

Winter 2014  
No. 2



# THE MISSION

Official Publication of The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools  
Est. 1885

WOMMERT DEN  
JUDEN  
BETRETEN  
VERBODEN

SPECIAL EDITION



THE ANNUAL REPORT

# WARSAW 1944

## 70 YEARS

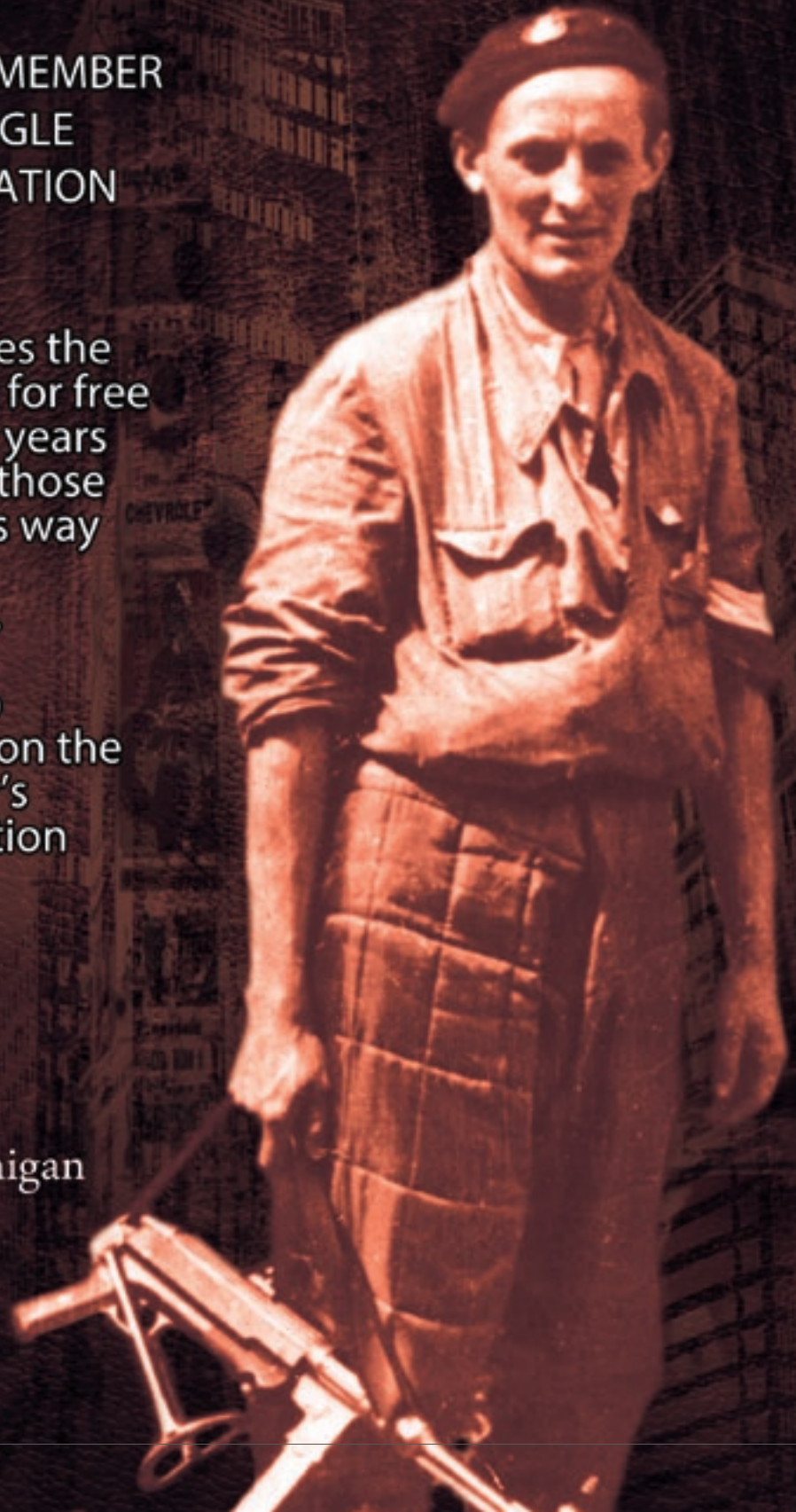
LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER  
THE 63-DAY STRUGGLE  
THAT DEFINED A NATION

The Armia Krajowa  
Foundatiopn salutes the  
heroes who fought for free  
Warsaw exactly 70 years  
ago, and we thank those  
who stand in harms way  
today to protect  
our freedom today.

Congratulations to  
The Polish Mission on the  
ocasion of this year's  
1939 Commemoration



Armia Krajowa  
Foundation of Michigan





*Be Not  
Afraid*

**CELEBRATING  
ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
1920 - 2005



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10 years after his passing, we honor  
the life and legacy of our Polish hero

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ORCHARD LAKE  
MARCH

21

Watch for event details at [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com)

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To tylko dzieło czegoś jest warte, z którego człowiek może się poprawić i mądrości nauczyć.

*The only creation that is worth anything is the one from which a person can become enlightened.*

**-Adam Mickiewicz**

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH**



This edition of *The Mission* has been a long time in the making. With the generous support of the Dr. Edward and Josephine Wikiera Foundation, our pace has quickened and our scope of programming widened considerably this year. This labor of love comes to your hands after a long journey of detailed revisions and late-night editing. It's a comprehensive tool, proudly designed to give our community, friends, and supporters a clear look into what we do at The Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools.

What makes this a special edition, is the series of monumental anniversaries we Polish-Americans acknowledged in 2014. Please keep a special place in your hearts for the sacrifices that good people have made to keep us free and safe, from 1939 to today.

Remember to check out the *Orchard Lake Good News* for more stories and news from SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and St. Mary's Prep!

JJ Przewozniak

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[twitter.com/polishmission](https://twitter.com/polishmission)

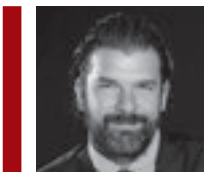


[facebook.com/ThePolishMission](https://facebook.com/ThePolishMission)



Instagram:  
[polishmission](https://www.instagram.com/polishmission)

## OUR STAFF



**MARCIN CHUMIECKI**

Marcin Chumiecki leads the Polish-American community in cultural advancement, diplomatic development and consultation. Thanks to decisive networking and negotiation, he has secured the support of diplomatic officials and cultural organizations across the globe, including heads of state, religious leaders and community activists.



**CEIL WENDT-JENSEN**

Ceil Wendt, MA, is a professional genealogist, as well as an author, grant writer, and lecturer. As co-director of the Polonia Americana Research Institute (PARI), she has conducted research in Poland at libraries, civil and diocesan archives, and in local parishes. She is a nationally known presenter, and has authored four books.



**JJ PRZEWOZNIAK**

JJ Przewozniak is a museum education specialist, with experience from The Henry Ford, Mackinac State Historic Parks, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. In addition to his role as Curator of Collections, he's also assistant to the Director. JJ is in the Lay Ministry program at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, and travels regularly for missionary work in Africa.



**HAL LEARMAN**

Dr. Hal Learman is an Optometrist by education and has been an avid genealogist for 36 years. He assists patrons with research, develops family data bases, and modernizes programs of the Polish Mission as PARI co-director. Hal's passion for genealogy was sparked in 1978 when he was presented with some photos of his great grandparents.



**ALLISON FOLLBAUM**

Allison Follbaum supports The Polish Mission as Social Media Coordinator and the Galeria and Collections Assistant. A 2013 graduate from Madonna University, having studied Journalism and Public Relations, she now gets to utilize her love of words and history in the same place! Now she plans to tackle the Polish language.

## Founder

Reverend Father Jozef Dabrowski (1885)

### Chancellor-Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools

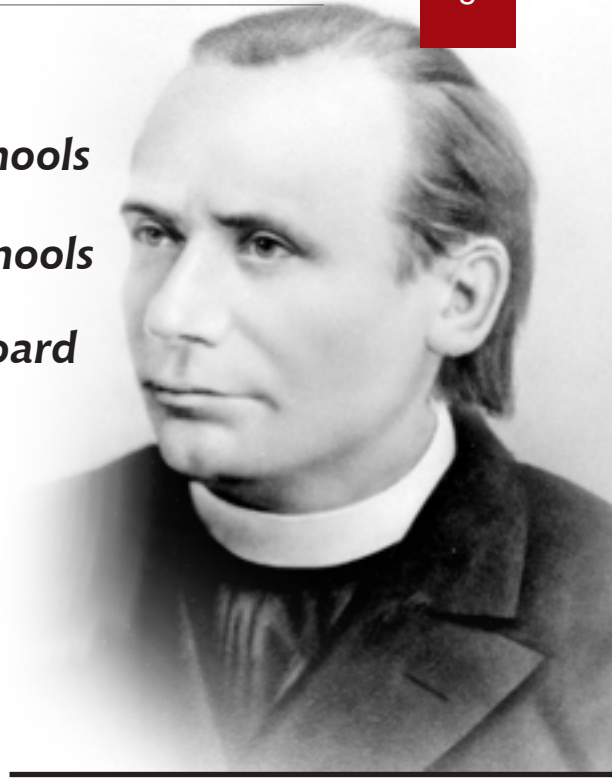
Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr.

