



Wigilia



**Wesołych Świąt!
Bożego Narodzenia!**
That is the way to say "Merry Christmas" in Polish. Among Poles, wherever they are, the most beloved and beautiful of all traditional festivities is that of Christmas Eve. It is then that the **Wigilia**, or Christmas Eve Dinner is served. It is a solemnly celebrated occasion and arouses deep

feelings of kinship among family members. For days in advance, Poles prepare the traditional foods and everyone anxiously awaits the moment when the first star, known as the **Gwiazdka** appears in the eastern sky. For that is when the feast to commemorate the birth of the Christ Child begins. There is always a thin layer of hay under the white tablecloth in memory of the Godchild in the manger. Before sitting down at the table, everyone breaks the traditional wafer, or **Oplatek** and exchanges good wishes for health, wealth and happiness in the New Year. This is such a deeply moving moment that often tears of love and joy are evoked from the family members who are breaking this symbolic bread.

The dinner itself differs from other evening meals in that the number of courses is fixed at seven, nine or eleven. A lighted candle in the windows symbolizes the hope that the Godchild, in the form of a stranger, may come to share the **Wigilia** and an extra place is set at the table for the unexpected guest.

This is a meatless meal. Items that would normally be included in a traditional **Wigilia** menu include mushroom soup, boiled potatoes (**kartofle**), pickled herring (**sledzie**), fried fish, **pierogi**, beans and sauerkraut (**groch i kapusta**), a dried fruit compote, **babka**, **platek**, assorted pastries, nuts and candies. After the meal the members of the family sing Polish Christmas Carols called the **kole- dy** while the children wait impatiently around the Christmas tree or **choinka** for the gifts to be exchanged.

**Rochester
Polonia
News**

**Volume 5, Issue 4
December 8, 2005**

Board of Directors

- President**
Frederic Skalny
Vice President
Maria Weldy
Treasurer
Krystyna Lizak
Recording Secretary
Nancy Welch
Eugenie Golomb
Virginia Kobylarz
John Refermat

Inside this Issue:

Wigilia	1
Election In Poland	2
Folk Art Demonstration	3
Polish Falcons	4
Wigilia Dinner	5
Szopki	6
Pulaski Day	7
PHSR New program	8
St. Stanislaus Foundation	9
Wolowski Headstone	10
Dawn Chmiel	11

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*The board of directors of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester
once again wish all
our members and friends a joyous holiday season.*

Radosnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

WE DID IT!

PHSR HAS A NEW WEB SITE

VISIT US AT
<http://www.polishheritagerochester.org>

- OUR WEB SITE INCLUDES
- PAST AND CURRENT PHSR NEWSLETTERS
 - OUR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS
 - PHSR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
 - LIST OF COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS
 - GUEST BOOK AND CONTACT NAMES
 - ROCHESTER POLONIA CALENDAR OF EVENTS
 - AND MUCH MORE

VISIT US AT
<http://www.polishheritagerochester.org>

**VISIT ROCHESTER'S POLISH
AMERICAN HERITAGE
EXHIBIT**

**"UNDER THE WINGS OF THE
WHITE EAGLE"**

**ROCHESTER MUSEUM &
SCIENCE CENTER**

657 EAST AVENUE

**THE EXHIBIT WILL BE
DISPLAYED THROUGH
JUNE 2006**

Presidential Election in Poland

Maria Weldy

This fall the Polish people chose a new parliament and president. Although the term of office in parliament is four years and five years for the president, both elections took place within one month of each other.

Political life in Poland has changed significantly since the communists gave up power in 1990. Currently, Poland has over 40 political parties; however, only the largest parties have nominees for a presidential election. The main political parties are: Law and Justice (PiS), Social Democrats (SD), Civic Platform (PO), League of Polish Families (LPR), and The Self Defense Party (Samoobrona). The race this fall for president was between the leader of the Civic Platform (Donald Tusk) and the founder of Law and Justice (Lech Kaczynski). The election poles indicated a marginal lead of Donald Tusk prior to the presidential election.

