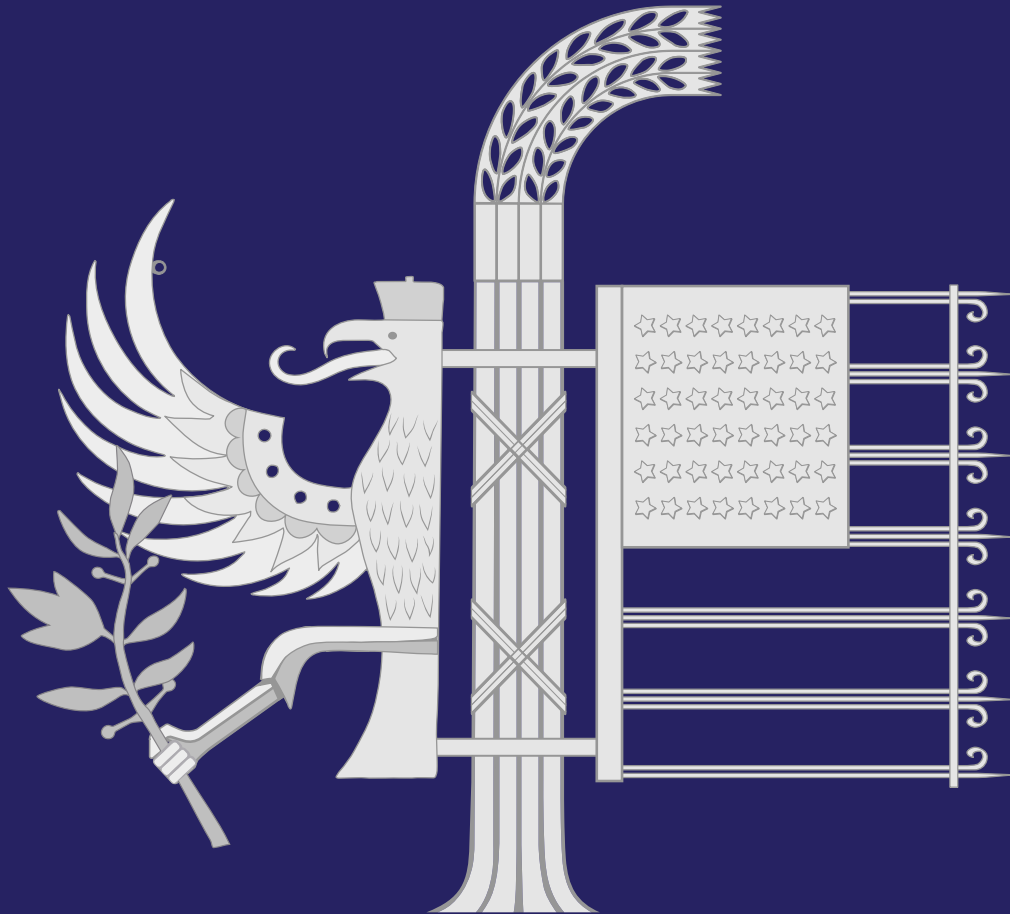


46TH ANNUAL SUMMER GALA



THE POLISH
MUSEUM
OF AMERICA



THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

46TH SUMMER GALA

*Celebrating Polish American contributions to
250 years of American Independence*



Friday, June 12, 2026

O'Hare Tech Center
Schiller Park, Illinois

2026 Spirit Award Recipients

HUBERT CIOROMSKI

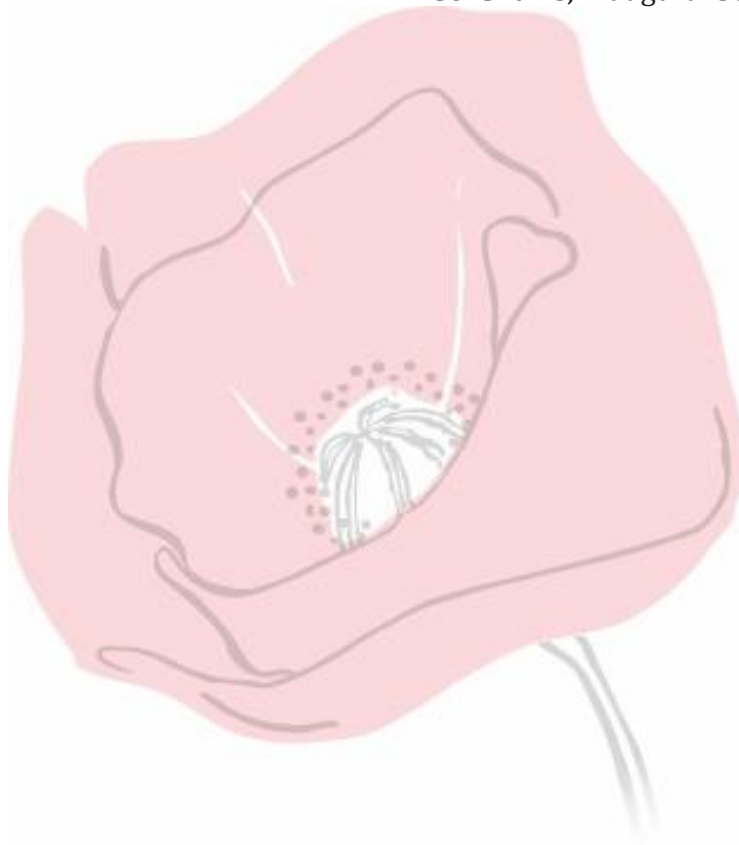
PIOTR UZAROWICZ

PNC BANK



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 a beautiful and common summer wild flower of Poland, symbolizing both Flanders Field to Americans and Monte Cassino to Poles.

**THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA
46TH SUMMER GALA COMMITTEE**

Chair	Mateusz Bomba
Appeals & Advertisements	Małgorzata Kot, Richard Owsiany, Andrzej Pawlowski
Articles	Micheline Jaminski, Anne Moschopoulos
Reservations	Mary Jane Robles
Silent Auction	Sharon Orlowski
Decorations	Julie Prado, Lily Prado
Motif Design	Elizabeth Dziadulewicz
Technical Support	Dariusz Lachowski
Administration	Teresa Sromek

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra
POLONIA Song and Folk Dance Ensemble
O'Hare Tech Center
Art Vision

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Agnieszka Bastryk
Iwona Bożek
Krzysztof Branka
Lucie Bucki
Beata Czerkawski
Jan Góra
Krystyna Grell

Barbara Kożuchowska
Jan Lorys
Halina Misterka
Katarzyna Ogórek
Beata Pawlikowska
Michael Perzynski

Anna Ratka
Sergio Romero
Jadwiga Rup
Julita Siegel
Anna Sokolowski
Conrad Wiecek
Daniela Wojas



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Polish Museum of America's 46th Annual Summer Gala. This year's Gala celebrates the 250th anniversary of American independence and the contribution of Poles and Polish Americans to the fabric of our great nation. One can trace the beginning of Polish footprints to Jamestown, where the first Poles staged the first strike for a right to vote. Because the Poles' skilled labor was highly valued and important to the colony, they were granted full and equal voting privileges. As we move toward the Revolutionary War, Pułaski and Kościuszko play prominent roles in the war for independence. Remembering that Poland was once an independent nation, Poles began arriving in the United States and took part in building our nation in all fields of endeavor such as commerce, education, agriculture, finance, government, religion, military, sciences, health, arts, sports, entertainment, and many more. As Polish Americans, we can be proud of our contributions and accomplishments over these 250 years. The distinction of Polish American efforts in the United States is recognized in all corners of our nation. At The Polish Museum of America, we proudly honor all Polish American contributions and efforts in significantly shaping the United States.

We also are proud of The Polish Museum of America's impact in the preservation of our heritage for all Americans to see and learn. Whether it is through exhibits, our archives or our library, the PMA preserves our past to benefit the future and maintains the title as one of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States.

The Summer Gala is the PMA's biggest fundraiser of the year. Through your support of the Gala, we are able to continue our work. In appreciation of your support, each guest will receive a commemorative pin depicting the Henryk Grunwald sculpture from the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Thank you to our partners throughout the year, especially the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America for their unwavering support for over 90 years. Congratulations to our Spirit Award recipients: Hubert Cioromski, Piotr Uzarowicz, and PNC Bank, who exemplify the importance of supporting and promulgating Polish heritage and whose efforts and contributions have made an impact on Polonia and the PMA. I would like to thank our 46th Summer Gala Chair, Mateusz Bomba, and the entire Committee, for planning tonight's elegant evening. Finally, I would like to thank our staff for making the PMA a world class institution.

Your belief and commitment to the work that we do ensures that the PMA will continue its mission of preserving our heritage and maintaining the Polish Museum of America as the Treasure of Polonia. *Bóg zapłać!*

Richard Owsiany

SŁOWO DYREKTOR ZARZĄDZAJĄCEJ

Szanowni Państwo, Drodzy Przyjaciele Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,

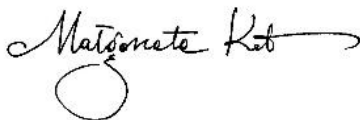
Minął kolejny piękny rok, tym razem rok jubileuszowy Muzeum. Wybrzmiał symbolicznie - okazał nam nowe twarze, przypomniał oddanych od lat przyjaciół i utwierdził nas w misji „zachowywania przeszłości dla przyszłych pokoleń”. Wiele dokonaliśmy zespołowo jubileuszowych projektów, w tym konserwacji, spotkań, kwerend, wyzwań, nauki i współpracy. Muzeum odwiedziło w rzeczywistości i wirtualnie tysiące mądrych, wrażliwych i zainteresowanych naszymi zbiorami ludzi z całego świata. Odwiedzający nas goście zwykli nam pozwalać patrzeć na siebie ich oczyma. Tym bardziej nas ucieszył fakt, że niektórzy z nich polubili nas na dłużej i stali się naszymi członkami na rozmaitych, odświeżonych poziomach. Zapraszamy do wstępowania w poczet naszych członków!