### Vice Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools

Mr. Anthony Koterba

### Chairman of The Polish Mission Board

Dr. Stan Majewski



## Contributors



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Dr. Guy Stern, Director of the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Wayne State University

[www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org)



Dr. Dariusz Stola,  
Director of the  
Polin Museum  
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Tim Rives, Deputy  
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Eisenhower  
Presidential Library  
and Museum in  
Abilene, Kansas

[www.eisenhower.archives.gov](http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov)

## Popular

# TWEETS



Nov 11 Proud to be Polish-American. #MyPolska pic.twitter.com/kbJIPbhKui (2,008 Views)



Nov 24 #ForbiddenArt in Chicago @polishmuseum! abc7.ws/1xMw7ot #WWII #art (341 Views)



Sep 23 #TransformationTuesday, bringing Detroit's Polonia to life: on.fb.me/1uWJn6d #history #Polonia (225 Views)

## FOR THE RECORD...

The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools was founded in 1885 by Fr. Dąbrowski, and our current structure was established in 2008.

We have over 2,700 likes on Facebook, and over 500 followers on Twitter. Thank you!

The Polish Mission is supported financially by the Edward and Josephine Wikiera Foundation.

Over the last five years, over 60,000 people (Poland and US) have participated our exhibitions and educational programs.



## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Friends,

We are well into the 2014-15 academic year, one filled with both joy and sadness. We first gave pause to thank

Almighty God for our 130th anniversary of our founding in 1885. No one could have envisioned that, from the humble beginnings of the “Polish Seminary” in Detroit, we would grow into being the heart of Polonia in the United States.

Throughout our prolific history, we have kept alive the vision of Father Joseph Dąbrowski. The Orchard Lake Schools continue to be the place where Polish language, history, customs, culture and spirituality are preserved. We could not continue this mission on our own. The many graces that God has showered upon us throughout these 130 years have enabled us to continue our mission in service to God, country, the Church and Polonia. We are also grateful to all of our Friends and Benefactors who have supported us and continue to do so through prayers and financial contributions. We humbly ask that you continue to support Orchard Lake so that we can carry on the mission of Father Dąbrowski for another 130 years and beyond.

As we began the academic year, we did so with heavy hearts. Reverend Monsignor Stanley E. Milewski, P.A., was called home by God on July 6, 2014. Monsignor was a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit for 59 years and he spent 57-½ of those years as a member of the Faculty of the Orchard Lake Schools serving in various capacities, most notably as Chancellor, from 1977-2000. Monsignor was the face of Orchard Lake to Polonia in the United States and beyond. He loved Orchard Lake and gave his life in its service. Remember his soul in your prayers. Please help us to continue to carry on the mission of Father Dąbrowski. Remember us in your prayers. Send us those old Polish books, prayer books, and parish histories that are in your basement or attic – these are the treasures of Polonia in the United States that need to be preserved for future generations. Remember us in your will. Continue to support us with your contributions and Mass intentions.

Please be assured that you are remembered in the daily prayers and Masses of the Orchard Lake Schools community, from those of the priests, faculty members, seminarians, students and staff. Thank you for all the support that you have given to us throughout these 130 years.

May God bless and reward you! Serdecznie Bóg zapłać!

Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr.  
Chancellor-Rector



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Wow! What enjoyable and significant events we’ve had on the campus at Orchard Lake, and across the nation, recently, organized and presented by our

Polish Mission team. Looking back on the past several months, we had the unprecedented distinction and honor of hitting some remarkable milestones as a team, and I invite you to celebrate our accomplishments with me.

The weekend of June 7-8, we spent in Kansas with our new partners at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum Working with the director and personnel of the Eisenhower Museum, The Polish Mission provided significant content for the special exhibits opening that weekend: our best WWII artifacts, including some very rare items from our prized Polish Home Army museum. Forbidden Art from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, was very well-received there, and our delegation gave moving speeches that made me proud to be Chairman of The Polish Mission.

On September 7th, we held our special “September 1939” commemoration. There was a full day of activities that really marked the occasion. Polish Mission staff and volunteers worked non-stop in the prior weeks to make sure that remembering our sacred, tragic, and heroic past is something that’s still important today.

On October 3rd, our Genealogy team opened *Portrait Studios of Detroit’s Polonia* at the Galeria to great success. What an outstanding exhibition! From the photos that had been gathered, scanned, and digitized in the months prior, a display of turn-of-the-century Polish American culture was presented. The walls were covered with donated family photos of weddings, communions, ordinations, graduations, teams, and opening of family businesses. The large crowd of guests in attendance stayed to view, converse, socialize, dine on Polish food, and simply enjoy the evening. The exhibition stayed at Orchard Lake for almost a month, and currently is touring other parts of Michigan. This program had several sponsors, principally our “Pure Michigan” culture council grant.

Please come to our unique Polish Mission events and exhibits and visit us at Orchard Lake. You won’t be disappointed, and you will enjoy our highly professional presentations. Enkindle the Polish Pride in you and for your children and grandchildren. Utilize our Genealogy Center to discover your heritage. We love to have your participation and need your support. Please consider The Polish Mission in your charitable contribution, and join us by becoming a sponsoring member of The Polish Mission.

Thank you for your caring and your generosity.





# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Winter is one of my favorite times of the year. As the hot summer cools down, the changing colors of the autumn leaves signal a brisk new time of holidays, school sports, and most importantly, a season of giving and reflection. As always, your Polish Mission team has delivered a stunning array of cultural programming over the year, which truly makes me proud to lead this team of Polish champs. Despite all that though, we're deeply saddened that we move forward now without a real Polish hero. The death of Msgr. Stanley Milewski was the extinguishing of a true beacon of Polish culture from the shores of Orchard Lake. Though he and I at times didn't see eye to eye, he was a tireless supporter of Polish heritage and advocate of our mission. He was relentless in criticism, because he

loved what we love, and he cherished the ideals embodied by our Orchard Lake founders. Rest in peace, Msgr. Milewski, and thank you for your huge Polish heart.

Those familiar with our signature style and dynamism won't be surprised by our continuing stream of cultural and educational operations. About the only thing "regular" or "usual" about this summer's happenings was our drive to push limits and take our mission higher and higher. Our cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Institute of National Remembrance, the Galicia Jewish Museum and the Museum of Polish History has grown stronger than ever; we've been received with great enthusiasm at venues across the country (especially our friends and colleagues at the NMDA/NAS conference!); our efforts to restore and expand our Galeria are moving forward at full speed; and we've been cooperating more than ever with the OLSM faculty to offer fun learning programs to our students here on campus. Through the next year, we're focusing our direction on new traveling exhibitions, and dedicated programming for the men of St. Mary's.

This year I was honored to receive the American Council for Polish Culture's (ACPC) Distinguished Service award, the credit for which I dedicate to The Polish Mission team, our GREAT volunteers, and especially my family. This, along with the overwhelmingly positive reception my team and I receive when we leave the shores of Orchard Lake, prove to me that we're on the right track. So, it's always a special privilege of mine to share our good news with you.

2015 will see the Polish Mission team constantly at work, planning out the next season of programming with premier institutions like the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Museum of Printing and Literature of Grębobocin, and the National Poster Museum in Wilanów.

The late Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wikiera, celebrated benefactors of the Orchard Lake Schools, was responsible for the creation of the modern-day Polish Mission. Though the foundation established in their name gives my team and I financial support and resources with which to promote Polish culture, our successful stream of operations need your support to remain successful. We've come a very long way, and if you like what you see in the following pages, please, become a Friend of The Polish Mission, and show your support through a generous donation to The Polish Mission.

In my six years as Director of The Polish Mission, I've worked to rebuild our image, modernize our operations, reduce risk, and grow The Polish Mission team into the next generation of Polish-American leaders. The following pages will show you what we've done. You're responsible for how far we can go.

Marcin Chumiecki  
(248) 683-0412 -- [mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com)

# FORBIDDEN ART

PRESENTED BY THE POLISH MISSION IN EXCLUSIVE COOPERATION WITH THE AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU STATE MUSEUM OF POLAND

**P**remiered at our Galeria in 2012, *Forbidden Art* has since traveled from California to New York City.



## REACHING OUT

Our celebrated and exclusive partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland (A-BSM) continues to allow us to share our nation's premier example of Holocaust education with audiences across the US. After the monumental showing at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum of Abilene, Kansas, it was off to Madison, Wisconsin at the end of September, where the Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin was awaiting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin had reached out to us earlier in the year,

and thanks to the hard work of Marge Morgan, Joanna Pasowicz, Diane Turner, and the entire dedicated and visionary team of that group, they were the first Polish cultural organization to ever host *Forbidden Art* for the entire North American tour!



# when EDUCATION



## SUCCESS

Hats off to them for boldly taking a step in the best direction to share this premier educational initiative with the community in Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin-Madison boasts a very healthy student body of 43,000 students, spread out over the thirteen schools and colleges located around the city of Madison, and showcases notable alumni such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Charles Lindbergh, and Jane Kaczmarek. The Porter Butts Gallery, located at the center of campus in the beautiful

Memorial Union building, was the setting for the exhibition and receptions, and is a hub for the majority of the student body that passes through each day. Many thanks to Wisconsin Union Directorate Art Committee Advisor Robin Schmoldt for her invaluable assistance, Committee Director Kelsey Burnham for her hard work, and Jane and Gerald Dunn for their wonderful hospitality!



