

PCC Polish Journey

Newsletter of the Polish Cultural Council • Vol. 8 • Summer 2010

It's with great pride that the Polish Cultural Council announces that we will be the presenter of the fabulous Polish national dance troupe "Mazowsze". This is the first performance of Mazowsze in Pittsburgh since 1992

and we are anticipating not only a memorable performance but also a culturally significant moment for you and your family.

Their Pittsburgh performance is scheduled for Friday November 26th 7PM at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, catty corner to the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. There will be plenty of parking available at the Hall's underground lot and we are working on discounted parking rates. Also, our media sponsor, WQED, will air a Mazowsze special on Sunday August 15th from 6:30-8pm. Make sure you tune in to get a taste of what's to come.

The performance date is the day after Thanksgiving. At first blush the committee felt that this was a conflict, but then we began to think about not only the holiday but also the

core values of the PCC, the family and tradition. Thanksgiving is the time of year when families get together. Pittsburgh is unique in that far more extended family members come to Pittsburgh for the holiday than

leave. And, what better way to reconnect

with family members, rediscover the thrill of Polish culture and spend an unforgettable Friday evening than to experience Mazowsze. I really believe that if you have a Polish bone in your body, you will want to be at the performance with your family and friends.

As a presenter, it's the PCC's responsibility to insure that the entire evening goes off flawlessly as virtually every aspect of the evening, other than performance, will be our responsibility. In the past when Slask came into town, the PCC earned a few dollars for every ticket that we sold. As the presenter, or promoter as some like to call the job, we guarantee money for the company, for the venue, for the lighting and sound technicians and work on a split of the profits with the national promoter. This puts the PCC on a different level, but one that certainly suits our growing organization. This can turn out to be a fabulous fundraiser for the PCC or a bust, but I'm sure with all of the feedback we have had so far, it's going to be phenomenal.

First, I would ask you to mark your calendars and call Wanda Walat, Charlotte Murray or PROARTSTICKETS.org for tickets. Ticket pricing and contact information appears on another page of this issue. At the night of the performance we will need ushers, people to man the box office, maybe even to sell refreshments. So, if you care to volunteer please call either Eva Tumiel - Kozak or Maria Staszkiwicz at 412.871.3347. Thanks for your support and I am sure I will see you the evening of November 26th at Soldiers and Sailors!

—Rick Pierchalski

Message from the Chairman

ORDER TICKETS FOR MAZOWSZE!

Friday, November 26, 2010, 7 PM
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall

Contact:

Charlotte Murray (412) 373-2963
(cmurray23@verizon.net)
Wanda Walat (412) 771-1254
ProArts Tickets (412) 394-3353
or purchase tickets online:
www.proartstickets.org

Ticket prices \$25-\$125

Contact Charlotte or Wanda for the Limited Group tickets, available for parties of 25 or more.



My Conversation with Natalia Rudiak

By Michael Dawida

This interview comes from a variety of interviews with Natalia Rudiak who has made a definite strong and positive impact on the Pittsburgh City Council since her recent election.

Natalia, give us an update on some of the important issues you have faced as a new Councilwoman?

It has been quite an adventure on City Council since I took office in January, and we are in the process of making some of the biggest financial and economic decisions this body has ever had to make. But I am up to the challenge and I am glad to be here, representing the people of south Pittsburgh.

I was proud to be one of the primary authors of the City's prevailing wage ordinance, as well as the domestic violence legislation, both of which passed council unanimously a few months ago. As the Chair of City Council's "Snow Task Force" I have also been charged with finding ways to improve the City's response to future snow storms, and I am looking forward to releasing the final report in the next few weeks. In April of this year, I introduced a proclamation honoring the Polish plane crash victims, where I was honored to be joined by representatives from our Pittsburgh Polish-American community.

