

To cultivate, enhance, and promote the understanding of the Polish language, culture, and arts;
To project the accurate and true image of the Polish American;
To promote cordial and cooperative relations among the members and the community-at-large;
To be a non-sectarian and non-partisan organization in south-central Pennsylvania

Maj/May 2015

www.polamhar.com



You're Invited!

**The Polish American Association of Harrisburg
cordially invites you, your family and friends
to the annual PAA Picnic.**

Saturday, May 30 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM

(Pavilion is available to members from 8:00 AM; event starts at 2:00 PM)

Gifford Pinchot State Park

**Pinchot Lake Pavilion Lakeview Number 4, Quaker Race Day Use Area
2200 Rosstown Rd, Lewisberry, PA 17339**

RSVP: Through Evite or by calling Lorraine Buchinski at 717-534-2058 (between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM) no later than May 22.

Indicate the number of adults and children attending and what help you can provide in setting up, grilling, and/or cleaning up after the picnic. Your assistance is needed.

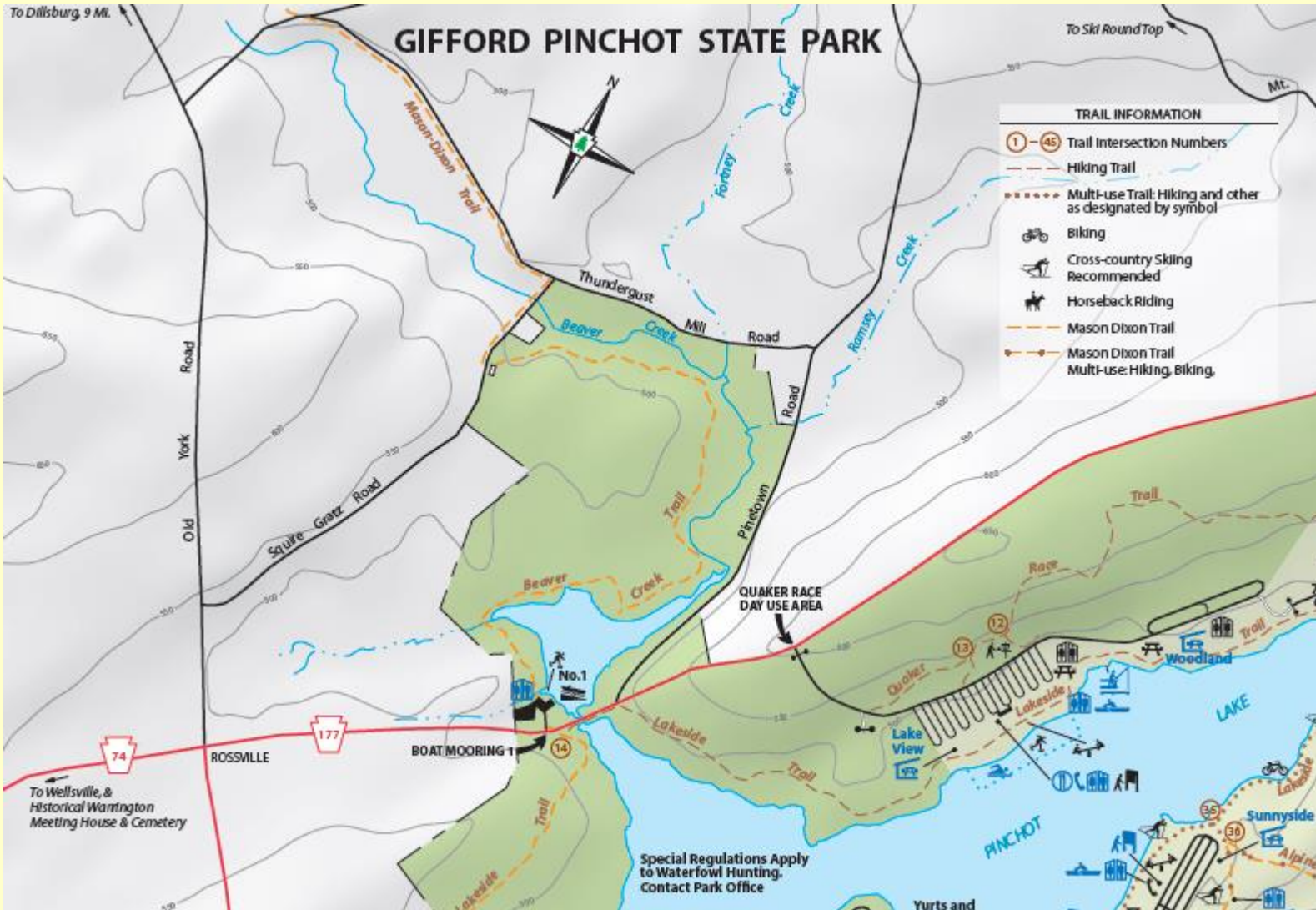
FOOD: PAA is providing Polish kielbasa and drinks. Members and guests are asked to bring a dish to share.