## CHICAGO

After some time there, we were overjoyed that *Forbidden Art* made a second appearance in the Windy City! Chicago is filled with people who crave the experience of great art, and The Polish Museum of America was the perfect place to showcase the exhibition. Thanks to the initiative of Mr. Joe Drobot and Mrs. Maria Ciesla, and the entire team of professionals at the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and the Polish Museum of America, we were able to cooperate closely with our colleagues down I-94. As usual, JJ hit the road to set up the exhibition in the famous PMA



# MEMORY unite

## GALA

exhibition hall, and Marcin then followed suit by making the drive to represent our organization to the crowd gathered there for the gala opening. *Forbidden Art* was on display in Chicago until mid-January 2015. If you happen to be in Chicago to watch a Bears or Blackhawks game, or dine on Superdawg (JJ's favorite), make sure to stop at The Polish Museum of America to experience the treasury of their great collections on display.

## PHOTOS

Facing page, Bottom Left: Guests in Wisconsin sign a scroll destined for the permanent collection of Auschwitz; Far Left: The historic Memorial Union Building, Madison; Top Left: (from left) Jane Dunn, Diane Turner, Marge Morgan, Joanna Pasowicz, Kelsey Burnham, Anais Reyes, and Robin Schmoltdt, representing The Polish Heritage Club of Madison, and the University of Wisconsin WUD Art Committee; Above Right: Members of the PMA, the Polish Catholic Union of America, The Polish Mission, and the Honorable Robert Rusiecki, Deputy Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, with honored guests, Jan Krawiec and Stanislaw Lyskanowski, concentration camp survivors (pictured in the center with boutonnieres); Above Left: *Forbidden Art* at the PMA exhibit hall; Left: A young visitor views *The Sorrowful Christ*, a figure carved by an anonymous prisoner of Auschwitz.





# Wyczołkowski



His name may be difficult to pronounce, but Leon Wyczółkowski was a master painter, the career of whom produced a legacy of masterpieces. His work defined an artistic revolution in Poland. Thanks to the innovative museum that bears his name in Bydgoszcz, we explore his life at the Galeria.

Leon Wyczółkowski painted a nation. His name may be familiar to some, especially those acquainted with fine art. During his dynamic life from 1852-1936, he witnessed the forging and development of the modern nation of Poland, and as a talented artist, brought it to life for all of us to see. A champion of the Young Poland movement, and a master realist, he left vivid testimony to the history of Poland: war, independence, and the embrace of freedom. His story is one of many that we admire at The Polish Mission.

The works of any great artist not only reveal the stories of their surroundings, but also show the human spirit, as revealed in their portrayal of the world through their eyes. Through every brush stroke; every careful element, the mind of an artist, left embodied on a canvas, allows us to experience a most authentic and meaningful image of person.

The Leon Wyczółkowski Regional Museum in Bydgoszcz, Poland, is the leading institution that safeguards the memory of Leon Wyczółkowski, and we at The Polish Mission are proud to have

been partners with them for the last several years. Curator Inga Kopciwicz, under the leadership of Museum Director Michal Wozniak, had been a familiar face at The Polish Mission, where her summers were spent tirelessly working in the Galeria with our collection of original fine art from throughout centuries of Polish history. It's because of her work that our priceless collection of original works will have worldwide recognition through an upcoming published catalog, and her dedication and expertise is to thank for the detailed evaluation of our pieces that forms the cornerstone of our art collection today.

On Friday, November 14, our community and guests experienced a signature celebration of that partnership with the Wyczółkowski Museum. Over the past few weeks we'd been prepping the historic Galeria for the arrival of *Leon Wyczółkowski and the Art of his Epoch*, the commemorative exhibition from the Wyczółkowski Museum. Working through the night, Polish Mission staff and volunteers turned the summertime cool galleria into a warm, autumn gathering



place, and several of the premier pieces were pulled from their homes in the storage rooms to take center stage. Being deeply familiar with our collection, Inga and her team in Bydgoszcz created the sixteen exhibition panels in such a way that they would tell the story of Leon Wyczołkowski through the original works in our collection. Using pieces by Matejko, Gerson, and even originals by Wyczołkowski himself, the story of a master artist was painted in vivid style at the Galeria, alongside a comprehensive multi-media display that included an interactive touch-screen display.

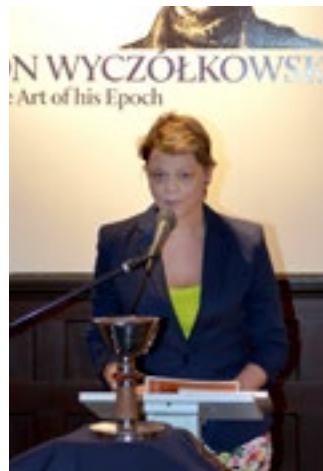
Guests were welcomed to the Galeria on Friday, November 14 for an unforgettable evening that honored quite a few notable celebrations. Our champion youth robotics team of our own Dąbrowski Polish School made a special appearance to be received by a very proud audience. They had just recently won two awards at their very first robotics tournament at nearby Cranbrook Academy, and the applause that followed after announcement of their first successes set the stage for evening of smiles and congratulations. Dr. Jarosław Golembiowski then entertained the crowd with an elegant rendition of historic piano pieces, and a closing original composition, written by the performer in honor of Wyczołkowski's life. It was a stunning and refined evening of music, and of behalf of the community gathered there, we all eagerly look forward to when Dr. Golembiowski will once again make the journey from Chicago to be with us



again at The Polish Mission.

Mrs. Halina Malinski and Mrs. Genia Gorecki worked during the days leading up to the event to prepare the delicate hors d'oeuvres, and together with Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki (part-time chef), prepared a remarkable spread of salmon, salads, and even champagne for our guests. Their dedication as volunteers must be recognized as a most commendable act of support from our community. Hats off to them!

As the evening wound down, guests stepped out into the chilly night with warm memories of great art, brought to life by the laughter of old friends, the bustle of happy children, and ring of Dr. Golembiowski's elegant music. Please visit [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com) for a recap on the exhibition, and for more information about composer Jaroslaw Golembiowski, please visit [www.composersforum.org/members/directory/jaroslaw-golembiowski](http://www.composersforum.org/members/directory/jaroslaw-golembiowski), or contact him directly at [yaromusic@dsl.poltel.us](mailto:yaromusic@dsl.poltel.us)



**MO:**  
**MUZEUM**  
**OKRĘGOWE**  
**IM. LEONIA WYCZÓLKOWSKIEGO**  
**W BYDGOSZCZY**

Facing page, Top Left: The Wyczółkowski Regional Museum in Bydgoszcz; Bottom Left: *Portrait of a Woman* by Leon Wyczółkowski, 1883; Above, Top Right: OLSM Polish language teacher Marzena Owinski and her class pose after viewing the exhibiton with Curator Inga Kopiciewicz; Above Left: Young guests smile for the camera after Dr. Golembiowski's performance; Above Center: Inga welcomes guests to the Galeria; Above right: No salute to Polish Independence day (November 11) is complete without pyrotechnics.



# Europe's Freedom Born in Poland

by Mrs. Paulina Kapuścińska,  
Consul General of the  
Republic of Poland in Chicago

September 1st 75 years ago saw the outbreak of WWII, the deadliest global conflict in human history. The first nation to fight the German invasion was Poland. On September 17, 1939 she was invaded again, this time from the east by Joseph Stalin's Red Army, Hitler's ally at that time.

Long and dark years of occupation brought Europe on the verge of a moral collapse. Liberation of Western Europe began on June 6, 1944 with the D-Day landings, manned also by Polish airmen and seamen. General Stanislaw Maczek's armoured division liberated Holland. Polish Sosabowski paratroopers—denied landings in the August '44 Warsaw—manned the guns of the largest airborne operation Market garden. Liberating the West, they hoped for freedom in the East. Winning back the continent of Europe took the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers. But millions were saved when the war was over. Freed nations of Western Europe paraded with joy, celebrating the end of a totalitarianism. However, not all the heroes of the allied war effort had reason enough to celebrate. In Poland and in other countries of the region one totalitarianism was replaced by another. The dream of a free Europe had been shattered in Yalta where the victorious allied powers agreed to the division of Europe into spheres of influence. For the next 44 years Central and Eastern Europe found itself oppressed by the Soviet communism, Europe's other totalitarianism.

Yet, the dreams of freedom our grandfathers had were passed on to our fathers and lived on behind the Iron Curtain. This year in Normandy we marked 70 years since the D-Day landings, the beginning of the end of Nazism. This year in Warsaw on June 4th, delegations from over 50 countries celebrated the beginning of the end of Communism, a breakthrough that started in Poland on June 4, 1989 when the first partially-free elections brought about a bloodless revolution and set in motion the domino effect of change reuniting the divided Europe and changing the lives of hundreds of millions of Europeans.



