Zawilinski Life in Chicago, 2023
- o Polish Imagination The World of Tomorrow, 2019
- o The Polish Poster in the Polish Museum of America Collection, 2018
- o Polonia Goes to War: 100 Years of Poland's Independence, 2018-19
- o Kosciuszko Bicentennial, 2017-18
- Zdzisław Beksiński: A Tale Told by Shadows, in cooperation with Historical Museum, Sanok, Poland, 2017
- o *Between the lines, Poland 1974-1990, 2015*
- o Forbidden Art An Exhibition of Photographs of Camp Art, in conjunction with Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Poland, 2014
- o *And I still see their faces* Photographs of Jewish life in Poland, 1999
- o A Discovering Eye Polish Paintings in the Collection of Tom Podl, 1993
- o The Naked Soul Polish Fin-de-siècle Paintings from the National Museum in Poznań, 1993
- o The Lost Tune Stanisław Szukalski early works as photographed by the artist, 1990

Cultural connections:

- Chicago Cultural Alliance, core member since 1998
- Stała Konferencja Muzeów, Archiwów i Bibliotek Polskich na Zachodzie (MAB)/ Standing Conference of Polish Museums, Archives, and Libraries Abroad, member since 1978-80
- Host of the 46th MAB conference, in September 2024









A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE PMA





(L) PRCUA headquarters and home to the PMA, circa 1930s, original photograph by W.M. Różański, Washington Studios; (R) Drawing by Władysław Krassowski, in *Naród Polski*, January 19, 1936

Press clippings covering the PRCUA's efforts to open a museum and about first donations received



marcal Polisher

Budujmy wszyscy wielkie Archiwan i Mazeum Z. P. R. K.!



CZY BĘDZIE MUZEUM WYCHODŹTWA?

discouley organizają neurom i nechione wychodiży.

Bieli tan przedowarzikiem dokumenty Wydzialu Azro-lewija – Nielyskietra pytialu – Zu się doku z dowym zaniarem siwczenia szytkietra organizacy i niejelicych ściowych – Jubitense biakami Eruchewikium – Parę nier

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Emergen Sal

Museum nychodzwa Zi-dromowie Polskie Raymo-Kanslickie nytoma, ti nakoda romowie nychodzwa polskie ny. Zażajtkiem obsymber ma-roschie maja ina stosy observatych maja ina stosy observa-mentine malamoniczek, maja Wydniał Nasoslowy, wieckog w przyktych pasac możniam og u prace inaderne świalakcze, możne Polskiewskiego i mają tyż.

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PROJEKT GODNY POPARCIA

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No miestany empo ao podelec-ativo museum ezy ambelwam Wy-chodfiwa w Ameryes.

Préba w tym kierunku byta kodyj frebiena w Eologium Zwigalmwem, ale w czasie podaro starego grosebo selod-nago miestanem zostały dbiery musea-nago miestanem zostały dbiery musea-ta i archwam.

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A sakoda io wielia ho pumijinit nyhi tam wiele, lakeum, njoyoy ilatone w
rainjan benjummen, gidas na partwe cunia nie hybity wystawione, dniałaj możnalny się pochwalić.

Nie wienty, czy Zwipiał nie robi w kirranku odbialowy swogo maneum i śrokwem.

Wieroschiwan.

Richtwan.

Wieny sakomiast le Zjednoczenia posturowski lakie niemenum sakożyć, a kustowana medał manny pourz Miserye-law Homenum, raskowany procesenia polskie mi Wymostinie.

Kilka śpelow nianada naj w pranie w sprawie lego śrzbiwem.

Powiadanny, że powjeśt ten jest podarcz poparacja, be potrwała mam dażiego mojecu, gfisieby miena byto gro-actor sakytóż masnej prawiekcie, przesimiotr wartusciane, jest mia moga begieżene muteryalna, te przem begaze begieżene muteryalna, te przem begaze

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POWETANIE MERICA WYCHODETWA W AMERICA.

POWSTASIE MUZEUR WYCHOLETWA POUSITEGO W AMERICE.

Derakja Zgolocowan Freiding, Rzymbokolocowan Freiding, Rzymbokolocowan powiecie w powieci

amag breakdart rammel

POLISH MUSEUM

Rare Mementos Collected Here

Preparation of an extensive museum of radia and mementors covering the nistory of the Polish at \$23,000 already has been covering the nistory of the Polish and \$23,000 already has been covering the nistory of the Polish people in America was announced yesterday by the Roman Catholin Union in America.

Newspapers, rare books and other writines on the contributions of Poles to the progress of America will be on display in the polish and statesman of Polish and statesman of Polish and the status of Polish and the status of 10,000 in the union's head.

There also are eighty old pictures of Gen. Thaddeus Koscius-quarters at Milwanker av, and Augusta hivd.

Joseph L. Kania, president of the training will be opened in about a month.

Photographs dated December 16, 1936





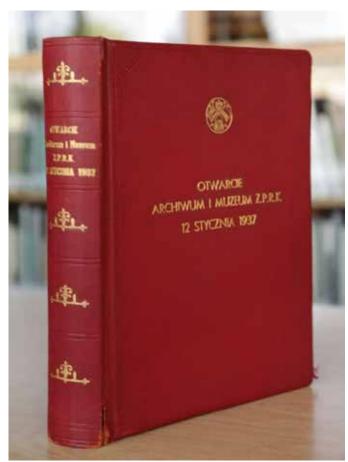


Opening ceremony, January 12, 1937









(Above) Ceremonial ribbon and guest book from the opening day; (Below) Museum doors with pediment handcrafted by Adam Dąbrowski, 1937, entrance to the first Museum, currently the Paderewski Room, original photograph by Zak-Lownsbery; Drawing, "We aspire towards great heights with the Archives and Museum of the PRCUA," by Władysław Krassowski, *Naród Polski*, December 2, 1937









(L) Opening of the Great Hall, October 9, 1939; (R) Museum exhibit, circa 1938-1940



Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch visiting the Museum, July 8, 1940





(L) Members of the First PRCUA Scoutmasters Conference visiting the Museum, July 21, 1940; (R) General Władysław Sikorski visiting the Museum, April 19, 1941





(L) Consul General of Poland in Chicago Dr. Karol Ripa cutting the ribbon at the opening of the enlarged Museum, May 3, 1941 (R) Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Jan Stanczyk cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Paderewski Room, November 3, 1941