Współpraca z naszymi mecenasami, przede wszystkim z instytucją nam matkującą, czyli ze Zjednoczeniem Polskim Rzymsko-Katolickim w Ameryce, Ministerstwem Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego, Ministerstwem Spraw Zagranicznych, Instytutem Polonika oraz Osobami prywatnymi, które nie podają do wiadomości publicznej nazwisk - staje się naszą siłą, która jasno przekłada się na wszechstronne działania.

Dziękuję wszystkim naszym mecenasom, patronom i sponsorom. Gratuluję tym, którzy przyczynili się do sukcesu naszego 46. Balu letniego honorującego wkład Polaków w 250 lat historii Stanów Zjednoczonych, w szczególności Komitetowi Balowemu pod kierownictwem entuzjastycznego Mateusza Bomby.

Gratuluję znanym nam od wielu lat osobowościom: Hubertowi Cioromskiemu, Piotrowi Uzarowiczowi oraz zawsze pomocnemu PNC Bank, którzy otrzymują od MPA nagrodę Ducha Polskości 2026. Wasza służba na rzecz polskości cieszy i rozwijać się będzie na przyszłe lata.

Dziękuję wszystkim Państwu z serca za nasz kolejny wspólny rok! Wspaniałej zabawy, ciekawych wspomnień i do zobaczenia w naszym zadziwiającym i jedynym w swoim rodzaju Muzeum! Z Bogiem!



Małgorzata Kot



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

June 12, 2026

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 46th 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 Hubert Cioromski, Piotr Uzarowicz, and PNC Bank-Illinois 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", written in a stylized, cursive script.

Governor JB Pritzker



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

June 12, 2026

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I welcome all those gathered for the 46th 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 **Hubert Cioromski, Piotr Uzurowicz, and PNC Bank-Illinois** 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Johnson".

Mayor



Illinois State Treasurer

MICHAEL FRERICHS

June 12, 2026

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

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Museum of Polish America's Summer Gala. Tonight, we gather in celebration of the country's 250-year jubilee and to recognize the role of Polonia in this nation's history.

This year's gala honors two extraordinary individuals, Hubert Cioromski and Piotr Uzarowicz, with the prestigious Polish Spirit Award. Their passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to promoting Polish culture exemplifies the essence of the Polish spirit. Their work has greatly benefited the Museum and strengthened the bonds that unite us all and inspire future generations of Polish Americans.

As you enjoy this evening's festivities—filled with music, art, and friendship—I invite you to reflect on the legacy of the Polish Museum of America. The Museum enables us to interpret the past and comprehend the future. It gives strength to a culture by preserving and celebrating history.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Frerichs".

Michael Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

State Capitol
Room 219
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: (866) 458-7327
Fax: (217) 785-2777
TTY: (866) 877-6013

5SS 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
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: (866) 458-7327
Fax: (217) 524-3822
TTY: (866) 877-6013



SUSANA A. MENDOZA
ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER

June 12, 2026

Greetings

As Illinois State Comptroller, it is my sincere pleasure to welcome everyone gathered for the Polish Museum of America's Summer Gala celebrating 250 years of the United States.

The United States of America is a nation built by those who bravely journeyed from distant lands to our shores in pursuit of opportunity and a better future. Through industry, the arts, military service, public service, and countless other contributions, the Polish American community has helped shape this city, this state, and our nation in meaningful and lasting ways. Their hard work, resilience, and pride serve as an example for all Americans.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers of the Polish Museum of America for preserving and honoring the rich history and heritage of Polish people everywhere. I wish you continued success for many years to come.

God bless America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susana A. Mendoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Susana A. Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller

555 West Monroe Street, 1400S-A
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3713
(312) 814-2451

201 State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62706-0001
(217) 782-6000

325 West Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704-1871
(800) 877-8078





KANCELARIA PREZYDENTA
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ
PODSIEKRETARZ STANU
Agnieszka Jędrzak

Warszawa, 29 maja 2026 roku

Organizatorzy i Uczestnicy
46. Gali Muzeum Polskiego
w Ameryce

Szanowni Panowie,

W imieniu Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Pana Karola Nawrockiego oraz własnym kieruję słowa uznania oraz pozdrowienia do uczestników i organizatorów 46. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce.

Tegoroczna Gala ma wymiut szczególny. Odbywa się w roku obchodów 250. rocznicy powstania Stanów Zjednoczonych - kraju, którego historia od samego początku była współtworzona przez ludzi różnych narodowości, kultur i tradycji. Wśród nich szczególne miejsce zajmują Polacy, którzy swoją odwagą, pracą i talentem zapisałi trwałe ślad w dziejach Ameryki.

Nie sposób mówić o historii Stanów Zjednoczonych bez wspomnienia generała Tadeusza Kościuszki, którego talent inżynierski pomógł amerykańskiej armii odnieść zwycięstwo w wojnie o niepodległość, ani generała Kazimierza Pułaskiego, bohatera walk o wolność i symbolu odwagi. Ich nazwiska są dziś trwałą częścią historii Ameryki, ale wkład Polaków w rozwój Stanów Zjednoczonych to nie tylko bohaterowie wojenni. To także pokolenia emigrantów, którzy budowali amerykańskie miasta, rozwijali przemysł, naukę, szkolnictwo, kulturę i życie społeczne. Polscy lekarze, inżynierowie, przedsiębiorcy, artyści i działacze społeczni pozostawili trwałe ślad w historii tego kraju. Szczególnie tutaj w Chicago polskie dziedzictwo stało się ważną częścią tożsamości miasta i całej amerykańskiej Polonii.

Właśnie dlatego tak ogromne znaczenie ma działalność Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce. Od dziesięcioleci nie tylko gromadzi ono bezcenne archiwa, dzieła sztuki i pamiątki historyczne, ale przede wszystkim chroni pamięć o wkładzie Polaków w historię Ameryki i przekazuje ją kolejnym pokoleniom.

Organizowana przez Muzeum gala jest także okazją do uhonorowania osób i instytucji, które swoją działalnością podtrzymują dach polskości i służą wspólocie polonijnej.

Nagrodę Ducha Polskości otrzymuje pan Hubert Gioromski - prezes Kongresu Polonii Amerykańskiej oraz wieloletni działacz Fundacji Kopernikowskiej od lat konsekwentnie wspierający inicjatywy edukacyjne, patriotyczne i kulturalne. Fundacja Kopernikowska, której działalność pan Hubert współtworzy, od dekad pełni niezwykle ważną rolę w życiu Polonii amerykańskiej. Jej misją jest nie tylko pielęgnowanie pamięci o dokonaniach wybitnych Polaków, takich jak Mikołaj Kopernik, ale także rozwijanie programów stypendialnych, wspieranie młodych talentów oraz promocję polskiego dziedzictwa w przestrzeni publicznej Stanów Zjednoczonych. Zaangażowanie pana Huberta Gioromskiego w jej prace to przykład nowoczesnego patriotyzmu, który opiera się nie tylko na pamięci o przeszłości, ale również na odpowiedzialności za przyszłość kolejnych pokoleń Polaków w Ameryce.

Drugim laureatem jest pan Piotr Uzarowicz, który poprzez swoją twórczość przypomina światu o doświadczeniach narodu polskiego. Jego film „Żona oficera”, opowiadający o tragedii Katynia przez pryzmat historii własnej rodziny, stał się ważnym świadectwem pamięci. Dzięki takim osobom jak Pan Piotr, historia nie staje się jedynie zapisem w archiwach. Staje się żywą opowieścią, która porusza sumienia, buduje tożsamość i łączy pokolenia.

Nagrodę Ducha Polskości otrzymuje również PNC Bank Illinois, instytucja, która od lat aktywnie wspiera społeczność lokalną i inicjatywy ważne dla Polonii. Wyróżnienie to jest wyrazem uznania dla zaangażowania w rozwój relacji społecznych, wspieranie inicjatyw kulturalnych oraz budowanie partnerstwa pomiędzy światem biznesu a środowiskami polonijnymi. Takie wsparcie pokazuje, że sukces ekonomiczny może iść w parze z odpowiedzialnością społeczną oraz troską o zachowanie dziedzictwa kulturowego.

Niech dzisiejszy wieczór będzie nie tylko świętem sukcesów, ale także przypomnieniem, że historia Polaków w Ameryce jest integralną częścią historii Stanów Zjednoczonych. Gratuluję wszystkim wyróżnionym i dziękuję Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce za pielęgnowanie naszego wspólnego dziedzictwa.

Łączę wyrazy szacunku
Dymineta J. Jolinski



Embassy of the Republic of Poland
in Washington, D.C.

2640 16th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

Washington, D.C. June 12, 2026

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,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on organizing its 46th Annual Gala. This year's event is especially significant as it coincides with the 250th anniversary of the United States—a milestone that reminds us of our shared history and the close relations between our two countries.

As a long-standing guardian of Polish heritage, the Museum beautifully fits into the celebrations of this American jubilee, showcasing the rich cultural contributions of Poles to local society.

I also wish to congratulate this year's recipients of the Polish Spirit Award. Through their leadership and artistic engagement, Hubert Cioromski, Piotr Uzarowicz, and the PNC Bank serve as a true inspiration to all Polish – Americans. They have demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting and advancing the community, and this honour is a fitting recognition of each recipient's contributions.

Thank you to the entire institution for your perseverance in protecting history and building the future of the Polish community in America. I wish you a wonderful celebration and continued prosperity in your future endeavours.

Sincerely,



Bogdan Klich

Charge d'affaires a.i.



Chicago, June 12, 2026

Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in Chicago

Mr. Ryszard Owsiany
President
The Polish Museum of America

Dear Mr. Owsiany,

It is a privilege to extend my warmest congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on your 46th Annual Gala. This year's celebration is particularly momentous as it coincides with the 250th anniversary of the United States—a milestone that invites us all to reflect on our shared history and the enduring spirit of our two nations.

Founded and established by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America in 1935, the Polish Museum of America has been serving as a vital guardian of Polish heritage, and there is no better way to honor the American Sestercentennial than by celebrating the cultural and historical contributions your institution provides to the American community. As the principal patron of the museum, the PRCUA has championed the preservation of our shared traditions for over a century. Through its enduring financial support, shared history, and steadfast dedication, the PRCUA continues to be a cornerstone of fraternal support, ensuring that Polish American identity thrives for generations to come.