COST: There is no cost to members.

Non-member individual \$5.00; non-member family \$10.00.

Directions:

The park is near the metropolitan areas of York and Harrisburg. It is reached from Harrisburg via the Lewisberry Exit (35) of I-83 south, then PA 177 south; or by US 15 south to Dillsburg, then to PA 74 south. From York, take PA 74 north or I-83 north. From I-83, take the Newberrytown Exit (32), PA 382 west to PA 177 south.



http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004651.pdf

Activities at the Park

Biking: The trails between the campground and the Conewago Day Use Area are for joint-use by bikers and hikers. The network consists of a 3.5-mile outer loop with internal connectors. The surface is packed gravel and is mostly flat with gentle hills. The trail is suitable for family use and most bikes.

Boat Rentals: There are several types of boats and electric trolling motors for rental at the boat rental from late spring through early autumn each year.

Day Use: Picnic tables, charcoal grills, convenient parking lots, drinking water, modern restrooms and horseshoe pits are throughout the areas. The Quaker Race Area has a volleyball court. The Conewago Area has a softball field.

Disc Golf: There are two recreational disc golf courses: In the Conewago Day Use Area is Boulder-Woods. It is a fairly level course, great for families. In the Quaker Race Day Use Area is Quaker's Challenge. This course has both recreational and pro tee in a challenging, hilly course.

Fishing: The 340-area Pinchot Lake is designated a big bass lake. Special regulations cover the minimum size and creel limits for all species of bass. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

Hiking: There are more than 18 miles of marked and maintained trails. The longer through trails are marked with 3" by 5" rectangular white blazes. Shorter trails are marked with white, double bar blazes. Most trails interconnect, so hikers can tailor their outing to meet individual desires.

Picnicking: The accessible Quaker Race Day Use Area is on the west side of the lake and the Conewago Day Use Area is on the east side of lake.

Special Activities: A park-operated nature center in the Conewago Day Use Area is open during the summer. Wayside exhibits and informative brochures help visitors learn more about the park's natural environment. Pontoon boat tours of the lake are offered spring through fall.

Swimming: An accessible beach in Quaker Race Day Use Area is open 8:00 AM to sunset. Please follow posted rules for swimming. Contact park office for availability. Picnic facilities, snack bar and children's play area are nearby.



On May 9th, 2015 the European Union Embassies and the EU Delegation to the United States are opening their doors to the public for the annual EU Embassies' Open House: a day of family fun, food, culture and more.

The event offers visitors a rare look inside the embassies and provides a unique opportunity for them to experience the cultural heritage and national traditions of the 28 member countries.

Discover Poland's Riviera!

Learn about the history, culture and lively charm of Poland's Baltic Sea Region where the old meets the new.

Experience the mysterious beauty of the Baltic's hidden treasure: amber and learn about its origins.

Admire our collection of unique Baltic amber jewelry.

Discover fossils preserved in amber – kids will love this!

Fool your friends into thinking you took a trip to Poland by posing before our Gdansk panorama screen.

Become a treasure hunter - help your children dig in the sand for pieces of real amber.

Make Polish themed kinetic sand designs to win some sweet prizes.

Find out more about Poland and Poland's Baltic Sea Region via free publications, maps and more.

Tour our stately reception rooms here at the oldest Embassy in the US Capital.

Enjoy traditional food and drink from our country.

<http://www.euopenhouse.org/plan-your-trip/>

Congratulations to Rev. Walter Sempko

Fr. Walter Sempko, who has offered or coordinated a monthly Polish Mass for us at St. Catherine Labouré Church since 1988, celebrated the 65th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on March 25, 2015. An article about Fr. Sempko appeared in the April 17, 2015 edition of the Diocesan newspaper, The Witness.