Paderewski Room exhibit, circa 1941-1942



(Above) Artifacts from the 1939 Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, displayed in the Museum's Envoy Room, 1943; (Below) Great Hall, circa 1943





(Above) Mieczysław Haiman giving a tour of the Museum to students of St. James School, 1947; (Below) Museum exhibits, circa 1950s







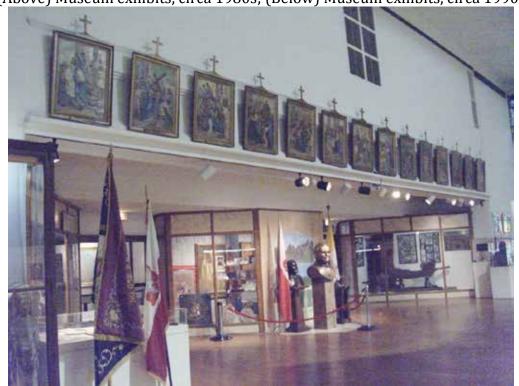


(L) Gov. Daniel Walker signing the Pulaski Day bill in the PMA Great Hall, October 9, 1973; (R) Fr. Donald Bilinski, OFM giving students a tour of the Art Gallery, October 10, 1973





(Above) Museum exhibits, circa 1980s; (Below) Museum exhibits, circa 1990s









(Left) I.J. Paderewski Room, renovated and reopened in 2009; (Right) Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery, renovated and reopened in 2011

The Polish Museum of America, today







BIBLIOTEKA

Zjednoczenia P. R. Katolickiego w Ameryce

POD OPIEKA BOSKIEGO SERCA JEZUSA

984-986 MILWAUKEE AVE.

TEL. MONROE 6872



Chicago, Ill. XII-10-1915.

ODEZWA

DO SZAN. TOWARZYSTW ZJEDNOCZENIA P. R. K. W MIEŚCIE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Celem Zjednoczenia P. R. K., według II-go artykułu Konstytucyi jest:

"Łączenie Polaków-Katolików w jedną Organizacyę, opartą na zasadach wiary Katolickiej ku wzajemnemu moralnemu i materyalnemu popieraniu się. Przez moralne popieranie się rozumieć należy: szerzenie przyjaźni i miłości braterskiej, UPRZYSTĘPNIANIE I KRZE-WIENIE OŚWIATY W DUCHU KATOLICKIM I NARODOWYM ITD."

Konstytucya nasza wkładając na Zjednoczeńców powyższy obowiązek, stwierdza tem samem, że uznaje oświatę jako jeden z najgłówniejszych środków do ocalenia wychodźtwa polskiego przed wynarodowieniem, do zdobycia lepszego jutra, do uświadomienia imigracyi polskiej pod względem religijnym i narodowym.

Dla osiągnięcia tych celów XXXII Sejm Zjednoczenia w Syracuse uchwalił założyć

BIBLIOTEKĘ PUBLICZNĄ

dostępną dla wszystkich, a szczególnie dla Zjednoczeńców.

Pamiętna ta uchwała została wprowadzona w czyn i dziś mamy własną polską Bibliotekę,

mamy skarbnicę wiedzy, z której możemy czerpać wszyscy.

Zwracamy się więc do zwierzchników wszystkich Towarzystw Zjednoczeniowych, by zajęli się sprawą Biblioteki, by starali się swych członków zachęcać do czytania, a tem samem i kształcenia się. Nie o nową czynność tu chodzi, lecz o spemienie obowiązku przez konstytucyę nałożonego.

Tem więcej, że wypożyczanie książek jest zupełnie bezpłatnem, a Zjednoczeńcy nawet kau-

cyi nie składają, lecz nabywają prawa do wypożyczania za złożeniem aplikacyi.

Dla wygody członków Towarzystwa i w tej nadzieji, że usiłowania nasze w kierunku rozbudzenia wśród wychodźtwa potrzeby czytelnictwa odniosą dodatni skutek, załączamy do niniejszej odezwy kilka aplikacyi do rozdania pomiędzy tych członków, którzy mają zamiar wypożyczać książki.

Aplikacya staje się ważną i uprawnia do korzystania z biblioteki po dokładnem wypełnieniu jej i podpisaniu przez prezesa i sekretarza Towarzystwa.

O ileby więcej członków miało zamiar wypożyczać książki, prosimy zwrócić się do Zarządu

Biblioteki, a odpowiednią ilość aplikacyi prześlemy bezpłatnie.

Do dzieła więc Zjednoczeńcy, garnijmy się do oświaty, idźmy z żywymi naprzód, by rozpoznać szlaki i drogi, któremi iść nam wypadnie ku lepszej, promiennej, niepodległej przyszłości.

Z bratniem pozdrowieniem

Zarząd Biblioteki Z. P. R. K.;

Każde Towarzystwo i pojedyńczy członkowie życzliwie usposobieni dla Biblioteki, proszeni są o składki choćby najdrobniejsze, które przyjmuje Sekr. Gen. J. S. Konopa.

KS. TOMASZ BONA, z Wydz. Oświaty. WŁ KOCWA, Bibliotekarz.







PRCUA Library, from left: Edmund L. Kowalczyk, Mieczysław Haiman, Sabina F. Logisz, circa 1937-1939

The Library Reading Room through the years







































OLGA BOZNAŃSKA

The Polish Parliament Sejm established 2025 as the Year of Olga Boznańska to celebrate the 160th anniversary of her birth (April 15, 1865 in Krakow, under the Austrian partition of Poland) and the 85th anniversary of her death (October 26, 1940 in Paris, in German-occupied France).

One of the greatest female Polish artists of the early 20th century, Boznańska studied in private schools and studios in Kraków and Munich. However, it was French Impressionism that had decisive influence on her work. In 1898, she left Kraków to live permanently in Paris. Around 1900, she developed a unique style of painting, rooted in Neo-Romanticism and Symbolism, going beyond the Young Poland Modernism approach. An excellent portrait painter, with great sensitivity, she showed emotional conditions of her models, using a spare range of colors, often limited to gray, blue, white and black—hence the term: "a gray painter." She was also known as "a

painter of silence." Using

flickering stains of paint, dull coloring and slight vibration of shapes, Boznańska introduced to her paintings the element of irrational mystery, an intimate understatement of a situation, suggesting its hidden agenda, also in still lifes, landscapes and genre scenes. The artist painted multiple self-portraits throughout her career. Widely acclaimed in her lifetime, she was made a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur in 1912, and, in 1938, she was awarded the Polonia Restituta medal, Poland's highest civilian decoration.

