



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 2016

[www.polamhar.org](http://www.polamhar.org)



**You are cordially invited to attend  
The Polish American Association of Harrisburg  
Picnic**

Our annual summer picnic will be held on **Saturday, June 4, at Pinchot State Park, 2200 Rosstown Rd, Lewisberry, PA, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

Look for the sign pointing to the PAA Picnic on the right side of the road as you enter the park. Small Polish and American flags will mark the rest of the way to the site of the picnic.

RSVP: By calling Lorraine Buchinski at 717-534-2058 (between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM) no later than May 31. 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. (Bring any games you would like to play too).

COST: There is no cost to members. Non-member individual \$5.00; non-member family \$10.00.

MORE INFO: If you need more information, contact our Association President, Gabriela Trembecka at 717-839-9295.

PARK INFO: [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_004651.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004651.pdf)

**Calendar of Events  
2016**

**Polish Mass**

3rd Sunday of each month  
2:00 PM  
St. Catherine Labouré  
Church  
4000 Derry St.,  
Harrisburg  
Confessions after Mass.

**Annual Picnic**

June 4  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Pinchot State Park

**Dinner on the Boat**

September 10 (time TBD)  
Harrisburg

**Andrzejski Dance Party**

November 12 or 19  
(time and place TBD)

**Wigilia**

December 3 at 5:00 PM  
Linglestown Fire Hall

## Constitution Day



Jan Matejko, *Constitution of 3 May, 1791, 1891*. Foreground: King Stanisław August (*left*) enters St John's Collegiate Church where deputies will swear to uphold the Constitution. Background: the Royal Castle where the Constitution has just been adopted.

This year marks the 225th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution of May 3 – the first written constitution in modern Europe and the second in the world, after America's. The Constitution was adopted on 3 May 1791. Its authors are considered to be King Stanisław II August Poniatowski, Grand Marshal of Lithuania Ignacy Potocki and priest Hugo Kołłątaj, clergyman and philosopher.

The enacted constitution drew inspiration from the European Enlightenment and the American Constitution of 1787. Creators of the Polish Constitution recognized that the government must serve the good of the whole nation. The document consisted of 11 articles. The first one defined the Roman Catholic religion as the dominant, at the same time providing for freedom of religion and practices of the followers of other religions. Article V of the Constitution divided power into legislative, executive and judicial. The bicameral Sejm adopted laws, the executive power remained in the hands of the king and the Guardians of the Laws, and the judicial power was in the hands of independent courts.

The Constitution of May 3 abolished *Liberum veto*, which allowed ceasing the adoption of a bill by opposition of at least one deputy – since then all decisions were to be taken by a majority of votes. The king had no legislative sanction. In order to become applicable law royal decisions had to be signed by the competent ministers, who in turn were responsible to the Sejm.

A new form of parliament, *Ready Sejm*, to which deputies were elected for two years, was created. The Constitutional Sejm was to convene every 25 years in order to revise the Constitution and introduce changes to it. The national army was created, and the government care of the Constitution included peasants. The privilege of the Law on the Cities, adopted earlier in April 1791, considered to be integral to the Constitution – gave the townspeople the right to own estates, hold officer's positions and positions in the state administration, and the right to acquire nobility.

The Constitution of May 3 was a reflection of the Polish spirit which enabled the Polish people to survive 123 years of partitions, and then long years of communist repression. May 3 was a public holiday until 1939. By the end of World War II and in the times of the Polish People's Republic celebration of the Constitution Day was prohibited, but every

year this anniversary became the pretext for mass anticommunist demonstrations. Currently, the Constitution of May 3 is treated by Poles as one of the most crucial events in the history of Poland.