<http://www.hbgdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2015/04/April-17-Issue.pdf>

The Polish American Association of Harrisburg offers Fr. Sempko our congratulations and our gratitude for continuing his ministry to us in his retirement. We pray God will bless him abundantly for his service to us and to so many others in the Diocese of Harrisburg.



SAINT LUKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Faustina
MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 8:00 P.M.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
256 Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

ADMISSION: Free-Will Offering - Suitable for Ages 13 & Up

INFORMATION: Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts
Rev. Peter DiTomasso, (717) 334-2510 or (717) 642-8815
metshaven@hotmail.com | www.stjosephtheworkerpa.org

A LIVE MULTIMEDIA DRAMA PERFORMED BY MARIA VARGO
DIRECTED BY LEONARDO DEFILIPPIS | WWW.DIVINEMERCYDRAMA.COM

Calendar of Events 2015

Polish Mass

Third Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

St. Catherine Labouré Church
4000 Derry St., Harrisburg,
Confessions heard after Mass.

May 30 - Spring Picnic

2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Gifford-Pinchot State Park

May 9 – EU Embassies Open House,
Washington, DC

May 20 – St. Faustina: Messenger of Mercy

St. Mary's Church,
Fairfield, PA

July 11 & 12 – Maryland's Polish Festival

Timonium Fairgrounds – Exhibition Hall
2200 York Rd

July 19 – Bobby Vinton & Jimmy Sturr

American Music Theater
Lancaster, PA

Maryland's Polish Festival

July 11 & 12, 2015

Timonium Fair Grounds - Exhibition Hall

2200 York Road - Timonium, MD 21093

Saturday July 11 - 11:00am-10:00pm

Sunday July 12 - 11:00am-7:00pm

Admission: \$8.00 (adults)- \$7.00 (seniors 60 and over and military with ID)

Children 12 and under FREE with paying adult

Featuring:

- * JOY of Maryland * Crabtown Sounds * Lenny Adams Band *
- * Boys from Baltimore * Polski Swingmasters * Krakowiaki Dancers *
- * Ojczyzna Folk Dancers * Polish Heritage Display *

Polish Beer & Food available

For more information call:

Steve Lesniewski - 410-780-9054

Maryanne Frederick - 410-276-4019



Photo by Tom Scilipoti

Memorializing the 75th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre

Sunday, April 19, marked the 75th anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre which was memorialized at the 15th Annual Katyn Remembrance ceremony.

The National Katyn Memorial, Inner Harbor East, honors the Polish lives taken by Soviet forces from 1939-1940 in the Katyn Forest.

A Mass was dedicated to the over 20,000 victims of the Massacre at Holy Rosary Church. A keynote speaker at the memorial, Senator Barbara Mikulski said, “They were doctors, teachers, Army officers, engineers, lawyers – a whole generation of Polish patriots and leaders, brave men and woman who died for Polish freedom and independence.”

Other speakers included Senator Benjamin Cardin and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie-Rawlings Blake. The Embassy of Poland was represented by Ambassador Ryszard Schnef and military commander BG Jaroslaw Strozyk. “Since the Katyn Memorial was erected 15 years ago, it has become an integral part of the city, and serves as a daily reminder for passersby as to what totalitarianism can lead to,” said Schnef.

At the ceremony, there was the laying of memorial wreaths and a recessional of color guards and military formations. The Color Guards along with Polish officials, honored the lives lost at the Katyn Forest Massacre as an army bugler played “Taps.”



Photo by Tom Scilipoti

Text by Gianna DeCarlo

<http://baltimoreguide.com/memorializing-the-75th-anniversary-of-the-katyn-forest-massacre/>

More pictures of the Mass and memorial ceremony taken by Andrzej Trzeciak

(antrzeciak@yahoo.com) are at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/98882362@N06/sets/72157649915100944/>

Visegrad MoDs widen scope for joint cooperation

Defense Ministers of the Visegrad countries – Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary – have called for a more significant role of the regional group within the structures of NATO and the European Union



Photo: PAP/EPA/CSABA KRIZSAN

Defense Ministers Tomasz Siemoniak of Poland, Martin Stropnický of the Czech Republic, Martin Givác of Slovakia and Csaba Hende of Hungary (L-R) sign an agreement during the meeting of Defense Ministers of the Visegrad Group 23.04.2015.

The defense ministers signed a number of agreements, which are to widen the scope for future military cooperation, including a Visegrad Task Force numbering 3,000 troops. Speaking at a meeting of V4 defense ministers in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, Thursday, Poland's Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak said that "it would be worthwhile if our various activities would concur with actions undertaken by NATO and the EU".