PMA collections include Boznańska's *Madame Paris*, ca. 1912 (Oil on wood panel, inv. 2015.01.0016, Polish Museum of America New York World's Fair Collection). Madame Marie Paris was a French philosopher and a friend of the artist. An enigmatic figure, she apparently was a disciple of the Polish philosopher Wincenty Lutosławski and Frenchman Henri Bergson. French novelist Gabrielle Réval and painter Paul Neuen were also a part of the circle of intellectual friends who were portrayed in paintings by Boznańska.

In 2018, conservation of this painting was generously funded by POLONIKA The National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, under the Ministry of Culture and

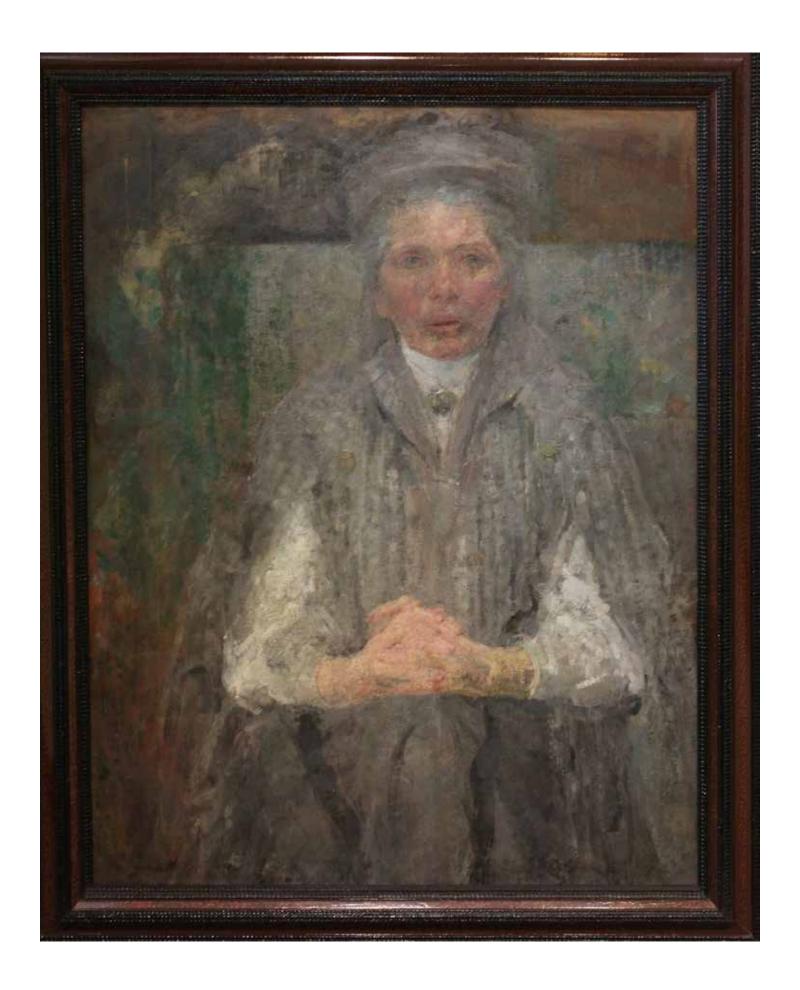
National Heritage of the Republic of Poland. In honor of the Year of Boznańska, Polish President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda were presented with a replica *Madame Paris* during their visit to the PMA on March 3, 2025. Another replica is available as part of tonight's Silent Auction.

The original painting is in need of a new frame, better fitting the canvas and reflective of the style of Boznańska. Please consider sponsorship of this project, during the Year of Boznańska, or one of the many projects in restoring PMA collections and artifacts.









EVENING PROGRAM

6:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour Silent Auction Commences

7:30 p.m. Welcome & Introduction Agnieszka Bastrzyk

of Master of Ceremony 2025 Summer Gala Chair

Introductions Mateusz Bomba, Master of Ceremony

Anthems James J. Robaczewski

PMA Chair & PRCUA President

Invocation Rev. Robert Bedziński, SChr

Holy Trinity Polish Mission Pastor

Toast Richard Owsiany, PMA President

Małgorzata Kot, PMA Managing Director

Dinner

8:30 p.m. Remarks Mateusz Bomba

Greetings Regina Jurkowska, Consul General

of the Republic of Poland

Teresa Opalińska-Kopeć, World Polonia Council Presidium Member - Austria

Council Presidium Member - Austria

Recognition of Donors James J. Robaczewski & Polish Spirit Award Richard Owsiany

Małgorzata Kot

Hej Wesołe Ludzie Polka Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company

Music by Polka Family of PRCUA

9:00 p.m. Music and Dancing Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra

10:00 p.m. Silent Auction Concludes

DINNER MENU

Wine Served with Entrée

Cream of Tomato with Basil

O'Hare Salad served with Strawberries, Pine nuts and a Raspberry Vinaigrette

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

Filet Mignon with Grilled Seasonal Vegetables and Baby Potatoes

or

Salmon with Green Beans and Baby Potatoes

or

Baked Zucchini with Marinara Sauce and Cheese with Grilled Seasonal Vegetables and Baby Potatoes

DESSERT Strawberry Ice Cream Coffee and Tea Service



SILENT AUCTION

Thanks to generous donors, these items for the 45th Summer Gala are available for bidding. As you enjoy this elegant evening, please be sure to place your bids on one – or a few! items up for auction.