[http://washington.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/constitution\\_day](http://washington.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/constitution_day)

### **Another Perspective on the “Polish Unrest”**

The following excerpt is taken from the article Media vs. Democracy: The Case of Poland by Maria Szonert Binienda, in American Thinker, March 5, 2016

Western media opened a frontal attack on the new Polish government formed after a landslide election victory by the Law and Justice Party (PIS). In 2015, the PIS won both presidential and parliamentary elections, and for the first time since WWII, removed entrenched post-communist forces from power in Poland. To the surprise of many Polish people, American media reacted with anger to this development, announcing that in Poland a radical right-wing government was formed and overnight introduced a dictatorship. Poland’s so-called “disturbing tilt to the right” was of grave concern to the Western media, which had been dutifully supporting the previous post-communist government of the Civic Platform (“PO”) and PSL coalition. Protests against “violation of democracy” and “Putinization of Poland” reverberated across the West.

The primary reason for sounding this alarm was the alleged *coup d’état* perpetrated on the Constitutional Court by the new government of Prime Minister Szydło. The Western media were outraged that the PIS government challenged the appointment of five judges to the Constitutional Court hastily pushed through the parliament by the previous PO/PSL coalition. They failed to report, however, that the constitutional crisis in Poland resulted from the illegal attempt of the PO/PSL coalition to force its 14 judges to the 15-member Constitutional Court in the final days of the parliament term. The subsequent changes introduced by the winning PIS resulted in PO preserving the court majority 9 to 6.

Western media disregarded the obligation to provide diverse viewpoints and responsible content. Paradoxically, this serious failure to provide balanced reporting took place while the media were accusing the new Polish government of violating freedom of speech and freedom of press.

During PO/PSL coalition rule between 2008 and 2015, the fundamental tenets of freedom of press were completely eliminated from the Polish media. A massive wave of firings in all Polish media took place in 2010, in the aftermath of the crash of Polish Air Force One in Smolensk, Russia. At the time, nearly all independently thinking journalists were removed from the mainstream media without a single complaint from the Western watchdogs of free speech and human rights. The publisher of a leading daily, *Rzeczpospolita*, was almost destroyed by the PO/PSL government for revealing that samples from the Smolensk crash site tested positive for explosives.

Accordingly, the new government of Prime Minister Szydło undertook actions to introduce pluralism of opinions and objectivity of reporting in the Polish media. The PIS government wants to restore a sense of public mission in the media, and assure the

rights to free speech to those who were effectively silenced and marginalized by the PO/PSL regime. This response was not reported, however, in the Western media.

More at:

[http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/03/media\\_vs\\_democracy\\_the\\_case\\_of\\_poland.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/03/media_vs_democracy_the_case_of_poland.html)

## **Meeting of Prime Minister Szydło and Poles living in the USA**

“I want you to know that your home is always in Poland. The Polish state will support you” – Prime Minister Beata Szydło told the Polish diaspora in the USA. On Saturday, April 23, 2016, the head of the government paid a visit to American Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Approximately, 2.5 thousand people were present to hear her remarks. Many of them carried white and red flags.

We want you to know that we are one big Polish family and what connects us is Poland – the prime minister said. The head of the government attended Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa and toured the Shrine and its surroundings.

During the speech for the Polish diaspora, the Prime Minister emphasized that Poland is in our hearts irrespective of where we live. All of us are Poles, because we were raised in the same tradition. She added that the government wants the word Poland to be associated all over the world with the most fantastic things and pronounced with pride.

Prime Minister Szydło thanked Poles abroad for their support. President Andrzej Duda and the government of Law and Justice have decided to deal with very difficult issues. We want each citizen, each Polish family to have a feeling they live with dignity. To make sure that Poland is a country strong with its values, its culture, a country which will radiate its love and care for citizens all over the world –Szydło said. Only work and humility may be the best testimony to our actions.

The prime minister pointed out that Poland is changing for the better and that her government has prepared an ambitious economy development plan. We have a great opportunity. If we seize it, Poland will develop faster, Poles will earn more, and Polish companies will manufacture more. The head of the government added that her government’s priority is to reconstruct the Polish industry, create jobs and support less affluent regions of Poland. Furthermore, the Prime Minister enumerated a number of comprehensive initiatives which her government implements to improve citizens’ safety. They include Family 500+ and the new housing program.