“Reflect on the gift of freedom that was given and at the same time entrusted to us” said our great countryman Saint John Paul II. He kept reminding us that “freedom requires continuous efforts to reinforce it and experience it responsibly.” Poland won its freedom the hard way, not liberated in '44, fighting till the end of WWII in '45 and then struggling on with communist oppression till '89. She not only became the architect of her own freedom and success. She led the way to freedom for others. Today Poland is a successful 25-year old reborn democracy, with a nearly 1050-year old heritage, a member of NATO with 15 years' standing and a decade-old member of the European Union.

Let us appreciate that hard-earned freedom every day. Today's Poland is more peaceful, prosperous and strong than it has been in the past 500 years, which reminds us how fortunate our generations are. A quarter of a century of freedom and prosperity offers us and our children perspectives in a land where they had been denied for centuries.

The rise of Poland from the ashes of WWII and the divisions of Communism was symbolically fulfilled last week with the election of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk as the President of the European Council, the de facto 'president of Europe'. It is proof that half-a-century old division into old and new Europe is a thing of the past.

Let us cherish that freedom. Let us remember generations of heroes who had fought for it. Let us show integrity, dedication to peace and to the values of democracy. Finally, let us show solidarity with those who have yet to win their peace, freedom and security.

“Reflect on the gift of freedom that was given and at the same time entrusted to us”



Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Chicago

# THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

Michigan Humanities Council allows hundreds of Polish-American families to explore their roots at The Polish Mission in October

The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools was pleased to host over 200 visitors at the opening of *Portrait Studios of Polonia: The Face of Polish Immigration* on Friday, October 3, 2014. Our visitors included the Chairman of the Polish Mission board Dr. Stan Majewski, and the Outside Evaluator representing the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC), Cynthia Dimitrijevic. OLS Chancellor-Rector Msgr. Tom had planned on being there, but due to the death of his mother in New York, could not be with us. We ask everyone to pray for the soul of Mrs. Regina Theresa (Rutkowski) Machalski, and for Msgr. Tom.

Dr. Majewski gave the Polish Mission a great review:

*A great evening and an outstanding exhibition. Those who attended enjoyed themselves and stayed for the whole evening, while viewing the photos with much discussion and socializing. Our super director [Marcin Chumiecki] took pictures in a retro setting for all those who stepped up! This event was the result of a lot of hours of work and imaginative creation. Our genealogy team of Cecile Wendt-Jensen and Hal Learman and all*

*the dedicated volunteers proposed and delivered on a project, the success of which I could only dream about. Polish pride, family values, Catholic presence, reflection on the history of our forefathers and their journey to America to become American citizens fostering new generations that enriched the US, were all embodied in the exhibit. Check the website or call Ceil and Hal at (248) 693-0323 for more info. Thanks to all of you who made this possible.*

The Michigan Humanities Council awarded the Polish Mission matching grant funds (\$13,195.00) to host the show and publish an 84-page album. In her role as the Outside Evaluator, Cynthia Dimitrijevic's visit was intended to help the Council assess its program, and to satisfy reporting requirements to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dimitrijevic's Report was very favorable and can be summed up in one term she used in regard to the overall character of the exhibit and publication: "Top Notch!" Her evaluator form asked for one example of how the program made a measurable impact on the participants/audience.



Instead of one example, she wrote the following paragraph:

*Many attendees on opening night were excitedly talking to each other in Polish. Others had paper & pen and were writing things down while looking through the photo archives. Some attendees had family photos in the exhibit and were proud of their participation, or their close friends were part of the exhibit. Each person this evaluator spoke with was animated and pleased with the project. A 97-year-old female professor [Helen Suchara, D.Ed.] had photos of her family included in the project. Her visiting friends told me she was an amazing person, had helped so many others, had a beautiful soul that caused all*



“Polish pride, family values, Catholic presence, reflection on the history of our forefathers and their journey to America to become American citizens fostering new generations that enriched the US, were all embodied in the exhibit.”

*who knew her to love her. These friends pointed out this woman's family photos to me and shared how they were an important legacy to the Polish community.*

Dimitrijevic recommended replication of this project stating:

*Other libraries and museums could display this exhibit and encourage their patrons to research their genealogies. Maybe the project could become a statewide signature program for MHC.*

The introduction of our album offers an overview of why it is important to collect and document the pictorial history of our community:

*The once thriving Polish communities of*

*metro Detroit — on the Eastside, Westside, and in Hamtramck — have dissipated into the suburbs; and the schools and parishes around which life in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries revolved, have shut their doors. We feel a sense of urgency to document and display this earlier way of life, while those who lived it can contribute to its legacy. Today's older generations knew the immigrants and witnessed their assimilation into American life. The communities captured in the photos no longer exist; but families still have vibrant memories and stories of this era. This album illustrates and describes the work of major and minor photographers who serviced the community throughout the cycle of life, chronicling religious*

*sacraments, academic pursuits, and the activities of ethnic organizations.*

-Portrait Studios of Detroit's Polonia, pages vii-x

The photos document the zenith of Polish immigration and communities, as well as an art form that reigned during the twentieth century. While the exhibit is built on the Polish experience, it transcends ethnic boundaries and touches all families, chronicling the assimilation into American life. Our partnership with the Hamtramck Historical Museum and the Clinton-Macomb Public Library is not by chance. These locations are areas that were cornerstones of Polonia or are their current residences. By collecting and

displaying the exhibit in three locations, we maximize participation. It is purposeful that the Polish Mission spearheads this project.

Our Polish Mission history dates back to the very first Polish community in Detroit, centered around St. Albertus, the oldest Polish Catholic church in the city of Detroit, having opened their doors in 1872. Located there, along with the parish and school, were our SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary; the Felician Sisters motherhouse and orphanage; and the Martin Kulwicki Funeral Home. The organizations, businesses, and practices of this early Polish settlement were soon replicated on Detroit's East and West sides; and our archives hold photos documenting this history. The Polish Mission and the Hamtramck Historical Museum have become repositories for artifacts from this time period.



During the process of preparing for the exhibit, vestiges of this heritage which have been tucked away in boxes and closets have come to us for identification and digitization for posterity. The Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) at The Polish Mission will house and maintain this digital collection. It is our mission to preserve the past history of our community and make it accessible for future generations. This Portrait Studio project is a proactive approach to helping families identify and document their pictorial history.

The Poles in Detroit organized fraternal and religious organizations to support their fellow man. The Polish Mission collection holds many panoramic photos of society congresses and reunions held in support and celebration of their Polish heritage. Akin to studio photographs are the professional photos that ran in the metro Detroit papers, which were sometimes accompanied by condescending remarks, in contrast to the sophistication we see in these images today.

The first Polish immigrants to Detroit frequented the portrait studios established by photographers



*The Patriarch of the Daschke Family, Charles (Carl) Daschke  
On Charles' right, his son, Joseph Daschke  
Standing in the center, Joseph's son, John Daschke  
Standing on Charles' left, John Daschke, Jr.  
The photograph was taken at a studio in Detroit, Michigan*

like William J. Emhuff, Constantine Eisenhardt, Charles Russell Baker, and Carl Aller. Of this group, photographers Stanislaw Piotrowski and Józef Sowiński, Polish immigrants from Prussia, came to Detroit in the early 1890s. Sowiński established himself in the heart of Detroit's Polish community located at Canfield Avenue and St. Aubin Street. This positioned his studio in easy walking distance for the numerous Polish families in the area. In the following decades, other Polish immigrant photographers also developed thriving businesses not only in the heart of this same area; but also, in the East and West side communities of the city.



Page 16: Dr. Helen Suchara and her brother with Dr. Helen's First Communion photo from 1929; Facing Page, Bottom Left: Guests line up to identify historic photos near a darkroom segment of the main exhibiton; This Page, Above: Dr. Majewski smiles for the camera with friends R. Wayne and Marylee Gwizdala; Left: Guests examine artifacts on display; Below: St. Mary's history under the lights.

The photographs were not only made for the immediate family living in Metro Detroit; copies were exchanged with members still residing in Poland. The photos, often depicting an event or special occasion, with their inscriptions on the back, served to chronicle the journey to become an American. Detroit studio photos have been rediscovered in Polish albums as families return to their ancestral villages in all areas of Poland. The four generation Daschke portrait, taken by Józef Sowiński circa 1902, was shared by Polish relatives in the summer of 2014. As we digitized the vintage photos, we asked patrons to label the family members portrayed. Often the portrait was unknown and we needed to use context clues to identify the studio and time period the portrait was created. This led us back to the neighborhood and the possible parish where the family lived and the event took place.

For example, compare the valance with fringe in the upper left corner of the Daschke photo with the same feature displayed in the Pawlowski First Communion portrait (see page 18). Note that the rug patterns match; and that the basket displays a plaque with the year 1902. Research was undertaken using

U.S. census records that show the two families lived around the corner from each other (Charles Daschke Family, circa 1902, Józef Sowiński, photographer, 376 Canfield Avenue in Detroit, Michigan [Diane Snellgrove Collection], Pawlowski First Communion, 1902 [Marcia Olszewski Collection])

As we worked with this collection of photographs, we were impressed by the craftsmanship and the artistic eye of our communities' photographers. We think you will agree with us once you have viewed the exhibition and the accompanying images in the album!