- 1. LOT Polish Airlines One (1) Round Trip Economy Class Ticket from Chicago to Poland (\$900 value)
- 2. Chicago Cubs Four (4) tickets to Friday, August 1, 2025 @ 1:20 pm. Vs. Baltimore Orioles. Sections 217, Row 2, Seat 1, 2, 3 & 4, donated by John Chitkowski, and overnight night apartment stay with parking in Chicago's Wrigleyville neighborhood, donated by Victoria Granacki (\$1000 value)
- 3. Gift basket from Michigan, donated by the Kusmierczak Family (\$180 value)
- 4. Italian style gift basket, donated by Sharon Orlowski (\$60 value)
- 5. Picnic gift basket, donated by Sharon Orlowski (\$60 value)
- 6. *Behind the stage*, Voytek Glinkowski, donated by the artist (\$1000 value)
- 7. We will dance tonight, Voytek Glinkowski, donated by the artist (\$1100 value)
- 8. Faces, Margaret Burroughs, donated by Basia Kozuchowska (\$1000 value)
- 9. Family, Margaret Burroughs, donated by Basia Kożuchowska (\$800 value)
- 10. *Katyń*, Wladyslaw Adamski, print donated by the artist (\$600 value)
- 11. *Katyń*, Wladyslaw Adamski, canvas donated by the artist (\$800 value)
- 12. Canvas replica sized 18" x 24" of *Madame Paris*, Olga Boznańska (\$350 value)
- 13. Crystal Vase with etched tree (11" high), donated by the PMA Gift Shop (\$90 value)
- 14. Boleslawiec flower patterned baking dish (7 ¾" square), donated by the PMA Gift Shop (\$70 value)
- 15. Jewelry set amber pendant, earrings, and bracelet, donated by the PMA Gift Shop (\$170 value)
- 16. Jewelry set amber earrings, ring, and bracelet, donated by the PMA Gift Shop (\$170 value)
- 17. Jewelry set necklace and bracelet, donated by Malgorzata Palka (\$300 value)
- 18. Sailing on *SY Tatra* for four (4) with Captain Bogdan Ogorek (\$1200 value)
- 19. Tour of Chicago for eight (8) with VIP Travel Groups Chicago (\$1500 value)
- 20. Ash Bench with Black Walnut Shelf (approx. 62" long x 21" wide x 18" tall), handcrafted and donated by Ted Kozelka (\$650 value)
- 21. Pair of Ebony Inlaid Couch Tables (27" long x 17" wide x 24" tall), handcrafted and donated by Ted Kozelka (\$475 value)
- 22. Behind the Scenes Tour of the PMA for two (2), including lunch (\$150 value)
- 23. Original Polish language catalogue from the 1939 World's Fair New York Polish Pavilion (\$300 value)
- 24. The Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair (1939-1940) by Krystyna Nowakowska, and Polish Past in America 1608-1865 by Mieczysław Haiman (\$100 value)
- 25. Authentic Polish Highlander ciupaga (\$300 value)
- 26. Six-days stay at Pantheon Apartments, located near the magical Old Town of Krakow, donated by the Pawlowski Family (\$750 value)
- 27. Five-days stay at Golden Loft Sopot by Dom & House, donated by the Kowalczyk Family (\$2000 value)

WESOŁY LUD POLISH FOLK DANCE COMPANY of PRCUA

The WESOŁY LUD Polish Folk Dance Company from Chicago was founded in 1977 at the initiative of Mrs. Micheline "Misia" Binkowski-Jamiński, to perpetuate Polish folk culture by presenting dances and songs in regional costumes. The group operates under the auspices of the Polish Roman Catholic Union in America - the oldest and one of the largest Polish organizations in the USA. The Artistic Director and Choreographer is Richard Jaminski.

The young adults in Wesoły Lud devote their time and energy to learning a variety of dances from different regions of Poland, as well as specific customs and traditions, which, combined, result in wonderful folk performances prepared especially for an enthusiastic audience, as well as provides a profound cultural education.

The group's repertoire includes regional dances and vocal suites from 17 regions of Poland, as well as the Polish national dances: Polonaise, Mazur, Oberek, Kujawiak and Krakowiak. The ensemble also presents a variety of Polish traditions, in addition to American numbers such as the Polish-American Chicago polkas, jitterbug and jive. In this way, young Americans of Polish descent discover pride in their Polish heritage.

Since 1980, Wesoły Lud has participated and performed in thirteen International Festivals of Polonian Folk Ensembles in Rzeszów, Poland. In 1980, Wesoły Lud received a special award for Youth and Expression from the Ministry of Culture in Poland, and, in 2007, its first Gold Medal from Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska for perpetuating Polish culture in the USA and throughout the world. At the 2019 Rzeszów Festival, Wesoły Lud was recognized with a second Gold Medal of Merit award from Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska.

As a young ambassador of the Polish community in the Chicagoland area, WESOŁY LUD performed not only in Rzeszów but also in several other Polish cities; in Vilnius, Lithuania; at the Opera and Ballet Theater in Lviv, Ukraine; twice in Shanghai, China; in Budapest, Hungary; in Beijing, China; in Prague, Czech Republic, and twice in both Montreal and Toronto, Canada, and in many cities throughout the United States of America. It is always warmly welcomed in Sweet Home Chicago and its neighboring suburbs. Each performance holds a special memory in the history of Wesoły Lud.

The innovative and artistic talents of Richard Jamiński (an accredited choreographer from Rzeszów who joined the company in 1987), together with the visionary leadership of Pani Misia, the founder of Wesoły Lud and the first artistic director and choreographer, strengthened the artistry and dynamics of the company that went beyond the original mission of the dance company. Both are recipients of the Silver Cross of Merit from the Republic of Poland.



Tonight, it is with great pleasure that the Wesoły Polish Folk Dance Company of the PRCUA performs one of its Polish American Chicago Polkas for the guests of the 45th PMA Summer Gala during this 90th Anniversary of the Polish Museum of America. Both of these cultural institutions were founded thanks to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Continued success to these and all Polish American entities. We hope you enjoy our performance!

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Carlos Escobar

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The volunteer Board of Directors meets quarterly and serves on committees without compensation.

Employees represent over 150 years of combined PMA experience with higher education in related fields, in addition to continuous professional development, as well as a passion for Poland and Polonia.

This compilation of volunteers is done in alphabetical order based on those who register or who have provided service of which the PMA is aware. Each hour donated is a multiplier that advances the plans of the PMA. There are many more individuals working on committees, giving of their time, or more, whose names are not reflected here, but to whom the PMA extend its sincerest *Bóg zapłać!*

SUSTAINING DONORS

The Polish Museum of America recognizes the following who annually contribute –

Their donation is a belief in the work of the PMA



Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

In Memory of Jack & Dorothy Radgowski
Władysława Toczycki Trust
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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Polish Museum of America recognizes the ongoing grant support received from the Republic of Poland



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland



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№ IN MEMORIAM ७



Alicja Nawara (1958–2024), a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America, was a dedicated educator, author, and active figure in Chicago's Polish community. Born in Poznań and educated in Kraków, she earned her degree in geography before emigrating to the United States in 1989. In Chicago, she taught at the Polish School of St. Maximilian Kolbe, coauthored geography textbooks for Polish diaspora students, and served for many years as vice president of the Polish Teachers Association in America.

