

BREAKING NEWS - OUR POL AM EXHIBIT AT RMSC IS EXTENDED

Congratulations Dodie Piersielak



Polish Falcons of America National President Wallace Zielinski appointed Mrs. Dodie Piersielak PFA National Cultural Director. Her appointment was approved by the national board at their May 2005 meeting. Dodie competed along with others for this position. Her duties include working with a committee composed of Falcon members from eight districts to organize workshops to teach Polish customs, arts and crafts, and promoting our Polish heritage.



A Mid Summer Highlight - The Accordion Jam Session
Jerry Rachfal

Rochester Polonia News

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As part of the Polish American Culture in the Rochester Community programs, the **Accordion Jam Session** We asked Johnnie Firth, an accordion player for 55 years, to set the stage for what the accordion means to Polish Tradition - here are some points that should strike a memory or two and make you want to join us for the afternoon of jamming, and dancing to the music of the accordion.

Johnnie recalls a crisp autumn day in a hall with the aroma of kielbasa, breaded pork chops, kapusta, fresh coffee and pastries filling the place. The hall was the precursor of the classic Polish Wedding which was going to take place that day. As the leader of the band (always an accordionist), the day started with the band playing on the front lawn of the bride's house before she departed for church and the wedding ceremony.

Leading the jam are three accordionists from Polonia in Niagara Falls; **Johnnie Firth, Dannie Mociak and Ted Kania.** If it works, **Eddie**

to Johnnie's life and this beautiful instrument. Johnnie started playing the accordion at age 12 with lessons and that dreaded thing, practice, as a part of his young life. He can still remember, as I am sure many of you accordionists who started around that age can recall, telling his Mom that he didn't want to practice the accordion, but would rather be playing baseball. So he watched the clock very carefully not wanting to go a minute over the half hour daily practice schedule. What kept Johnnie going: his Uncle Eddie (Olejarz) who we hope will be at the Museum to belt out a polka or two and lead one of the jam sessions. If all of us who played the accordion had an Uncle Eddie, it would be the instrument of choice today, and not the guitar. I can't help but think of the accordion icon of our era - can all you accordionists remember Dick Contino and his appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show?

The Accordion Jam Session takes place under the tent on the grounds of the Museum and admission is free with sheet music being provided. If you can't remember the notes, the "Bellows Shake" or "Chiming" will do just fine.

To Johnnie Firth, this was his life just about every Saturday in Niagara Falls, New York. As we bring the accordion out of our closets, I am sure that we can relate

The Accordion Jam Session

(continunue from page 1)

There is a lot to John Firth's story and I plan to tell you more in my column in the next issue of the newsletter. What Johnnie, Dannie, Ted and "Uncle Eddie" want to bring to the Accordion Jam on August 14 is a sense of happiness as they play and lead the "jammers" and the audience (hopefully a lot of you will be dancing as well as listening) in playing the tunes that make the bodies forget the cares of the day. **The slogan for the jam: We'll play a polka or an oberek and let everyone dance the whole day - don't fret about the aches and pains - that goes for all the accordion "jammers" who, like me, will be lifting the accordion for the first time in many, many years.** It will be great to hear again some of those melodies that the Golden Age of Polish Orchestras played - names still ring in my ears like Frankie Wojnarowski, Jean Wisnewski, Bernie Witkowski, The Connecticut Twins and Little Wally from Chicago.



Ted Kania



Dannie Mocniak



Johnnie Firth

So, dust off the accordion and join us - there is no charge for this event but refreshments will be available for minimal charges. See you on August 14 on the grounds of the Rochester Museum & Science Center; we start promptly at 2 PM and we'll have more on the role of the accordion in Polonia, and particularly its role in the Polish Wedding, in the next issue of the PHSR Newsletter.

Finally, and most importantly, a note of appreciation to the Charles and Elaine Constantino Family for their generous support in funding the Accordion Jam Session.

200 Enjoy Kick-Off Polish American Dance Program

Michael Leach

The first program in the Polish American Culture in the Rochester Community series was an overwhelming success. The Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center easily accommodated the 200 people who turned out on April 17th for an afternoon of Polish music, dance, friendship and refreshments.

Couples danced polkas, waltzes, and even "schottisches" played by The Knewz of Buffalo. Attendees ranged from a dozen children who danced together, with their parents and grandparents to well over a hundred who admitted to ages of "50 and up."

Nearly a third of the audience was of non-Polish family heritage, learning about Polish and Polish-American culture at the event.

