Dear Directors and Members of the Polish American Congress,

The Council of National Directors Meeting scheduled for May, in Washington D.C., is rescheduled for September 8th through the 10th of this year. During this week the legislators are scheduled to be in session, so we will have the opportunity to address them personally.

Congressional and Presidential elections are being held in November of this year. I’m certain you have seen the Democratic candidates vying to be on the Democratic ballot as well as the caucuses taking place. With the CND meeting being held in September, we will have the opportunity to have a Day on Capitol Hill to visit with our representatives and to present issues regarding our local communities. By having a dialogue, it can certainly assist us in choosing the right candidate to represent us and our community.

Even more importantly, 2020 is the year of the Census. Each and every one of us can make a difference within our respective communities and as Polish Americans. The census is a valuable tool for improving groups across the country. If members within our areas do not respond, the community can suffer by not receiving the funds it needs. That’s why it is important to understand the importance of completing the census report.

Continued on next page...
Ten years ago, when the census was taken, our Polish American Community was not fully represented due to a lot of misunderstanding. We cannot allow that to happen again. Specifically, we need to respond to question number 9 on page 2 of the census form and print “POLISH AMERICAN” so we are properly counted.

This is one way that the Polish American Congress can be influential and make a difference for Americans of Polish descent, and Polish immigrants. More information will become available shortly.

In May of this year, Poland will be holding its first round of Presidential elections. Information on who and where one can participate is available through the Polish Embassy and Polish Consulates throughout the country.

Based on all these happenings, it will be an exciting year.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula

Frank J. Spula
PAC MISSION STATEMENT COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK!

One of the topics discussed at the 2019 Council of National Directors Meeting held in Chicago this past November was the electronic survey sent to over 850 PAC members or subscribers to our PAC Newsletter. PAC Secretary Tim Kuzma and PAC Vice President for Public Relations Mark Pienkos led the discussion on the results.

The three main take-a-ways from the survey results were:
1. The need to write a PAC Mission Statement,
2. Improve communications, and
3. Engage all PAC members in moving our organization forward.

Following the meeting, Pienkos volunteered to chair the PAC Mission Statement Committee. He enlisted the support of the following PAC members to help in this effort: Debbie Majka (PAC Vice President for Cultural Affairs and Honorary Polish Consul in Philadelphia), Stella Szczesny (State Director, PAC - Michigan Division), Klara Wisniewska (PAC Washington, D.C. Office Administrator), John Cebrowski (PAC Member and Vice President & Director of Development for the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas), Zbyszek Koralewski (PAC - Long Island Division Vice President for American Affairs, Board Member of the Polish-Jewish Dialogue Committee, and Past Vice President of the Polish Singers Alliance), and Andrzej Prokopchuk (President, PAC - Northern California Division and National Director).

The task of the Mission Statement Committee is to create a brief, but meaningful statement, that all PAC members can embrace — especially when asked: “What is the Polish American Congress?” and “What does it do?”

The goal of the committee is to present their work for approval at the 2020 PAC Council of National Directors Meeting scheduled for Washington, D.C. later this year. Future newsletters will keep readers informed of the committee's work.

PAC National Secretary Tim Kuzma Commemorates Polish Soldiers' Day

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy Planning

August 15 marks both The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Polish Soldiers Day. This holiday commemorates the defense of Poland by her armed forces from the restoration of national independence in 1918 to the present. August 15, 1920 was the date of the Polish victory at the Battle of Warsaw which stopped the Bolshevik conquest of Europe. In the United States, over the past several years, Polish Soldiers' Day has been observed at THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Timothy Kuzma, President of the POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA and National Secretary of the Polish American Congress, laid a wreath at the 2019 commemoration to honor the memory of the Polish Army in France. The FALCONS played the leading role in organizing this all volunteer military force composed of recent Polish emigrants to the United States. After service on the Western Front in World War I, the Polish Army in France returned to Poland to fight in the Polish - Bolshevik War. Mr. Teofil Lachowicz, of New York City, is an expert on Polish military history. He recently prepared a documentary film on the Polish Army in France and he delivered the principal speech at the 2019 ceremony.