Deeply engaged in cultural life, she organized exhibitions, competitions, and educational events, many in partnership with the PMA, to which she was elected as a board member in 2021. Her efforts were recognized with the Medal of the National Education Commission and the Gold Cross of Merit.

Alicja was admired not only for her tireless work but for her sharp wit, generosity, and sense of humor. She died at 66 and was laid to rest in Tczyca near Miechów.

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Joseph A. Drobot, PMA Chairman, 1979



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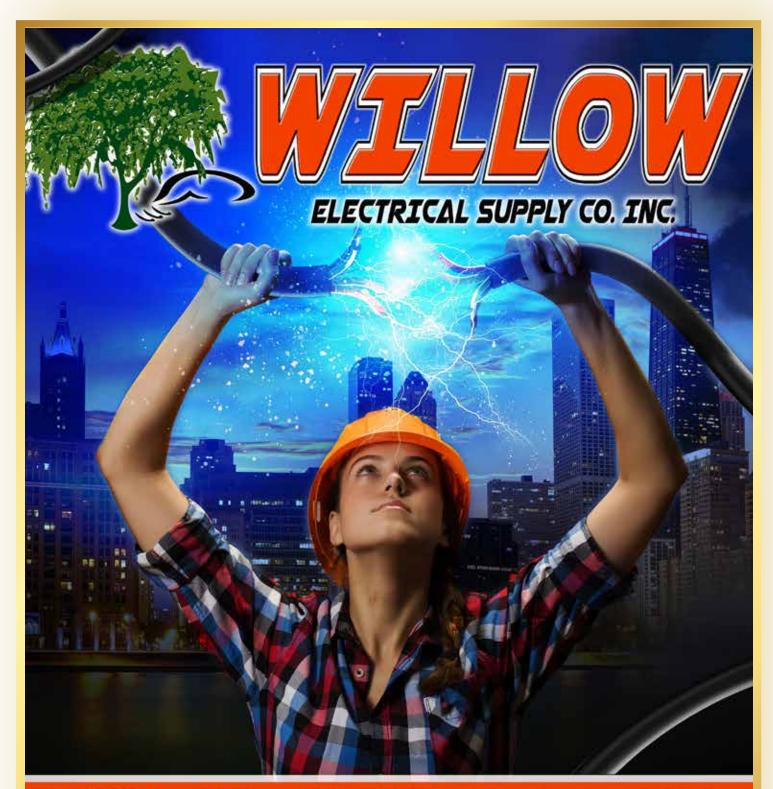
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Congratulations to the Polish Spirit Awardees Krzysztof Matyszczyk & the Polish American Police Association



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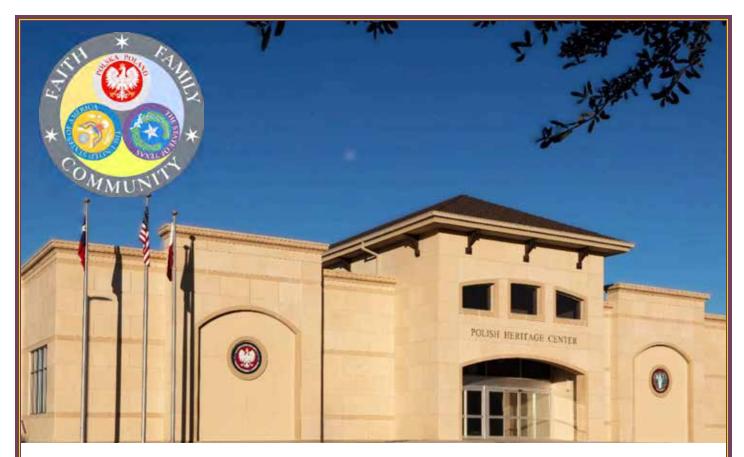
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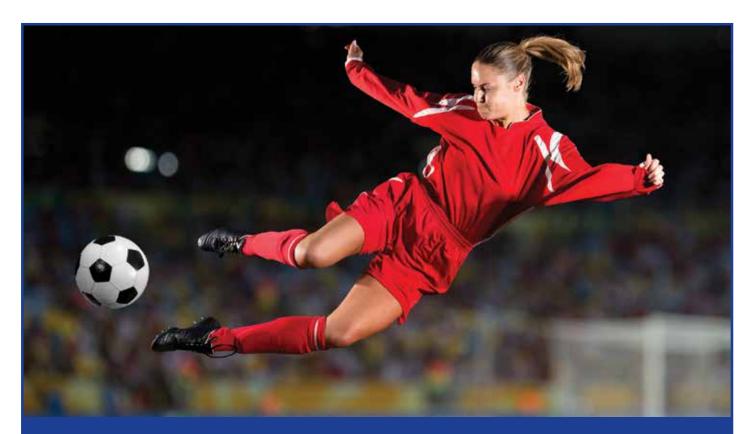
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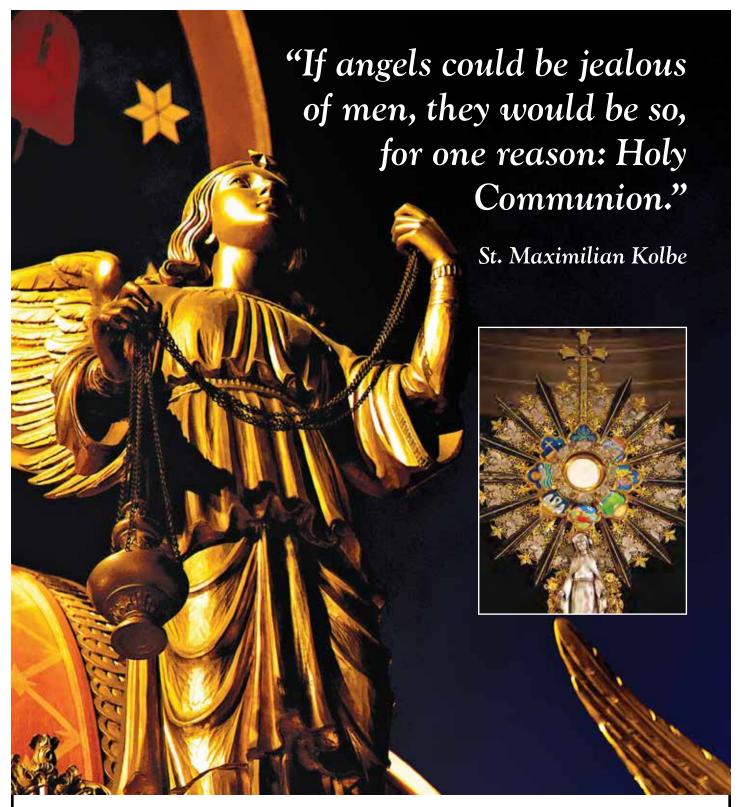
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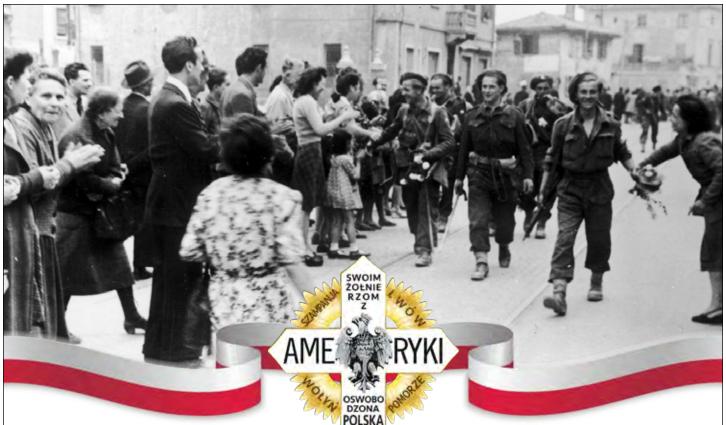