I also want to join you in celebrating this year's distinguished honorees, Mr. Hubert Cioromski, Mr. Piotr Uzarowicz and PNC Bank. Presenting them with the Polish Spirit Award is a fitting tribute to their remarkable impact and contributions to the Polish American community.

Thank you for your tireless work in preserving Polish past in America and inspiring its future. I wish you a spectacular evening of celebration and continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Regina Jurkowska
Consul General

IDzGP/2026/74

Warszawa, 11 maja 2026 r.

Pan
Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Pani
Małgorzata Kot
Dyrektor Zarządzająca
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Szanowni Państwo,

składam serdeczne podziękowania za zaproszenie na 46. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce - wydarzenie, które od wielu lat w sposób trwały wpisuje się w historię oraz misję tej niezwykle zasłużonej Instytucji.

Z prawdziwym żalem informuję, iż z uwagi na wcześniej podjęte zobowiązania zawodowe nie będę mogła osobiście uczestniczyć w tegorocznej, jubileuszowej Gali. Proszę jednak o przyjęcie wyrazów mojego najwyższego uznania oraz serdecznych pozdrowień, które kieruję zarówno do Organizatorów, jak i wszystkich Gości zgromadzonych podczas tego wyjątkowego spotkania. Mam nadzieję, że uda nam się spotkać jesienią podczas wernisażu wystawy współorganizowanej przez nasze instytucje, poświęconej prezentacji twórczości Stanisława Szukalskiego.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce, powołane do życia 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. Szczególny podziw i uznanie budzą imponujące kolekcje Państwa Instytucji – polonika gromadzone od dziewięciu dekad dzięki ofiarnej pracy i zaangażowaniu kolejnych pokoleń Polonii amerykańskiej.



Od wielu lat Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce pozostaje również jednym z najważniejszych ośrodków życia kulturalnego Polonii na kontynencie północnoamerykańskim.

Instytut POLONIKA od momentu swojego powstania prowadzi bliską i aktywną współpracę z Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce. Jej wymiernym efektem są liczne wspólne przedsięwzięcia, w tym między innymi konserwacja wielu dzieł wybitnych polskich artystów – obrazów, rzeźb, zabytków rzemiosła artystycznego oraz witraży. Wyrażam głębokie przekonanie, iż ta cenna i owocna współpraca będzie z powodzeniem kontynuowana również w kolejnych latach, zarówno w obszarze konserwacji, jak i badań oraz popularyzacji polskiego dziedzictwa kulturowego znajdującego się w zbiorach Muzeum.

Z wyrazami szacunku

Katarzyna
Sokołowska
ka

Elektronicznie
podpisany przez
Katarzyna
Sokołowska
Data: 2026.05.13
07:37:26 +02'00'

Katarzyna Sokołowska

dyrektorka Instytutu POLONIKA





**NACZELNY DYREKTOR
ARCHIWÓW PAŃSTWOWYCH**

Paweł Pietrzyk

Państwo

Ryszard Owsiany

Prezes

Małgorzata Kot

Dyrektor Zarządzający

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce

Data: 27.05.2026

Znak: DPD.064.3.2026

Szanowni Państwo,

Pragnę serdecznie podziękować za zaproszenie na 46. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce (MPA), honorującą 250. rocznicę powstania Stanów Zjednoczonych i wielowymiarowy wkład Polaków w historię i rozwój tego kraju. Jak co roku, przy okazji tej uroczystości, pozostaję z Państwem myślami, doceniając rangę wydarzenia i jego wyjątkowy charakter.

Obchody 250-lecia Stanów Zjednoczonych stanowią znakomitą okazję do przywołania i uhonorowania pokoleń Polaków, którzy swoją pracą, talentem i oddaniem współtworzyli fundamenty amerykańskiej wolności, gospodarki, kultury i życia społecznego.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce od lat pełni rolę strażnika tych niezwykłych historii i pomostu dla dialogu międzykulturowego. Dzięki Państwa działalności dorobek Polonii jest nie tylko otaczany opieką, ale popularyzowany i przekazywany kolejnym pokoleniom jako istotna część dziedzictwa zarówno Polski, jak i Stanów Zjednoczonych.

Satysfakcją napawa fakt wieloletniej udanej współpracy między Archiwami Państwowymi a Muzeum Polskim w Ameryce. Cieszę się, że możemy wspierać tak prężnie działające organizacje polonijne. Nasze wspólne przedsięwzięcia, realizowane na przestrzeni lat, są przykładem odpowiedzialnego i dalekowzrocznego podejścia do ochrony dziedzictwa. Realizowane przez lata inicjatywy m.in. wymiana ekspertów, wspólne publikacje i współdziałanie w ramach międzynarodowych organizacji, stanowią także cenny wkład w



Archiwum
Dokumentów
Elektronicznych



Szukaj w Archiwach

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

rozwój badań nad historią Polonii i jej rolą na świecie oraz w dokumentowanie historii polsko-amerykańskiej wspólnoty.

Życzę Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce, aby nadchodzące lata były czasem kolejnych ważnych inicjatyw oraz nieustannego inspirowania kolejnych pokoleń do odkrywania i pielęgnowania wspólnego dziedzictwa. Z nadzieją wyczekuję także możliwości osobistego spotkania w przyszłości.

Łączę wyrazy szacunku
Naczelny Dyrektor Archiwów Państwowych



Signed by / Podpisano przez:

PAWEŁ PIETRZYK
Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów
Państwowych

Date / Data: 2026-05-27 21:13



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



INSTYTUT PAMIĘCI
NARODOWEJ

Dyrektor Archiwum

Chicago, 12 czerwca 2026 r.

Szanowni Państwo,
Dostojni Goście 46. Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce,

Chicago od pokoleń pozostaje jednym z najważniejszych miejsc na mapie polskiej obecności poza granicami Ojczyzny. To tutaj tysiące Polaków odnajdywały przestrzeń do budowania nowego życia, zachowując jednocześnie pamięć o swoim języku, historii i kulturze. Właśnie dlatego Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce zajmuje miejsce szczególne – nie tylko jako instytucja kultury, lecz także jako trwały symbol więzi łączących Polskę i amerykańską Polonię.

Tegoroczna gala, odbywająca się w roku 250. rocznicy powstania Stanów Zjednoczonych, stanowi wyjątkową okazję do podkreślenia wkładu Polaków w historię i rozwój Ameryki. Od bohaterów wojny o niepodległość – generałów Tadeusza Kościuszki i Kazimierza Pułaskiego – poprzez wkład Polaków w walkę o niepodległość i wolność narodów w XX wieku, po kolejne pokolenia emigrantów, polska obecność współtworzyła społeczną, gospodarczą i kulturalną siłę Stanów Zjednoczonych.

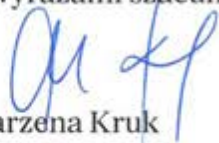
Szczególna rola przypada w tym dziele instytucjom takim jak Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce. Od dziesięcioleci pozostaje ono miejscem spotkań ludzi, dla których polska historia, sztuka, literatura, film i teatr są ważnym elementem budowania i utrwalania własnej tożsamości. Działalność wystawiennicza, edukacyjna i kulturalna Muzeum pozwala kolejnym pokoleniom Polonii zachować żywy kontakt z dziedzictwem swoich przodków, a jednocześnie przybliżyć kulturę polską szerokiej publiczności amerykańskiej.

W czasach szybkich przemian i globalizacji szczególnego znaczenia nabierają miejsca, które potrafią chronić pamięć i budować wspólnotę wokół wartości zakorzenionych w kulturze i historii. Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce od lat wypełnia tę misję z wielkim oddaniem.

Pragnę wyrazić uznanie wszystkim osobom zaangażowanym w działalność Muzeum oraz pogratulować tegorocznym laureatom nagrody Ducha Polskości, których aktywność stanowi piękne świadectwo troski o zachowanie polskiej tradycji i pamięci narodowej.

Życzę Państwu, aby jubileuszowa gala była wieczorem pełnym dumy z dorobku Polonii amerykańskiej oraz inspiracją do dalszego umacniania więzi między Polską a Stanami Zjednoczonymi.

Z wyrazami szacunku,



Marzena Kruk

Dyrektor

Archiwum Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej



**BIBLIOTEKA
NARODOWA**

Biblioteka Narodowa
al. Niepodległości 213
02-086 Warszawa

tel. +48 22 608 22 33
fax +48 22 625 52 51
e-mail: dyktator@bn.org.pl
www.bn.org.pl

dr Tomasz Makowski | Dyktator Biblioteki Narodowej

Warszawa, 25 maja 2026

ND.0740.12.2026

Pan
Ryszard Owsiany
Prezes
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Pani
Małgorzata Kot
Dyrektor zarządzająca
Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce

Łączy Panie Prezencie, Szanowna Pani Dyrekcjo

serdecznie dziękuję za zaproszenie na 46. Galę Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce w dniu 12 czerwca 2026 roku. Uprzejmie informuję, że w tym terminie nie będę mógł wziąć udziału w gali jubileuszowej.

Muzeum Polskie w Ameryce od początku istnienia wszechstronnie działa w zakresie ochrony polskiego dziedzictwa, a gromadzone kolekcje archiwalne i biblioteczne służą kolejnym pokoleniom badaczy, historyków i Polonii amerykańskiej. Trzy działy MPA: Archiwum, Biblioteka oraz Muzeum stanowią skarbnice cennych zbiorów i pamiątek związanych z aktywnością polityczną i artystyczną Polski i Polonii. Zgromadzony księgozbiór Biblioteki MPA, w tym starodruki i zbiory fonograficzne umożliwiają odkrywanie losów Polaków podczas emigracji oraz ich wkład w rozwój i popularyzowanie kultury i dziedzictwa polskiego w Ameryce.