We will consistently defend our interests – Prime Minister Szydło said. At the same time, she added that Poland is an active country in the international arena, and faces numerous challenges. The Prime Ministers emphasized the need to build community, dialogue and cooperation: cPoland may show the world that it’s possible to think about politics in terms of common good based on values – she concluded.

More at:

[http://washington.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/meeting\\_of\\_prime\\_minister\\_szydlo\\_and\\_poles\\_living\\_in\\_the\\_usa](http://washington.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/meeting_of_prime_minister_szydlo_and_poles_living_in_the_usa)

## **United States and Poland Start Construction of Redzikowo Missile Defense Facility**



On May 13, the United States and Poland held a ground-breaking ceremony in Redzikowo, Poland, to initiate construction of the “Aegis Ashore” missile defense facility at the Redzikowo Air Base. Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work led the U.S. delegation, which included Paul Jones, U.S. Ambassador to Poland; Admiral Mark Ferguson, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe; Vice Admiral James Syring, Director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency; and Frank Rose, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance.

The Aegis Ashore facility in Poland is the third stage of an integrated U.S. missile defense system, known as the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to missile defense. EPAA is a U.S. contribution to NATO missile defense that is implemented in partnership with NATO allies. The system includes the Aegis Ashore site in Romania, AN/TPY-2 radar in Turkey, and four Aegis-equipped U.S. Navy destroyers based in Spain. When the Aegis Ashore facility in Poland is completed in 2018, NATO will have the capability to protect European NATO territories, populations, and U.S. deployed forces from the threat of ballistic missiles originating outside of the Euro-Atlantic area.

The start of the Aegis Ashore construction at Redzikowo opens a new chapter in U.S.-Poland defense cooperation. This facility will be a permanent U.S./NATO military presence in Poland when it is fully operational in 2018. The United States and Poland remain firmly committed to NATO ballistic missile defense.

<https://pl.usembassy.gov/facility/>

## **Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski Named “Outstanding Pole” in America**

The Piast Institute together with Teraz Polska (Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation) and the Pangaea Foundation announced that Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski was named “Outstanding Pole” in America on May 6, 2016 at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago in the category of Scholarship (“Nauka”).

He received his award from Mr. Norbert Barszczewski of Pangaea and Dr. Krzysztof Przybyl of the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation in conjunction with the Consul General of Poland in Chicago, Mr. Robert Rusiecki. Dr. Radzilowski, the Midwestern

Winner of this Distinguished Award, shares the honor with two other scholars chosen to represent Polonia on the East and West Coasts. The Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, in announcing the award, added his personal commendations for Dr. Radzilowski's work in support of the Embassy's work of promoting a positive image of Poland in the U.S.

Dr. Radzilowski was awarded the honor for his lifelong scholarly work in telling the Polish Story in America, in promoting the study of Polish language and culture, his co-founding (with Virginia Skrzyniarz), in 2003, of the Piast Institute devoted to the study of Poland and Polonia and his many contributions through his cultural activities, lectures, research and publications to the flourishing of the Polish Community in America.

The competition "Outstanding Pole" is an initiative of the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation, whose main objective is to create a positive image of Poles to show their achievements and distinctions and to the promotion of people of Polish ancestry who are eminently successful in a variety of fields and endeavors beyond the borders of Poland.

It is also an opportunity to showcase such individuals who through their activities and commitments contribute to the promotion of a positive image of Poland and Polish people in the world, as well as to publicize these compatriots who although often known and respected abroad, remain less known to Poles living in Poland.

