



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

sierpień/August 2018

www.polamhar.org

National Philharmonic at Strathmore Celebrates Centennial of Poland's Rebirth

On Saturday, June 2, the National Philharmonic held its final concert of the 2017-2018 season. The concert was dedicated to the Centennial of Poland's Rebirth.



FOT.: D. MIKOŁAJCZYK/MSZ

100 years ago, thanks to the determination of Poles as well as the support of the United States of America – after 123 years of partitions, Poland became once again free. “Today we are glad that we can share with you our musical heritage,” declared Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, inaugurating the concert. In the first part of the concert the orchestra of the National Philharmonic at Strathmore under the direction of Miroslaw Jacek Błaszczyk and with the participation of the distinguished pianist Brian Ganz performed Hussars’ Polonaise by Krzesimir Debski, Fryderyk Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2 and Ignacy Jan Paderewski’s Minuet in G. The second part of the concert featured the Washington, DC premier of Karol Szymanowski’s Stabat Mater performed by the National Philharmonic Choir with soloists Esther Heideman, Magdalena Wór and Tyler Duncan. The concert was very well received by the audience which responded with standing ovations on several occasions. Among the more than 1,500 guests in attendance were numerous diplomats as well as representatives of the U.S. administration. The concert was accompanied by an exhibit prepared by the Foreign Ministry detailing the historical events surrounding Poland’s rebirth in 1918.

https://washington.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/national_philharmonic_at_strathmore_celebrates_centennial_of_poland_s_rebirth

Calendar of Events **2018**

Polish Mass

September 2
12:00 PM

Seven Sorrows of the BVM
280 North Race St.
Middletown

PAA of Harrisburg will provide donuts, coffee and tea. Everyone is asked to bring a little snack to share.

“Hurricane” – A New Film About WW II Polish Fighters

By Steven McKenzie BBC Scotland Highlands and Islands reporter



A Scottish filmmaker, David Blair, has directed a new film about a squadron of Polish pilots who fought alongside the RAF at the Battle of Britain in World War II. Starring Iwan Rheon of Game of Thrones fame, the film is about fliers who fought Nazi Germany after escaping to Britain from occupied Poland. Flying Hurricane fighters for the RAF, they became a key component in the story of The Few.

Blair said that while making the film he was struck by the Poles' self-sacrifice. "I knew there had been Poles - amongst others, from around the world - serving in the British armed forces during World War II, but that was about it. As I was growing up, there was little inclination in history. It's one thing to fight for a cause in a far away land, but to do so while all sorts of horrors are taking place back home - of which you have only scant information - made the story heart-breaking - but irresistible too. What was taking place in Poland no doubt acted as a spur and incentive for the men to keep going."

Blair added: "The contemporary angle also appealed. These men were instrumental in winning the Battle of Britain yet in time-honored English tradition, the majority of the population wanted them deported after the war - once they'd fulfilled their usefulness. Not unlike what we're trying to do today with our catastrophic approach to immigration."

Made by Rakuten Cinema in partnership with Kaleidoscope Entertainment, "Hurricane" is to be released in 2019.

https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-44884812?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cywd23g0q1mt/poland&link_location=live-reporting-story

For more information on the film's plot: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/hurricane-303-battle-of-britain-film.html>

To see the film's trailer: <https://aerodynamicmedia.com/first-trailer-released-for-upcoming-ww2-film-hurricane-video/>

The following is excerpted from an article published on June 14, 2018, in *First Things*. See the link at the end of the article to read it in full.

Poland and the Future of Europe

As a child growing up in the Polish diaspora, I often visited the land of my forefathers for family occasions and celebrations. But the visit I made a few weekends ago marked my first to the nation as an adult. The occasion was the wedding of a dear friend in the Polish countryside, just outside the city of Wroclaw. And what I encountered during the four-day affair was the remarkable remnant of a living, breathing, holistic Catholic Europe.

In Poland in 2018, an unabashedly Catholic society is fully integrated into a modern European polity and economy. This society represents an integral and democratic Catholicism, one that has resisted the anti-culture of postmodernism and neoliberal cosmopolitanism. Americans might describe it as a national Benedict Option—though the Poles would reject Rod Dreher's term, since most have little conception of the aggressive secular liberalism that exists across the rest of the West. For them, cultural Catholicism is a normal way of life.