During his university years, Donald Tusk was an activist working in the political underground preparing a bridge between the Student Union and the Workers Union. He was one of the initiators of the Independent Student Union (NZS), the vice chairman of the Freedom Union (UW), and a member and the vice chairman of both the commons and the senate in the Polish parliament. The Civic Platform party became a strong supporter of pro-European politics, promoted liberal attitude about social issues, championed one tax code for all citizens, and advocated isolation of politics from church.

Lech Kaczynski and his twin brother Jaroslaw became known in Poland in the 1960s when both brothers played the leading roles in a children's film. Lech's family has been considered deeply patriotic due to their involvement in the Warsaw Uprising and the underground political activity during the communist regime. Lech was a law professor at Gdansk University. He was deeply involved in the birth of Solidarity, and was an adviser to L. Walesa during his term as president. Kaczynski built the Law and Justice Party using his popularity, which was gained when he was the Minister of Justice in 2001 and brought to public light government corruption. He is now serving as the mayor of Warsaw. His platform included plans for changing the administration and introducing tougher punishment rules for crimes including the death sentence. He wants to increase the power of the president. He is pro-EU but declared that he would take a tougher stand than the current president when Polish interests are considered within the EU. His political attitude towards Germany and Russia are described as very reserved. His pro-family program, conservative stand on social issues combined with the promises of keeping free schooling and medicare, and the proposal of introducing two tax codes appealed to a large population of voters.

Near the end of the campaign, Lech Kaczynski used his contacts in church to influence voters and negotiated with the leader of the Self Defense Party which helped him to win the election by 5% over Donald Tusk.

After the election, the new prime minister, Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, offered key positions to a mixture of young ministers and well-known respected citizens. However, his government has not gained the support of the Civic Platform Party.

The ceremony of transferring power from the current president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, to the president elect will take place on December 23, 2005.



Dawn Chmiel Sings –Christmas CD Available

Please Note: The following article was written by Sarah Daniels and appeared in the November 10th issue of the Webster Post newspaper. Reprint permission has been granted from the Messenger Post newspapers.

Gone. It was all gone. Webster resident Dawn Marie Chmiel had been recording a Christmas album for nearly a year with the help of her husband, Gene, who handled the recording and engineering of the tracks. Then one day in May 2004, the hard drive on the recorder crashed. All of the songs they had worked on for a year were lost.

Not even a week after the songs disappeared, Chmiel received an e-mail bearing good news - an Englishman she had met online in a Christian musician's forum had written a Christmas song, and wanted her to sing it. The man was Matthew Moore, a musician living in England. "It's divine intervention, I think" Chmiel said. Thus began a nearly year-long e-mail correspondence across the Atlantic Ocean that resulted in Chmiel's second album. Moore wrote and arranged nine of the 12 songs and co-produced the album.

Chmiel is releasing her album of Christmas songs, "Son of Mary: The Christmas Gift," Nov. 15, which will be available on her Web site and at various Christian book stores in the area.

Although they were separated by the Atlantic Ocean, Chmiel said it was fairly easy to collaborate with Moore. Moore would compose and record background tracks, which he would then send electronically to Chmiel. Chmiel would then take the tracks into her home studio, which is housed in what use to be the family's dining room, record the vocal tracks and send them back to Moore. He mixed and mastered the tracks into the final form that's on the CD. "I never even met Matthew," Chmiel said. "I didn't even speak to him on the phone until after this was done."

Chmiel said her new CD includes some traditional songs, some original songs and some traditional lyrics set to new melodies. "The music talks about the true meaning of Christmas," Chmiel said. She said the album is a result of a lot of hard work. "Without Gene, none of it would have happened at all,"

Chmiel said. Gene Chmiel engineered the vocal tracks in the couple's studio. Gene Chmiel said the couple is having a first printing of 1,000 CDs made to sell. Chmiel has always been interested in music. As a child she sang in the church choir and took piano lessons. In addition to producing CDs, Chmiel is the director of music for the chapel at St. Ann's Community in Rochester, organist for several areas churches and sings for special events. Chmiel said recording an album was her husband's idea, who kept suggesting it to her and gave her a gift certificate for studio time one Christmas.