Approximately 1,500 people participated in Polish Soldiers' Day 2019 in a historical context marked by increasingly bellicose Kremlin revanchism. In January 2020, Putin's Kremlin issued two foul statements that insult truth and human rights. First, according to Putin, Poland is to blame for starting World War II, not Hitler and Stalin who were victims. Second, Stalin was within his rights to order the mass murder of approximately 30,000 Polish prisoners of war at Katyn and several other killing fields in the western Soviet Union in April 1940, when Stalin and Hitler were allies.

Vice Consul Mateusz Gmura, Poland’s Consulate General New York City, FALCONS President Timothy Kuzma, and the Defense Attache at Poland’s Embassy in Washington, DC: Polish Air Force Brigadier General Cezary Wisniewski
Suntago Water World, which developers claim will be Europe’s largest covered water park, is moving closer to completion. The water park, located around 50 kilometers south west of Warsaw, will boast 18 swimming pools with a total area of 3,500 square meters; 32 water slides totaling 3.2 kilometers in length (including Europe’s longest slide at 320 meters); and a 40,000 square meter “tropical” garden complete with imported palm trees. It is the first stage in a larger development, Park of Poland, that will contain a theme park, hotels, shopping center and conference facilities. The developers, Global City Holdings and Wund Group, claim that once complete it will be Europe’s second-largest entertainment complex, covering a total of 80 hectares (or over nearly 2,000 acres).

Construction at the site commenced in May 2017, and the water park was due to open before the end of 2019. However, in November, Park of Poland’s CEO Idan Greidinger told website Gazeta.pl that the plans had been delayed “due to unexpected circumstances.” The park is now due to open in spring 2020.

Hundreds of real palm trees and other plants have been delivered to the site from Malaysia, Florida, and Costa Rica. Earlier this year, Gazeta Wyborcza reported that the investment had already used 37,000 cubic meters of concrete, more than in the entire construction of Warsaw’s iconic Palace of Culture and Science, as well as 5,000 tons of steel — half the weight of the Eiffel Tower. The cost of the investment is reported around 150 million euros.

As Park of Poland enters final preparations for its opening, it is recruiting staff for what it promises will be a “dream job.” Around 90% of its expected 430 staff have been hired, with recruitment set to ending in January, reports Business Insider Polska. The company’s human resources director, Małgorzata Karwacka, promised numerous perks for new recruits, not least free entry to the park. “This is a place that we haven’t seen the likes of in Poland before,” Karwacka said. “Imagine working under the palms, where the summer lasts all year!” Comments from potential visitors on Park of Poland’s YouTube videos and social media posts confirm that there is growing excitement about the development, although some commenters also express skepticism and predict that high prices will mean that many visitors are foreign tourists rather than locals.
Statement issued by the Prime Minister of Poland

Prime Minister of Poland

MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI

January 27, 2020

Politico

The 20th century brought about inconceivable suffering and the death of hundreds of millions of people killed in the name of sick, totalitarian ideologies. The death toll of Nazism, fascism, and communism is obvious for people of our generation. It is also obvious who is responsible for those crimes and whose pact started World War II, the most murderous conflict in the history of humankind.

Unfortunately, the more time passes since these tragic events, the less our children and grandchildren know about them. That is why it is so important that we continue to speak out loud, telling the truth about World War II, its perpetrators, victims, and object to any attempts at distorting history.

The memory about this evil is particularly important for Poland — the war’s first victim. Our country was the first to experience the armed aggression of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. Poland was the first country that fought to defend free Europe. However, resistance to these evil powers is not only the memory of Polish heroism — it is something much more important. This resistance is the legacy of the entire now free and democratic Europe that fought against two totalitarian regimes. Today, when some want to trample the memory of these events in the name of their political goals, Poland must stand up for the truth. Not for its interest, but for the sake of what Europe means.

Signed on August 23, 1939, the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was not a “non-aggression pact.” It was a political and military alliance, dividing Europe into two spheres of influence along the line formed by three Polish rivers: the Narew, Vistula, and San. A month later it was moved to the line of the Bug river, as a result of the “German-Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty” of September 28, 1939. It was a prologue to unspeakable crimes that over the next years were committed on both sides of the line.

The pact between Hitler and Stalin was immediately put into effect: on 1 September 1939 Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west, south, and north, and on September 17, 1939, the USSR joined in, attacking Poland from the east.