Da Igramo Folk Ensemble, a local folk dance troupe, presented five traditional Polish dances. Several had been choreographed for the group by Jan Sejda, an original member of Poland's Mazowsze Dance Company, former dance instructor at Alliance College, and, in the mid-1970s, artistic director of both Da Igramo and Rochester's Krakowiacy dance troupes. Yours truly, a former member of Da Igramo, performed "Trojak" with them.

The performing band, The Knewz, did an hour-long presentation of dances that illustrate the development of the Polish-American polka traditions.

The event also received television and newspaper coverage. KRSCC members Andrzej and Dorota Kedzierawski, Polish Heritage Society of Rochester members Frederic Skalny and Tom Kiseleski, and Polka Bandstand host Ray Serafin were interviewed by Rochester Democrat and Chronicle writer Jack Jones for a feature article that appeared on Monday, April 18th.

The event was not only an entertainment and educational success; it was also an outreach success for the sponsor organizations. Many people asked to be added to our mailing lists: 29 for the KRSCC, 42 for the PHSR, and 21 for RMSC.

The event was supported in part by a \$1500 grant from the Community Arts Grant Program of the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester that is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature. After all expenses, the event raised \$282 that will help support subsequent programs in the Polish American Culture in the Rochester Community series.



PNA Lodge 512 Testimonial

Eugene Golomb

On Sunday, April 17, 2005, Lodge 512 of the Polish National Alliance Fraternal Insurance Company honored Mr. Eugene W. Golomb with a luncheon in the Parish Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.

Among the invited guests were Father Adam Ogorzaly, pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Mr. Z. John Ordon, the Vice-Censor of the National Group, from Cheektowaga, NY, Mrs. Eileen Fulton, the Commissioner of their District 4, from Erie, PA and Mr. Richard Kuczkowski, President of their Council 27. Approximately sixty guests were in attendance. Mrs. B. Anne Bachner, President of Lodge 512, was the mistress of ceremonies. The special luncheon was prepared by Mrs. Ludwika Kardela and her daughters.

Mr. Golomb mentioned that he first joined the PNA in August of 1947 into Lodge 1020, then under the presidency of Mr. John Siwicki. At that time, it was for the purpose of joining a baseball team for the PNA, called the Polish Nationals who won several trophies in the Champion Store League.

After returning from the service in 1954, Gene was asked to become the Financial Secretary of the lodge. So it is that they did celebrate his 50 years of being a Financial Secretary. This is a position that requires him to promote and sell insurance for the Polish National Alliance of which he sold well over 50 plans during his time. The Lodge now has over 500 certificates in force and more than 350 members. With this many members the requests for claims, changes of beneficiaries - name - premiums and plans can be time consuming.

During his membership, he chaired the 75th anniversary of Lodge 1020 and the 100th Anniversary of Lodge 512 at which the national president, the late Mr. Edward Moskal, attended. Mr. Golomb also chaired various seminars for the district.

It was sometime in the 1960's that he became active in Council 27 under Mr. Felix Banachowski. After his untimely death, Mr. Golomb became treasurer of the Council and has held that post for over 40 years.

The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of a plaque to Mr. Golomb by Mr. Ordon and Mrs. Fulton stating: ***"IN APPRECIATION FOR LOYALTY AND FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND POLONIA"***.



Holy Father Pope John Paul the Great

James and Mary Witulski

We have lost a great Pope and a dear friend. Even more, he was a member of our family. Words can not begin to describe our sorrow within our Polish community. John Paul II was *our* Pope...*our* Holy Father. Pope John Paul's story is Poland's story. In a certain sense, he personified Poland. In a contemporary culture that desires to discard the helpless, from the unborn to the disabled, Pope John Paul II embraced his suffering. He suffered with dignity, as Poland had suffered for years under foreign occupation. He was a great leader who rose from a country that brought forth brilliant leaders and holy saints, from St. Stanislaus to St. Casimir; from St. Maria

Faustina Kowalska to St. Maximilian Kolbe. Karol Wojtyla was both a great leader and saintly Pole.

The Holy Father lived what he preached. He repeatedly urged us to "Be not afraid" and he refused to fear. Our Polish Pope recognized that Truth is not relative and he courageously proclaimed the Truth. This freed many Catholics from the cloud of spiritual confusion and endeared him to the youth of the world who seek a sense of order and honesty. Pope John Paul cared deeply for each sheep of his flock.

One can not separate any Pole's Catholic faith from his love of the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Czestochowa, is the Queen of Poland so it should come as no surprise that the Holy Father's devotion to Our Lady was both deep and sincere. She protected and guided him as he provided a clear call for human dignity, which stirred the hearts of Poles as they threw off the shackles of the communist Soviet occupation, leading to the demise of the Soviet Empire.