Przekazuję wyrazy uznania dla dotychczasowej działalności skierowanej na gromadzeniu i upowszechnianiu zbiorów polonijnych społeczności amerykańskiej oraz popularyzowaniu wiedzy o historii i kulturze Polski i Polonii w Ameryce. Życzę wiele sukcesów i satysfakcji w dalszej działalności rozświetlającej znaczenie bogactwa polskiego dziedzictwa kulturowego. Niech uroczystości gali będą pełne dumy, radości oraz inspiracji na kolejne lata.

Łączy Panie Prezencie, Szanowna Pani Dyrekcjo
dr Tomasz Makowski
dr Tomasz Makowski



Hubert J. Cioromski

Polish American Congress President



Chicago, June 12, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Directors, Leadership, and Friends of the Polish Museum of America,

It is with great humility and gratitude that I accept the Polish Spirit Award presented during the 46th Summer Gala of the Polish Museum of America.

I am deeply honored by this recognition and profoundly grateful to be included among the distinguished individuals and organizations who have received this prestigious award throughout the years. To be associated with such an extraordinary group of leaders, visionaries, and supporters of our Polish-American community is a privilege that I will forever cherish.

I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to my fellow honorees, Mr. Piotr Uzarowicz and PNC Bank. Their accomplishments and contributions are truly deserving of recognition, and I am honored to share this distinction with them.

For me, this award is not only a tremendous honor but also an additional source of motivation to continue working on behalf of Polonia and Poland. It strengthens my commitment to serving our community, preserving our heritage, and building an even stronger future for Polish Americans across the United States.

I would like to wholeheartedly commend the Polish Museum of America and its leadership for the extraordinary work you continue to perform. The Polish Museum of America is the most important Polish-American cultural institution in our nation and an embodiment of what is best in Polonia. Through your dedication, professionalism, and vision, you preserve our history, celebrate our achievements, and inspire future generations to remain connected to their heritage.

The Museum is also a model for other Polish-American organizations and institutions. We can all learn from your commitment, your perseverance, and your unwavering dedication to excellence. Your success demonstrates what can be achieved when passion for our heritage is matched by strong leadership and a clear mission.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to all the guests who joined us this evening and chose to support the mission of the Polish Museum of America. Your presence and generosity help ensure that this remarkable institution can continue its vital work for generations to come.

As the Museum looks toward the future, I wish you decades filled with prosperity, growth, groundbreaking projects, grand exhibitions, educational initiatives, and memorable events. The success of the Polish Museum of America is truly the success of Polonia. Every achievement of the Museum strengthens our entire community and preserves the legacy that we proudly pass on to future generations.

Thank you once again for this extraordinary honor. I accept it with deep gratitude and with a renewed commitment to serve our community to the very best of my abilities.

With sincere appreciation and respect,

Hubert J Cioromski
President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 2026,

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Polish Museum of America,

As we celebrate 250 years of American Independence, we proudly recognize the lasting contributions Polish Americans have made to the story of the United States. The Polish Museum of America stands as one of the shining examples of this legacy, preserving and promoting our shared heritage for future generations.

As the largest institution of its kind, the Polish Museum of America has spent decades safeguarding the history, culture, artistry, and achievements of Polish Americans. Through its remarkable collections and educational mission, the Museum continues to inspire pride in our heritage while sharing the inspiring legacy of Polish Americans with all. In doing so, the PMA preserves not only the stories of individuals and historical figures, but also the histories of organizations such as the Polish National Alliance, helping strengthen the vibrant mosaic of our community.

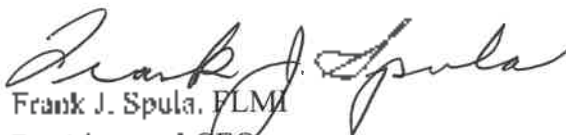
The continued success of the Polish Museum of America is a testament to the dedication of its leadership, benefactors, volunteers, and supporters whose hard work sustains this extraordinary institution and its mission.

As the Polish Museum of America celebrates its 46th Summer Gala, I extend my sincerest congratulations to this year's Polish Spirit Award recipients —Hubert Cioronowski, Piotr Uzarowicz, and PNC Bank -Illinois—in recognition of their contributions and commitment to the Polish-American community.

May we gather in the spirit of celebrating, supporting, and preserving the rich history and enduring contributions of the Polish-American community for generations to come.

Congratulations on another successful celebration, and best wishes for continued success in preserving the Polish spirit in the United States!

Sincerely,


Frank J. Spula, PLMA
President and CEO



*...protecting **Life** through all its stages!*

June 12, 2026

Dear Friends of The Polish Museum of America,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the 46th Annual PMA Summer Gala.

Last year we celebrated the remarkable 90th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America - a powerful reminder not only of this institution's longevity, but of its enduring legacy.

The Polish Museum of America is more than a museum. It is a living testament to the vision, sacrifice, faith, and determination of the generations who came before us - individuals who believed our history, culture, and stories were worth preserving.

Today, that responsibility belongs to all of us.

As we celebrate Polish American contributions to 250 years of American Independence, we also celebrate a proud community that continues to shape the future while honoring its roots. Through its collections, educational programs, and cultural outreach, the PMA continues to inspire future generations to remain connected to their heritage and identity.

This evening is also an opportunity to recognize those whose dedication has strengthened this institution. I would like to extend sincere gratitude to **Micheline Jaminski, PMA Vice Chair of the Board**, for her twelve years of extraordinary service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Museum and its mission. Her contributions have left a lasting impact on the PMA and the Polish American community.

We are also proud to honor this year's **Polish Spirit Award recipients**: Hubert Cioromski, Piotr Uzarowicz, and PNC Bank-Illinois. Your achievements and commitment reflect the very best of service, leadership, and dedication to our shared heritage. We are deeply grateful for your contributions to the Polish Museum of America, the Polish American community and proud to celebrate your accomplishments this evening.

To our patrons, sponsors, donors, volunteers, board members, staff, and friends of the Museum, including those on the PMA Summer Gala Committee this year - thank you. Your support ensures that the Polish Museum of America remains strong, vibrant, and meaningful for generations to come.

Together, we honor our past while building our future. Pamiętając o przeszłości, budujemy przyszłość.

With gratitude,

Agnieszka Bastrzyk

Chair of the Board

Polish Museum of America

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”

2025

KRZYSZTOF MATYSZCZYK
POLISH-AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

2024

PROF. EWA RADWAŃSKA, M.D., PH.D.
POLISH SCOUTING ORGANIZATION OF ILLINOIS

2023

HALINA & STANISŁAW URBANIAK
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, PMA PRESIDENT EMERITUS
POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2017

COPERNICUS FOUNDATION

2016
POLISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2015
GIFT FROM THE HEART FOUNDATION
SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, CHICAGO

2014
JOANN S. OZOG

2013
POLISH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA

2012
KAZIMIERA BOBER, FOUNDER, KASIA'S DELI, INC.

2011
ALEX STOROZYNSKI

2010
TED & ALICE PRZYBYLO FAMILY

2009
TERESA N. ABICK

2008
POLISH AND POLISH AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

2007
ALLIANCE OF POLISH CLUBS IN THE U.S.A.

2006
POLISH HIGHLANDERS ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICA

2005
WALTER L. SOJKA

2004
CHET & DOLORES SCHAEFER

2003
DONALD V. VERSEN, SR. & JOAN VERSEN

2002
STANLEY & BARBARA STAWSKI

2001

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA

2000

CHICAGO SOCIETY POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

1999

LOT POLISH AIRLINES

1998

POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

1997

SUPERINTENDENT MATT L. RODRIGUEZ, CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

1996

HIS EMINENCE ADAM CARDINAL MAIDA, ARCHBISHOP OF DETROIT

1995

POLISH AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

1994

JUSTICE MARY ANN MCMORROW, SUPREME COURT OF IL

1993

PEKAO TRADING CORPORATION

1992

U.S. CONGRESSMAN DAN ROSTENKOWSKI

1991

CHESTER S. & STELLA T. SAWKO

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, PAC & PNA

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

proudly presents the

POLISH SPIRIT AWARD

to

HUBERT CIOROMSKI

in the individual category

and to

PIOTR UZAROWICZ

in the individual category

and to

PNC BANK

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

HUBERT J. CIROMSKI

Hubert J. Cioromski is the Owner and CEO of TROY Realty, Ltd., a third-generation commercial real estate and property management firm that has proudly served the Chicagoland area for more than 60 years. Under his leadership, TROY Realty has continued its legacy of integrity, long-term stewardship, and client-focused service across a diverse portfolio of commercial properties. Troy Realty, Ltd. is licensed in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Florida, bringing multi-state expertise to complex real estate transactions and asset management.



Board Member Positions

- Polish American Congress – National President (October 2025 – Present), National Director (2015 – Present)
- Copernicus Foundation – Chairman of the Board (Present), President (2010 – 2017), Board Member (1995 – Present)
- Itasca Bank – Board of Directors (2023 – Present)
- Presence Hospital Foundation (Past Board Member)
- Appointed by 2 Governors of Illinois to the Office of Banks and Real Estate Board (OBRE, 2001 – 2010)
- Metropolitan Bank Group (Past Board Member)
- Park National Bank of Chicago (Past Board Member)

Memberships & Affiliations

Hubert is actively involved in numerous professional and cultural organizations. He is a member of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and previously served as President of the Realtor Association of Northwest Chicagoland. He also holds memberships with the Northern Illinois Commercial Association of Realtors (NICAR), the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), and the Chicago Association of Realtors (CAR).

Awards

June 10, 2024, Hubert J. Cioromski was awarded the Cavaliers Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland by President Andrzej Duda.

Education

Hubert received his BA in Business Administration and Marketing from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI and continues to pursue ongoing education in Real Estate License, reinforcing his commitment to professional excellence and regulatory compliance.

Hubert and his wife Lori have six children and several adorable grandchildren!

PIOTR UZAROWICZ



Piotr Uzarowicz is a Polish American filmmaker, storyteller, and creative strategist whose career has spanned entertainment, technology, and digital media. Over more than three decades, he has helped brands, studios, and emerging companies shape stories and connect with audiences during periods of major cultural and technological change.