On September 22, 1939, a great military parade was held in Brest-Litovsk — a celebration of Nazi Germany’s and Soviet Russia’s joint defeat of independent Poland. Such parades are not organized by parties to non-aggression pacts. They are organized by allies and friends. This is exactly what Hitler and Stalin were for a long time — not only allies but in fact friends. Their friendship flourished so much that, when a group of 150 German communists fled the Third Reich to the USSR before World War II broke out, in November 1939, Stalin handed them over to Hitler as “a gift” and thus, condemning them to certain death.

The USSR and the Third Reich cooperated closely all the time. At a conference in Brest on November 27, 1939, representatives of both countries’ security services discussed the methods and principles of cooperation to fight Polish independence organizations on the occupied territories. Other conferences of the NKVD and SS officers on their cooperation were held inter alia in Zakopane and Krakow (in March 1940). These were not talks on non-aggression, but on liquidating (that is murdering) people, Polish citizens, and on joint, allied actions to bring about the destruction of Poland.

Without Stalin’s complicity in the partition of Poland, and without the natural resources that Stalin supplied to Hitler, the Nazi German crime machine would not have taken control of Europe. The last trains with supplies left the USSR and headed for Germany on June 21, 1941 — just one day before Nazi Germany attacked its ally. Thanks to Stalin, Hitler could conquer new countries with impunity, lock Jews from all over the continent in ghettos, and prepare for the Holocaust; one of the worst crimes in the history of humankind.

Stalin engaged in criminal activities in the east, subduing one country after another, and developing a network of camps that the Russian Alexander Solzhenitsyn called “the Gulag Archipelago.” These were camps in which a slave, murderous torture was inflicted on millions of opponents of the communist authorities.

The crimes of the communist regime started even before the outbreak of World War II. The starvation of millions of Russians at the beginning of the 1920s, the great Famine which led to the death of many millions of inhabitants of Ukraine and Kazakhstan, the Great Purge during which nearly 700 thousand political opponents and ordinary citizens of the USSR, mostly Russians, were murdered, and the so-called “Polish Operation” of the NKVD in which mainly the USSR citizens of Polish descent were shot to death. Children, women, and men were destined to die. In the “Polish Operation” alone, according to the NKVD data, over 111 thousand people were shot to death deliberately by Soviet communists. Being a Pole in the USSR at that time meant a death sentence or many years of exile. This policy was continued with crimes committed after the Soviet Union invaded Poland on September 17, 1939. Crimes such as murdering over 22 thousand Polish officers and representatives of elites in places such as Katyn, Kharkiv, Tver, Kyiv, and Minsk, and the crimes committed in the NKVD torture cells and forced labor camps in the most remote parts of the Soviet empire.

Continued on next page...
The greatest victims of communism were Russian citizens. Historians estimate that between 20 and 30 million people were killed in the USSR alone. Death and forced labor camps awaited even those that every civilized country provides care for — prisoners of war. For example, when prisoners of war returned to their homeland, the USSR did not treat them as war heroes, but as traitors. That was Soviet Russia’s “gratitude” for prisoners of war — soldiers of the Red Army: death, forced-labor camps, concentration camps.

Communist leaders, namely Joseph Stalin, are responsible for all these crimes. Eighty years after World War II started, attempts are made to rehabilitate Stalin for the political goals of today’s President of Russia. These attempts must be met with strong opposition from every person who has at least basic knowledge about the history of the 20th century.

President Putin has lied about Poland on numerous occasions, and he has always done it deliberately. This usually happens when Russian authorities feel international pressure related to their activities, and the pressure is exerted not on the historical but contemporary geopolitical scene. In recent weeks, Russia has suffered several significant defeats — it failed in its attempt to take complete control over Belarus, the EU once again prolonged sanctions imposed on it for illegal annexation of Crimea, the so-called “Normandy Format” talks did not result in lifting these sanctions and simultaneously further restrictions were introduced – this time by the US, significantly hindering the implementation of the Nord Stream 2 project. At the same time, Russian athletes have just been suspended for four years for using doping. I consider President Putin’s words as an attempt to cover up these problems. The Russian leader is well aware that his accusations have nothing to do with reality and that in Poland there are no monuments of Hitler or Stalin. Such monuments stood here only when they were erected by the aggressors and perpetrators — the Third Reich and Soviet Russia.

As the Russian people are the greatest victims of Stalin’s cruelty, they deserve the truth. I believe that the Russians are a nation of free people and that they must reject Stalinism, even when President Putin’s government is trying to rehabilitate it.