The Shepherd visited his flock tirelessly. We fondly remember seeing him in New York City in 1995 and in



Rome this past September. Seeing the Holy Father was like gazing upon a saint.

We at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church are so very proud of both our Polish heritage and our Catholic faith, for the two can not be separated. Pope John Paul II, the future St. John Paul the Great, gave us reason to be even more proud, and now we are deeply saddened, for we have lost our Slavic Pope, our Son of Poland. Yet, we take much comfort as we know that he will intercede for all of the people of the world, for his beloved Poland, and yes, for us here at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish.

This article on the death of our Holy Father appeared in the St. Stanislaus Church Bulletin on April 17, 2005, and an abbreviated version appeared in the D & C. It is an honor to once again run this article as a tribute to Pope John Paul II.

“Polish Concentration Camps” – History versus Reality

Witold Lawrynowicz, Małgorzata Lawrynowicz

The use of the phrase “Polish Concentration Camps” by CTV (Canadian Television) last spring is just one reminder of the constant problem of repetitious usage of this term. The CEO of CTV, Robert Hurst, made the situation worse by not only not acknowledging the Polish Embassy’s protest, but also delaying his response to them by 22 days. It was thus that he displayed his contempt for representatives of the Republic of Poland. The CTV case is not unique, and points also to the complete impunity on the part of the media, even if they have deliberately made false or misleading statements. A similar event took place in Australia in May of 2002. The usage of this term has been cause for protest numerous times, and any explanation of this practice being accidental cannot be defended. The phrase “Polish Concentration Camps” is often employed by the mass media, which has caused its usage to spread to other realms, becoming virtually synonymous with the term “Nazi Concentration Camp.”

The Current Situation

The phrase “Polish Concentration Camps” is often used by the mass media to describe Nazi death camps. Searching the Lexis-Nexis database provides a general idea of how far-reaching this problem has become. From September 24th, 1972 to April 22nd, 2004, “Polish Concentration Camps” has appeared 181 times in the following American, Canadian, and British popular daily news sources: the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Baltimore Sun, Chicago Sun-Times, Miami Herald, Christian Science Monitor, Times (London), The Guardian, and the Toronto Star. Moreover, this term has also been found in The Australian, Boston Globe, and the Democrat and Chronicle (not covered by the Lexis-Nexis search) and can surely be found in numerous other periodicals.

Polish diplomatic outposts and Polonia organizations have protested on many occasions. We are currently in possession of over twenty Letters to the Editor that object to such usage of this term. These initiatives seem to lead nowhere, as soon after the publication of such letters the phrase is used once again by those same newspapers (Washington Post, New York Times, The Australian, etc.). In most cases, this will happen several times. To make matters worse, the media often invokes their First Amendment right to free speech, and refuses to publish any form of correction. We have had such personal experiences in our dealings with the Democrat and Chronicle in May of 2000.

This is not the end of the problem. Between the years 1988 and 2004, the phrase “Polish Holocaust” was used 171 times (while the correct term “German Holocaust” was employed only 356 times, about twice as much); the expression “Polish Anti-Semitism” appeared 257 times (1979-2004), and the phrase “Polish Concentration” was used 196 times (1978-2004). There was even an occurrence of the phrase “Polish Gestapo.”

It is nonsense to argue that the usage of these terms refers to the geographical location of the concentration camps. No one regards Natzweiler-Struthof as a “French Concentration Camp” or Herzogenbusch as a “Dutch Concentration Camp.”

The Scope of the Problem

The term “Polish Concentration Camps” was used by more than just the media. We have found this phrase to be used by a Hungarian diplomat and a Human Rights judge; it has been employed in Sunday homilies in churches of various Christian denominations, in books, memoirs, scholarly studies (e.g. Polish Studies Centre, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies), in an article published by a branch of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) “Zgoda,” in summer reading lists for American elementary school children, student periodicals, genealogical materials, various American public school educational tools, in the Ukrainian immigration press, museum tourist materials, CD titles, and movie reviews.

POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE IN THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

We Appreciate the Financial Support from the Listed Organizations and Individual Donors

FUNDS RAISED = \$17,535

TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED = \$25,000

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My 20 Year's of Service to the Church and its People

Fr. Adam Ogorzaly

All of us can relate to a speedy passing of time, and sometimes we are not even aware how fast it passed until something like an anniversary brings it all to our attention. For me this 20th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood brought the realization of speedy passage of time in my ministry to the church. Like any other vocation and dedication of one's life to serving God and its people, it brings with it many blessings, as well as a pride and satisfaction of making a difference to people's spiritual lives. There are also many sacrifices, demands, and sometimes frustrations as well, but to me they always are being outweighed by the positives.