I've also been fighting hard to bring new investments to south Pittsburgh. This spring the City opened its second spray park in



Natalia Rudiak during her oath, administered by Magistrate Richard King

Beechview, and in Brookline, work has begun on renovating the Mazza Pavilion—a senior living center that is an anchor in our community. And we're just getting started, too. We hope to have more exciting announcements all across the district soon.

Tell us about your Polish heritage and what it means to you?

I am so proud to be Polish. My father, who is Polish-American, grew up in a strong Polish community in the South Side, and my mother was born in Poland. Most of my family still lives there, and I enjoy travelling back to the countryside to spend time with all of my friends and family.

I carry my Polish heritage with me every day. I have letters and cards from my Babcia on my wall. I have pictures of my Godsons who live in Poland, Kacper and Daniel, that I see every day. In college I studied Polish language and culture at Jagiellonian University and I learned so much about how Polish history has shaped the world; individuals like Hugo Kołłątaj, Marie Curie, and Tadeusz Kościuszko serve as inspirations to me. I have a postcard of the Berlin Wall in a frame to remind me every day of the struggles for democracy and freedom, and the importance and privilege of my position and the respective responsibility that comes with it. I am honored to represent my heritage and serve the people of Pittsburgh.

We are delighted and proud that you represent us on the City Council and have such ambitious plans. On behalf of PCC and myself – our warmest wishes for lots of success in your endeavours.

Polish Journey is a quarterly publication of the Polish Cultural Council, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Please address your correspondence to: **Polish Cultural Council, P.O. Box 81054, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554, tel: 412.871.3347**

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Dining, Dancing and Debutantes!

Mark your calendars for another memorable event brought to you by the Polish Cultural Council. Join as we celebrate the Eighteenth Annual Bal Polonaise and Presentation of Debutantes on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at the newly designed and renovated Embassy Suites Hotel, Pittsburgh International Airport, Coraopolis, PA., just 15 miles from Downtown, Pittsburgh. Eighteen years and going strong, this year's Bal is certain to keep culture and pride alive and well in our community.

The evening starts off with a cocktail reception where guests can mingle through cascading waterfalls and a trout stream winding throughout the hotel atrium. Over 125 young musicians from North Allegheny High School Strolling Strings shall serenade guests as dinner is served. Canada's favorite, John Gora and Gorale, will return once again this year for your listening and dancing pleasure! Watch as this year's Debutantes are presented with their escorts, swirling gracefully throughout the intricate whirl of reels and promenades of the Polonaise, one of the national dances of Poland.

This year's Bal offers so much more than before! An open bar, free parking, prizes and surprises! Mark your calendars for this highly anticipated evening brought to you by the PCC! Tickets for this special evening are only \$125.00 per person. For reservations or Debutante information, contact Irene Addams 412-486-1605 or PCC: 412-871-3347.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 6, 2010
Embassy Suites Hotel
Pittsburgh International Airport

Musical Entertainment by:
John Gora and Gorale
North Hills Strolling Strings

OPEN BAR
Dining, Dancing and Debutantes!
Tickets: \$125.00/each
For more information call:
412-486-1605
www.polishculturalcouncil.org Polish Cultural Council

Bal Polonaise
Celebrating Chopin
18th annual Bal Polonaise
and Presentation of Debutantes

DR. JERZY EINHORN, PCC MEMBER, RECOGNIZED BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT



Dr. Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador of Poland, decorated Dr. Einhorn with Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

On March 17th 2010, Jerzy Einhorn, M.D., a veteran of the World War II, was awarded the Officer Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. In recognition of Mr. Einhorn's heroic achievements during the war, Ambassador Robert Kupiecki travelled to Pittsburgh in order to do the presentation personally. He was accompanied by LTG Leszek Soczewica, Chief of the Defense Attaché Office, who present-

ed Mr. Einhorn with a promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel of the Polish Armed Forces. The ceremony that took place at the Pittsburgh Athletics Association gathered members of the local Polonia, including representatives of the Polish Cultural Council, the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV), and the honorary consul of Poland Mr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz.