There can be no reason to allow perpetrators to be turned into victims when they are responsible for cruel crimes towards innocent people and attacking other countries. Together we must preserve the truth in memory of the victims and for the good of our common future.

The Polish Heritage Center USA at Panna Maria, which honors the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in America and all the nearby communities and parishes it spawned, seeks an Executive Director. The Director reports to a 12 member Board of Directors.

Requirements: A creative and dynamic team player with an inclusive leadership style who holds a degree in History, Museum Science, Business Administration, non-profit or Public Administration or other relevant discipline; progressively responsible senior leadership experience in financial and human resources management responsibilities in a museum, educational institution, for-profit corporation, or non-profit entity. A proven track record managing strategic and operational planning, budget creation and management, community relations, and a successful record of raising funds from diverse sources.

Exceptional verbal and written communication skills, and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Suite products in a Windows environment. The ideal candidate will be of full or partial Polish heritage and have a passion for Polish heritage and history and possess a track record that demonstrates success in increasing revenue, membership or other key metrics for an established business or museum. Polish language skills would be beneficial.

Interested applicants should contact Mr. Aloys Notzon, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, at 210-846-1717 or alnotzon@grandecom.net for more information, or view website at polishheritagecentertx.org

Searching for an Executive Director
POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS PRESENCE AT THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL

Written by John Czop
PAC Director of Policy Planning

The American Institute of Polish Culture, founded in 1972 by Mrs. Blanka A. Rosenstiel (nee Wdowiak), is a non-profit and tax-exempt Florida corporation based in Miami. The Institute's annual fundraiser is THE INTERNATIONAL POLONAISE BALL. This year the Ball took place on January 25, 2020 at the Eden Roc Hotel on Millionaire Mile in Miami Beach.

"20/20 Vision of Technology" was the selected theme of this year’s Ball which helped to raise awareness of how to move the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE (3SI) from rhetoric to reality with state-of-the-art applications of science to digital communications and renewable energy. Making the 12 countries in the 3SI area energy independent of Kremlin controlled natural gas requires the deployment of several sources of renewable energy.

The Institute is perhaps best known for endowing, with a gift of one million dollars, the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies at the Institute of World Politics (IWP) in Washington, DC, which was founded in 1990 by Professor John Lenczowski, who served on President Ronald Reagan’s National Security Council as an expert on the Soviet Union and the world communist movement.

Professor Marek Jan Chodakiewicz is the first holder and present incumbent of the Kosciuszko Chair at IWP and is a member of the POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS WASHINGTON METRO DIVISION. He wrote the text that put forward the truth about the role of Poland and the Poles during World War II which President Donald J. Trump included in his pro-Polish speech at the July 2017 opening of the THREE SEAS INITIATIVE SUMMIT in Warsaw.

Professor Chodakiewicz could not attend this year’s Ball and IWP was represented by Mrs. Maria Juszewska, Associate Director of the Kosciuszko Chair at IWP. Without the generosity of the American Institute of Polish Culture, the Kosciuszko Chair would not exist and our fellow Americans would not know the true and honorable history of Poland.

Photo Captions:

1. PAC Vice President For Polish Affairs Bozena Kaminski, Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel, Dr. Michel Pawlowski Vice-President of the American Institute of Polish Culture, and PAC National Director Danuta Bronchard
2. Very Rev. Can. Miroslaw Krol Chancellor and CEO of the Orchard Lake Schools, Former Mayor Rudy Guliani, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, and Dr. Michel S. Pawlowski
3. HAPPY GROUP
4. Former Mayor of New York City Rudy Guliani, who in 2001 offered Mr. Zygmunt Staszewski, PAC Long Island Division, the position of Deputy Fire Commissioner
5. Mrs. Barbara Lemecha, National Director PAC Michigan Division with Former Mayor Guliani
6. Mrs. Henrietta Nowakowski with National Basketball Association star Marcin Gortat, Mrs. Golik, and Dr. Wojciech Golik, Poland’s Honorary Consul in Missouri and member of the PAC Missouri Division. Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, Count Joseph Mikolaj Rej, and Adam Kwiatkowski, Chief of President Duda’s Cabinet
7. Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, Count Joseph Mikolaj Rej, and Adam Kwiatkowski, Chief of President Duda’s Cabinet
8. Mrs. Henrietta Nowakowski, National Director of the PAC Michigan Division with Count Joseph Mikolaj Rej, PAC National Director-at-Large
9. Dr. Wojciech Golik, Poland’s Honorary Consul in Missouri, Senator Anna Maria Anders, and Mrs. Golik
“Working Vacation” for PAC - Long Island Members

Escaping winter weather is always a desire for “up North” residents. PAC – Long Island members, Halina & Zbyszek Koralewski, and their son, Bryan, are no exceptions.