Arriving on a Friday in the city of Wroclaw and stumbling into the university's Jesuit chapel, I was surprised to discover hundreds of young parishioners of university age. The chapel could fit almost a thousand persons, and yet there was little space to stand when I arrived. I assumed it must have been a local feast day or celebration. On the contrary, it was merely a First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Walking about the Old Town, I felt I had been transported into a parallel Europe. Groups of nuns (both old and young) were a not uncommon sight on the streets and in restaurants, walking about in traditional habits. Priests in cassocks sat in cafes and rode the bus. Strangers greeted each other in shops and pubs with "*Szczęść Boże!*" (God bless!). Public squares were filled with young couples and children. How different this felt from the cathedral towns of France and Germany, where once-great abbeys now stand empty, waiting to be dismantled for lack of vocations. How distinct from the streets of London, where clergy have for years been advised against wearing habits for fear of assault and harassment. The peaceful city was far removed, too, from the streets of Paris and Berlin, where throngs of police stand at the ready in anticipation of Islamist attacks. The culture of fear that permeates the post-9/11 world in Western Europe was nowhere felt or seen in Wroclaw. Instead, there was an air of social cohesion and Christian communitarianism.

My friend's nuptial Mass (in the Extraordinary Form) was celebrated in the neighboring countryside, in the thirteenth-century Sanctuary of St. Jadwiga. This magnificent convent church, the final resting place of St. Hedwig of Silesia and home to Cistercian nuns for more than six centuries, towered over the sleepy town of Trzebnica.

The celebrations that followed the wedding featured symbolism from a bygone era. The parents of the newlyweds greeted the bride and groom with bread and salt—gifts from God, and symbols of marital abundance. At the stroke of midnight, in an old Polish Catholic ceremony ("*oczepiny*"), the bride's hair was slowly unbraided as family stood by. The ceremony celebrated the end of youth and innocence and the beginning of married life. The bride's wedding veil was removed for the first time and replaced with a marriage cap gifted by her

godmother—a solemn symbol of marital duties—as she was joined by her new husband. The marriage cap is to be worn at significant religious occasions, such as baptisms and first communions, and married Polish women are traditionally buried with their wedding caps. Beyond the presence of a lived cultural Catholicism, Poland feels like a distinct nation. In Poland, people rarely speak English unless addressed in English. Traditional costumes can still be seen, and everywhere there remains a Romanticist connection to the land—which is dotted with small Marian shrines, devotional altars to local saints, and statues of gallant soldiers, great generals, and ancient kings and queens. Unlike the family shrines of the Spanish or Italian countryside, these shrines are still tended to, decorated with candles and freshly cut flowers. This is a nation that still celebrates its heroes.

I understand now why the Western cosmopolitan media, bent on defending neoliberal ideology, is so keen to admonish Poland. On the day marking Poland's independence from 123 years of foreign occupation, the usual suspects were quick to dismiss 60,000 patriotic young families and elderly war heroes as far-right reactionaries. [See the following for more on Poland's March of Independence: [<https://acton.org/publications/transatlantic/2017/11/16/polands-march-independence-was-not-its-being-portrayed>]] Poland is a sign of contradiction. The neoliberals fear the example it sets for the rest of the continent and the West.

Here is a modern state firmly grounded in the principles of liberal democracy, but one that has begun to move beyond the policy limitations of classical liberalism. Undoubtedly, liberalism had to come first, overthrowing Soviet totalitarianism and providing a groundwork for human rights and civil liberties, before today's leaders and thinkers could begin to construct a society based Returning from the nuptial Mass with Fr. Emerson, FSSP at the wheel, we drove past a military convoy. One by one, all the soldiers atop the tanks and transport vehicles stood up and waved at us. It took us foreigners more than a minute to understand why, but afterwards, I couldn't help but smile. They had waved and cheered because they saw a Roman collar. I could not imagine this scene taking place anywhere else in Europe today, but perhaps it offers a glimmer of hope for the continent.

Jozef Andrew Kosc is a DPhil student in international development at the University of Oxford.
<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2018/06/poland-and-the-future-of-europe>

Poland's Daredevil Pensioner



Aleksander Doba from Poland has always been a bit of a daredevil. Olek, as he's known, has kayaked solo across the Atlantic, making him one of just four people in the world to have crossed it by muscle power alone. But he's neither a young man, nor a rich man, he's a 71 year old retired engineer, and he did it all on a pension.

Credit: Adam Rutkiewicz

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06d920x>

Minister of Health Łukasz Szumowski Visits Washington, DC

The most important point of the Minister's visit to the capital of the United States was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on US-Polish cooperation in health and medical sciences.