**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(c)(3) public charity and
your donations are tax deductible to the ex-
tent permitted by law. Send your contribu-
tion to:*

**PHSR-Scholarship Fund
P.O.Box 17368**

Pan Wolowski's Headstone Stands

Frederic J. Skalny

I mentioned in our last newsletter that help was needed to restore the collapsed and disfigured headstone at Mt. Hope Cemetery of one of our noble forefathers - Franciszek Salezy Wolowski. By a stroke of good fortune, several visitors to our Exhibit at RMSC - Under the Wings of the White Eagle - noticed the photo of Wolowski's fallen headstone that was beautifully captured by Florence Gaelens and displayed at the Exhibit.



The visitors were Jean Czerkas, a member of the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, and her husband, Al. They, along with Marilyn Nolte, talked with Cheryl Ann Bilski and mentioned that a contractor was uprighting fallen headstones at the cemetery over the coming week-end. If there was any interest, we could have Pan Wolowski's headstone lifted and re-set. Calls quickly made to PHSR board members finally confirmed that PHSR would donate \$50 to pay the cost to do the job. Jean and Al Czerkas are shown in the photos watching the contractor prepare to lift the headstone.

Now what? Maybe now we can generate an interest among our Polonia organizations and individual members to explore the way to create and erect a plaque on the tombstone site in memory of Franciszek Salezy Wolowski. The plaque, with a list of all contributors, could also contain the text of the original headstone which is now worn and almost unintelligible. What a wonderful way to preserve our Polish heritage here in the Rochester community. Surely this is worthy of further discussion.



Polish American Folk Arts Demonstration

Michael Leach

The Folk Arts Program of the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester sponsored an afternoon of demonstrations by Polish and Polish-American folk artists at the Rochester Museum & Science Center on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Approximately 300 children and adults viewed the demonstrations of basket making and egg painting, and colored drawings of paper cuts and Krakow "szopka" designs prepared by ACCGR Folk Arts Program director Susie Chodorow.

David Bryniarski of the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester demonstrated decorating eggs in the styles of eastern Poland that he and his sisters learned from their mother while growing up in Massachusetts. Stanley Kuras demonstrated weaving willow baskets, a trade practiced by his family and neighbors in Poland, and which he worked in at the Skalny Basket Company in Rochester. Samples of his beautiful work are included in the "Under the Wings of the White Eagle: Polish American Heritage in Rochester" exhibit at RMSC. The exhibit was the site of the program, giving the folk arts program context and richness.

The Folk Arts program was directed by Susie Chodorow, Director of the ACCGR Folk Arts Program.

The Folk Arts presentation was part of the year-long series of events jointly produced by the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee, the Rochester Museum & Science Center, the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, and the Rochester Polish Community Archives at St Stanislaus Parish.



Stanley Kuras basketmaker.



Daniel Bryniarski Decorates Eggs



Witamy!

Joanne Randall

Polish Falcons of America

Polish Falcons Nest 52, Rochester, NY, celebrated its 100th Anniversary on October 1, 2005 at the Whittier Party House.

As 175 members and guests arrived for the celebration, they were greeted by Meghan McNamara and Lindsay Randall (both junior Falcon members), who were dressed in traditional Polish costumes. Upon entering the banquet hall, these young Falcon members offered bread (never go hungry) and salt (to learn to live with life's struggles) to all attendees.

Father Adam Ogorzaly, Nest 52 Chaplain and Pastor at St. Stanislaus' Kostka Church, led the group in prayer before and after the meal, speeches, and entertainment.

Speeches were provided by: Eugene Golomb, President of Polonia Civic Center and Nest 52 member; Kathleen Urbanic, Rochester Polish historian and author; Diana Palontas, television news reporter of Polish descent; and Tim Kuzma, National Polish Falcon Secretary/Treasurer. Speeches encompassed anecdotes of an upbringing within a Polish home and/or neighborhood, the history of the Rochester Polish neighborhood and the Polish Falcon organization, as well as the future of this fraternal organization and ways to keep our tradition alive for those who follow us.