**Michigan Humanities Council**  
Michigan People, Michigan Places  
Our Stories, Our Lives

# Hats off to the Volunteers!

## Volunteers take The Polish Mission to new heights

The Polish Mission staff works hard, year round, to bring quality exhibits and programming to the Orchard Lake campus that highlight the pride of our Polish heritage.

We strive to work tirelessly to bring recognition to our culture, by encouraging the community to embrace their heritage with pride. For beautiful and meaningful events, large and small, we rely on the strength and talents of our dedicated volunteers to present our programs.



We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.

-Winston Churchill



From answering phones to transcribing records: from food preparation to exhibit construction, there is nothing we have asked for and have not received by help from our volunteers. We are forever indebted and cannot truly express our gratitude to each and every person who is a volunteer at The Polish Mission. Dziękuję!

**Top: Ted and Genia Gorecki** distribute programs and information at the 1939 Commemoration and pin recognition cockades on veterans who joined us; **Middle: Tiffany Hands and Beckie Goodenow** work to make those cockades! Skilled hands were a must for an evening of crafting; **Bottom: Margo and Jim Sardelli** join Ceil at the PBS call center to take pledges.





**Always With Helping Hands**  
**Chuck Pokriefka** can be found at nearly all Polish Mission events diligently working so everything goes smoothly. He's also a regular at PARI.

### Fine Elegance

**Halina Malinski**, center, is always behind the scenes at our gala events, helping to plan for, feed, and entertain our guests on campus!



### Scrumptious

**Marcin and Genia** prepare elegant hors d'oeuvres at the Galeria.



### Stuff, stuff, stuff...

**Bozena and Michelle Chumiecki** work to pack program handouts for the 1939 Commemoration.

## Volunteers are the peanut butter to our jelly!



### A Group Effort

**Dana, Sharon, Richard, Bernadette, and Marge** lend expertise, smiles, and service to guests at PARI.



### Heavyweight

**Tomek Szpil** worked at night helping do prep work with JJ for the 1939 Commemoration, lending a valuable pair of hands in the woodshop, and being an important counterweight on the sawhorses.

### Woodchips

**JJ** works into the night at Eddie's woodshop at the Old Gym to put the finishing touches on the 1939 Invasion monument.



### Taking the Time

**Vice Headmaster Rychik and Vice Chancellor Koterba** team up to help guests at the 1939 Commemoration.

# REMEMBERING 1939

Those who fought to free Poland in 1939 share a common bond with all who protect liberty today

September 1, 1939 marked a day so laden with tragedy that it would be impossible for the world to forget. Many of you kind readers who now gratefully receive these words are already well aware of this. The invasion. The occupation. The War. The deaths. The suffering. The September invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and later by the Soviet Union, forever branded the testimony of generations of Poles and Polish-Americans who now tell that story of that tragic time. Laden with pathos, we dutifully tell the story of the past, in hopes of something we can't quite put our finger on. We energetically tell the stories of the past, to everyone who would lend an ear. We tell the story of the past, because of our hatred of suffering.

At The Polish Mission, we witness this kind of emotional historiography almost on a daily basis. The collections; the archives; the people who visit us with the determination to tell their story, their parents' story, or their grandparents' story, all point to the tragedies that began at the moment when Battleship Schleswig-Holstein opened fire on the Polish garrison at Westerplatte in the early morning hours of September 1, 1939.

This determined drive to remember, to commemorate, to honor, may be puzzling to some, who question the investment surrounding the many ways we look back to 1939. Perhaps they question too, the real purpose of it all, suggesting that looking to the past is some sort of affront to the bright future that lies ahead. So, for us at The Polish Mission, I attest that remembering the tragedies of history is PARAMOUNT to our future. We, as do many others with passionate devotion to history and the lessons that can be obtained from it, know that the past is not an abstract element to our lives, but a living reminder of our very identity; a vivid testimony to what we are made of; a dynamic and exciting guide to our future. The shelling of Westerplatte was not a black-and-white event, it was a barrage of 626-pound explosive shells blasting through concrete and steel defensive bunkers that once seemed impenetrable and safe. The barbaric blitzkrieg through Poland was not a lukewarm historical occurrence; it was three million human beings, who at the behest of their leaders and the hand of fate committed to kill each other wherever they should meet. The very homesteads and cosmopolitan cities that nurtured the nation of Poland, had in 1939 become killing fields, ghettos, and no-man's-land. The bright minds and artistic spirit that defined a culture became casualties of war.

The people who witnessed this definition of tragedy offer a most sobering reminder of the past, and implore us to heed the realities of suffering they experienced. Their sacrifices, those of their brothers-in-arms, and those of their families will ALWAYS be lessons for our future, if we only remember that the world of 1939 was as colorful, hopeful, vivid, and modern as our world of 2015. People then were loved their friends and families, cried and laughed with each other, and were no different than us today. We know that at The Polish Mission, and because







of the “humanness” of the past, we feel a special connection to history, and that’s why we commemorate the outbreak of WWII in Poland each year at our *1939 Commemoration*.

Though the focus of the educational and cultural activities was the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of war in ’39, we also made special efforts to remember several 70th anniversaries: The Warsaw Uprising, the battle of Monte Cassino, the D-Day landings, and the liquidation of the Łódź Ghetto. It was our deepest honor to receive letters of support from Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Polish Ambassador to the United States Ryszard Schnepf, United States Ambassador to Poland Stephen Mull, and Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Paulina Kapuścińska. These letters fueled our determination to ensure that this year’s commemoration was the best yet.

With the kind assistance of our generous supporters in the media, many were made aware of the exciting developments! In honor of the 75th anniversary of the September invasion, we wanted to make this year’s commemoration as memorable and meaningful as possible which is why we committed to support the Wounded Warrior Project for the occasion. The Wounded Warrior Project is one of today’s most significant means through which civilians can directly support the heroes who’ve taken post directly in the path of fire to protect our freedoms. For more information on how you can get involved, please visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

The most exciting element this year was the addition of the United States Marines. We are extremely grateful to the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, 25th Marine Regiment, and Marine Corps Recruiting Station Detroit, and for committing a large detachment of Marines to serve the *1939 Commemoration* in a ceremonial role during holy mass, and at our veteran recognition ceremony at the Katyń/Smolensk monument. As they sharply presented and retired the colors before and after mass, (including the historic military flags from stood at attention at the playing of taps at the monument, and mingled with our guests in the afternoon, there was no question in anyone’s mind that those elite fighting men and women represented a most generous and grateful salute to the Polish and American veterans who were with us that day. We at the Polish Mission offer the USMC our thanks, and our promise of support.

Another element of Sunday's happenings that drew considerable recognition was the overwhelming presence of the Knights of Columbus. Thanks to initiative of Mr. Jim Jaczkowski, approximately thirty knights joined in our commemoration, journeying from across the metro Detroit area to recognize '39, and our community of Polish and American veterans.

Holy mass was celebrated by Fr. Louis Madey (USMC Ret.), and concelebrated by Fr. Jan Nowak, and Orchard Lake Schools Chancellor-Rector Msgr. Thomas C. Machalski, who had arrived back to Orchard Lake from a business trip in Poland only hours before. Distinguished musical guests Dr. Jaroslaw Golembowski and Ms. Marlena Dziś graced the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake with a moving rendition of *Zdrowaś Mario*. The piece was written in 1994 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising (1944), and was first performed that year during a commemorative mass at St. Constance Church in Chicago by Jolanta Kolodziejski.

At the close of holy mass, Orchard Lake Schools Vice Chancellor Anthony Koterba greeted the community, and introduced special guest speaker Mr. Konrad Zieliński, Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. The significance of Consul Zieliński's presence here cannot be understated—representing the Government of the Republic of Poland, and acting on behalf of General Consul Paulina Kapuścińska, he testified, through his words, and through the long trajectory of support from the Polish Consulate in Chicago, that commemorating the 1939 invasion of Poland, and saluting all who served the cause of freedom and liberty, is something that we should do; that we must do.

Thanks to Mr. Matt Switlik of Monroe, the original M1897 75mm artillery piece from World War One returned to Orchard Lake, marking the loudest contribution made to the 1939 Commemoration to date. Back by popular demand, his quick-firing cannon is regarded as the first modern artillery piece, as its hydro-pneumatic recoil mechanism allowed soldiers to shoot up to fifteen rounds per minute. When Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia invaded Poland in 1939, the "French 75" was in widespread use by Polish forces.

Once again our day's activities were enhanced indescribably by Captain Emil Kornacki (VM) (ret.). Captain Kornacki is the recipient of



Poland's highest military honor for gallantry in combat. The *Virtuti Militari* is equivalent to the American Congressional Medal of Honor. He received the *Virtuti Militari* in 1944 for gallantry at the Battle of Monte Cassino as a member of the Polish Second Corps, and in that same year received Poland's second highest military honor, the *Krzyż Walecznych* (Medal of Valor) for gallantry at the battle of Montefortino. The Medal of Valor is equivalent to America's Silver Star. It was our highest honor to welcome him for the second year in a row, to address our community immediately following mass.