Taking advantage of an opportunity to travel to Tampa in mid-February to spend a week visiting the beaches and museums, as well as some of the local cuisine, the Koralewski’s enjoyed sensational warm and sunny weather. (One interesting thing they had to adjust to was cranking up the air conditioning in their complex where they stayed. No need for blankets or upping the thermostat for heat.) Anyone who knows the Koralewski’s see them as hard-working and very patriotic Poles and Americans.

Zbyszek created a very informative and handy binder to use when visiting representatives in the U.S. Congress, either in Washington, D.C. or in their home district offices. The binder contains many suggestions as to how to arrange for and conduct personal visits with legislators. Also, he has developed easy-to-understand position statements concerning a variety of issues.

During his “vacation” to the sunny climes of Florida, Zbyszek brought along his laptop computer to continue to refine his work. Always busy is Zbyszek Koralewski. To explain how his work can help the Polish American Congress, Zbyszek contacted Mark Pienkos, PAC National Vice President for Public Relations, to meet with him in St. Petersburg to go over his work. Since Mark and his wife, Ann, live in nearby Sarasota, the two got together, along with Zbyszek’s wife, Halina, and son, Bryan, at the Dali Art Museum on February 18, 2020.

After hearing Zbyszek’s explanation of his work, Pienkos suggested this would be an excellent topic for PAC Council of National Directors to hear during their upcoming meeting in Washington, D.C. this September — especially since this is one of the things attendees will do while visiting with Members of Congress during the “PAC Legislative Day” at the U.S. Capitol.

In addition, the Koralewski’s are to be commended for their efforts in developing a very positive and professional relationship with their Congressman, Thomas Suozzi, who represents the Long-Island Congressional District they reside in. Pienkos also suggested that Congressman Suozzi be invited to speak at the Council of National Directors Meeting this Fall.

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In the charming cooking and travel series FLAVOR OF POLAND, host Aleksandra August meets chefs and home cooks from distinct regions of Poland. Throughout the series, Aleksandra explores the history, culture, and culinary heritage of medieval cities like Krakow and Warsaw, visits an Olsztyn snail farm, learns to bake Toruń gingerbread and tastes the hearty food of Polish highlanders in the mountain city of Zakopane. She then returns to her kitchen to share recreations of new and traditional Polish dishes.

American Public Television is to be congratulated for presenting Poland to American viewers as they have never seen it before. The 13-episode series shows the beauty, traditions, monuments, and history, as well as the current modernity of Poland, along with a full range of its unique flavors.

Please check your local public TV listing for dates and times. Contact Halina Koralewski at 917-226-4410 or by email at hkoralewski@aol.com for more information.

Watch it and become proud of your Polish heritage!
HOT OFF THE PRESS!

PAC – MICHIGAN DIVISION
CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

Written by Ann Bankowski
PAC Michigan Division President
February 8, 2020

On Saturday, February 8, 2020, the Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress marked the 75th anniversary of the Division’s establishment and its many years of service to Poland and Polonia in Michigan. While the actual Division founding took place in November of 1944, Saturday’s event was designated to be a joyful celebration and remembrance of that historic occasion, featuring a festive dinner-dance, in the spirit of the Carnival season, to recognize the Michigan Division’s many achievements while engendering a proud look forward with renewed hope. The affair took place at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan.

Highlighting the evening’s celebration was a delicious dinner, music and dancing to the dynamic sounds of the band “ONI”, beautiful Carnival themed decorations and atmosphere, a professionally performed dance medley by City Style Tango, an opening elegant Polonaise, danced by guests and the Zakopane Dance ensemble, acknowledgment of dignitaries and organizations, an address by the PAC – Michigan Division President, and a special presentation by Detroit’s honorary Polish Consul, Richard Walawender, of a congratulatory framed letter from the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Piotr Wilczek, recognizing the Division’s long record of service.