I was born in Myslec, near beautiful and historic Stary Sacz, in the south of Poland, which is known for the Shrine of St. Kinga (Kunegunda) - one of the saints in the mural painted in the sanctuary of St. Stanislaus Church. I spent many hours in her sanctuary praying for her intercession with God, and for guidance in making the choices, which would affect my adult life.

My parents Janina and Jozef, with great love, prayers and encouragement, took care of me and my sister Stanislaw's spiritual and secular lives. They encouraged and supported life choices and were crucial and indispensable in my vocational choices, as they were always very involved in the rich life of the church.

After graduating from high school in Stary Sacz, I entered the seminary in Poznan in 1978. For the next seven long years I studied hard, preparing for my vocation of the priesthood. I was ordained on May 21, 1985 in the Cathedral in Poznan, and then worked for two years in the Diocese of Szczecin. In the fall of 1987 I left Poland on the next step of my priesthood to serve Poles in England in the areas of Manchester, Nottingham and High Wycombe. The Polish community there was comprised mostly of emigrants who left their homeland after World War II. I still have fond memories of this time in my life.

I always thought that serving the Polish people in Europe was my destiny. But God had other plans for me, for in 1996 I came to United States. I remember quite vividly that January day, when my plane landed in Fort Worth, Texas and the Bishop from the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, greeted me warmly. Texas felt like another world for me. My work in the Tyler Cathedral, the warmth and goodness of the community, getting to know the American way of life, culture, and its history gave me another view, another dimension and another opportunity to serve people. It was an unforgettable and very enriching experience for a newcomer like me. I thought I had found my place. I felt that this was the place where I belonged, and that I would serve the people of the south of the United States.

But yet again God, in His wonderful wisdom, had yet another plan for me. One day I received an unexpected telephone call from Fr. Mitch Zygadlo regarding the need of the priest for a Polish church in the Diocese of Rochester, New York. After much praying and soul searching, I made a decision, which was then approved by the Bishop Matthew Clark. In November of 1997 I came to Rochester to serve the faithful community of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.

From the very first moment of my arrival at St. Stanislaus I was met with enthusiasm, warmth, and an outpouring of happiness that this Polish church had received another Polish priest to help minister and to help keep its heritage alive.

Through the last few years of my service here at St. Stanislaus, I have always felt honored and blessed to be here, and to serve the people of this community. Every day I feel their love, warmth and support. I feel their encouragement, and the strength of their faith. And every day I feel grateful - for their love, their loving ways, and their generosity and patience. I put my whole heart into serving this wonderful community and my heart is filled with gratitude to God and to the St. Stanislaus community.

On Saturday, May 21st, I celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of my 20th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood and after the Mass the parishioners and guests were invited to a reception, prepared by a group of wonderful people. It was a wonderfully surprising and encouraging outpouring of love, good wishes and support that made me feel a great privilege to minister to the St Stanislaus Parish community. During the Mass I was mindful of how many parishioners I have been able to serve in times of sorrow, of illness and in times of celebration. I thought of all the people with whom I was able to share the celebration of the daily and Sunday Eucharist, and I gave praise that I was allowed to join together in this parish's family.

I know that St. Stanislaus Kostka Church is very important to its parishioners and its community, but it is also very important to me. I am proud and honored that I can serve here with this faithful community. I look back on the last 20 years of my service to God's people with gratitude and I look to the future with deeper understanding and maturity of my vocation.

From a linguistic perspective, the term "Polish Concentration Camps" implies that the aggressor is Poland. The case is similar with the expression "Japanese car," which indicates the car was Japanese, even if it was assembled in Texas. The factory owners are still the Japanese. The territories where concentration camps could be found were often lands of the Third Reich before the war, and were subsequently brought in to Poland after the war or were absorbed by Nazi Germany. The camps were run by the Third Reich and not by Poland. To describe these camps as "Polish" is, at the very least, inaccurate.

On the basis of the research we have gathered, we can hypothesize that within two or three generations, the Western world will believe that it was Poland that was responsible for the Holocaust, leading concentration camps, and supporting Hitler in persecuting other nations.

Widespread, coordinated, and long-term action on the part of the Polish government, Polonia, and many Polish organizations may reverse this trend.

The above is a general outline of how people in America and Western Europe view Poland. We published the full, Polish language text of this article in "Przegląd Polski" a Thursday addition to "Nowy Dziennik". The full text includes many more details, dates of various occurrences and names of people involved, a description of search methods employed when using Lexis-Nexis, and relevant footnotes with internet addresses or bibliographical information. A popular Polish daily, and a Polish weekly magazine both turned down an offer of publishing our work.