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STOWARZYSZENIE WETERANÓW ARMII POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE, OKRĘG 2.

Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce Gratulujemy osiągnięcia 90-lecia oraz życzymy dalszych sukcesów i rozwoju

Congratulations to
THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA
on its 90th Anniversary
wishing you continued success and growth in the years to come



80. ROCZNICA WYZWOLENIA BOLONII PRZEZ ŻOŁNIERZY 2 KORPUSU POLSKIEGO

POLISH ARMY VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA DISTRICT 2 17 IRVING PLACE | NEW YORK, NY 10003 | ADMIN@PAVA-SWAP.ORG



Legion of Young Polish Women

Congratulates

Polish Museum of America

on 90 successful years!



2025 Debutantes of the White & Red Ball

Save the Date White & Red Ball – February 28, 2026

Additional information about the Legion can be found at www.lypw.org

Serdecznie gratulujemy

MUZEUM POLSKIEMU W AMERYCE

wspaniałej działalności na niwie historyczno-kulturalnej

The Polish Scouting Organization of Illinois

congratulates The Polish Museum of America on 90 years of preserving Polish and Polonian culture and heritage

Czuwaj!

Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego — Obwód Chicago

Przewodnicząca hm. Beata Niebrugge

Hufiec Harcerek "Tatry" Hufcowa hm. Alexis Wagner

> Krąg Starszoharcerski "Złote Orły"

Kierowniczka phm. Karolina Kordalewski

Koło Przyjaciół Harcerstwa-ChicagoPrezes pwd. Tomasz Senator

Hufiec Harcerzy "Warta" Hufcowy phm. Krzysztof Grządziel

> Zespoły Taneczne "Lechici" i "Orlęta" Kierownik hm. Konrad Więcek

Koło Przyjaciół Harcerstwa-Addison Prezeska Iwona Kapica



HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA.

We look forward to many more years of inspiring, educating and engaging the community. Many thanks to those who will ensure its enduring legacy. Congratulations to all who contributed to its history, especially, its founder,

THE POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA

Southwest Center of Polish Song & Dance of PRCUA EST. 1985

Anna Kraszewski-Winkler, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Richard Jaminski, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of PRCUA EST. 1977

Richard Jaminski, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Danielle Kroplewski, ASSISTANT

Adult Culture Group of PRCUA EST. 1969

2025 Cinderella Emilia Kroplewski & Prince Charming Maciej Truty

Cinderella-Prince Charming Ball November 22, 2025

50th Fashion Show

March 8, 2026
ADULTCULTUREGROUP@GMAIL.COM



PRCUA District 8 EST. 1952

Krystyna Lech, PRESIDENT
Joanna Niedzielski, VICE PRESIDENT
Danielle Kroplewski, SECRETARY
Richard Jaminski, TREASURER
Mirek Cislo, SGT-AT-ARMS

PRCUA National Directors

Liz Dynowski & Mirek Cislo



"...That's why we have the Museum... to remind us of how we came, and why: to start fresh, and begin a new place from what we had learned and carried from the old. – LOIS LOWRY

Micheline & Richard Jaminski

PRCUA VICE PRESIDENT/PMA VICE CHAIR/PAC NATIONAL TREASURER

GRATULUJEMY PIĘKNEGO JUBILEUSZU 90-LECIA ISTNIENIA MUZEUM POLSKIEGO W AMERYCE. JEST TO SERCE BIJĄCE POLSKĄ HISTORIĄ, CIEKAWYMI WYSTAWAMI I SPOTKANIAMI.

SKŁADAMY NAJLEPSZE ŻYCZENIA DALSZYCH SUKCESÓW I KOLEJNYCH JUBILEUSZY.