He is the producer of *The Officer's Wife*, a documentary inspired by the lives of his Polish step-grandparents and their experiences during and after World War II. The film was screened at festivals nationally and internationally, as well as screenings hosted by the Polish Museum of America, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, and the Institute of National Remembrance in Poland; it is currently available on Amazon. It was honored with the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival 2011 Ewa Pieta Award for Best

Documentary. The film features music by Oscar-award winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek. Rooted in family history, the project reflects Piotr's longstanding interest in memory, identity, displacement, and the preservation of personal stories that might otherwise be lost to time.

His connection to the Polish American community is deeply personal and multigenerational. His mother dedicated more than forty years to the Polish Saturday school system, where she taught Polish language, history, and culture to generations of children - including her own son. Today, she continues her involvement through The Polish Museum of America. Raised in a blended immigrant family shaped by multiple generations of Polish arrivals to the United States, Piotr credits both his biological and step-family histories with shaping his understanding of identity, resilience, and cultural continuity.

While his professional career has focused on creative strategy and business development, his personal creative work has centered on film, memory, and cultural preservation. Throughout his work, he has remained interested in the intersection of storytelling, history, and identity; using film and media not only as entertainment, but also as a means of preserving lived experience and strengthening connections between generations.

The Polish Spirit Award recognizes his contributions as a filmmaker and storyteller, as well as his commitment to honoring and preserving Polish heritage through creative work rooted in history, family, and cultural memory.

Piotr lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Ellen, a costume designer, and their two daughters, Harlow, a recent graduate of Boston University, and Evangeline, who is currently pursuing studies in fashion design and management.

PNC BANK

PNC is one of the largest diversified financial institutions in the United States, delivering a full range of banking, lending, and advisory services. What differentiates PNC—particularly in Chicago—is its ability to combine national scale with a strong, relationship-driven local presence rooted in the Chicagoland community.

With more than 120 branches across the region, PNC's presence in Chicago spans more than a century. That legacy continues to be defined by stability, trust, and long-term relationships—principles that shape how PNC operates across the Chicago market today.

Community investment is central to PNC's identity and is deeply embedded in its Chicago strategy. The bank supports a wide range of organizations and initiatives across:

- Education and early childhood development
- Workforce and economic development
- Arts and cultural institutions
- Health and human services

This commitment is reflected in both financial investment and employee engagement.

PNC is proud to have partnered with The Polish Museum of America.





ST. JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE

WASHINGTON D.C.

It's no secret that St. John Paul II holds a very special place in the hearts of Poles everywhere, so it is not surprising that there are statues and memorials to the Polish pope anywhere that Polish Americans gather. The statue of the pope in front of the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. is just one of many throughout the States.

- St. Hedwig Church, Wilmington, DE
- Church of Our Lady of Częstochowa, St. Casimir Parish, Brooklyn, NY
- Our Lady of Peace Shrine, Santa Clara, CA
- Panna Maria, TX
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, Doylestown, PA
- St. Helen's Church, Chicago, IL
- Pope Park, Hamtramck, MI
- Maryhill Catholic Cemetery & Mausoleum, Niles, IL
- Papal Mass Plaque, Boston Common, Boston, MA
- Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, IL
- Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh, NC
- Virginia G. Piper Plaza, Phoenix, AZ
- Our Lady of Częstochowa Church, Houston, TX
- Pope John Paul II Prayer Garden, Baltimore, MD
- St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, New York City, NY
- Villa Maria College, Buffalo, NY
- St. Hyacinth Basilica, Chicago, IL
- Basilica of St. Louis King of France, New Orleans, LA
- Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Denver, CO

Hanks, Andrea. *President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington, D.C., June 2, 2020.* Official White House photograph. Wikimedia Commons.



Coastal News Co. *Pulaski Monument, Savannah, GA.* Postcard, Private collection



Coastal News Co. *The Moat, Fort Pulaski National Park, Savannah, GA.* Postcard, Private collection

CASIMIR PUŁASKI MONUMENT & FORT PUŁASKI SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

General Kazimierz Pułaski, a nobleman and military commander, is remembered for his heroic service while fighting for independence and freedom in both Poland and the United States. Known as the "Father of the American Cavalry," he died of wounds sustained during the Battle of Savannah, giving his life for this country. He is quoted as saying, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." His service and sacrifice have inspired Polish Americans for centuries, and the many memorials dedicated to his memory are a vivid testament to that fact.

- Monterey Square, Savannah, GA
- Freedom Plaza, Washington, D.C.
- Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD
- "American Freedom Fighters" statue, Peterson Park, Poland, OH
- Fort Pułaski National Monument, Cockspur Island, GA
- Park and monument, Hammond, IN
- Terrace of Heroes, Philadelphia, PA
- Monument to Pułaski and Other Eminent Poles, Denver, CO
- Monument and statue, Hartford, CT
- Bust in Stevens Point, WI
- Statue in Providence, RI
- Pułaski Park in Wilmington, DE
- Pułaski Park in Holyoke, MA
- Pułaski Road and Park, Chicago, IL



TADEUSZ KOŚCIUSZKO MONUMENT

WASHINGTON D.C.

One of two famed Polish Revolutionary War heroes who fought for the freedom of the United States, General Tadeusz Kościuszko was a skilled military engineer and leader who has become a beloved figure to Polish Americans. They see in him someone who left his home country to lend his talents and strategic vision to building a new nation founded on the same principles of justice and equality that he wished for Poland. His legacy inspires Polish Americans who seek to honor their heritage and contribute to the progress of America. In addition to multiple towns, counties, and streets that are named in honor of General Kościuszko, there is a significant list of monuments and memorials dedicated to his memory.

- "American Freedom Fighters" Statue, Peterson Park, Poland, OH
- Statue in Boston, MA
- Centennial Fountain, Philadelphia, PA
- Statue on Solidarity Drive, Chicago, IL
- Park and monument, East Chicago, IN
- Fort Mercer, Red Bank, NJ
- Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, NY
- Jefferson Library Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
- Kościuszko Park, Chicago, IL
- Monuments in Milwaukee, WI
- Redbud Springs Park, Kosciusko, MS
- Thaddeus Kościuszko Park, Dublin, OH
- United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
- Monument in St. Petersburg, FL

The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. "Kosciuszko Monument, Washington, D. C." New York Public Library Digital Collections.



NATIONAL KATYŃ MEMORIAL

JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

The Katyn Massacre was a series of mass executions perpetrated by the Soviet Union in 1940. At Joseph Stalin's orders, the Soviet secret police rounded up and murdered nearly 22,000 Polish military officers, intelligentsia, and anyone deemed a potential threat to lead the Poles in an organized resistance to the Soviet invasion of Poland. When the mass graves were discovered, the Soviets blamed Nazi Germany in an effort to deflect blame, and despite the truth coming out earlier, the Soviet Union did not officially acknowledge responsibility until 1990. The Katyn Massacre has become a symbol of the many victims of Stalinism and the ongoing struggle for justice and recognition of the victims' suffering.

- National Katyn Memorial, Baltimore, MD
- Monument in Jersey City, NJ
- St. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, Niles, IL
- Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain, CT
- St. Albertus Church, Detroit, MI
- Orchard Lake, MI
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, Doylestown, PA

Dziadulewicz, Lynn. *Katyn Monument, Exchange Place Plaza, Jersey City, New Jersey*. Photograph, modified. 2025.
Lower Manhattan Skyline from Jersey City. Photograph, modified. 2024. Wikimedia Commons.



ARDEN: HELENA MODJESKA HISTORIC HOUSE AND GARDENS

MODJESKA CANYON, ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Polish Americans have contributed to the arts since their arrival in the United States. One of the first and arguably greatest stars of Polish ancestry was Helena Modrzejewska, known by her stage name of Helena Modjeska. Living in a world before motion picture and television, Modrzejewska became the most popular actress in the world at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Revered for her portrayal of Shakespearean characters on hundreds of stages in the U.S. and Europe, Modrzejewska used her immense fame to champion the causes of her beloved Poland at a time when it had been partitioned by tsarist Russia, Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. From 1888 until 1909, Helena Modjeska was a much-loved pioneer resident of Orange County, California, where she built the house she called "Arden" after the Forest of Arden in the Shakespearean play, "As You Like It."



Madam Helena Modjeska at Arden.

Photograph, Courtesy Orange County Archives.

Helena Modjeska's home, "Arden," Modjeska Canyon.

Photograph, Courtesy Orange County Archives.



Curt Teich & Co. *Grotto Entrance*. c. 1955. postcard, code 5ED-161. Private collection, scanned image.

Curt Teich & Co. *Polish Millennium Window, America's Bicentennial Window*. c. 1955. postcard, code 5ED-162. Private collection, scanned image.

THE CARMELITE MONASTERY AND SHRINE

MUNSTER, INDIANA

The Discalced Carmelite Fathers Monastery in Munster was founded in 1952 by a group of Polish Discalced Carmelite friars who came to America after World War II to devote themselves to the pastoral care of their countrymen. To emphasize the inexpressible spiritual beauty of God's mercy, they created a shrine and garden containing statues of Polish saints in the many grottos and chapels. These statues are decorated with many unusual minerals, crystals, and rock formations, and they give Polish Americans and other pilgrims from the Chicagoland area and beyond a place of solace and natural beauty to connect with their faith.





NICOLAUS COPERNICUS MONUMENT

SOLIDARITY DRIVE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Polish Americans are rightly proud of Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), the outstanding Polish astronomer, mathematician, lawyer, doctor and economist, creator of the heliocentric theory and author of the work devoted to it, "On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres." Polish children learn the saying, "Wstrzymał słońce, ruszył ziemię. Polskie go wydało plemię," which translates to "He halted the sun, and moved the earth. The Polish nation gave him birth." Mikołaj Kopernik (as he's known in Polish) developed the theory that the earth was not the center of the universe, but rather one of many planets that rotate around its sun. This was a huge shift in the thinking of the day and had important consequences for future scientific thought.