Captain Kornacki is also distinguished as being the last living survivor in North America of the infamous Katyń Massacre of April-May 1940. During that massacre over 22,000+ individuals were executed at different sites including Katyń by the Soviet Secret Police (NKVD) under direct orders from Joseph Stalin. (The dictator Stalin was the leader of the Soviet Union.) Among those executed were 8000+ Polish military officers including 1 admiral and 14 generals who were all POWs at the time. In addition to the Polish military officers there were 6000+ Polish police officers and 8000+ members of the Polish

## MEET OUR ORCHESTRAL PARTNERS

The Orchard Lake Philharmonic Society partners with PM for September event

The Orchard Lake Philharmonic Society Symphony Orchestra (OLPS SO) is a Southeastern Michigan community orchestra, currently conducted by Norman A. Logan. Founded as a 501(c)3 organization in 2006, the first official meeting of the orchestra was in September 2007. With only 13 musicians at the first rehearsal of the previously named Community Orchestra, students were solicited from Madonna University to play for college credit. By the spring of 2008, the Oakland Community College



music department sought a partnership and the orchestra moved their rehearsal space from the campus of Orchard Lake St. Mary's to the OCC Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. In 2009, the name was changed to "Symphony Orchestra," and an expanding orchestra

intelligentsia who were also executed by the Soviets at different locations at approximately the same time. Emil Kornacki was one of only several hundred survivors.

Following a reading of *Elegia o Chłopcu Polskim* by Dr. Golembiowski and Ms. Dzis, Captain Kornacki delivered a moving speech that spoke to the tragedies of the past and the parallels of our modern times. His testimony, vividly recollected, is both a living treasure, and a stern warning to be vigilant in the future. By his request, all readers are encouraged to read the full text of his speech, available online at [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com). After Captain Kornacki's speech, Consul Zieliński and Logan Yearn, a freshman at St. Mary's Preparatory, presented a memorial wreath. Following the grateful applause, the roar of the French 75 and the mournful notes of taps signaled the end of our ceremony, but the day was far from over!

Through the tireless work of Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki, four educational exhibitions were a part of our commemoration, on display in the historic Galeria, on the steps of the Shrine Chapel, and at the Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) in Farmington Hills. From the Institute of National Remembrance of the Republic of Poland (IPN), we were proud to host the North American Premier of *Od Wojny Do Zwyciestwa* (From War to Victory) 1939-1989. With appreciation to Mr. Pawel



in 2010 brought a location move to West Bloomfield High School where the OLPS SO currently rents space. The OLPS SO prides itself on the quality of music produced by community volunteers and are known for their ambitious orchestral endeavors.

Rokicki and Mr. Sergiusz Kazimierzuk of IPN, the comprehensive exhibition, which offers multi-fold viewpoints and cutting-edge perspectives on Polish history, has received an unprecedented welcome in the United States. From the Galicia Jewish Museum, the *Traces of Memory* exhibition arrived on campus a couple weeks prior to the Commemoration. It offers a rich look into the past by exploring historical landmarks of the Jewish community in Poland, and was on display at the HMC until November 26th. From the Museum of Polish History, Anders' Army is a finely executed exploration of the origins, exploits, and legacy of the Polish Second Corps, offered in salute of the Polish Second Corps veterans, whose support and guidance has ever been a cornerstone of Polish Mission operations. Finally, from the State Archives of Łódź, *Wielka Szpera* tells the haunting and terrible story of the Łódź Ghetto, the second largest Jewish Ghetto of World War Two. A sample of only three panels were on display, in anticipation of the much larger twenty-five panel full exhibition, which will be available to partner institutions in early spring 2015.

After the ceremony, a steady stream of people made the Galeria come to life. Along with the exhibitions on display, a small sampling of

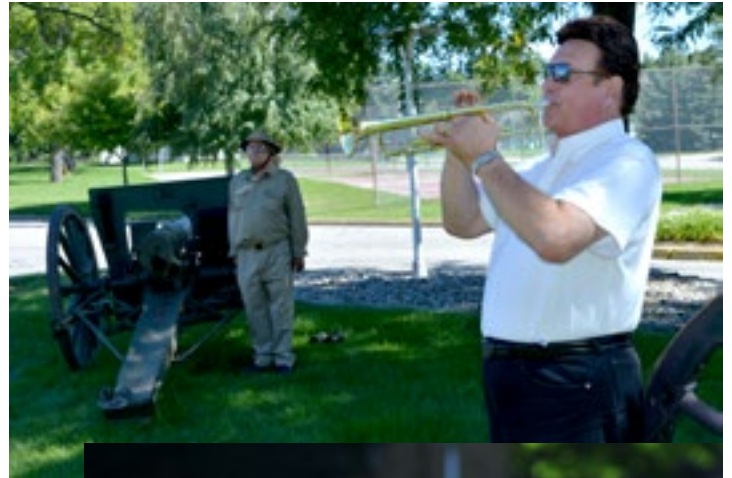
**“His testimony, vividly recollected, is both a living treasure, and a stern warning to be vigilant in the future.”**

our own military collections were showcased for the occasion, including complete uniforms from Royal Air Force Polish Fighter Squadron 303, the First Polish Armoured Division, and the Polish Second Corps, and even an original MG34 machine gun. Mike Swidwinski of Grand Rapids journeyed to Orchard Lake to present his premier collection of pre-1939 Polish Military Firearms, and guests viewed original artwork on display by Auschwitz survivor Jan Komski, and Andy Ladak, whose mother Irena served in the Polish Home Army (AK) during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. But the centerpiece of the Galeria was the result of the hard work of Polish Mission staff and volunteers, who labored in the months prior to build a replica of a Polish border crossing gate (Barikada), originally pictured in the familiar Nazi German propaganda photo, taken around September 7th, 1939.

The 700-pound 1:1 reproduction was made from custom-cut hardwood lumber, and a 25-foot pine log from the forests of Northern Michigan. It was broken just the day before, in exacting fashion as the original at the hands of the invading army. The broken gate is an original memorial, which stands in reverent testimony to the 1939 invasion.

Following a barbecue on the Galeria lawn, and lectures and presentations by St. Mary's Preparatory Headmaster Cormac Lynn and award-winning author Kenneth Koskodan, guests were treated to an evening concert by the Orchard Lake Philharmonic Society Symphony Orchestra on the steps of the Shrine Chapel, while the *Od Wojny do Zwycięstwa* exhibition offered a picturesque background under the landmark statue of Our Lady of Orchard Lake.

On behalf of Orchard Lake Schools Chancellor-Rector Msgr. Thomas C. Machalski, Vice Chancellor Anthony Koterba, Polish Mission Chairman Dr Stan Majewski, Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki, and the staff and faculty of the Orchard Lake Schools, we offer the utmost thanks to our sponsors, and to those of you who joined us for this year's *1939 Commemoration*.



### **SALUTING OUR SPONSORS:**

The Townsend Hotel: Birmingham MI  
Sushi Samurai: Orchard Lake, MI  
Fr. Timothy Whalen: Pittsburgh, PA  
Mrs. Irena Zapasnik: Chicago, IL



Page 22 bottom: Vice Consul Konrad Zieliński and Colonel Chester Szczotka (US Army ret.); Center: Polish Infantry column in 1939; Page 24: Marines lead the way toward the Katyn/Smolensk monument for the ceremony; Center: The OLPS performs an afternoon concert on the Shrine Chapel steps; Page 25, Top: Marines, veterans, Knights of Columbus, and faithful gather for a photo on the Shrine Chapel steps; Below; all gather at the Katyn/Smolensk monument; Above: snapshots from the day; Left: Polish bugler at Monte Cassino, 1944.



## Remembering the Łódź Ghetto by Dr. Guy Stern

Director of the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Wayne State University

**T**his article is written in commemoration of an event of seventy years ago. On August 29, 1944, the last German transport left Radegast Station in Łódź, carrying almost all the remaining Jewish prisoners from the city's infamous ghetto. During its four and a half years of existence, it housed approximately 245,000 inmates, the majority from the city of Łódź itself, but swelled with deportees from Germany, Austria, Luxemburg and Bohemia. When the Soviet troops liberated the ghetto in January, 1945, they found fewer than 900 survivors. The German occupiers of Poland had systematically deported inmates - as part of the Final Solution - to the extermination camps of Chelmno and Auschwitz. Initially those unable to work at Łódź were selected for deportation. Those left behind were forced to produce uniforms and equipment for the German army.

The camp, located inside the city itself, was completely sealed off and barred from the view of outsiders by barbed wire fences and wooden panels. The conditions inside were unfit for human habitation. The overcrowded ghetto lacked sanitary facilities, adequate housing, and food supplies. The workers were paid either in food or in a ghetto currency not valid beyond its walls.

These measures - and some on-the-spot executions - accounted for the near-total elimination of the second largest Jewish community in Poland. Prior to World War II, the Jewish population in Łódź had steadily progressed. Many Jewish workers had found positions in the extensive Lodz clothing industries, had been elected to represent Jewish political parties in city government and had founded athletic clubs and cultural organizations.