Mr. J. Einhorn was born in 1919 in Sosnowiec, Poland. At the outbreak of war in September 1939 he joined the artillery units to fight against the German aggression. Later he was an intelligence officer for the resistance (the Home Army). During the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 he was the district commander of Polish units in Saska Kępa. When the Soviet Army entered Eastern Warsaw, he swam across the river Vistula to continue fighting against the Germans. After the Uprising's capitulation Mr. Einhorn escaped German captivity but shortly was

arrested by the NKVD. After his release from prison, he continued his education and graduated from medical college in Poznan, specializing in endocrinology. In 1967 he moved to the USA. He took up a position at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where he pursued his academic interests.

(Reprinted from the website of the Embassy of Poland in Washington, D.C.)



Dr. and Mrs. Einhorn with the official guests, family and friends.

The Kosciuszko Foundation Honors Evanne Addams and Chester Wawrzonek



Evanne and Chester stand by the Sulkowski painting with their families.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation is proud to announce husband and wife duo Evanne Addams and Chester Wawrzonek as Polonians of the year 2010. The couple was honored at a luncheon on June 26, 2010, at the Greentree Marriott, attended by nearly 200 friends, family, and members of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Pittsburgh Chapter President John Bartus commented, "Individually and collectively, Chester and Evanne have done a great deal to promote Pittsburgh Polonia. Their contributions

to the annual Bal Polonaise, Polish Day at Kennywood Park, and the Karuzela Polish American Folk Ensemble and Karuzela Chorus are legendary!"

Born in Poland, Chester's family immigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1963. Chester graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in engineering and is now a partner in Galletta Engineering. He has also earned a degree in Choreography from

the University of Marie Curie Sklodowska in Lublin, Poland. Reared in Hampton Township, Evanne graduated from Hampton High School and Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Accounting. Currently, she runs her own accounting consulting business in the Pittsburgh area.

Chester and Evanne met through the Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble, discovered their common interests and the parallels in their lives, and were married on May 31, 1986 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland. Together with their

sons, Addam and Christian, they continue to live and breathe Polish-American and Polish Canadian Culture through the Polish Cultural Council, the

Kosciuszko Foundation and a myriad of other Polish organizations, activities, and events!

Chester and Evanne were presented with a lithograph of a painting by local internationally renowned artist James Sulkowski.

The officers and Board members of the Pittsburgh Chapter would like to congratulate Chester and Evanne on their many accomplishments! Sto Lat!

Mary Lou Ellena



"The Polonaise"

2Luck Concepts and Polish Cultural Council Present

The Magnificent MAZOWSZE

The National Song and Dance Ensemble of Poland



“There is nothing greater than Mazowsze!”

—The New York Times

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!! 7PM Friday November 26th

SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL HALL, OAKLAND (underground parking)

\$125/\$70/\$55/\$40/\$25. Group tix available (minimum 25)

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CHARLOTTE MURRAY 412-373-2963 cmurray23@verizon.net

WANDA WALAT 412-771-1254



www.2luck.com www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org Media Sponsor: WQED

Mazowsze (mah-ZOHV-sheh) – 90 dancers, singers and musicians in over 1,000 costumes fill your senses with a thrilling kaleidoscopic display of dazzling movement, sparkling melody, vibrant color and stunning beauty



MAZOWSZE (mah-ZOHV-sheh)

Returning to North America in a special 60th Anniversary celebratory tour of live performances, the world-renowned MAZOWSZE is a thrilling display of dazzling movement, vibrant color and stunning beauty. The incomparable Mazowsze performance troupe whirls, leaps, stamps and glides in a glorious outpouring of sound and motion, rhythm and music that celebrates the cultural legacy of Poland.

An ensemble of 90 dancers, musicians and singers are arrayed in a seemingly never-ending series of handmade traditional costumes—more than 1,000 in total, one more dramatic and colorful than the next.