Showcasing the evening’s celebration was a display of photos, both historical and current, of the Division’s activities, and a selection of the Division’s newsletters through the years. To commemorate the jubilee, each guest received a beautiful diamond anniversary book, paying tribute to the Division’s 75 years, comprised of congratulatory greetings from many dignitaries, businesses, organizations, and individuals, as well as the history of the Division along with many photographs. The book’s 78 pages will serve as a documental record for the PAC – Michigan Division and Polonia.

Among the many dignitary letters of acknowledgements received, we were especially inspired by words expressed by Adam Cardinal Maida, our past president, Paul Odrobina, and the Polish Secretary of State, Adam Kwiatkowski, on behalf of Polish President, Andrzej Duda.

The event brought together representation of over 25 Polonian organizations, parishes, institutions, media, PAC membership, and dignitaries, thus reflecting testimony to PAC’s role as an umbrella organization for Polonia.

Though it was a monumental task to prepare, by a small but very hard-working committee, we are inspired by its success, and we look forward to the Division’s next 75 years.

See next page for additional photos...
Photo Captions:
1. Fun photo op
2. Enjoying the event
3. Hon. Polish Consul presents the congratulatory letter from Ambassador Wilczek
4. Some of the guests getting into the Carnival spirit
5. Party mood
6. Singing of Sto Lat by the PAC – MI Board and Directors
**2020 CENSUS**
and its importance to Americans of Polish descent

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**Movie: “Jan Karski and the Lords of Humanity”**

Submitted by Halina Koralewski
PAC – Long Island Division

Slawomir Gruenberg is a movie director who produced the movie entitled: “Jan Karski and the Lords of Humanity.” The movie shows efforts by Polish Home Army member, Jan Karski, in alerting the world about atrocities by Germans during World War II. The discussion that followed was held at the Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in Glen Cove, New York in January 2020. Over 100 people attended, including Holocaust survivors.

If your State Division is interested in showing this great movie, please contact Halina Koralewski at 728-343-4316 or hkoralewski@aol.com.

(L-R): Halina Koralewski, Movie Director Slawomir Gruenberg, Zbyszek Koralewski, and PAC – Long Island Division President, Ryszard Brzozowski, pose following the movie.

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This appeal was originally published by the Polonia Institute. www.poloniainstitute.net/

We appeal to Poles in the United States and Americans of Polish descent, to participate in the upcoming United States Census 2020. Every ten years, a census takes place in the United States, and all residents, regardless of their legal status, are obliged to take part in it. The collected data is not shared with other government institutions. The upcoming census will be carried out from March 1 to April 1, by mail, by telephone or online. It is important to enter “Polish” or “Polish-American” in questions concerning ethnicity.

Why is this important?

The size of each ethnic group determines its position and power of influence as concerns our social and political reality. Very important presidential elections are approaching, both in the United States and Poland. A larger size of our Polish community will increase the chances that our needs, expectations and demands will be met by the candidates and the winners of the upcoming presidential elections, as well as other politicians, in both countries. We are also asking for a wide distribution of our appeal. (Please tell your relatives and friends!)
PLANS FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PAC National Office meets with Sam Eskenazi

The museum’s mission is to tell the story of the making of the American People encompassing a timeline of some 20 millennia. It will foster a sense of belonging to the nation by reciting the mosaic of the people who arrived here. People of all ethnicities in America will see their own story and have a chance to learn about all others. As for Polish Americans, the museum will incorporate our history by telling the story of our emigration to the United States, the places where we first settled within the US, how we became Americans, as well as how we helped transform our American nation. Our story will appear in more than one chapter of the museum as it will cover different waves of Polish immigration to the United States.

The NMAP will conform to the highest standards of scholarship. The museum’s website reads, “As of June 2019, 145 scholars from around the globe specializing in the migration and immigration of various peoples support the National Museum of the American People.” The following professors of Polish American history on this list are:

- John J. Bukowczyk, Professor of History, Wayne State University and Editor: Journal of American Ethnic History (Ph.D., Harvard University)
- Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchman, Professor of History, Eastern CT (Ph.D., University of Minnesota)
- James Pula, Professor of History, Purdue University (Ph.D., Purdue University)

With regards to funding, the NMAP plans to follow the model of the USHMM and not use federal tax dollars to plan and build the museum. All of the money to plan and build the museum will come from private donations. However, the museum will accept federal funding if offered. The NMAP will also seek to have a plot of federal land in Washington transferred to it for the museum.