Much of this history has been belatedly chronicled through extensive archival work of the city of Łódź and the Holocaust Literature Research Center at the University of Giessen, Germany, with whom the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus is in the process of establishing a cooperative working relationship. Their findings also include the governing structure of the ghetto, by which a *Judenrat* under the chairmanship of the controversial Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski, became the reluctant enforcers of the German orders and regulations. Prevented from outside resistance by the sealed-off condition of the ghetto, the inmates concentrated on organizing a passive resistance in the realms of culture and politics, for example, establishing schools, secretly listening to foreign broadcasts and by writing accounts of their brutal treatments for future generations.

# Across the Ocean

Marcin and Msgr. Tom Travel to our Colleagues in Poland

## REPORT

edge programming depends on building and maintaining relationships with our colleagues at multiple institutions across Poland. Each year, Msgr. Tom and Marcin travel to Poland together to promote our unique Detroit culture, and to recap, report, and plan the future with our partner institutions abroad.

In August of this year, Msgr. Tom and Marcin landed in Warsaw just in time to get to the annual Polish Seminary Rector's conference. While Msgr. Tom had multiple meetings with our sister seminary's administrative team, Marcin traveled to Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum to meet with Director Dr. Piotr Cywiński, along with Head of Collections Elżbieta Cajzer and 70th anniversary World Projects Coordinator Zofia Waślicka to discuss our close involvement with the upcoming 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in January of 2015. There wasn't a moment to lose as Marcin went to assist on a special project with CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Auschwitz survivor Ewa Mozes Kor. Producer Meridith Edwards and the CNN crew were shooting segments for a new documentary there, and a beautiful new friendship was solidified as CNN and The Polish Mission worked together to raise awareness about the tragic past. Make sure to find out more on Wolf's *Roots* segment, which was first aired in early October, by visiting CNN's website: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)



After a few days in Oświęcim (Auschwitz), Marcin's goal was to arrange a very special project for our OLSM jazz band. The heart of jazz musicianship in Poland is the city of Bielsko-Biala, which hosts the prestigious Lotos Jazz Festival, and is home to the Stanisława Moniuszki National Academy of Music. After planning with OLSM band director Josh James, it was time to formally



CULTURE



## Here at The Polish Mission,

we pride ourselves on striving to be the best at everything we do. Whether it's executing an event on campus, arranging long-distance cooperation around the US, or our day-to-day operations at the office, we're successful only when we go the extra mile to ensure overall quality. As part of that, our long-term strategy and cutting-

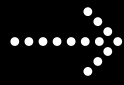


present our plan to take our St. Mary's Jazz Ensemble to one of Poland's top places to experience international jazz. After meeting with Lotos Festival Director Jerzy Batycki and promoter Mirosław Szklarski, and later School Deputy Director Barbara Cybulska-Konsek, everything was put in place.

While in southern Poland, there was one more important stop to make at Studio Filmów Rysunkowych (SFR), but not before meeting up with our

colleague, Dr. Nick Hersh! Dr. Hersh is a well-known philanthropist, and sits on the West Bloomfield School board. He linked up with the Polish Mission team months before to arrange his trip to Poland to teach English at schools there. Turn to page 42 to learn more about his experience with our team! SFR is the most well-known children's film studio in Poland, and it's where Dr. Hersh and Marcin met Andrzej Orzechowski. Fun times ensued, and plans were put in the works to create a new exhibition about the famous cartoon *Bolek i Lolek* in the United States. It's a deeply sentimental project, especially for those who grew up in Poland! Watch for more news on this nostalgic project!

Following that, Marcin was on the road to Warsaw to meet with Msgr. Tom, but not before a stop in Grębocin at the Museum of Printing and Literature. There, Marcin met with our close colleague Professor Dariusz Subocz, the only private owner of a church in all of Poland. The building and grounds date back to the 13th century. He bought it, restored it and the surrounding grounds, and restructured the interior to create the *Muzeum Piśmiennictwa i Drukarstwa* (Museum of Literature and Printing). Professor Subocz' vision



and passion have allowed him to become leader of one of the most dynamic museum learning institutions in all of Poland, so we were especially excited to visit him following his visit to us earlier in the summer. In addition to his work at the museum, Professor Subocz is a renowned conservation professor at the University of Toruń, and based on a few meetings with him and his team of conservators, we strategized the possibility of creating a conservation lab here in Orchard Lake, which would allow us to offer the best possible care for our collections! It's very exciting!

Shortly thereafter, Msgr. Tom and Marcin joined forces in Warsaw and it was off to several important meetings with our colleagues there. Among the most critical was the one with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Undersecretary of State Leszek Soczewica, Director of the Department of the Americas Grzegorz Kozłowski, and Specialist Justyna Frelak. This meeting, and another with Ministry of Culture Senior Advisor Jacek Miler, gave Marcin and Msgr. Tom the opportunity to discuss long-term

strategy of our operations and plan out a series of programming and continued support for the next few years. The central topic of our discussion was to follow-up on our discussions of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and our coming program at the UN. It was especially fortunate that Msgr. Tom could be with Marcin during these meetings to strongly represent the OLS and be involved directly in our future plans.

In the final days of the trip, it was

off to the National Poster Museum of Wilanów to meet with another colleague and good friend, Museum Director and Curator Mariusz Knorowski. Watch for news on a very cool poster artwork exchange project in the coming months! The final meeting was the anticipated one with Professor Dariusz Stola, director of the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Professor Stola runs one of the largest Jewish history museums in the world, and following a tour, he and Marcin finalized plans for an exclusive partnership for 2015 involving the new exhibition, *They Risked Their Lives – Poles who saved Jews During the Holocaust*. Check page 40 for a special greeting from Professor Stola!

Poland is a welcoming place, filled with opportunities and exciting business. Many thanks to all who were kind enough to meet with our Polish Mission delegation along the way, and thanks to Msgr. Tom for supporting us as we plan our important future.

Facing page, Top: Mariusz Knorowski and Marcin at the National Poster Museum in Warsaw (Wilanów); Middle: Dr. Dariusz Subocz and Marcin at the Museum of Printing and Literature in Grębocin;



Bottom: CNN's Wolf Blitzer views the Yad Vashem exhibition at Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum; This page, Top: Wolf Blitzer and Marcin after a long day of filming in Oświęcim; Above: (from left) Grzegorz Kozłowski, Msgr. Tom, Marcin and Undersecretary of State Leszek Soczewica in Warsaw.





# A World to Discover in Greboćin



Spotlight on our new partners at the Museum of Printing and Literature

Our network of friends and colleagues was expanded when Dr. Subocz met with the Polish Mission team in the summer. We're proud to introduce his innovative and amazing institution with our readers now.



Following our spontaneous meeting with Dr. Dariusz Subocz in Orchard Lake, we at The Polish Mission had an opportunity to discover a new museum located in Grębocin, Poland. In short, we were blown away by the passion and professionalism we discovered at the Museum of Printing and Literature, and we're looking forward to a future of cooperation and exchanges.

The Museum of Literature and Printing (Muzeum Piśmiennictwa i Drukarnictwa) was founded in 2004 in the small village of Grębocin, about 8 km from Toruń. There, guests can see an extraordinary private collection related to historic papermaking and printing. The Museum presents a unique approach to education through interactive educational workshops and innovative hands-on learning techniques.

The region's rich history draws attention in particular to the location of the museum, formerly the Prussian Meadow paper mill in Lubicz. Visitors are invited to experience to 440-year history of Toruń through exploring key figures in regional history, like Siegfried Gardzielewski, and Joachim Lelewel.

The picturesque museum is a unique attraction for travelers, and its beautiful setting competes with similar museums in the country, and around the world.

What makes the museum particularly unique is its location. It's housed in the thirteenth century church of St. Barbara, originally built by the Teutonic Knights in the days of their reign in Pomerania and Kujawy. Over the course of several years, under the supervision of museum Director Dr. Dariusz Subocz, the Gothic church was completely restored and converted into an intriguing museum.

The museum, which is open to visitors all year round, invites guests to a "workshop" museum of history, literature, printing, and papermaking. Those interested in the history of paper and parchment, medieval manuscripts, and printing techniques from around the world, will come out of the museum satisfied and enlightened.

Among the temporary and permanent exhibits, guests can find the original printing presses, historic writing implements, and even original historic Chinese stencils. The stately medieval walls conceal very rare bookbinding equipment. For those who want create paper for themselves, or try writing with a quill pen, the museum hosts a series of practical workshops, where guests can receive expert guidance from

instructors, which today constitute the essence of modern and friendly museum. If European travels take you to Poland anytime in the future, make sure to make a stop in Grębocin, where this humble treasure puts a glow on the entire region.

Dr. Subocz is a renowned conservation professor whose reputation as a dedicated innovator has made him recognizable among elite circles of Polish museums.

In addition to his passion for unique programming for guests, the Museum of Printing and Literature houses premier conservation facilities dedicated to offering the best care possible to relics of the past. In the last few months, Dr. Subocz has personally overseen the construction of a separate conservation laboratory apart from the main museum

building, which will broaden the museum's abilities to conserve all types and sizes of fine art. In addition to all his talents and skills, Dr. Subocz is known as an expert copier of historic documents, allowing clients to safely keep precious antique documents safely in storage, while meticulously reproduced facsimiles can be showcased in places where original documents wouldn't fare well. Several copies of our founding documents have been reproduced in this fashion already.