For more information, contact Virginia Skrzyniarz at the Piast Institute by calling 313-733-4535 or by emailing at: [Skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org](mailto:Skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org)

### In Memorium

**Alfreda W. Jamrosz**, Polish Resistance veteran, survivor of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and a Nazi labor camp, co-founder of the Polish Heritage Society of Baltimore and the National Katyn Memorial in Harbor East died May 8, at her Baltimore home at age 90. Her obituary, in The Baltimore Sun, May 12, 2016, details her experiences in Poland during the Nazi occupation and her subsequent moves to Rome, Germany and, finally, to the United States. Mrs. Jamrosz returned to Poland in the 1990's and again in 2014 – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. She was celebrated with medals and awards. She was also a member of the Pope John Paul II Foundation and met the Pontiff on several occasions." A memorial Mass was offered for her on May 14.



"Wearing the medals she earned fighting in the Polish Underground during World War II, Alfreda Jamrosz...read a poem at the Katyn Memorial, marking the 65th anniversary of the massacre of thousands of Polish military officers by Soviet troops." Reported by: The Baltimore Sun in 2005:

More at: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/obituaries/bs-md-ob-alfreda-jamrosz-20160511-story.html>

# Cosmopolitan Review

## A Transatlantic Review of Things Polish, in English



In their Spring 2016 issue, CR reviews the film Karski and the Lords of Humanity. It is Sławomir Grünberg's splendid film that stars the famed courier himself: complex, brave, disciplined, elegant, patriotic, moral and highly intelligent. No wonder Hollywood hasn't yet discovered him. Luckily, Grünberg has.

Myra Dziama's documentary Childhood Denied, is more about how childhood was restored, with the help of love and the magic of Africa. There's a surprising "custody battle" involved when Moscow's Poland demands their repatriation, overlooking the fact that they have neither parents nor homes to return to, having lost them at the hands of the Soviets. They chose a journey to Canada instead, under the care of a young priest, Jan Królikowski.

Lilac Girls is a novel about Ravensbrück... and that startled us. Based on a true story, Martha Hall Kelly writes about New York socialite Caroline Ferriday who brought Polish survivors of medical experiments to America for treatment, weaving actual historical figures with fictional ones. Fascinating photographs of Ferriday, of the American doctors, and the Polish women add a lot to the story. The criminal Dr. Oberheuser was discovered living free and practicing medicine... until the American government took action.

The Ulma Family Museum was recently opened in Poland. Tom Frydel recognizes the importance of commemorations, but at the same time calls on historians to examine the General Government, as Nazi Germany chose to call Poland, as a laboratory of human behavior in extremis – extreme violence, extreme cruelty, extreme fear, all without respite on a scale impossible for the modern reader to comprehend. Given the growth of academic interest in trauma, it is remarkable that scholars have largely neglected this aspect of the occupation and its relationship with local attitudes toward the Holocaust that goes beyond heroism and martyrdom. Beyond the Ulmas: a serious, thought provoking read.

In San Francisco, Bay area Poles and American veterans joined together to honor Jan Karski in the beautiful War Memorial Veterans' Building. A departure from most events honoring Karski, this one shed light not only on Karski's important mission, but also on his role as a member of the resistance working for the government-in-exile, and on Poles and Americans as allies.

More at: <http://www.CosmopolitanReview.com>

## **Polish-American Association of Harrisburg**

[polamhar@gmail.com](mailto:polamhar@gmail.com)

### **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 2016 newsletter should be submitted to the Editor at 717-889-2623 or [cbis2@comcast.net](mailto:cbis2@comcast.net), not later than **July 31.**

### **Polish Lessons**

For individuals and groups, adults and children.

Contact Joanna Rzesotko: [joanna.pu1@interia.pl](mailto:joanna.pu1@interia.pl)

### **Business Ads**

Members may advertise at [www.polamhar.com](http://www.polamhar.com) for only \$50.00 per year.

### **Packages to Poland.**

Contact Anna Rossi: [polamhar@gmail.com](mailto:polamhar@gmail.com).

### **Membership**

If you would like to join our Association please send an e-mail indicating your interest to: [polamhar@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Business/Corporate

### **DZIĘKUJEMY!**