- Astronomers Monument, Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles, CA
- Adler Planetarium, Chicago, IL
- Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI
- Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, Vestal, NY
- United Nations Headquarters, New York City, NY
- Statue in Utica, NY
- Monument in Philadelphia, PA
- Monument to Pułaski and Other Eminent Poles, Denver, CO

Dziadulewicz, Elizabeth. *Copernicus Monument in front of Adler Planetarium, Solidarity Drive, Chicago, IL*. Photograph, 2025



THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, also known as American Częstochowa, began in 1953 as a small chapel dedicated to the Black Madonna of Częstochowa at Jasna Góra Monastery. Reorganized as a shrine and consecrated in 1966 in conjunction with the thousandth anniversary of Poland's Christianity, it quickly became a destination of pilgrims from around the United States and the world. St. John Paul II visited twice, as have leading political and church leaders. In the years since its founding, a new church building was added, along with a Polish-American cemetery (including monuments to Poland's third prime minister Ignacy Paderewski, the Polish-Lithuanian hussars, and the victims of the Katyn massacres), a monastery, retreat house, and visitor center.



Wyco Color Productions. *National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa*. c. 1970s. Postcard, scanned image.

Wyco Color Productions. *National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, Christ of the Andes*. c. 1970s. Postcard, scanned image.



IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI BUST

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Ignacy Jan Paderewski was a renowned Polish pianist, composer, and statesman whose extraordinary talent and charisma made him one of the most celebrated musicians of his time. He achieved international fame for his virtuoso piano performances and Romantic compositions, which captivated audiences across Europe and America. Paderewski was a patriot who worked tirelessly for Polish independence, using his fame to advocate for Polish sovereignty during World War I. He served as prime minister and foreign minister of a newly independent Poland, signing the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, the document that ended the war and restored the Polish state after 123 years of partitions.

- Paderewski Room, Polish Museum of America, Chicago, IL
- Memorial marker, Arlington National Cemetery, VA
- Friendship Botanic Gardens, Michigan City, IN
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, Doylestown, PA
- Monument to Pułaski and Other Eminent Poles, Denver, CO
- Steinway Hall, New York City, NY
- St. Michael the Archangel Church, Chicago, IL
- Carnegie Library, Paso Robles, CA
- Paderewski star, Hollywood Star Walk of Fame, CA
- Polish Falcons of America Nest 8, Pittsburgh, PA
- Smulski House, Chicago, IL
- Statue in Los Angeles, CA
- Paderewski Vineyard, Paso Robles, CA

Dziadulewicz, Elizabeth. Ignacy Jan Paderewski Bust, Polish Museum of America, Photograph. 2025.



POLISH VETERANS MEMORIAL MARYHILL CATHOLIC CEMETERY NILES, ILLINOIS

Poles have always had a great reverence for the war veterans in their midst. Anywhere Polish Americans have settled, there is a good chance of finding a plaque or monument honoring the service of their countrymen. The Polish Veterans Memorial in suburban Chicago, dedicated in 1975, stands in a section reserved for Polish soldiers who fought for freedom in many wars but could not return to their homeland.

- Polish Army Veterans Home Association of America, New York City, NY
- Centennial Fountain, Philadelphia, PA
- Polish Military Heritage Museum of New York, New York City, NY
- National Catholic War Veterans Monument, Dundalk, MD
- United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
- Polish Legion Marker, Gettysburg National Military Park, PA
- World War I Memorial, St. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, Niles, IL
- Marker to Polish American Freedom Fighters, Glen Cove, NY
- San Jacinto Monument, La Porte, TX
- Polish Freedom Fighters Memorial Marker, East Meadow, NY
- Battle of Savannah Battlefield Park, Savannah, GA
- St. John Kanty Cemetery, Bellevue, NE
- Polish Institute of Culture and Research, Orchard Lake, MI
- Old Barracks Museum, Trenton, NJ
- Peterson Park, Poland, OH
- National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, Pooler, GA
- Camp Radziminski marker, Mountain Park, OK
- Chapel of Mary Queen of Polish Martyrs of World War II, St. Mary's Cemetery, Turners Falls, MA
- Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, NY
- Fort Pułaski National Monument, Cockspur Island, GA
- Poland's Contribution in World War II Memorial, Buffalo, NY
- Ferro Fountain of the Righteous, Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Skokie, IL

Dziadulewicz, Elizabeth. Polish Veterans Memorial, Maryhill Catholic Cemetery, Niles, IL. Photograph, 2025.

PRCUA CHURCHES

It is no secret that Poles hold their faith close to their hearts. Wherever Polish communities formed, a church would soon follow. The number of churches established by Polonia can be counted in the hundreds, with the majority in the Midwest and the East Coast states. The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America was instrumental in establishing many churches in the dioceses of Chicago, Detroit, and Buffalo, including the "mother church" of Chicago's Polonia, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church and St. Albertus Church, the oldest Polish parish in Detroit.

St. Albertus Catholic Church.
Postcard, Courtesy of Celeste Grabowski

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.
Postcard, scanned image. Courtesy of chicagopostcards.info.



St. Albertus Church, finished in 1885. The meeting that is considered the first convention of the PRCUA, where the organization was formed, was held here in 1873.



St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, established in 1867. Its first pastor, Reverend Vincent Barzyński of the Congregation of the Resurrection, was one of the early leaders of the PRCUA.



PANNA MARIA, TEXAS

THE OLDEST POLISH SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Many of the largest Polish American communities are found on the East Coast and Midwest, but the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States can be found in Texas. Panna Maria (translated: Lady Mary), was founded when over a hundred families from the Upper Silesia region of Poland joined their countryman, Father Leopold Moczygemba (one of the founders of the PRCUA), who had secured land for them. They celebrated their first Mass on Christmas Eve, 1854, and built the first Polish church in the United States a year later—the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. The original settlers and subsequent immigrants founded additional communities whose names reflected their Polish roots such as Cestohowa, Kosciuszko and St. Hedwig. The Polish Heritage Center of Panna Maria celebrates the story and legacy of these early settlers.



Publisher unknown. *100 Years of Progress 1854–1954: Panna Maria, Texas, Immaculate Conception Church.* Postcard, Private collection, scanned image.

Griffin, Cathy. *Interior of Immaculate Conception Church, Panna Maria, Texas.* Postcard. Publisher unknown. Private collection, scanned image.

Celebrating Polish American contributions to 250 years of American Independence

From the collections of The Polish Museum of America



(Above) *Pulaski at Savannah* by Stefan Batowski.

(Below) October 6, 1779 register written five days before Pułaski's death, by Major Andrew Nixon, titled, "A Brigade Return of Cavalry Commanded by Genl. Count Pulaski."

"A Brigade Return of Cavalry Commanded by Genl. Count Pulaski Oct 6: 1779"

	Staff	Staff Officer	Comd. Officer	Non-Comd. Officer	Rank & File	Horses
1st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
2nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
3rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
4th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
5th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
6th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
7th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
8th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
9th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
10th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
11th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
12th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
13th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
14th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
15th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
16th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
17th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
18th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
19th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
20th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
21st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
22nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
23rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
24th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
25th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
26th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
27th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
28th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
29th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
30th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
31st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
32nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
33rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
34th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
35th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
36th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
37th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
38th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
39th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
40th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
41st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
42nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
43rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
44th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
45th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
46th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
47th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
48th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
49th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
50th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
51st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
52nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
53rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
54th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
55th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
56th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
57th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
58th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
59th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
60th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
61st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
62nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
63rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
64th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
65th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
66th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
67th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
68th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
69th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
70th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
71st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
72nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
73rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
74th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
75th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
76th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
77th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
78th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
79th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
80th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
81st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
82nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
83rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
84th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
85th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
86th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
87th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
88th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
89th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
90th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
91st Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
92nd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
93rd Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
94th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
95th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
96th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
97th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
98th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
99th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1
100th Regt.	1	1	1	1	1	1

Andrew Nixon Major Brigade



(Above, left-right) Lock of hair of Tadeusz Kościuszko.
Lithograph depicting Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Dear Friend
West Point 3 March
1779

I do not tax you with want of Friendship in not writing to me, knowing that you have a good Reason to give, that the hand some York ingrobs the whole of your time and attention and really if I was in your place I should of choice Do the same. But you Col. Clairjon can give me no Reason but your Sadness. I have been told you are about Marrying a Young Girl and mean to exert your self that the name of Clairjon may not be extinguished. Your Col. Trapp as a 1st Officer of Artillery will make use of your Activity and provide the Goodness of your Cannon on the wedding Day of Col. Clairjon. Your help Doctor Browns will be wanted with all your Surgical Faculties to promote so laudable a Design for the Interest of M. Clairjon and not as I mistake such Medicine as will make him Strong and Famous as Priapus. You Doc will take example from the misfortunes of the Bucks and not

(Left) March 3, 1779, West Point, letter by Tadeusz Kościuszko to Major John Armstrong.

(Below) December 31, 1816, Monticello, by US President Thomas Jefferson as power of attorney to transfer funds to Kościuszko.

Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Jefferson of Monticello in the county of Albemarle, Virginia, do hereby constitute and appoint John Barnes of Georgetown Columbia, my true & lawful attorney, for me and in my name to transfer into the name of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, heretofore a General in the service of the United States, and at present of Switzerland all the stock of the United States standing to my credit on the books of the Treasury as well as all my shares in the Bank of Columbia. Witness my hand and seal this 31st day of December 1816.

Witness
Thos M. Randolph

Th. Jefferson

another copy signed Jan. 26 1817 and not before a magistrate



(Above) Civil War Memorabilia.

(Below, left) Gen. Włodzimierz B. Krzyżanowski mementos – fragments of uniform fabric and handle from the coffin; (right) photograph of Gen. Krzyżanowski.





(Above, left) Portrait of Peter Kiolbassa – a Chicago treasurer and Polish Roman Catholic Union of America President.
 (Center) The Bible belonging to Antoni Smarzewski Schermann – the first recorded permanent Polish settler in Chicago.
 (Right) Helena Modrzejewska as Mary Stuart – one of the most celebrated Polish actresses of the 19th century.

(Below) Ignacy Jan Paderewski before his concert at Carnegie Hall.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1916.