Financial Overview of PCC Events and Programming

Over the past year, members have asked how well certain events have turned out for our organization financially. The following is a financial synopsis of the most important fundraising events over the last 12 months as well as cultural and educational events/programming. Without the support of our volunteers, there would have been no profits to help us carry out our mission. At the end of the year we will publish our complete income statements in the Polish Journey. Please be advised that these numbers do not include other costs to run this organization such as administrative, newsletter, websites, mailings etc. We wish to thank all of the volunteers without whose efforts the PCC would simply not exist. The PCC also extends heartfelt thanks to those members who have donated to the events.

Fundraising Event	Gross	Expense	Net
Bal Polonaise	\$44,459	\$32,908	\$11,550
Polish Day at Kennywood	\$35,662	\$29,852	\$ 5,809
Ostatki	\$10,770	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,951
Film Festival	\$ 9,379	\$ 4,260	\$ 5,118
Total	\$100,270		\$28,428
Cultural Event			
Polish Classes	\$0	\$2,735	(\$2,735)
Warsaw Village Band	\$5,225	\$3,815	\$1,709
Violin Duo	\$1,100	\$2,241	(1,141)
Polish Theatre	\$1,300	\$1,875	(575)
Krauze Recital	\$1,263	\$1,291	(58)

VIRTUAL TRIP TO SOUTHERN POLAND

ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 1:30 PM,
SHALER LIBRARY, Mt. Royal Blvd.

For the tenth year Jane PELCZARSKI is taking us on a tour of Poland with her slide presentation. On Tuesday, October 19th at 12:30 PM, she'll showcase the most beautiful region of Poland - Tatra Mountains. You'll even "take a ride" to the top of Mt. Kasprowy and visit Zakopane, Nowy Targ, and little village of Debno, with the most beautiful wooden church dating back to the 15th century.

PCC occasionally receives requests from local schools to talk about Poland and her beauty, to showcase examples of Polish culture and the rich heritage of this country. This year it was Jane Pelczarski, who offered her expertise, talking and showing her slides to the fifth graders of the Propel Schools/Montour. According to the teacher, Mrs. Laura Mahith, Jane enchanted her students with her stories and beautiful slide show. Children were intrigued by this new knowledge, impressed with the mountains, work of artisans, moun-

taineers' music and the variety of visited palaces. They even attempted to sing "Goralu, czy ci nie zal...?" with Polish and English verses.

Jane Bartoszewicz Pelczarski was born in Pultusk, north of Warsaw, but her parents, who escaped independently from the partitioned Poland among Russians, Germans and Austrians - actually met in...Polish Hill. (for details on that unusual story you have to ask Jane herself!).

Graduate in Education from Duquesne University, Jane and her husband, Dr. of chemical engineering, enjoyed many special excursions to Poland, bringing us unforgettable memories and slide shows which they generously shared for so many years.

Please remember to celebrate Polish Heritage Month by "visiting" the beauty of Southern Poland on the third Tuesday of October. You'll be delighted that you did!

My Polish Class Experience...

by Dorothy Kisiel Loebig

The year 2000 was a few weeks away when I received a letter from my Uncle Walter, inviting me to travel to Poland to visit him and his family in Kalisz. I was so excited--at long last I would meet the many aunts, uncles and cousins living in Poland, of both the Kisiel and Ozog families. The only one of those many Polish relatives I had met was Uncle Walter, my father's youngest brother, who had visited us in the Summer of 1975. He and I had written letters to each other regularly from that time, for 25 years.

Quickly I realized that I needed to learn Polish, again. Our parents had spoken Polish to us at home when we were young, and we learned our prayers in Polish, but they stopped speaking their native language as often to us since they too spoke more English as we grew older.