Polish Falcons, Nest 52, Celebrates 100 Years

Daniel Michalowski



The Polish Falcons of America, Nest 52, will be one hundred years young this year. The "Anniversary Celebration - October 1, 2005" will be held at the Whitter Party House, 88 Whitter Road, Gates, NY 14624. The event will start at 5 pm with a cash bar and at 6 pm dinner and ceremonies to follow. There will be two guest speakers - Kathleen Urbanic and Diana Palotas. Dancing follows to the music of Ray Serafin's Brass Magic.

Nest 52 has reason to celebrate our past accomplishments. In our early days, we provided a gymnastics center for the youth of our community. Our Hudson Avenue neighborhood location provided a social establishment for people to gather and share happy times. Being a national Fraternal organization, we organized our own basketball, baseball, bowling and golf activities and invited other "nests" to participate. Rochester hosted the first national golf tournament for the Polish Falcons of America - and the first national Folk Dance competition was held at our Rochester location.

Through the years, our members have provided support, supplies, and financial assistance to nursing homes, VA hospitals, the Salvation Army and deserving college-bound students. Most recently, our nest sent financial aid to the Red Cross to assist the victims of the tsunami.

Tickets for the event are available from Mr. Joseph Klein (Chairman of the Event), 621-5856.

The current officers of Nest 52 are President: Mary Whalen, 1st VP: Dan Michalowski, 2nd VP: Barbara Smagin, Secretary: Geraldine Wilson, Treasurer: Joseph Klein, Financial Secretary: Louis Tremiti, Youth Instructor: Nancy Klein, Honorary Chaplain: Fr. Adam Ogorzaly, Directors: Aurelia Parks, Joanne Tremiti, Dodie Piersielak, Theodore Krupnicki, Loraine Krupnicki, Richard Versprille, Arthur Druzynski, Auditors: Richard Mulcahy, Arthur Druzynski, Richard Versprille, Editor: Dodie Piersielak.

Polish Speaking Doctors in the Rochester Area

Slawka Wojdak

Here is a start of a list of doctors in the Rochester area who speak fluent Polish. It may be a valuable reference for helping guests who come from Poland who require medical attention or for those in our Polonia who prefer to use their native Polish language while discussing medical issues with a doctor. We hope we can keep expanding this list as a service to our community and create other lists that identify Polish speaking attorneys, accountants, etc. Please help us in this task by sending names to PHSR, PO Box 17368, Rochester, NY 14617.

Dr. Burel Edward Dentistry

1295 Lake Ave
tel. 254-1570

Dr. Kedzierawska Dorota Dentistry

601 Elmwood Ave
Strong Hospital Dental Office
Rochester, NY 14642
Tel. 275-7978

Dr. Ralph Jozefowicz Neurology

601 Elmwood Ave
Rochester, NY 14642
Tel. 275-6380

Dr. Mariola Kubicka Allergy & Immunology

225 Perinton Hills Office Park
Fairport, NY 14450
Tel. 425-1650

Or

919 Westfall Rd.
Rochester, NY 14618
Tel. 442-0150

Or

1576 Long Pond Rd.
Rochester, NY 14626
Tel. 225-5735

Dr. Hanna Mieszczanska Cardiology

2400 S. Clinton Ave, Bld. G
Rochester, NY 14618

Dr. Bogdan Mscichowski Pediatry

460 Crosskey Office Park
Fairport, NY 14450
Tel. 223-6111

Dr. Halina Stolarczyk-Luczynska Internal Medicine

1151 Titus Ave
Rochester, NY 14617
Tel. 544-5450

Dr. Ryszard Stolarczyk Internal Medicine

Endocrinology
1151 Titus Ave
Rochester, NY 14617
Tel. 544-5450

Polish Tennis League

Waldek Wojdak



It is this time of the year again. So get your tennis racquet ready and join us in our Polish Tennis League. Last year for the first time here in Rochester we started our Polish Tennis League and had so much fun playing and competing against each other that we decided to do it again.

The official starting date of our league is August 1st although we have been playing quite intensely since the beginning of the season just to get in shape and get ready for the competition. If you do play tennis and like to join us, then call our secretary; Slawka Wojdak at 585-368-9266 and give her your name, phone number and e-mail address and send her \$10 registration fee. This will be put toward the purchase of trophies for our end of season banquet. You will get a list of all players and how to contact them. The rules are simple. Each participant needs to play a 3 set match with all other players. For each match you win you get one point and for each one you lose, you get zero points. The one who collects the most points wins. Our last year's winner was Darek Boczek. In the event when two or more players have the same number of points, we will have finals. We would like to finish our league by the end of September although last year we continued to play till the end of October.