My dear Mr. Rostenkowski:-

May I not express to you and to all concerned my warmest thanks for your generous message? It gave me the greatest satisfaction to be so remembered.

Cordially and sincerely yours,



Mr. P. Rostenkowski, President,
Board of Directors, Polish Roman Catholic Union,
Chicago, Ill.

(Left) November 29, 1916 letter signed by US President Woodrow Wilson, to Piotr Rostenkowski, PRCUA President.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

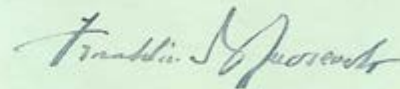
October 18, 1944

Dear Father Bojnowski:

My hearty greetings to the pastor and congregation of Sacred Heart Church, New Britain, on the happy occasion of the Golden Jubilee of its founding. I am told that this is the first church especially established in New Britain to minister to the spiritual needs of Polish Catholics.

I am sure that the approaching commemoration will imbue all who participate with a quickened sense of appreciation of the blessings of civil and religious liberty. God grant that those blessings may also soon return to long-suffering Poland when that country is released from the horror of Nazi terrorism.

Very sincerely yours,



Reverend Lucian Bojnowski,
Pastor,
Sacred Heart Church,
New Britain, Connecticut.

(Right) October 18, 1944 letter signed by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to Rev. Lucian Bojnowski, Sacred Heart Church Pastor.

EVENING PROGRAM

6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Hour	Silent Auction Commences
7:30 p.m.	Welcome	Mateusz Bomba, 2026 Summer Gala Chair
	Invocation	Rev. Robert Będziński, SChr, Chaplain
	Toast	Agnieszka Bastrzyk, Board Chair Małgorzata Kot, Managing Director
	Dinner	
8:30 p.m.	Greetings	Regina Jurkowska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago
	Recognition of Donors & Polish Spirit Award	Agnieszka Bastrzyk Małgorzata Kot
	Artistic performance	Polonia Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble
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 Mushroom Soup with Croutons

O'Hare Salad served with Peaches

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

Filet Mignon
with Garlic Red Mashed Potatoes
and Steamed Asparagus with Carrots

or

Baked White Fish in Wine Butter Gravy
with Roasted Potatoes
and Green Beans with Breadcrumbs

or

Vegetable Lasagna
with Grilled Seasonal Vegetables
and Beets Baked with Honey and Feta Cheese

DESSERT

Strawberry Ice Cream

Coffee and Tea Service



MATEUSZ BOMBA
CHAIR OF THE 46TH PMA SUMMER GALA



Mateusz Bomba is a multi-talented performer, actor, singer, and dancer, who is known throughout Chicago's Polish American community for his longtime involvement with the Polonia Ensemble of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA).

Born in Rzeszów, Poland, Mateusz emigrated to Chicago with his parents in 2007 at the age of 14. Dedicated to preserving his Polish heritage, he attended St. Ferdinand Polish School and joined the Polonia Ensemble that same year. Through performances across the United States and internationally, he has spent nearly two decades promoting and celebrating Polish culture within the Polish American community.

Mateusz began his professional career with PRCUALife in 2016 while pursuing a degree in Business Administration and Management. He started in sales and marketing, then advanced to Fraternal Department Coordinator before expanding his expertise in life insurance and annuities. His interest in underwriting eventually led him to transition into the New Business Department, where he currently serves as a Life Insurance and Annuity Specialist. As he continues to grow within the insurance industry, Mateusz is working toward his underwriting certification (Chartered Life Underwriter, CLU) through PRCUALife and aspires to pursue an MBA in the future.

As a dedicated PRCUA member, Mateusz has served as President of PRCUA District 7 since 2018. In this role, he has demonstrated strong leadership, organizational skills, and an ongoing commitment to supporting PRCUA members through community events, programs, and district initiatives.

Mateusz and his wife, Victoria, are proud parents to their daughter Milena (3) and son Leon (8 months). Together, they remain committed to preserving Polish traditions and sharing Polish culture with the next generation.

Through his work in the arts, professional achievements, and community leadership, Mateusz continues to make a meaningful impact on the Polish American community.



POLONIA SONG AND FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

The POLONIA Song and Folk Dance Ensemble was established in Chicago 40 years ago, under the patronage of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA). The Ensemble promotes artistic passion and love for Poland, its culture and history, art and traditions, folk dance and music. It also inspires and motivates Polish youth to embrace their culture by singing and dancing locally, as well as around the world. The ensemble consists of multiple groups of dancers, varying in ages from 3 to 30 years old.

Since the beginning of its existence, the POLONIA Ensemble has been an ambassador of Polish folklore, traveling to the farthest corners of the world, giving concerts in the USA and 27 countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America. For its merits and outstanding achievements in promoting Polish folk culture, the POLONIA Ensemble has been awarded the Gold Medal of the "Polish Community" and it is the one of most recognized Polish groups in Chicago.



THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

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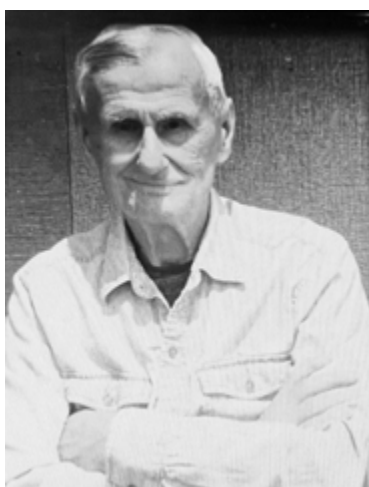
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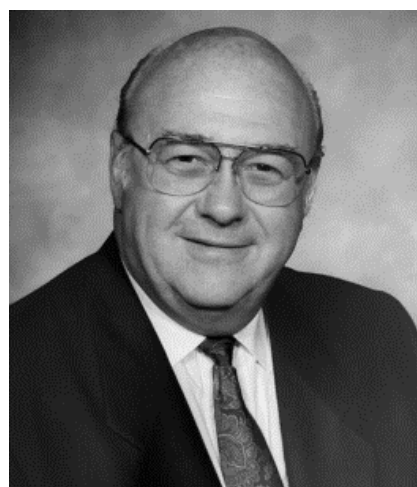
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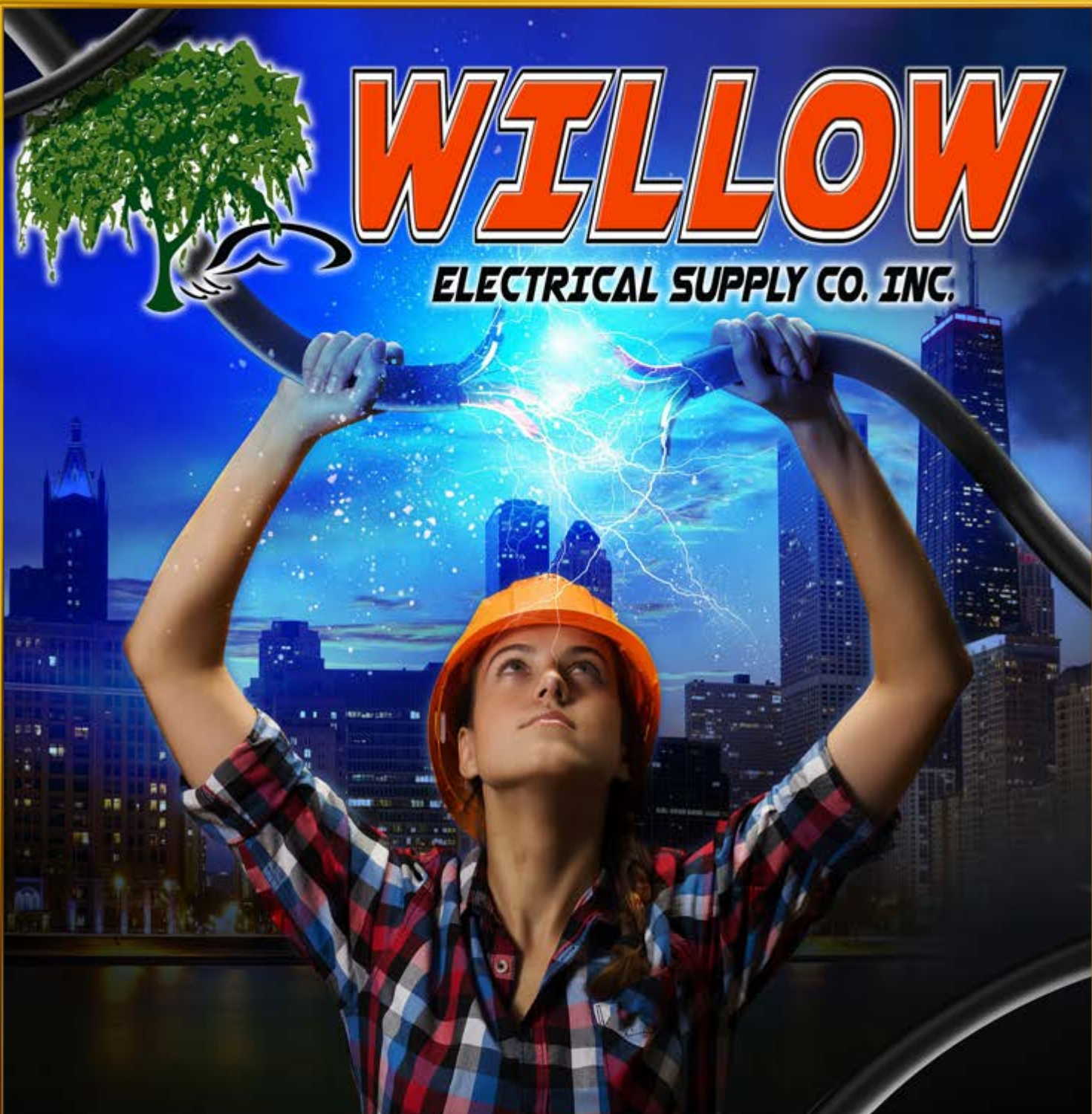
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Congratulations to the Polish Museum of America on its 46th Summer Gala. Your work preserving and celebrating Polish heritage is truly inspiring.