The MOU, which covers a five year period, outlines the framework of Polish-US cooperation in biomedical sciences and health. It is also a fulfillment of the US-Poland Science and Technology Agreement, which was signed in April by Deputy Prime Minister Jarosław Gowina during his visit to Washington, DC.

On the Polish side, Minister of Health Łukasz Szumowski and Ambassador Piotr Wilczek (on behalf of the Minister of Science and Higher Education) served as signatories of the MOU, and on the American side: Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar.

In his meeting with Secretary Azar, Minister Szumowski presented his plans to found a new Agency of Clinical Research in Poland. He also announced funding a program called "100 Scientists for 100 years of Independence," which will provide financing for three to six month training for young Polish scientists in US research institutes. Secretary Azar expressed a willingness to further cooperate with Poland in matters of training, transfer of technology, as well as activities subject to the jurisdiction of agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Minister Łukasz Szumowski took part in a series of meetings at the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD, with Dr. Laurence Tabak, the first Deputy Director of the NIH, and the Heads of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

https://washington.mfa.gov.pl/en/news/minister_of_health_lukasz_szumowski_visits_washington_dc

In Memorium

Letter: Polish-American Community Loses Leader and Advocate

The Detroit News, published Aug. 1, 2018



(Photo: Embassy of the Republic of Poland)

Professor Thaddeus C. Radzilowski passed away on July 20, at age 80, after having battled a series of health issues. His funeral mass was held in St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington.

Pictured with Professor Radzilowski is Piotr Wilczek, historian, specialist in comparative literature, and a literary translator, who currently serves as the Ambassador of Poland to the United States .He pays tribute to his friend.

Professor Radzilowski was to me a mentor and friend, an extraordinary soul devoted to the Polish nation. As someone so passionate and driven, meeting him will forever be something I will hold dear to my heart. I had the absolute honor of meeting such a man. A celebrated historian and an achieving intellectual, Professor Radzilowski focused his work on Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Russia. Having written more than 100 academic publications, these works focused specifically on the histories and cultures of the region, and also on the migration of its peoples.

Professor Radzilowski was a strong advocate of the Polish community with his studies and efforts to strengthen Polish-American relations. A long-time native of Michigan, he underlined the importance of the Polish community to the city of Detroit, aiming to illustrate that the Polish diaspora, in tandem with many different cultures, shaped the atmosphere and traditions of the city itself. His personal interests, as well as his commitment to the Polish community, led him to then co-found the Piast Institute in 2003, which became one of the leading think-tanks in the United States that focuses on Polish issues. In addition to his founding of a renowned think tank, Professor Radzilowski also illustrated his devotion to a strengthened relationship between Polish and American academia. As corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Chair of the International Conference on Migration at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, Professor Radzilowski presented himself as an academic concerned with the social history and historical portrayal of the Polish people.

It is precisely his efforts in the dissemination of Polish history and culture that earned him the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in 1999. His deep involvement in the Polish community and his various academic efforts were recognized by the Polish administration as a sign of friendship and devotion to the greater Polish diaspora of the United States. In addition to his engagement in academic research, Professor Radzilowski taught at many universities. With his infectious spirit and passion for his subject, he inspired students at the University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College and Southwest Minnesota University. Through his lectures, his academic works, and engagement with Polonia, Professor Radzilowski exhibited the mark of a truly worldly person and of someone who works to transcend national borders.

In our many meetings, I was always struck by Professor Radzilowski's spirit. Just in the way he talked, you could tell that his life's work was more than just a history of peoples. To him, it was about the souls of these nations, about their culture.

You could recognize his passions almost instantly, and you could see that he was kind and genuine and always willing to take on a new problem. I cherish the moments I spent with him. He was a brilliant man, a true patriot to our nation. His legacy will live on and his loss will always be felt in the Polish community.

Piotr Wilczek

Ambassador of Poland to the United States

Polish-American Association of Harrisburg

polamhar@gmail.com

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Submissions for the November 2018 newsletter should be submitted to the Editor at 717-889-2623 or cbis2@comcast.net, not later than **October 31.**

Polish Lessons

For individuals and groups, adults and children.

Contact Joanna Rzeszotko: joanna.pu1@interia.pl

Business Ads

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

Packages to Poland.

Contact Anna Rossi: polamhar@gmail.com.

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**

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