In addition to our men's Tennis League we are starting a Junior Tennis League this year as well. So if you have a son who plays tennis, call Slawka to register him as soon as possible. Junior registration is free and we are looking forward to see our young tennis players joining our competition. We will group our young players according to their age.

Rochester Polonia Calendar July—September 2005

Rochester Polonia Calendar –July – September 2005

JUL	16	Polish Falcons Family Picnic, 621-3467
	17	PAC Club Family Picnic, \$5/per- \$10/cple or family, Dorsey Rd Post - Noon to 6 PM, 266-7215
	17-25	St. Ann's Novenna, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 467-3068
AUG	5-6	St Stanislaus Polish Arts Festival, 467-3068 or 323-2106
	14	Tentative Date for Michalski Post Picnic, 323-2106
	14	PHSR, KRSCC, RM&SC, Accordion Jam Session – Making Polish Music Together, 2-5 PM, Under the Tent at the Museum, 467-7405, Free and Open to the Public, Bring your Accordion, 467-7405 or fskalny@rochester.rr.com
SEP	10	Polish Falcons Annual Clambake, 1-6 PM, 621-3467
	17	Polish Falcons 100 th Anniversary Mass at St Stanislaus, 4 PM, 621-3467
	17	PHSR, KRSCC, RM&SC, Polish American Heritage Exhibit, 2PM Opening, RMSC, Exhibit Open Daily Through December 31, 467-7405or fskalny@rochester.rr.com
	25	Polish Falcon Wine Tour to Keuka Lake, 10 AM – 7 PM, RSVP by Aug 1, 334-8027 \$32/mem - \$60/non With Brunch at Esperanza Mansion

AND COMING IN OCTOBER

OCT	1	Polish Falcons 100 th Anniversary Party at Whittier RD Party House, Joe Klein 621-5856, Reservations Are Now Being Accepted
OCT	29	PHSR, KRSCC, RM&SC, Polka Dance and Polish Dinner, 6 PM, Eisenhart Auditorium at the Mu-

Commemoration of the Polish Constitution

Eugene Golomb

The Polonia Civic Center continued its yearly tradition of commemorating the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 with two significant observances.

The first was our annual laying of a wreath at the bust of General Thaddeusz Kosciuszko in the main hall of the Hall of Justice on Exchange Blvd. in Rochester' downtown area. This took place on Friday, April 29th, the customary date before May 3rd. A plaque was also mounted to explain to the viewers what our Polish Constitution means to us Polish - Americans. Both the wreath and the plaque remained in place for a full week.

Representatives from some of our member organizations were present for this noon event.

On Sunday, May 1st, representatives from our member groups took part in a march into St Stanislaus Kostka Church for the 11:00 AM Polish Mass. Father Adam Ogorzaly gave a fine homily describing the significance of the constitution and what it has meant to all of those present.

Following the mass an "Akademia" was presented by our Polish Scouts as led by one of their directors Mrs. Jolanta Mokrzan. To start, the Guzierowicz children played both the Polish and American anthems prior to their scheduled appearance at the Polish Heritage Society's sponsored Youth Concert at the University of Rochester. The scouts recited biographies of many notable Polish statesmen, poets, musicians, politicians, generals and more. Many patriotic songs were also sung by the group to an appreciative crowd of approximately 100 people in attendance.



PHSR Happenings

Frederic Skalny

PHSR keeps on moving forward.

We are pleased to again support the operation of the Polish Language School for year 2005 with a contribution of \$2,500.

On April 9th we held our annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Brookwood Inn, Pittsford. We awarded 10 new and renewed 21 scholarships for 2005 for a total of \$31,000. The new recipients are: **Sarah Lukasiewicz** – Stanley Bartles Memorial Scholarship; **Christopher Lukasiewicz** – Joseph S. Skalny Scholarship; **Clinton Sugent** – Florian Sobolewski Memorial Scholarship; **Anna Owczarczyk** – Christine Krasz Memorial Scholarship; **Jill Michaloski** and **Heidi Jaworski** – Stasia Skalny Memorial Scholarship; **Marta Grzegorek** – Gabriela Jaskot Memorial Scholarship; **Kerry Laboski** – Broki Memorial Scholarship; and **Adam Sobolewski** and **Ryszard Szumski** – Polish Heritage Society Scholarship. This year's guest speaker was **Alex Johnson**.



2005 PHSR Scholarship Winners and Scholarship Committee Members

During the luncheon, the Polish Heritage Society's "**Distinguished Service Award**" was presented to **Joseph S. Skalny** for over 60 years of commitment to the Rochester Polish American community.