Siemoniak explained that the cooperation would be visible in the creation of NATO's VJTF ('Very High Readiness Joint Task Force', also known as the 'Spearhead') as well as the supporting NFIUs ('NATO Force Integration Units'), as well as the development of NATO's Multinational Corps Northeast based in Szczecin.

"Our joint aspiration is to increase the defense and political capabilities of the Visegrad Group," Siemoniak added, saying that in his opinion, "the V4 is a very good example in the realm of defense as well as how mutual trust can result in combined actions".

<http://thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/204623>

Polish diplomats have demanded that Mattel recall a game that references "Nazi Poland."

Apples to Apples, a card game from the US toy manufacturer Mattel has caused outrage for containing the phrase "Nazi Poland." In Warsaw, Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna said the Polish Embassy in Washington had asked Mattel to withdraw the party game that rewards quick-thinking deception.

The disputed card, "Schindler's List," reads: "1993 Steven Spielberg film. Powerful, real-life story of a Catholic businessman who eventually saved over 1,000 Jews in Nazi Poland." Mattel did not immediately make a public response. According to reports, the company has sold more than 3 million sets of the game.

Just a few days ago, James B. Comey, the Director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, had caused outrage when he referred to Polish "accomplices" with the Nazis in a Washington Post opinion piece about the Holocaust.

"I regret linking Germany and Poland," Comey wrote in a handwritten letter of apology given to the Polish ambassador in Washington. "The Polish state bears no responsibility for the horrors imposed by the Nazis."

<http://www.dw.de/pires-protest-mattel-game-that-references-nazi-poland/a-18406855>

Envoy concedes that remarks were "offensive"

U.S. Ambassador Apologizes to Poles over FBI Director's Holocaust remarks

The U.S. ambassador to Poland, Stephen Mull, has apologized for remarks made by FBI Director James Comey, who in a *Washington Post* op-ed, accused Poland of being a collaborator in the Holocaust. Mull, was summoned by Polish authorities and conceded that Comey's remarks were "wrong, harmful and offensive."

In his article, which was based on a speech he delivered at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Comey referred to Polish "murderers and accomplices" and claimed that "in their minds" they "didn't do something evil."

The Polish embassy in Washington, D.C., published a statement castigating Comey's article "especially for accusing Poles of perpetrating crimes which not only did they not commit, but which they themselves were victims of."

On Sunday, Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz said, "To those who are incapable of presenting the historic truth in an honest way, I want to say that Poland was not a perpetrator but a victim of World War II."

<http://time.com/3827721/poland-fbi-holocaust-james-comey/>

Where Poles and Russians Meet, Ideals and Profits Clash



Russians shop in Gdansk, Poland after a treaty made it easier for residents of the two countries to cross the border between Poland and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

Credit Maciek Nabrdalik for The New York Times

For more than a year, since the Ukraine conflict erupted, European nations have been having an argument among themselves that measures ideals against profits.

Some, eager to dissuade President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia from further aggression in Ukraine, argue that the current slate of Western sanctions is a weak tea of halfhearted gestures, intended as much to safeguard Western business interests as to support Kiev. Others fear that alienating Russia will only harm their own country's economy and argue that maintaining ties is the best way to lure Moscow back into the Western fold.

A treaty signed by Polish and Russian officials in Moscow in 2011, and put in place in mid-2012, created a "short border" program that made it significantly easier for residents living nearby to cross from one side to the other.

Even the recent tensions between the two nations — borne out by heated exchanges between the capitals, growing Polish anxiety about Mr. Putin's intentions and rising Russian anger over sanctions — have failed to dampen enthusiasm in either country for the hugely profitable and popular program.

“In my opinion, the West needs to continue its hard line towards Putin, and NATO needs to keep its ability to react,” said Pawel Adamowicz, the mayor of Gdansk. “We need to make Russians think twice before acting. But at the same time, we need to maintain these relations with ordinary Russians, to distinguish between the people and the regime.”

Under the “short border” program, Russians in the enclave of Kaliningrad — surrounded by Poland on the south and Lithuania on the east, with a population of about 950,000 — who previously needed visas to cross into Poland can apply for permits to visit those parts of Poland nearest the border. And, hundreds of thousands have done just that — 1.2 million in 2013 and 1.7 million last year.