Fellow visiting Polish Falcon members in attendance were: Tim Kuzma (as mentioned above); Mary Rand, District IX President; Nest 610 members from Erie, PA; Nest 430 members from Auburn, NY; Nest 493 and 494 members from Batavia, NY; and Nest 6 members from Buffalo, NY, in addition to officers and members from Rochester Nest 52.

Entertainment activities included local dance group, Da Igramo Folk Ensemble performing ethnic dances, as well as Ray Serafin's Brass Magic for dancing and listening pleasure. At the rear of the hall photographs, scrap books, plaques, and videos were provided by Ted Krupnicki going back at least 40 years in Nest 52's history.

Polish Falcons of America are all about their motto, "A Healthy Spirit in a Healthy Body". Smiles and laughter were evidence of the significance of this special occasion and this motto embodied by all members.



Meet PHSR's New Program Co-Chairs for 2006

Frederic Skalny

Cheryl Ann Bilski and John Haluch have agreed to chair PHSR's Program Committee for 2006. They are already hard at work planning events for our members and friends. This committee is a keystone to our organization – through its programs we gain recognition in our Polish American community and the greater Rochester area. The task to create and implement interesting and varied programs every year is indeed challenging and for all those who volunteer to serve on the committee, it affords many hours of fun, the opportunity to meet and work with others and, above all else, it gives each volunteer a sense of satisfaction knowing they helped to promote the Polish American heritage in Rochester. It is hoped that our members will contact Cheryl (227-1045) or John (657-7708) to volunteer on the Program Committee. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Cheryl Ann Bilski is an entrepreneur. She owns Functional Interiors, a Commercial, Healthcare, Hospitality and ADA Home modification Design Consulting company which is celebrating their tenth Anniversary in 2005. Functional Interiors is a New York State Certified Women Business Enterprise. Three years ago, Cheryl Ann started Purchase One Services, a Commercial, Healthcare and Hospitality Furniture business. Together she is able to work with and design for new construction or renovation projects for one person or an entire company. Some of her design clients include Rochester Presbyterian Home, Catholic Charities/Providence Housing Development, Unity Health, Medina Memorial Hospital, DePaul and she designed the first 100% handicap accessible playground in Monroe County at Monroe Community Hospital. Cheryl was born and raised in Cheektowaga, NY on a 42 acre farm. She spoke Polish as a child and wishes she could speak it now. She has traveled to Korea, the Caribbean and Europe but never Poland, maybe someday through an event with the program committee of PHSR.

John Haluch was raised in Amsterdam, NY, and grew up in a Polish neighborhood (half of the city was Polish at that time), received his sacraments and was an alterboy at one of two Polish churches in Amsterdam. At seventeen, he left for college and never returned except to visit family and friends. Since that time he has had the fortune to study at fifteen colleges, spent thirty nine years at two Community Colleges as a faculty member in the Science Department. But most important to John are his wife Jeannine, daughter Laura, son John II, and four grandchildren. John speaks Polish and has traveled to Poland three times. He wishes that he could do more by developing a consequential relationship (business or cultural) between Poland and the US. He is very proud of and interested in learning and sharing the culture, language and traditions of my heritage.

Michalski Post 1328 Honors Deceased Golfers

Eugene Golomb

Michalski Post 1328 of the American Legion organized their Golf League in 1986 under the guidance of Mr. Don Kimmel, their adjutant at the time, to play at the Braemar Country Club. The league has maintained an average of 30 members since then.

However, since its inception, the league has lost ten members. To honor and memorialize their membership, a plaque was dedicated to them on October 3rd, 2005 at Braemar Country Club during their annual steak roast.

The golfing members who have left us are: Ray Shatzel '97, John Konopa '99, Jack Telban '99, Larry Shatzel '01, Archie Walker '02, Art Smith '02, Henry Kolanski '03, Leo Wesolowski '03, Dick Schlosser '04 and in 2005 - Bernie Claus.

Presenting the plaque to be mounted at the club were Gene Golomb - Post Chaplain, Fred Beauchamp - Vice Commander and Norman Merkey - Post Commander.



Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation

John Stenclik



At the close of St. Stanislaus Parish's Church Restoration Campaign, an idea was proposed that a foundation be formed to continue raising funds for the ongoing care of this beautiful landmark church. In September 2004, the Polonia New Century Foundation was reorganized as the Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation, with the approval of the majority of the PNCF board.

On November 8, 2004, a new board was named: Thomas Orczyk, president; Tomasz Moksza, vice president; Jerzy Mydlarz, treasurer; Kathleen Urbanic, secretary; Edward J. Nowak, John Stenclik, Eugene Golomb, Sandra Bialaszewski.

The recent Church Restoration Campaign (1998-2004) drew an outpouring of support for repairs that have helped safeguard the structure of the church and renew its beauty. Over \$800,000 was raised, surpassing the goal of \$500,000. Now, the challenge is to keep the church in good condition, to maintain its beauty and soundness for years to come.

Our Mission

The Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation has been established to...

- Support the vitality of St. Stanislaus Parish by raising funds for the care and maintenance of St. Stanislaus Church, providing financial assistance that will help the parish continue the high standards of care that were set in the Church Restoration Campaign.
 - Reach out to members of the parish's extended family, inviting all who consider themselves "friends of St. Stanislaus" to assist in the ongoing care of the church.
- Help preserve the Polish heritage of St. Stanislaus Parish by ensuring that the church, one of the most beautiful religious structures in the Rochester area, remains in good repair.

Assisting the parish with that responsibility is the mission of the Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation. The foundation, a private, not-for-profit corporation with 501(c) 3 status, is not part of St. Stanislaus Parish. It is a separate organization formed to provide financial support for the ongoing work of maintaining the church. As the parish identifies needs for upkeep, repair, and improvement of the building, our Board of Directors will consider requests for assistance and help underwrite the cost of repairs.

St. Stanislaus Church has been assigned the Landmark Society of Western New York's highest rating for architectural and historic significance, and has been acknowledged as "a church building of special distinction" by the Rochester Diocese. The Landmark Society has honored St. Stanislaus' congregation three times for care of the church, and the Preservation League of New York State recognized the parish with its 2005 Excellence in Preservation Award.

If you hold a place in your heart for St. Stanislaus Church, you may wish to consider. . .

- Contributing a one-time gift.
- Taking part in our annual program of giving.
- Specifying the Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation for gifts in memory of a deceased loved one.

Remembering the Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation with a bequest in your will.

All contributions to the Friends of St. Stanislaus Foundation, Inc. are fully tax deductible.

Fourth Annual Wigilia a Success!

Dr. Ed Przybylowicz

Editor's Note: The Traditional Polish Christmas Wigilia Dinner and Program on December 3, 2005 was the final event in the series of 6 very entertaining, well attended and successful programs that were presented at the Rochester Museum & Science Center during 2005 under the title: Polish American Culture in the Rochester Community. The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester was very pleased to bring these programs to the community through a wonderful partnership with the Krakow Rochester Sister Cities Committee, the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester and the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Also, this year we again have a display of our Polish Christmas Traditions in the main lobby of RMSC that will remain there during the holiday season. This display was created by Bobbi and Ed Przybylowicz, Maria Przedziecki and Maria Weldy.



Over 200 people attended the celebration of Wigilia at the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) on December 3, 2005. This annual event, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee and the museum continues to be a popular event in the Polish-American community to celebrate the Christmas season. The traditional Wigilia is celebrated in homes on Christmas Eve with family and close friends. The Polish community of Rochester has celebrated its "public" Wigilia early in December for many years. The celebrations took place in local Polish church facilities. Due to the increasing

number of people attending and the cultural programs at the RMSC, the community organizations joined together for these celebrations over the past 4 years at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the RMSC. Singing of traditional Polish koledy and English carols led by soprano Dawn Chmiel accompanied by the Slepicka String Ensemble, a group of very talented young Polish musicians followed descriptions of the Polish traditions of Christmas Eve. Narrations of Polish Christmas traditions were presented by Dr. Ed Przybylowicz and Dr. Ralph Jozefowicz. A delicious traditional 5-course dinner prepared by Margaret Gorniak (Polska Chata) and Richard Kaiser