Warmest congratulations to the recipients of the 2026 Polish Spirit Award, especially the Chairman of our Board, Hubert Cioromski, on this well-deserved honor.

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AND THE POLISH SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

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((...))

Polish Army Veterans Association of America as an heir of the Polish War Effort in America during World War I, honors the memory of nearly 21,000 volunteers from the USA and Canada to the Polish Army in France, the so-called Blue Army.

This year, as we mark the 250th anniversary of American independence, we also honor two Polish heroes—General Kazimierz Pułaski and General Tadeusz Kościuszko, who fought for America's freedom.

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Excursion of the Western Society of Engineers to the Thebes Bridge

November 19, 1904, Modjeski and Masters Collection, Archives Center, National

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Ralph Modjeski world renown builder of great American bridges, son of actress Helena Modjeska, was also a virtuoso pianist. He performed with Ignacy Jan Paderewski in Chicago, had a great love for Chopin, played from memory his Nocturnes, Polonaises, Etudes and Mazurkas. He was a member of the Philosophical and Art Societies. He had a reputation as a designer of very safe, economical and esthetically pleasing structures. Modjeski received many of the greatest engineering awards. He was an outstanding businessman and an exceptional organizer of construction sites.

A fascinating illustration and an incredibly insightful read into the engineering and construction of select Modjeski Bridges, as well as the socio-political and historical circumstances surrounding those bridges.

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Jan S. Plachta studied Civil Engineering in Cracow, Poland; Vienna, Austria and in Chicago. He has a PhD degree in Soil Mechanics from the Technical University of Cracow in Poland. He has published extensively in numerous technical publications in the United States and in Europe, documenting the accomplishments of engineers of Polish heritage. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the American Society of Military Engineers (SAME).



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On behalf of the Polish American Medical Society, we proudly support the Polish Museum of America and its mission to preserve and promote the rich heritage of Polish Americans. As this year's Summer Gala highlights Polish American contributions to 250 years of American Independence, we celebrate the enduring impact of Polonia on the cultural, scientific, and civic fabric of our nation. The Museum serves as a vital steward of these stories, ensuring they continue to inspire future generations.

We commend the Polish Museum of America for its ongoing dedication to safeguarding our shared history and thank all those who contribute to this important work. We are honored to stand alongside you in supporting this year's gala and your continued efforts to preserve the legacy of Polish Americans for years to come. Sto lat!



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On the occasion
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PAJA proudly supports the Polish Museum of America in preserving and celebrating the rich legacy of Polish American heritage.

As we honor 250 years of Polish contributions to America, PAJA remains committed to strengthening our community and preserving our shared legacy for future generations.

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Z okazji Letniej Gali Muzeum Polskiego w Ameryce, celebrującej 250-lecie Niepodległości Stanów Zjednoczonych oraz wkład Polonii w historię i rozwój Ameryki, Związek Klubów Polskich w USA składa serdeczne gratulacje oraz wyrazy uznania dla organizatorów tego wyjątkowego wydarzenia.

Dziękujemy Muzeum Polskiemu w Ameryce za wieloletnią działalność na rzecz pielęgnowania polskiego dziedzictwa, kultury i historii oraz za budowanie mostów między pokoleniami Polonii.

Niech ta uroczysta gala będzie symbolem dumy, jedności i siły naszej wspólnej tożsamości.
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In celebration of 250 years of Polish-American contributions to the United States, the Chicago Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation is proud to congratulate the Polish Museum of America for its outstanding contributions to the promotion of Polish heritage and culture.

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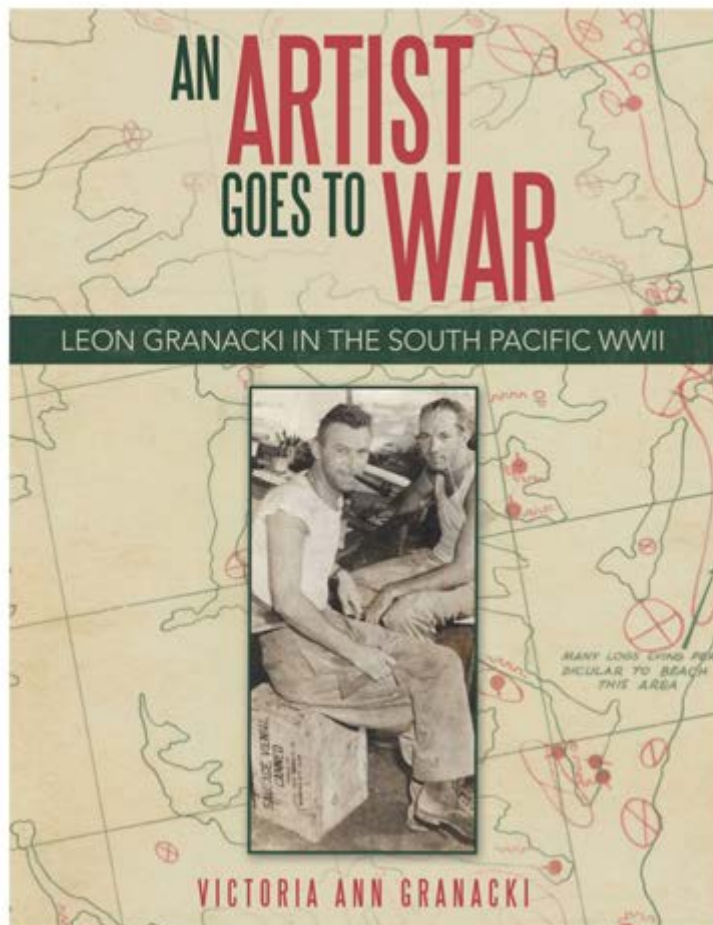
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Victoria Granacki, PMA Board of Directors Secretary, is the author of *Chicago's Polish Downtown* from Arcadia Publishing, and of many historic articles in PMA Gala program books

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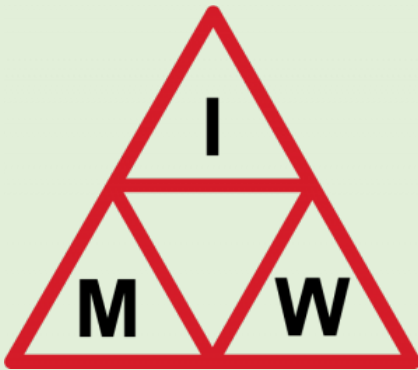
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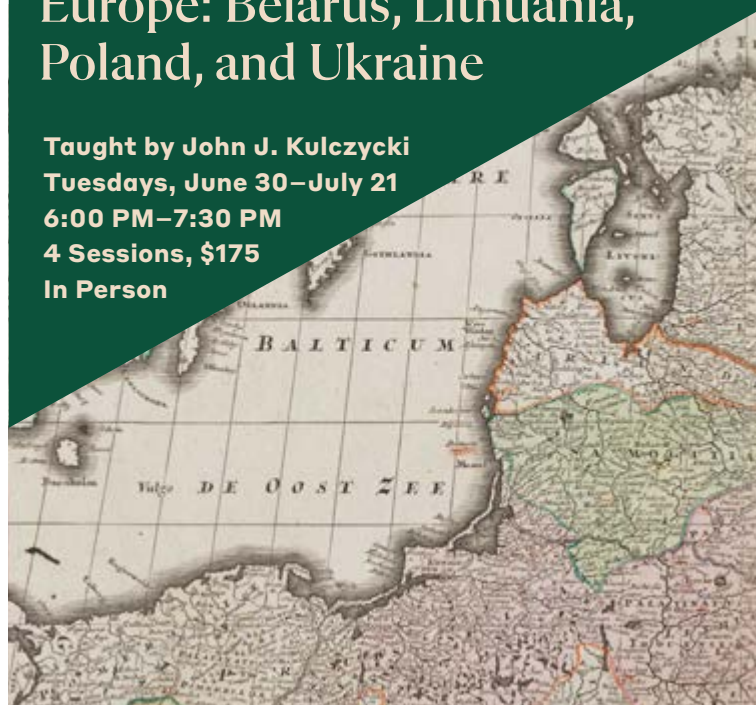
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kolejnych wspaniałych ekspozycji i
nieskończonych pokładów kreatywności
w odkrywaniu historii na nowo.



Congratulations
to the 2026
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at the
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Joining us tonight for the 46th Summer Gala is only one way to support the Polish Museum of America in its mission. Please consider other ways to help the PMA:

MAKE A DONATION

Your financial contribution will allow the PMA to preserve the Polish and Polish American past for future generations by funding powerful exhibits and programming as well as daily operational needs.

BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR OR SUSTAINING DONOR

Support PMA general funding and receive wide recognition and priority access to the museum and special events.

MAKE A GIFT AS PART OF YOUR LEGACY

Plan to donate through a bequest, trust, or gift annuity.

CONSIDER QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCD)

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift to the PMA directly from your IRA, thereby avoiding taxes on the distribution. These donations count toward your required minimum distribution, reducing your taxable income, even if you don't itemize deductions.

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Offering different levels of annual and Life membership, find the category that is right for you. If you are already a member – consider renewing at a higher level.

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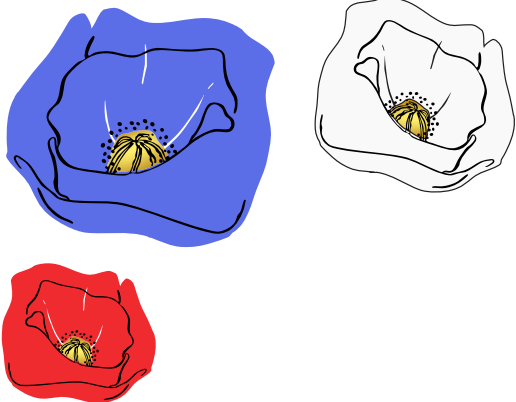
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Call 773-384-3352 or email PMA@PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org for more information.



THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA



Cover artwork:
Rendering of *Polish-American Coat of Arms*,
Henryk Grunwald, pre 1939