Great crowds of Russian shoppers began appearing in stores as far west as Gdansk. Malls, medical clinics, beauticians and lawyers found themselves with new customers and were forced to hire Russian-speaking staff to deal with them. Advertisements in Cyrillic script sprouted on Polish highways. Russians found themselves within easy reach of discount food and clothing stores offering goods that were either unavailable or much more expensive in Kaliningrad. Thousands of Poles signed up for the permits after discovering that gasoline could be had at almost a third of the price in Kaliningrad.

If anything, political and business leaders from both countries are focusing their worries on a recent drop in cross-border traffic — nearly 31 percent in the first three months of the year compared with the same period last year. This, they stress, was caused by a steep drop in the ruble’s exchange rate, and a dip in the number of working-class Russians making the trip, and not growing antipathy between residents of the two countries. But there have been a handful of incidents speaking to a higher level of tension.

The recent construction of six Polish watchtowers along the Kaliningrad border drew national media attention. The watchtowers were seen as a fresh sign of anxiety between the two nations — despite the towers’ having been in the works since 2004, part of a long-term project to shore up all of the European Union’s external borders from a wave of illegal immigrants, including a new border wall in Bulgaria

Monika Trzcinska, the mayor of Braniewo, a small town near the border that has profited keenly from the Russian commerce, said there had been an incident involving a Russian customer at a discount store, who was told he could not pay in rubles and replied, “Soon, you will all be using rubles.” This led a Polish customer to step forward and punch him. The Pole was fined, she said.

The border program is worthwhile, Mr. Adamowicz said, if only because it brings together ordinary Poles and Russians who may otherwise have never encountered one another. “Obviously, we try not to mention the war in Ukraine or Putin’s politics,” he said.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/25/world/europe/where-poles-and-russians-meet-ideals-and-profits-clash.html?_r=2#story-continues-5. A version of this article appears in print on April 26, 2015, on page A6 of the New York edition with the headline: Where Poles and Russians Meet, Ideals and Profits Clash.

Mourning a Great European: Wladyslaw Bartoszewski



Picture-alliance/dpa

“The death of former Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski has caused great sadness. But his legacy is one of hope: Resistance to injustice pays off!” - Homage by Deutsche Welle's Director General, Peter Limbourg.

For Poland and Germany, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski was one of the defining figures of the 20th century. But he was not a man of yesterday in the least: When I visited him last year in his office at the Chancellery in Warsaw, he was more alert and inspiring than many contemporary politicians, despite his advanced age. Quick-witted, entertaining and wise - no one knew more about Polish-German relations than he did.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski was a perfect democrat, a fighter for freedom and a man of reconciliation. His faith and his humanity, coupled with a sharp intellect, made a deep impression on me.

The sadness felt at the passing of this great European is immense, and rightly so. But he leaves behind a legacy of hope: Resistance to injustice is worth it in the end! In Germany and Poland, it wasn't Hitler or Stalin who won - but the democrat Wladyslaw Bartoszewski.

<http://www.dw.de/mourning-a-great-european/a-18408070>



Peter Limbourg, DW Director General

Former Polish Foreign Minister Bartoszewski dies at 93

A former Auschwitz inmate, Polish foreign minister, academic, journalist, honorary Israeli citizen, and a key figure in German-Polish reconciliation after the Second World War: Wladyslaw Bartoszewski died in Warsaw on April 24, 2015, at age 93.



AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski

Poland's Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz, left; Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Poland's former Foreign Minister; and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, pose while visiting an exhibition commemorating Polish-German reconciliation, in Krzyzowa, Poland, November. 20, 2014.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, was a former Auschwitz prisoner and member of Poland's underground World War II resistance who helped save Jews and later served twice as the country's foreign minister.

President Bronislaw Komorowski, wrote on Twitter that he was deeply saddened, "This is a huge loss; a great Pole has left us," Poland's former prime minister Donald Tusk, now EU Council president, said that Bartoszewski was "not to be substituted by anyone." In Tusk's government, Bartoszewski was deputy minister in charge of international dialogue, chiefly with Germany and Israel.

Parliament Speaker Radek Sikorski said flags at the parliament building would be lowered to half-staff in Bartoszewski's honor.

Very much present in the public life, Bartoszewski was widely respected not only for his wartime resistance, but also as a historian, author of books on World War II history, social activist and politician. He spent a large part of his life working for Polish-German reconciliation, making it a focus of his writings and speeches in Poland and in Germany.