PHSR proudly provided five educational stipends to this year's winners of the Rochester Polish Youth Concert Competition that recognizes exceptional talent in music performance: **Stefan Styk** (piano) \$500; **Jacob Kwiatkowski** (bagpipes and saxophone) \$500; **Dyzio Guzierowicz** (French horn) \$50; **Kaia Megiel** (violin) \$50; and **Hannah Watrobski** (violin) \$50.

We have joined in partnership with the Krakow Rochester Sister Cities Committee and the Rochester Museum & Science Center to present a series of various programs under the caption: **Polish American Culture in the Rochester Community**. The first program – The Polish Americans: Their Music and Dance was a tremendous success. We look forward to the popularity of upcoming Accordion Jam Session – Making Polish Music Together that will be held August 14th, and the major four-month long exhibit of Rochester's Polish American community that opens on September 17th. All programs are held at the museum. Again we have a write-up about our programs in the June-August 2005 publication of RMSC News & Programs. **See you at the upcoming events - SAVE THESE DATES.**

On May 15th we held our 87th Annual Business Meeting at St. Casimir's Parish Hall. The membership elected three board of directors – each to serve for a three year term. They are newly elected **John Haluch**, and re-elected members **Virginia Kobylarz** and **Nancy Welch**. At the June 1st board of directors' meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for one year 2005-2006: **Frederic Skalny, President; Maria Weldy, Vice President; Krystina Lizak, Treasurer and Nancy Welch, Recording Secretary**. The members were treated to a genuine Polish dinner excellently prepared and served by **Margret Gorniak** of Polska Chata.

The Polish Literary Club of PHSR delighted a well attended audience at the April 24th program, "**Renaissance in Polish Literature**", held at St. Stanislaus Church. We are currently reviewing exciting program options for this fall and winter season.

As in building any organization, **WE ARE IN NEED** of your help. Immediate needs are for volunteers to work on the newsletter, press-releases, help in our mailings, provide ideas for our year 2006 programs, compile our historical archives, and assist in fundraising, new membership and organization promotion. Please call me at 467-7405 or drop me an e-mail at fskalny@rochester.rr.com to discuss your interests further. Or, contact any of the board of directors – they would be delighted to talk with you.

Your help and support in making the Polish Heritage Society a strong, vibrant and lasting organization in the greater Rochester area is greatly appreciated.

Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities News

Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee member Dr. Ralph Jozefowicz is again in Krakow lecturing on neurology in the English Language Program of the Jagiellonian University Medical College.

Michael Leach introduced U of R Skalny Center Visiting Professor Krzysztof Zamorski, head of the Jagiellonian University Institute of History, to American diner culture at the Mt. Hope Society's diner as they discussed activities for a KRSCC delegation to Krakow next year. Prof. Zamorski enjoyed the Virginia baked ham with hash browns.

Leach sent a City of Rochester flag that was printed along with digital information about the Rochester-area community and economy, and digital photos of Rochester from the City's photo archive at the request of Mr. Krzysztof Gruener, Director of the Krakow Bureau of International Cooperation. These will be presented to the public in a Krakow Sister Cities exhibit for the City of Krakow Day celebrations in June 2005.

Leach also gave a short report to New York folklorists and community scholars at the 2005 Folk Arts Roundtable, held in April in Skaneateles, NY, about the successful sponsor organization partnership behind the Polish American Culture in Rochester Community Program. Former Rochester folklorist Kate Koperski, now at the Castellani Art Museum in Niagara Falls, presented Arts in Education Programs that featured traditional folk arts, including one that featured traditional Polish folk arts.

Susan Chodorow, Director of the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester Folk Arts Program, recently presented Rochesterian Stanley Kuras, Polish traditional willow basket maker, and other traditional artists, at the United Nations Association of Rochester's "Connect the World" festival at Nazareth College (Mr. Kuras' beautiful work fascinated many visitors). Susie will meet with members of Rochester's Polish-American community to develop ACCGR-funded traditional folk arts programming in connection with the Polish American Heritage Exhibit that Kathleen Urbanic is preparing for this September at the Rochester Museum & Science Center.

If you have any information on who practices any Polish or Polish-American traditional arts, please call Susie at the Arts and Cultural Council, 473-4000, x208.



Support the PHSR Scholarship Fund

*Your help is needed to support
the PHSR Scholarship Fund.*

PHSR is a 501(c)(3) public charity and your donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send your contribution to:

**PHSR-Scholarship Fund
P.O.Box 17368
Rochester, NY 14617**

New Faces Join Young Performers at Annual Polish Concert

Bozena Sobolewska

On Sunday, May 1, a cool but sunny afternoon, the Polish community of Rochester gathered again to listen to music played by Polish youth. Now in its 12th year, the concert is thriving.

