

BREAKING NEWS - OUR POL AM EXHIBIT AT RMSC IS EXTENDED
THROUGH JULY 2006

YOU'RE INVITED

Polish Heritage Society of Rochester

NEW MONTHLY MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2005
6:30 p.m. at St. Casimir's Church – 500 Simpson Rd

Refreshments Served

PHSR is now providing a monthly opportunity to all members to meet and be more involved. Our goal is to enhance your membership! Wee believe our organization will be as comprehensive as the membership makes it through ideas and commitment

TOPICS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Whatever is on your mind! We need your thoughts and ideas about the new monthly meetings, newsletter, Polish language classes, marketing, publicity, social events, programs, etc., WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE, HEAR, TALK ABOUT AND OR TAKE PART IN!

WHAT WOULD ADD TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

LET'S HAVE FUN !!!!!

*****BRING A GUEST OR A POTENTIAL MEMBER*****

Save the date for the following meeting Wednesday, November 16, 2005

More Information – Call John Halluch 657-7708 or Cheryl Ann Bilski 227-1045

Polish Heritage
Society of Rochester

presents ...



A Mid Summer Highlight - The Accordion Jam Session
Jerry Rachfal

Rochester
Polonia
News

POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE IN
THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY

FINAL TWO PROGRAMS FOR 2005



POLKA PARTY AND POLISH DINNER

POLISH MENU PREPARED BY POLSKA CHATA

MUSIC BY RAY SERAFIN'S BRASS MAGIC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005 - 6:00 PM

EISENHART AUDITORIUM AT RMSC - 657 EAST AVENUE

\$20 PER PERSON - \$10 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – CALL 585-697-1942

WIGILIA

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS DINNER / PROGRAM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2005 - 5:30 PM

EISENHART AUDITORIUM AT RMSC - 657 EAST AVENUE

\$25 PER PERSON, \$10 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – CALL 585-697-1942

SPONSORED BY
POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER
KRAKOW ROCHESTER SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
ROCHESTER MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER

Volume 5, Issue 3

October 6, 2005

Board of Directors

President

Frederic Skalny

Vice President

Maria Weldy

Treasurer

Krystyna Lizak

Recording Secretary

Nancy Welch

Eugenie Golomb

Virginia Kobylarz

John Refermat

John Haluch

Joseph Zablotzki

Inside this Issue:

Polka Party and Wigilia	1
The Accordion Jam Session	2
Viewpoint	3
Franciszek Salezy Wolowski	4
Polish Awards	5
Polish American Folk Arts	6
Polonia Calendar	7
PHSR Invitation	8

What a Happening! The Accordion Jam Session

Jerry Rachfal



It started with “The Beer Barrel Polka”- ended with the crowd, a perfect mix of young and old, standing to sing “Serdeczna Matko” and “God Bless America” and in between for three hours, it was accordion music under the tent at the Rochester Museum & Science Center on Sunday afternoon, August 14th. As part of the Polish American Culture in the Rochester Community Program, the “Jam” was the perfect “real life” experience after the “Accordion Take Apart”, the second event in the year long series.

“Sing and Dance in the Rain” during the course of the afternoon. The accordion players from Niagara Falls, led by Johnnie Firth and complemented by Ted Kania and Dannie Mocniak along with Dave Faccini, the drummer who married a Polish girl from the “Falls” and Sax player Sam Morreale were the inspirational leaders in a jam. The jam featured over two dozen accordion players, one of which was the Polish Piper, Jack Jarosinski who roamed through the crowd urging everyone to join in on one of the vocals. And what a crowd it was; we used every chair the museum had available; there were people standing five deep under the overhang of the tent. When you are having a good time, rain just is not a problem; and those standing under the overhang, with one shoulder dry and one wet, were not about to give up their spots.



Not only did we have accordions, but a clarinet player chimed in, then Mike Leach went with his violin as well as the accordion, while Roy Czernikowski, our Accordion Jam Co-Chair, anchored one end of the line with his squeeze box along side Ed Przybylowicz.

A highlight of the afternoon for many of the seniors in attendance was Eddie Olejarz’s solos. At 88 years young, Eddie can still belt out a couple of polkas, and because his accordion wasn’t hooked up to an amp, Eddie demonstrated the pure music power of the accordion. He even had his own “groupie” attend the session, as my Mom from Niagara Falls, at 91, is a big fan of Eddie’s and Johnnie Firth acknowledged that when he introduced Eddie.



The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle headlined the event as “Accordion Fans Form Phalanx of Admiration”; we like to think of it as Rochester Polonia sharing its heritage with the community at large.