A Polish Catholic, Bartoszewski, was born in 1922 in Warsaw. The son of a bank clerk, he grew up next to Warsaw's Jewish district and had many Jewish friends.

When he was still just a teenager he fought in the defense of Warsaw against the Germans, who invaded the country in September 1939. Caught in a street roundup in Warsaw in 1940, he was sent to Auschwitz, which was first used by the Nazi Germans for Polish resistance fighters. There he was given the prison number 4427. In a very rare occurrence, he was released in April 1941 thanks to the efforts of the Polish Red Cross, which he had worked for before his arrest.

Back in Warsaw, he wrote a detailed report from his time at the camp, the first known written witness account from Auschwitz. He also reported on Auschwitz to Poland's clandestine resistance Home Army, commanded from London by Poland's government-in-exile. He joined the resistance, the underground Home Army, and organized secret help to the prisoners of the Pawiak prison, where the Germans held and tortured Polish resistance members and ordinary people.

He also joined a resistance unit devoted to saving Jews, known as Żegota. For his efforts to help the Jews he was honored by the Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, as a "Righteous Among the Nations" in 1965. He was also an honorary citizen of Israel.

Before the war was over, however, he took up arms yet again against the Germans, fighting in the ill-fated Warsaw Uprising of 1944. The war's end meant new hardship for Bartoszewski, who became the target of the new, imposed communist regime, which considered all Home Army independence fighters a threat, because they opposed the Soviet-backed communist rule. For his independent thinking and pro-democracy writings Bartoszewski was imprisoned — on fabricated espionage charges — and spent nearly seven years in prison before a court finally ruled in 1955 that he had been unfairly arrested. He found work as a lecturer at a Catholic university, and also wrote for Radio Free Europe and lectured in Germany.

In the 1980s he was active in Solidarity, the movement that eventually helped topple communism, but that earned him some four months' confinement under martial law. Bartoszewski was an animated and exhaustive speaker who had a lot to say on many issues. He met often with young people, hoping to encourage them to embrace peace and tolerance. He said he saw it as an obligation to bear testimony to the decades of cruelty he witnessed during the war and under communism. He appeared active and charismatic until the end.

By [MONIKA SCISLOWSKA](#)

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:2d41981c872949e98d4da822e1257843#license-6ed9b95b62025c29d066a4b6b2aed441>

Polish Language Lessons

For individuals and groups, adults and children.

Contact Joanna Rzeszotko: joanna.pu1@interia.pl

Business Ads

Members may advertise at polamhar.com for only \$50.00 per year.

Contact Anna Rossi at polamhar@gmail.com.

Packages to Poland

Contact Anna Rossi at 717-571-6632 for details.

Polish-American Association Of Harrisburg

polamhar@gmail.com

Officers and Board:

Officers:

President: Gabriela Salkaj Trembecka

Vice President: *Waiting for a volunteer*

Treasurer/Membership: Anna Rossi

Secretary: *Waiting for a volunteer*

Board Members:

Marzena Wolnikowski

Yolanta (Jola) Gorski

Phil Wysocki

Carolyn Blaszczyk

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Blaszczyk

Submissions for the August 2015 newsletter should be submitted to the Editor at 717-889-2623 or cbis2@comcast.net, **not later than July 31.**

Membership

If you would like to join our Association please send an e-mail indicating your interest to: polamhar@gmail.com or download the membership form at:

<http://www.polamhar.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/MembershipForm.pdf> and send with your payment to: Anna Rossi, 850 Waltonville Rd., Hummelstown, PA17036

Yearly Membership:

\$15 Individual

\$10 Senior (over 65)

\$35 Family

\$100 Sobieski or Jagiellonka Patron

\$150 Business/Corporate Patron

THANK YOU!

Zainteresowanych przystąpieniem do Stowarzyszenia prosimy o wysłanie e-maila na adres: polamhar@gmail.com lub wydrukowanie <http://www.polamhar.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/MembershipForm.pdf> i wysłanie wypełnionego formularza wraz z opłatą na adres: Anna Rossi, 850 Waltonville Rd., Hummelstown, PA17036

Roczny koszt:

\$15 Osoba poniżej 65

\$10 Osoba powyżej 65

\$35 Rodzina

\$100 Sobieski albo Jagiellonka

\$150 Biznes/Corporate

DZIĘKUJEMY!



Mmm... Pierogies

For Polish Catering and More

email us at: polish.taste.4.u@gmail.com

or call Gosia at 717 330 5219 or

Rafal at 717 330 5516