Initially held at St. John Fisher College, the concert was later moved to the University of Rochester River Campus, then to the Memorial Art Gallery, and now is back at the River Campus. The beginnings, in the early 1990s, were hard. There were only a few young people who wanted to perform, and the level of playing was not spectacular. However, it has gradually changed: Now there are many young musicians who consider the concert a great opportunity to show their talents in public, and the level of their performances is excellent. This annual showcase of young musicians of Polish descent is organized by the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies in cooperation with the University of Rochester, Department of Music and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester.



Professor Ewa Hauser, Director of the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies, opened the concert followed by Ms. Sabina Slepcki who is the artistic director of the event. Sabina is the first violinist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and a faculty member at the Hochstein School of

Music. Thirteen young people of Polish descent, from preschoolers to high-school seniors, played on piano, violin, cello, guitar, alto saxophone, French horn, baritone saxophone, and even the bagpipes! A variety of pieces were performed, written by such composers as Chopin, Oginski, Bacewicz, Albeniz, Vivaldi, Mendellsohn, Seitz, and Viotti.



A special pleasure of the afternoon was to welcome, for the first time, several very talented students: Anna Weldy, Paris Sorci, Kaia Megiel, Tamara Labanowski, and Jacob Kwiatkowski. We hope to see them at future concerts. We also wish to thank Alexandra Yurchenko who provided an excellent piano accompaniment to all players who needed it.

It was the last concert for Adam Sobolewski, a cello player, who participated in a record number of 10 concerts and who was a past winner of two Polish Heritage Society Awards. Adam is a Pittsford-Mendon High School senior, and will start undergraduate studies in physics at the University of Chicago in the fall. For his farewell performance, he prepared two pieces of Polish music – “Polonaise” by Kleofas Oginski and “Mazovian Dance” by Grazyna Bacewicz. We will miss his enthusiasm and love for music.

For the fourth year, performers at the concert competed for the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester Awards for Musically Talented Youth of Polish Descent. Mrs. Nancy Welch representing PHSR presented the awards. Two awards of \$500 each were given for the best young musicians of Polish descent. This year the winners were: Stefan Styk, piano, and Jacob Kwiatkowski, bagpipe and baritone saxophone.

Ten-year-old Stefan has already performed at the Polish youth concerts and participated in other community events for many years, and we have been very pleased to watch his progress. He was a first-place winner in the 2004 Junior All-Star Competition and was awarded an honorable mention at the PHSR 2003 competition. Jacob, a ninth-grade student at Spencerport High School, performed at this venue for the first time. Wearing a kilt, he played on the baritone saxophone and the bagpipes a selection of Scottish gigs and short jazzy pieces with amazing precision and maturity. He is a member of the Hochstein School of Music and Dance Jazz Ensemble, a founding member of the Feadan Or Pipe Band, and has recently been invited to join the world-renowned 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band from Toronto, Canada.



Exhibit Will Tell Our Story

Kathleen Urbanic

Rochester Polonia's history and traditions will be showcased at the Rochester Museum & Science Center this year in an exhibit titled *Under the Wings of the White Eagle: Polish American Heritage in Rochester*. Opening on September 17th and continuing through December 31st, the exhibit will bring Polonia's story to life with photographs, historical documents, memorabilia, and a multi-faceted computer presentation.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, the Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee and the Museum will help visitors explore the character of the Polish American community, focusing on six themes: faith, family, Polish Town, enduring connection with Poland, arts and culture, and sharing heritage with new generations. *Designed to share Polonia's story with others, as well as to evoke pride and memories in those of Polish descent, the exhibit will offer a glimpse of life in the old Polish neighborhood, highlight Polish folk art and traditions, and suggest the 115-year panorama of Rochester's Polonia's history.* Polish community historian Kathleen Urbanic is collaborating with museum staff to collect and organize dozens of images and artifacts, most from the collection of the Polish Community Archives at St. Stanislaus Parish.

A computer presentation created by James Bulmahn will contribute an exciting additional dimension to the exhibit. Beginning with the experience of his ancestors (the Parus, Luk, and Maslanka families), the presentation provides a colorful, interactive look at many aspects of life in the Polish community – shown in archival images and relayed in interviews with local Polish Americans.

Covering 1,400 square feet at the museum, this will be the first major Polish American heritage exhibit organized in Rochester in decades. Don't miss this chance to enjoy and celebrate our heritage!



Please send your donation for the EXHIBIT to
PHSR P.O. Box 17368, Rochester NY 14617