IRENA I BRIAN GAVAGHAN
VIRGINIA, DARIUSZ, JULIA I ANDREW STEKALA
VICTORIA, MATEUSZ I MILENA BOMBA

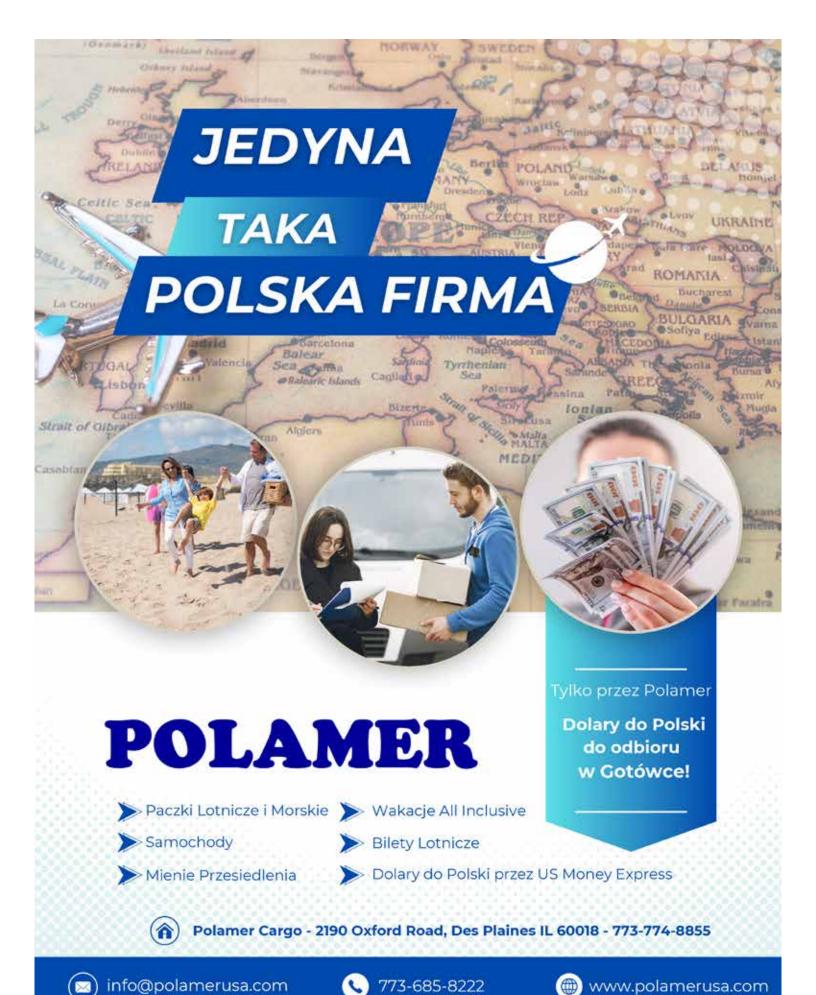
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

FRANK A. CRISSIE 224.217.6553

fcrissie@acrisure.com

6400 Shafer Court, Suite 600 Rosemont, IL 60018

Congratulations

Congratulations on the 90th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

Congratulations on receiving the Polish Spirit Award to the Chairman of the Board of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union, Mr. Krzysztof Matyszczyk.

Congratulations to the Polish-American Police Association for receiving a Polish Spirit Award.

Congratulations to Managing Director Malgorzata Kot, for 30 years of devotion, serving PMA and Polonia.





On the occasion
of the 45th jubilee Gala
and Polish Museum of America
90th anniversary of its founding
by the Polish Roman Catholic Union
of America
we send our congratulations and thanks.
We wish you perseverance
and success in your mission of saving,
caring for, and preserving
the national, historical, and cultural heritage
for future generations.

Holy Trinity Polish Mission in Chicago Chicago, April 22, 2025



"Serving the people of Polonia"

John J. Chitkowski

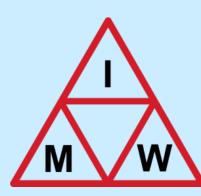
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, General Counsel Polish Museum of America, Director and General Counsel Copernicus Foundation, General Counsel 901 Warrenville Road, Suite 103 Lisle, Illinois 60532 tel: 630-824-4808 fax: 630-824-4809 www.chitkowskilaw.com

jjc@chitkowskilaw.com

BUSINESS - LIFE - HEALTH

Congratulations to the

Polish Museum of America for 90 years of preserving and showcasing the cultural heritage of Polonia



Industrial Maintenance Welding & Machining Co.



Congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on its 90th Anniversary!

Your dedication to preserving and celebrating Polish culture, history and art has enriched generations.

We are proud to celebrate this remarkable milestone with you.

HANDZEL WORKS FOR YOU. SINCE 1989.









CONGRATULATIONS ON PMA 90TH ANNIVERSARY! We salute

The Polish Museum of America
In its Efforts to Preserve and Promote
Polish Culture and Heritage
For Future Generations





Congratulations to the Polish Museum of America

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of its founding

Congratulations to the 2025 Spirit Award Recipients

Krzysztof Matyszczyk and the Polish American Police Association

Congratulations

to the Polish Museum of America on the 90th Anniversary of its founding by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America as well as the 2025 Recipients of the Polish Spirit Award!



Polish American Congress, Illinois Division

www.pacillinois.org

Save the Date: October 19, 2025 Polish American Congress Heritage Banquet recognizing distinguished members of the Polish community

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Congratulations and the best wishes to

The Polish Museum of America

for unbelievable 90 Years Anniversary

Congratulations to 2025 recipients of POLISH SPIRIT AWARDS

Krzysztof Matyszczyk

and

Polish American Police Association





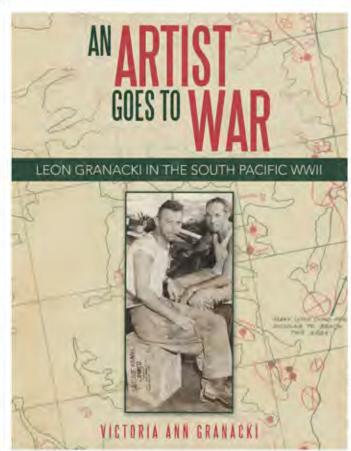
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Illustrated biography recounts how one soldier used his art skills to survive World War II

Original maps, jungle watercolors, journal illustrations, scrapbook photos, and over 200 letters home to Leon Granacki's extended Polish American family in Chicago reveal his longing for family, shared holidays, fishing, and a woman to love. They tell what it felt like on a very personal level to be part of a raging war in the South Pacific.

Victoria Granacki, PMA Board of Directors Secretary, is the author of Chicago's Polish Downtown from Arcadia Publishing, and of many historic articles in PMA Gala program books

Available at Archway Publishing, Amazon, Barnes & Noble

http://GranackiArts.com Email: Granacki@aol.com



Congratulations

The Polish American Judges Association (PAJA) proudly honors the exceptional contributions of the Polish Museum of America

and extends its warmest congratulations to this year's Polish Spirit Award Honorees:

Krzysztof Matyszczyk & the Polish American Police Association.