The PAC has been supporting the NMAP project for the past 8 years. The museum is envisioned to be built in Washington D.C. at the Banneker Overlook site in 2028. For more information, please visit: buildnmap.com. We are looking forward to working further with Mr. Eskenazi on this project.
BOOK REVIEW

NO GREATER ALLY: The Untold Story of Poland’s Forces in World War II
By Kenneth K. Koskodan

Book Review by Ted Mirecki

The author is an American journalist of Polish descent who has thoroughly researched Polish participation in World War II. In the Acknowledgements section, he thanks his parents for instilling pride in his Polish heritage. The gist of his narrative is encapsulated in this sentence in the Introduction: “This is the forgotten story of a nation that faced unspeakable atrocities at the hands of her enemies and unthinkable betrayals by her allies; a nation that contributed immeasurably to the Allied effort and in return was forsaken; a nation that survived two assaults on the very soul of her identity only to be denied a place of honor in the collective memory of the world she helped to save.”

Koskodan effectively refutes “today’s popular historical mythology [which] informs us that Britain dueled alone with the mighty Luftwaffe over the English Channel, that the French underground was the Allies’ only tie to occupied Europe, that the Soviet Union fought a noble war against the Germans alone in the East, and it was just the Americans who marched up the boot of Italy in 1943, and then, with the British opened up the second front in Europe with the Normandy invasion in 1944.” In ten chapters, he relates the events and stories of every major campaign, from before the outbreak of hostilities to the devastating post-war aftermath. The narrative is not chronological, but follows each major engagement of Polish forces from beginning to end — the September campaign, Narvik, fall of France, Battle of Britain through the air war over Germany, the North African Campaign (Tobruk, El Alamein), Monte Cassino, the Falaise Pocket, Arnhem, Warsaw Rising (Soviet duplicity is also extensively recounted), and lastly, Berlin.

Whereas the exploits of the Polish Air Force, in September 1939 then in France and subsequently in the Battle of Britain and bombing runs over Germany are covered in detail, regrettably the role of the Polish Navy is only mentioned in passing. It states that the Polish destroyer ORP Piorun (Thunderbolt) was the first to attack the German battleship Bismarck, but omits the crucial fact that the torpedo attack damaged the battleship’s rudder, leaving her helpless to maneuver against the encroaching British warships which finally sank her. Other Polish warships operated within the Royal Navy to provide escort duty for trans-Atlantic convoys supplying Britain.

The final chapter is a heart-breaking epilogue relating the post-war fate that befell the country. Atrocities at the hands of the Soviets continued, and the heroes of the underground resistance against the Germans were proclaimed bandits or Nazi collaborators; many were executed. In the Allied nations where many Polish soldiers and refugees found themselves after the cessation of hostilities, the prevailing mood of the native populace was to have the Poles immediately go back to their country. Especially those who had survived Stalin’s deportations to the gulags knew that this was not an option.

Koskodan’s final thought at the end of book makes an effective pairing with the sentence from the introduction quoted at the start: “Poles who fought in World War II have, for the most part been left with little in terms of legacy except the notion of naiveté and ineptitude. Perhaps there is some truth in considering the people of World War II Poland naïve, not in their abilities or fighting spirit, not their honor, but rather in their belief in the good intentions of their allies.”

These two sentences are a powerful rebuke to the world on behalf of Poland.

In summary, a book highly recommended to military historians, both professional and, like myself, by avocation.
Founded in May, 1944, the Polish American Congress is a National Umbrella Organization, representing at least 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its membership is comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. We are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress, an “umbrella” organization, is a federation of over 3000 Polish American organizations and clubs, ranging from national fraternal benefit societies, such as the Polish National Alliance, Polish Women’s Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons and others, including veteran, cultural, professional, religious and social associations, with aggregate membership of over one million. The PAC by-laws also provide for individual membership, as well as associate membership.

The PAC promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The governing body of the PAC is the Council of National Directors, consisting of directors elected by their respective State Divisions or National Organizations and up to 10 at-large directors elected by the Council. Day-to-day operations are conducted by the Executive Committee elected by the Council of National Directors for a two year term.

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