I contacted a Polish friend to inquire about Polish classes in the area. I found out that Polish classes were on a holiday break and would resume the first Saturday after the New Year at the Stephen Foster Center in Lawrenceville, sponsored by CCOPO which later on, became Polish Cultural Council. Fortunately for me, one of the teachers was Father Zygmunt Szarnicki, who knew my family from our home parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help church in West Natrona.

My introduction to Polish class in January 2000 was at the first level taught by Father Szarnicki. From the outset, Father started teaching very basic replies to questions, and gave us many handouts, handwritten sheets with vocabulary words, and even an outline of the Polish grammar cases. Admittedly, we were at the "kindergarten" level. Often interspersed with the grammar and vocabulary were lessons about Polish history and culture, which were fascinating to me. Within a few months, he would ask each of us simple questions, speaking quickly, and it would take us a little time to think of how to reply. I soon realized that I needed to learn much more Polish before I could even think in Polish. My goal of learning Polish in five months before the June trip to Poland was unrealistic, but I learned enough to ask



Students of the Polish language classes with teachers Malgosia Weber-Bandosz and Gosia Wojcieszynski holding flowers.

basic questions and to speak short sentences.

While I was studying Polish in Pittsburgh, my niece Caroline, who was my travel companion, had been studying Polish in Chicago. Fortunately for us, when we met our cousins for the first time in Krakow, we discovered that our second cousin, Basia Kisiel, was to be our translator during the trip. Nonetheless, we did try our best to speak Polish.

From Krakow our cousins drove us to Sokolow Malopolski, where my parents had been married in the local church. That same weekend, we were blessed to attend the First Mass of a second cousin who was a newly ordained priest. This gave us the opportunity to experience the Polish customs surrounding a First Mass, beginning at the home of the priest's parents who gave him a blessing, and he in turn blessed them, before we all proceeded on foot to the church. At the celebration afterwards, we met many more first and second cousins, who knew enough English so that we could converse easily, and they welcomed the chance to speak English with us. We agreed that they could correct our Polish, and when necessary, we would correct their English.

After a few years at the beginner's level classes, I moved to Professor John Nikolajski's class at the intermediate level. He used the lecture method--he talked about verb forms and noun cases, while we took notes. We started and ended each class with a traditional

Polish song, and he also taught us various Polish hymns. After discussion, we would read aloud the lessons that he wrote on the blackboard, which gave us practice in correct Polish pronunciation.

Then in September 2004, I graduated to Pani Gosia Wojcieszynska's class on the second floor. I knew I had so much to learn, especially when Pani Gosia said we were in "second grade" by Polish standards. *Bardzo trudno!* Our teacher gives us papers to translate, about different topics, such as the seasons of the year or Polish holidays. Initially, she reads the paper or story to us; then each student has a chance to read a paragraph aloud. We discuss vocabulary words we do not know, especially those that change depending on the case. Then Pani Gosia assigns our homework for that week.

That October, following a trip to Rome, I was fortunate to be able to travel to Poland to see my Uncle Walter again in Kalisz, since he was then 94. Once again, my cousin Basia was my translator, even though she was at University, and she helped me with finding the right Polish words for what I wanted to say. I could communicate better now and understood more of the conversation. Neither my cousin Krzysztof nor his wife could speak or understand English, but they insisted that their son Jarek speak English to me, to get the practice. Although Uncle Walter said my Polish had improved, I knew I had to work harder. On my

SPECIAL AWARD FOR BISHOP ZUBIK

last day there, they gave me a wonderful gift of two Collins dictionaries, Polish-English and English-Polish, both with a dedication signed by each family member. This means so much to me because Uncle Walter died the next year in July, at age 95.