It was an absolutely wonderful event and our heartfelt thanks go to Elaine and Charlie Constantino for underwriting the affair. Charlie pointed out that Elaine, Bartoszewicz from home, played the accordion and was very interested in the Ac-

cordion Jam. What our readers need to know is that, unknown to Elaine, Charlie put her accordion in the trunk before they left for the jam, and when she got there, Charlie told her to join the jam, and to quote Paul Harvey, “Now you know the rest of the story”. From all of us, a great big “Dziękuję” to Charlie and Elaine for sponsoring a wonderful event, and we understand that they have offered to underwrite another Accordion Jam next year. So, look for an announcement of date in one of our future newsletters. Finally, our personal thanks to all the members of the committee who made the Accordion Jam an affair to remember.



Rochester Polonia Calendar October - Decmber 2005

Rochester Polonia Calendar – October – December 2005

OCT	1	Polish Falcons 100 th Anniversary Party, Call 621-5856
	9	Pulaski Day Commemoration Sponsored by Polonia Civic Centre, 11 AM Mass at St. Stanislaus, Call 323-2106
	10	Skalny Luncheon Seminar, Luiza Nader, Neoavantgarde art in Poland, 12 Noon, Gamble
	11	Room, Rush Rhee Library at UR. Call 275-989
	19	PHSR Members and Friends Get Together, 6:30 PM, St. Casimir’s, Call 657-7708 or 227-1045
	26	Polish Falcons “Make A Difference Day,” Call 266-1067
27	29	Polka Dance & Polish Dinner, 6 PM, Eisenhart Aud. at RMSC, Reservations Required, \$20 adults, \$10 for Children 10 and Under, Call 697-1942
	29	Halloween Party at Polish American Club, 8PM - 1 AM, Call 266-7215
NOV	6	Polish Independence Day Celebration, 11 AM Mass at St Stanislaus, Call 323-2106
	10	Skalny Lecture, Dr. Izabela Kalinowska, How to Travel? The East-West Encounter According to Mickiewicz, 7:30 PM, Meliora, 4 th Floor Ballroom at UR, Call 275-9898
	13	Potato Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by Polonia Civic Centre, 9 AM-1 PM, St. Stanislaus Aud., Call 3232106
	13-18	Polish Film Festival Sponsored by the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies, Call for Location and Ticket Reservations 275-9898
	18	Polish Falcons Turkey Raffle, 7-10 PM at Ira Jacobson Post, Call 621-3467
	19	Turkey Shoot at Polish American Club, Call 266-7215
DEC	3	Traditional Polish Christmas Wigilia, 5:30 PM, Eisenhart Aud. at RMSC, Reservations Required, \$25 adults, \$10 for Children 10 and Under, Call 697-1942
	5	Skalny Luncheon Seminar, Joanna Mishtal, Women’s Health, Reproduction and Sexuality in Contemporary Poland, 12 Noon, Gamble Room, Rush Rhee Library at UR, Call 275-98985
	10	Skalny Artist Series, Violoncello Recital by Mikolaj Palosz, 3 PM, Sanctuary., Interfaith Chapel at UR, Call 275-9898 Polish Falcons Children’s Christmas Party, 1-4 PM, Call 621-5856
	11	Polish Falcons Children’s Christmas Party, 1-4 PM, Call 621-5856

Witold J. Ławrynowicz

Polish Literary Club Presentation on Poland

During the recent Polish Festival at St. Stanislaus Church, the Polish Literary Club gave a presentation on Poland. The presentation consisted of four parts:



History of Poland by Witold Ławrynowicz
Famous Poles by Waldemar Wojdak
History of Polish Language by Anna Ludwinek
City of Krakow by Bronek Grzegorek

The entire program lasted for one hour and was supported by numerous slides. Members of the Polish Literary Club collected many interesting and positive comments from the audience, including a remark: “It is different!”. It also was an opportunity to show off our newly acquired audio/video equipment, which supported the verbal presentation.

Parts of this program where also presented in other venues. Club is prepared to present again at the next Festival as well as at other occasions.

Polish American Folk Arts at the Rochester Museum & Science Center
Susie Chodorow

Celebration of Rochester’s Polish American Heritage Continues at RMSC

In conjunction with the recently opened exhibition, “Under the Wings of the White Eagle: Rochester’s Polish American Heritage,” the Rochester Museum & Science Center presents a unique opportunity in October for the public to enjoy and learn more about Polish American culture.

On Saturday, October 15 from 11am–3pm local traditional artists will highlight a program celebrating Polish folk arts. David Bryniarski, a Pittsford resident of Polish descent, will demonstrate the centuries-old art of **Pisanki**, or Easter egg decoration; and Polish émigré Stanley Kuras will demonstrate traditional **Polish wicker basket making**. Children will enjoy hands-on “make-it-and-take-it” art activities based on folk arts objects in RMSC’s exhibition.