Executive Board

President Judge Diann K. Marsalek

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Recording Secretary Judge Diane Pezanoski

Corresponding Secretary Judge Pamela Stratigakis

www.PolishAmericanJudges.com







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Best wishes to The Polish Museum of America. its Board of Directors, Gala Organizing Committee. May this Gala be huge fun for all in attendance and bear much fruit of success.

> Best To All. Katarzyna Kusz, DDS & Team



Triumph of the Risen Christ (detail) by Tadeusz Żukotyński St. Stanislaus Kostka (sanctuary)

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish; The Sanctuary of The Divine Mercy

The first Polish parish in Chicago established in 1867

Congratulates the Polish Museum of America for 90 years of preserving Polish Heritage, the Catholic Faith, and the beauty created by Polish artists.

Mass: Sunday 8:30 am (Polish), 7:00 am & 10:00 am English

1327 N Noble St. Chicago IL 60642

773-278-2470 ststanschurch.org

Open 24 hours a day for adoration



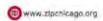
On behalf of the Polish American Medical Society, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on the momentous occasion of your 90th anniversary. For nine decades, the PMA has stood as a cornerstone of Polish and Polish American heritage, preserving our shared history and culture for generations to come. Your dedication to preserving the achievements and stories of Polonia has enriched not only the Polish community in Chicago but also countless visitors from across the United States and beyond. We applaud your unwavering commitment and wish you continued success in your mission to safeguard and celebrate our collective legacy. Sto lat!



President: Josephine Długoposki-Gach, MD

> Vice Presidents: Stanisalw Bryjak, MD Bartosz Wojewnik, MD

President Ex Officio: Peter Brukasz, MD





Secretary: Agnes Hurtuk, MD

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BEST WISHES AND CONTINUED SUCCESS to the POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

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> Robert J. Hughes, CPA Kurt P. Hoffman, CPA Ronald E. Feiereisel, CPA



POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of AMERICA

The board and its members thank the

Polish Museum

of America

for its long and continuing service to Polonia

www.pgsa.org



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Polish National Alliance Building 1627 Eastern Ave., Suite 100 Baltimore MD 21231

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Congratulations to
The Polish Museum of America
on your 2025 Gala!

From Mayor Thaddeus M. Jones and the City of Calumet City



Congratulations <u>Polish Museum of America</u>

2025 PMA GALA

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of its founding

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Your 90th Jubilee is not only an Anniversary, but also proof that together you can overcome difficulties and fulfill dreams.

Congratulations to everyone and we wish you continued success.



Stowarzyszenie Dziennikarzy Polskich w Ameryce

> Polish Journalists Association in America

Warmest Congratulations to the PMA from the Kosciuszko Foundation Chicago Chapter





Congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on its 90th anniversary and to the Polish Spirit awardees

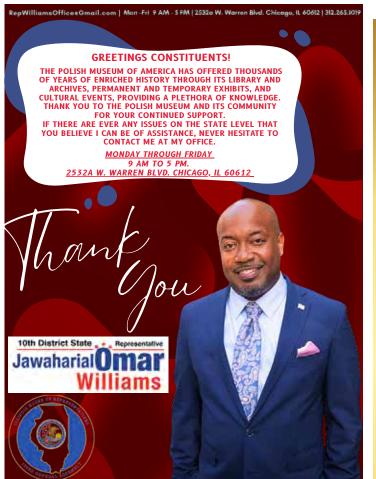
Polanki

the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee

Preserving and Promoting Polish Culture since 1953

College Achievement Awards Polanki Library at the Polish Center of Wisconsin Kościuszko Monument, Milwaukee, WI

https://polanki.org Follow us on Facebook!





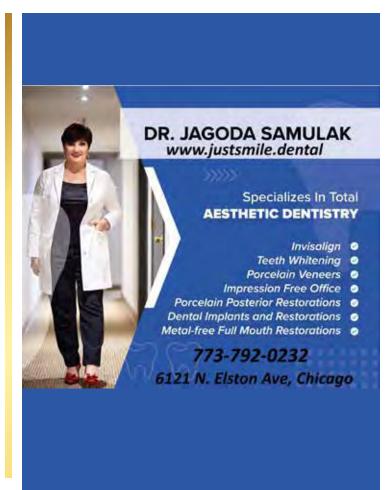
Congratulations to the Polish Museum of America

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of its founding



Congratulations to the
2025 Spirit Award Recipients
Krzysztof Matyszczyk
and the
Polish American Police Association

Dr. Agnieszka Chruszczyk, DDS



Warmest Congratulations on the 90th
Anniversary of The Polish Museum of America!
May the next chapter continue to inspire generations with
the stories of the past, while shaping a future full of pride,
unity, and cultural understanding.





ALLIANCE OF POLISH CLUBS IN THE USA

Congratulations to the Polish Museum in America on your 90th Anniversary.

We appreciate your dedication to history and culture. Wishing you continued success.

Board & Members of the APC

Mark your calendars:

August 24, 2025 Harvest Festival

September 21, 2025 A Remembrance Day to commemorate Victims of World War II, Russian Invasion of Poland, and Siberians' Day

October 18, 2025 the 3rd Heritage Leaders Conference

December 7, 2025 Polonia Christmas Celebration





Congratulations to both the Polish American Police Association and

Krzysztof Matyszczyk

for being awarded the 2025 Polish Spirit Awards!

We also join in celebrating the great work of the Polish Museum of America "in preserving the past for the benefit of the future," on the occasion of their 90th Anniversary, and 45th Annual Gala!

The Polish American Engineers Association Chicago, June 13, 2025

www.polishengineers.org

We invite all interested to our meetings, each 3rd Friday of the month Please see our website for details









IF YOU ARE A NEW OR EXISTING MEMBER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION CHOOSE THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA AS YOUR SPONSORING INSTITUTION

THANK YOU!



DZIĘKUJEMY **POLSKO-SŁOWIAŃSKIEJ FEDERALNEJ UNII KREDYTOWEJ**ZA UMIESZCZENIE NAS NA LIŚCIE ORGANIZACJI SPONSORUJĄCYCH.
ZACHĘCAMY DO WYBIERANIA **MUZEUM POLSKIEGO W AMERYCE**PRZY OTWIERANIU KONT W NASZEJ UNII.



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