These dictionaries have proven valuable in the translation of the homework that Pani Gosia gives us. This spring we translated an article about Fryderyk Chopin the great Polish composer, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth. We learned how the Third Partition affected his life and how his longing for his homeland influenced the music he wrote. The article highlighted his exquisite attention to detail in composing his music, which we enjoyed hearing during a few classes. At other times, we use a Polish textbook from which we do exercises, such as changing words from singular to plural or changing a sentence from one case to another, and learning how to tell time in Polish. This year we have used the small Berlitz phrase book to practice dialogue for travel in Poland, how to answer questions upon arrival, how to ask for a taxi, or to ask someone to recommend a good restaurant.

There are times when both classes are combined on Saturday when either of the teachers is ill or has some commitment. Pani Gosia Weber-Bandosz, who teaches the beginners' class, uses a very good textbook for her class. Her teaching style is somewhat different, but also effective. At times, she has had the students team up during class to work together on a particular lesson.

The Saturday morning Polish class has become an important part of my weekend. I have met many new people who have a common interest in studying Polish. I have learned so much from all of these teachers, and they have enriched my knowledge of the Polish language, Polish culture, our customs and our long and often difficult history. Dziękuję bardzo!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Polish classes will resume on Saturday, September 11 and will continue until middle of May. For more information & registration please contact PCC at: 412-871-3347

Bishop David Zubik was honored by Rodef Shalom, the oldest city's synagogue, which conferred their "Pursuer of Peace" award on him in June, 2010. The award honored not only Bishop's engagement with the Jewish Community in Pittsburgh but also over 50 years of significant dialogue, stalwart friendship and partnership between the leaders of city's Catholic and Jewish communities. Bishop Zubik was unanimous choice of the award committee as the first non-Jewish recipient.

Later this year the Rabbi Bisno of the Rodef Shalom and Bishop Zubik will make a joint pilgrimage to Israel and Rome as Bishop never visited Israel and it will be the first trip for Rabbi Bisno to Rome.

Our Heartfelt Congratulations!



Congratulations to Rev. Canon Joseph L. Sredzinski



Rev. Canon Joseph L. Sredzinski just observed the 40th anniversary of his ordination with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish of St. Joseph Roman Catholic

Church in Uniontown.

We all know his great involvement within our community, including his position as a national chaplain to the Polish Falcons of America since 1981, local chaplain to the Polish Heritage Club and secretary-treasurer to the Greensburg Fraternity of Polish Priests. He was also instrumental in organizing the first Solemn Mass for

Our Lady of Czestochowa, with Bishop Zubik as a main celebrant. Since 2000, he prepares and broadcasts a weekly radio program "That you May Believe" on Sunday evenings on WMBS 590 AM, Uniontown.

Father Sredzinski earned his master of divinity degree in 1976, took postgraduate studies at the North American Seminary in Rome and taught in elementary and secondary Catholic schools for 14 years. In 2007, while on pilgrimage to Poland, Fr. Sredzinski was given the ecclesial designation of "canon" of the Archdiocese in Lublin. Two years ago, he was a co-recipient of the Polonian of the Year Award at Polish Day at Kennywood.

Our warm wishes of health and strength to continue his important mission are always with him!

SPIRITED TOUR TO POLAND

"In the Footsteps of Pope John Paul II" religious tour of Poland has been scheduled for October 22-29, 2010 with Fr. Joseph Sredzinski as spiritual leader. Participants will visit Warsaw, Niepokalanow, Zakopane, Krakow, etc., pray at the Shrine of Our Lady at Czestochowa, Wawel Cathedral, Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, home of revelations to St. Faustyna. Departure is from Pittsburgh International Airport and other major cities. For a packet of detailed information, call 724-722-3141 or e-mail padre16201@yahoo.com Write: Church of the Seven Dolores, P.O. Box 308, Yukon, PA 15698.

Polish Cultural Council
 P.O. BOX 81054
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554



The Bal Polonaise Committee is searching for group photos of past Debutantes to put on display at this year's Bal Polonaise. If you have any photos, please contact Marie Zielmanski - Fallon, at 412.759.5054 or e-mail: mzfallon@verizon.net



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