The program, **free with museum admission**, is presented and sponsored by the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, with generous support from the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Participation is **free with museum admission**: \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and college students, \$6 children and teens (3–18), free for children under three. **For more information, contact Susie Chodorow at (585) 473-4000 x208.**



PHOTOS ARE FROM THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2005 OPENING OF THE EXHIBIT - UNDER THE WINGS OF THE WHITE EAGLE AT RMSC

Viewpoint

Dr. Edwin Przybylowicz



My first visit to Poland was in 1979 to give a plenary lecture in Polish at the Polish Society of Diagnostic and Clinical Chemistry meeting at the Medical Academy in Szczecin. As an American of Polish descent, I was thrilled to be visiting the country my parents birthplace, a country that I heard much about from them over the years. Not knowing exactly what to expect in our first visit to a country “behind the Iron Curtain”, my wife and I were a bit apprehensive but this was quickly dispelled by the warm welcome from the conference attendees.

This trip began a long “love affair” with the country of my parents. Since that first trip I have traveled to Poland over 15 times as a tourist, a technical advisor and a commissioner of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Fund. One remarkable change we witnessed through was the transition of Poland in 1990 from a communist-satellite to a free democratic state and the major impact this had on every facet of life in Poland, both good and bad. Poland today stands as a bulwark of democracy in Eastern Europe, a member of NATO (since 1999), a member of the European Community (since 2004) with an economy that is market-driven. However, Poland suffers today from a low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 5.65 and high unemployment rate (19.5%).

A recently published book by Thomas Friedman (New York Times) entitled “The World is Flat” has made me stop and wonder why Poland is doing so poorly relative to other developing economies. Friedman’s notes is that a number of events since the fall of the Berlin Wall have provided the means for every country in the world to compete in the world marketplace for products and services. Today a service call on your appliance, computer or camera is often answered by someone in New Delhi or Bangalore, India. Note how many tools, appliances, computers are manufactured in the Far East. When is the last time you saw or purchased something made in Poland at one of your local stores? Eighteen percent (18%) of India’s and 23% of China’s exports come to the United States. Poland exports 4% of its goods to Belgium and far less than that to the U.S.

Is the world really “flat” as Thomas Friedman speculates? If so, it would seem that Poland with its long orientation toward the West and its entrepreneurial and creative peoples should be doing much better in today’s world economy. Clearly there are other factors that are more important than just access to technology.

One major factor in a world economy is “market pull”. Who of us is not attracted by inexpensive tools, appliances and electronic equipment as well as innovative gadgets made in the Far East? Where is Poland in this array of products and services that attract the marketplace? While the native capabilities of its people are an excellent starting point, perhaps more needs to be done by the Polish-American community to be sure that Poland receives its fair share of the U.S. and world marketplace. A starting point might be to develop an awareness of what Poland is exporting and where. A second step might be developing an awareness of Polish technological capabilities and successes. Perhaps this column can serve from time to time to highlight these aspects of the Polish economy.

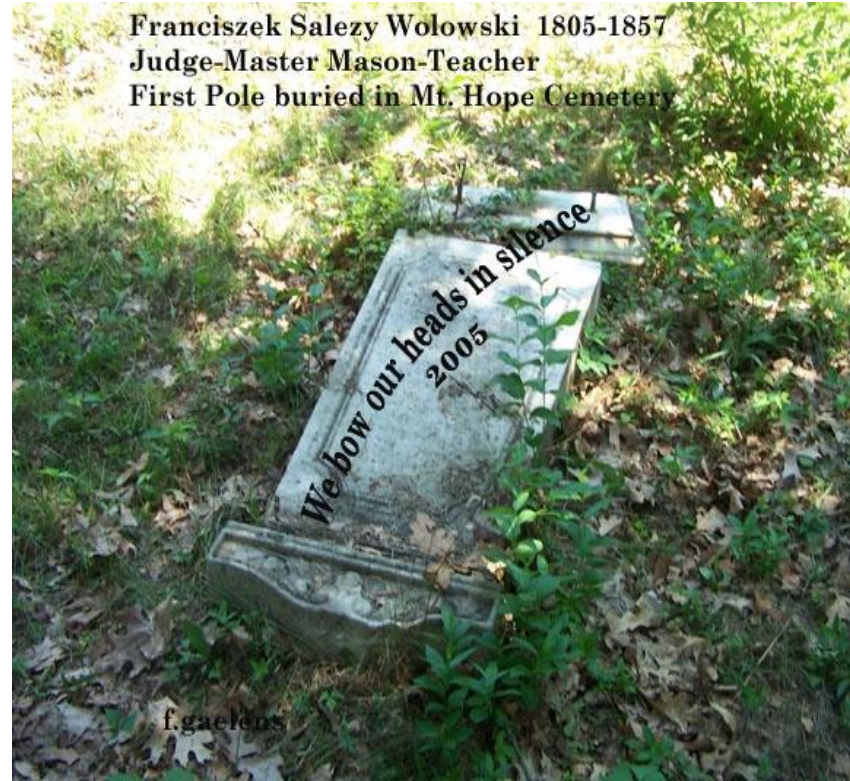
Viewpoint articles are published from time to time in this newsletter to encourage our readers to express their comments and open a dialogue for on-going discussion. Your comments to this Viewpoint article may be submitted to Rochester Polonia News, PHSR, PO Box 17368, Rochester, NY 14617

And What Are We To Do?