(Creative Catering) featured the special dishes of the Wigilia meal and was enjoyed by all. Background music was provided by the Slepicka String Ensemble. The evening concluded with a special visit of Sw. Mikolaj who was "piped" in by Jakub Kwiatkowski in a goral costume and his bagpipes. Tradition ...accompanied by good food, music and fellowship ...what better way to celebrate the Christmas season? Thanks go to the organizing committee led by Maria Weldy and Frederic Skalny for another outstanding event.

"Szopki"

A long-time tradition in Poland during the Christmas season is the building of "Szopki" (pronounced **shop-key**), which are elaborate form of the Nativity scene. This tradition started back in the 13th century in Krakow, Poland, and remains an annual tradition whereas major prizes are awarded for the most elaborately decorated and designed Szopki.

The Krakowian creches sometimes reach six feet in height. Their construction is based on elements of Krakow's historic architecture including Gothic spires, Renaissance facades and Baroque-topped domes.



Polka Party and Polish Dinner

Michael Leach

Approximately 150 people attended the dinner-dance that the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, the KRSCC, and Rochester Museum and Science Center held at Rochester Museum & Science Center's Eisenhart Auditorium Saturday, October 29th. A "bigos" buffet dinner was prepared by Margret Gorniak of Polska Chata and Ray Serafin's "Brass Magic" entertained during the evening playing a variety of music ranging from polkas, waltzes, obereks, and reinlanders, to swing, foxtrot, and other pop tunes. PHSR and KRSCC presented Ray and t Al Meilutis plaques in recognition of Ray's 25 years as host of "Polka Bandstand" and Al's 11 years as co-host, and their continuous promotion of events and organizations of Western New York's Polonia.

Polonia Commemorates Pulaski Day

Eugene Golomb



Following tradition, the Polonia Civic Center of Rochester sponsored the annual commemoration of General Casimir Pulaski Day on Sunday, October 9th, 2005.

The event began with a march into St. Stanislaus Koska Church for the 11 AM Polish Mass. Participating in the event were representatives from Michalski Post 1328 American Legion, Polish Falcons Nest 52, Polish Home Army with Mr. and Mrs. Zawitkowski, Polish National Alliance Lodge 512, Polish Scouting Organization, Polish Credit Union and Polish Veterans Post SPK4.

Officiating at the Mass was Fr. Dariusz Barna, visiting from Buffalo, who gave a wonderful homily recalling from when the first Polish Settlers came to the United States and how they formed the first labor union. Father mentioned how they applied themselves to become greatly recognized not only for their work efforts but also for their support of freedom. Fr. Barna reminded us of the help that two prominent Poles gave us during the Revolutionary War - General Tadeusz Kosciuszko and also that of General Casimir Pulaski who became the father of the Armies First Cavalry only to lose his life in the battle of Savannah, GA. in October of 1779. Poland's help to the United States continues today with their aid in Iraq.

Following Mass the assemblage of over one-hundred came to the main auditorium to hear Mr. Richard Kuczowski, current President of Council 27 PNA and an original committee member of Lech Wales's "Solidarnosc" in the shipyards of Gdansk, Poland, gave the main address. Solidarity is celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. Mr. Kuczowski, recently returned from Poland and participated in the events there. He gave a vivid and heart warming recollection of the events that not only led up to the formation of Solidarity but also how it was finally able to win Poland's governmental recognition. As a strong advocate, he became the leader of Walesa's group in Gdansk. Through the efforts of their union and the guidance of Pope John Paul II they finally overthrew communism in Poland and started its downfall in all of Europe.

During the continuation of the celebration, Mssrs. Joseph Grzebieniak, Past Commander of Post 4 SPK and Eugene W. Golomb, President of Polonia Civic Center, were recognized for receiving Poland's *Cavalier Golden Cross of Merit* for their advancement of Polish Culture in the greater Rochester area.

A light reception was sponsored by the Polonia Civic Center.