Frederic J. Skalny

Florence Gaelens, a member of PHSR, recently captured this photo of the tombstone of one of our noble forefathers - Franciszek Salezy Wolowski. You can see the tombstone yourself by going to Section M in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Pan Wolowski was one of the earliest Polish immigrants to reside in Rochester where he died in 1857. Now, in 2005, his memory is but a collapsed and disfigured tombstone in a remote part of the cemetery.



More than five years ago, Kathleen Urbanic commented in her book *Shoulder to Shoulder*...“the inscription [on Wolowski’s tombstone is] weather-worn, a cross that once graced its top now missing....Barely decipherable, his tombstone reads on one side in Polish: “Tu spoczywa Franciszek Salezy Wolowski...on the other side in English....Here rests Franciszek Salezy Wolowski, Judge of the Supreme Court of the First Instance of the Kingdom of Poland. Born in Warsaw on January 29, 1805, he died in Rochester on July 12, 1857....Please pray for him.”

Pan Wolowski, according to Kathleen’s research, “...arrived in the city in the 1850s, three decades before a group of immigrants from his homeland founded St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish and established Rochester’s Polish settlement. In many ways, he was unlike the artisans, laborers, and peasants who left Poland in search of livelihood at the end of the century. A wealthy landowner who held judicial office, Wolowski was an insurgent who plotted against Tsarist rule of his homeland and was forced to flee the country, settling eventually in Rochester where he taught languages to children and became a Master Mason of Yonnondio Masonic Lodge.”

Surely, he is an honorable forefather deserving much better than what we see in Florence’s photo!

A discussion of what should be done with Wolowski’s tombstone will be one of the topics at our Wednesday, October 19th monthly meeting at St. Casimir’s, 6:30 PM, for members and friends of the Polish Heritage Society. We hope that other local Polish organizations will add this topic to the agenda of their upcoming meetings and give it serious discussion.

Polish Heritage Society of Rochester

Membership applications are available by writing to :

PHSR - P.O.Box 17368
Rochester, NY 14617

Please consider joining and becoming involved in building a dynamic Polish Heritage Community in Rochester

Support the PHSR Scholarship Fund

Your help is needed to support the PHSR Scholarship Fund. The PHSR is a 501©(3) public charity and your donations are tax deductible to the extend permitted by law. Send your contribution to:

PHSR-Scholarship Fund
P.O.Box 17368

Mr. Eugene Golomb Honored for Advancing Polish Culture

A special farewell reception was held in Buffalo, New York on July 16, 2005 for Consul General Agnieszka Magdziakk-Miszewska and Consul Marek Skulimowski of New Your City. At this reception, Eugene Golomb had the distinction of being awarded Poland’s Cavalier Golden Cross of Merit upon the recommendation of Poland’s President, Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski for advancing Polish culture in the Rochester area. The reception was held at the Polish Veterans Hall in Buffalo, New York and sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Western NY Division.

Mr. Golomb was recently honored for his 50 years of service as a financial secretary of the Rochester Polish National Alliance. He is a member of the board of directors of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and has been President of the Polonia Civic Centre for over 16 years. Over the years, Mr. Golomb has organized nine Polka Festivals, annual events in commemoration of our Polish heritage and many dinners to support special projects with Poland such as the Krakow Children’s Hospital and a water well distribution system in Slupia, Poland. Mr. Golomb is also a member of the Michalski Post A.L., the Echo Club, the Polish Falcons Nest 52, the Polish American Citizens Club, a member of the Restoration and Preservation Committee for St. Stanislaus Church, and director and treasurer of the Rochester Polish Federal Credit Union.



Mr. Golomb receives Cavalier Golden Cross of Merit from Consul General Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska.

Dr. Ewa Hauser Receives Poland’s Prestigious Award

Ewa K. Hauser, director of the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester received the country of Poland’s Cavalier Cross of Merit for her achievements in promoting Polish culture in America.

Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, consul general of the Republic of Poland in New York, presented the medal to Dr. Hauser on July 15th at a special ceremony and reception held at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery. Approximately 100 guests were present.

The Cavalier Cross of Merit is considered one of Poland’s most prestigious awards and is designated by the president of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski.



Dr. Hauser Award Ceremony. From Left Wojtek Smolen, Marta Michael, Ewa Hauser, Krystyna Michael and General Magdziak-Miszewska.