Please visit the museum's website at <http://www.muzeum.grebocin.pl/>, and stay tuned to our website for more information on our work together with the museum in Grębocin, including a conservation program and an educational project on Medieval Poland!





# “OK, We’ll Go!”

Just what did Ike say when he launched the D-Day Invasion 70 years ago?

By Tim Rives

An elusive D-day mystery persists despite the millions of words written about the allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944: What did Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower say when he gave the final order to launch the attack?

It is puzzling that one of the most important decisions of the 20th century did not bequeath to posterity a memorable quote to mark the occasion, something to live up to the magnitude of the decision. Something iconic like Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s vow to the people of the Philippines, “I shall return.”

The stakes of the invasion merited verbal splendor if not grandiloquence.

If Operation Overlord failed, the Allies might never have won the war. Yet eyewitnesses to Eisenhower’s great moment of decision could not agree on what he said.

As for Eisenhower, he could not even agree with himself: he related five versions of his fateful words to journalists and biographers over the years. Even more mysteriously, he wrote five different versions of the statement in a 1964 article commemorating the 20th anniversary of D-day.

To put his words—whatever they may have been—into context, the high drama of the meetings leading up to the invasion decision 70 years ago bears repeating.

## Eisenhower Relies on His Weatherman

All the elements for the D-day attack were in place by the spring of 1944: more than 150,000 men, nearly 12,000 aircraft, almost 7,000 sea vessels. It was arguably the largest amphibious invasion force in history. Every possible contingency had been planned for. Every piece of equipment issued. Every bit of terrain studied. The invasion force was like a coiled spring, Ike said, ready to strike Hitler's European fortress.

All it waited for was his command, as Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, to go.

But for all the preparation, there were critical elements Eisenhower could not control—the tides, the moon, and the weather. The ideal low tidal and bright lunar conditions required for the invasion prevailed only a few days each month. The dates for June 1944 were the fifth, the sixth, and the seventh. If the attack was not launched on one of those dates, Ike would be forced to wait until June 19 to try again. Any wait risked secrecy. Delay would also cut into the time the Allies had to campaign during the good summertime weather.

“The inescapable consequences of postponement,” Ike wrote in his 1948 memoir *Crusade in Europe*, “were almost too bitter to contemplate.”

Ike and his staff began meeting in early June to choose the final invasion date, a day now contingent on the best weather forecast. The setting was Southwick House, near Portsmouth, in southern England. The conference room where they met was large, a 25-by-50-foot former library with floor-to-ceiling French doors, dark oak paneling, and a blue rug on which Ike would pace anxiously in the days leading up to the invasion. Empty bookshelves lined the room, a forlorn reminder of its now decidedly unliturgical purpose.

Ike, his commanders, and his weather team, led by group captain J. M. Stagg, met in the library twice a day, at 4 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. On the evening of Saturday, June 3, Stagg reported that the good weather England experienced in May had moved out. A low was coming in. He predicted June 5 would be cloudy, stormy, windy, and with a cloud base of zero to 500 feet. That is, it would be too windy to disembark troops in landing craft and too cloudy for the all-important preparatory bombardment of the German coastal defenses. The group reconvened early the next morning to give the weather a second look. The forecast was no better, and Eisenhower reluctantly postponed the invasion.

“How long can you...let it hang there.”

The group gathered again at 9:30 the evening of Sunday, June 4. Ike opened the meeting and signaled for Stagg to begin. Stagg stood and reported a coming break in the weather, predicting that after a few more hours of rain would come 36 hours of clearer skies and lighter winds to make a June 6 invasion possible. But he made no guarantees.

The commanders debated the implications of the forecast. They were still struggling toward consensus when Eisenhower spoke. “The question,” he said, “is just how long can you keep this operation on the end of a limb and let it hang there.”

The order, he said, must be given. Slower ships received provisional orders to sail. But Ike would wait until the next morning to make the decision final. He ordered the men to return again in the early hours of

June 5.

Ike rose at 3:30 and traveled the muddy mile from his camp to Southwick house through withering rain and wind. Stagg had been right. If the invasion had started that morning, it would have failed.

Ike started the meeting. Stagg repeated his forecast: the break in the weather should hold. His brow as furrowed as a Kansas cornfield, Eisenhower turned to each of his principal subordinates for their final say on launching the invasion the next day, Tuesday, June 6, 1944. Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery, who would lead the assault forces, said go. Adm. Sir Bertram Ramsay, the Naval Commander in Chief, said go. Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, the air commander in chief, said go.

Eisenhower stood up and began walking back and forth on the war room's blue rug, pondering the most important decision of his life and the fate of millions. It was now up to him. Only he could make the decision. He kept pacing, hands clasped behind his back, chin on his chest. And then he stopped. The tension left his face. He looked up at his commanders and said . . . what?

This is where history draws a blank. What did Ike say when he launched the D-day invasion? Why is there no single, memorable quote?

## Ike Gave the Order, But What Did He Say?

The eyewitnesses offer answers but little help. Of the 11 to 14 men who attended the final decision meeting—the number is also in dispute—only four men besides Eisenhower reported what they believed were the Supreme Commander's historic words. The accounts of three witnesses appeared in memoirs published between 1947 and 1969. Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who as Ike's chief of staff probably spent more time with him than anyone else during the war, reported, “Well, we'll go!” in his memoir, *Eisenhower's Six Great Decisions* (1956). Maj. Gen. Francis De Guingand, Field Marshal Montgomery's chief of staff, noted, “We will sail tomorrow” in *Operation Victory* (1947). In *Intelligence at the Top* (1969), Maj. Gen. Kenneth Strong, whom Ike described as the best intelligence officer he had ever known, said, “OK, boys. We will go.”

Admiral Ramsay died in an airplane crash during the war and left no memoir. His version survives through the reporting of Allan Michie of *Reader's Digest*. Michie published the story behind the Ramsay quote in his 1964 book, *The Invasion of Europe*. It is the best account available to historians of a contemporary journalist attempting to verify Ike's words.

Michie writes how he began his quest for the elusive phrase on June 5, pressing Ramsay for the moment-by-moment details of the final meeting at Southwick House. Ramsay was fluently unrolling his story until he reached the moment of Ike's decision. There he stalled. “What did Eisenhower say? What words did he actually use?” Michie asked. “I can't quite remember,” Ramsay said, but it was “a short phrase, something typically American.” Michie peppered Ramsay with possibilities, all of which the admiral dismissed until the correspondent hit upon “ok, let 'er rip.” Ramsay tentatively confirmed it, but warned Michie that he would need Eisenhower's agreement.

Michie hurried to Ike's command trailer and asked an aide for Eisenhower's imprimatur. The aide returned a few minutes later and told Michie that if he and Ramsay agreed on the phrase, it was good enough

for Ike. A military censor forced Michie to get the quote reconfirmed a few days later when he attempted to cable his article to *Reader's Digest*. Eisenhower obliged, and “Ok, let 'er rip” appeared in the magazine's August 1944 issue.

### A Much-Used “OK, We'll Go” Picked Up by Some Historians

Michie's story impressed Eisenhower's British military assistant, Col. James Gault, who noted the article in his diary. Gault lent his diary to Kenneth S. Davis, an early Eisenhower biographer, who arrived at Ike's headquarters in August 1944.

Notes from the diary found in Davis's personal papers confirm that he was aware of Michie's version, but he published his own D-day quote in his 1945 book, *Soldier of Democracy*. “All right,” Davis writes, “We move.” Davis presumably got this from Eisenhower in one of his three interviews with the general that August, but his papers do not contain verbatim notes.

The Davis book was backed by Milton Eisenhower, Ike's youngest brother. The president of Kansas State College (now Kansas State University), Milton recruited Davis to write the biography “so that at least one good one is produced.” The book, Milton assured Ike, “promises to be one of real value in the war effort on the home front and to have real historical information.”

Although Ike would have qualms with Davis's book—he thought the author overemphasized class conflict in his Abilene, Kansas, hometown—he had no hesitation later in recommending it to a man who “wanted to know what your thoughts were at 4 a.m. on that day when you had to make the great decision.” Additionally, while Eisenhower made 250 annotations in his copy of the book, he did not comment on Davis's version of the quote.

Another wartime writer, Chester Wilmot of the BBC, reports “Ok, we'll go” in *The Struggle for Europe* (1952). Wilmot interviewed Eisenhower twice—on August 11, 1944, and again on October 16, 1945. He submitted his questions to the general before the 1945 interview. Question three asked specifically for the details of the June 5 meeting. Perhaps he got them, but like Davis, Wilmot's interview notes contain no direct evidence of his quote.

Nevertheless, Wilmot's version is confirmed by Eisenhower in the CBS documentary “D-Day Plus 20 Years,” an anniversary special filmed on location in England and France in 1963. It aired on June 6, 1964. Walter Cronkite interviewed Ike in the Southwick House war room where he made the decision. In this interview, Ike said, “I thought it [the likely weather] was just the best of a bad bargain, so I said, ‘Ok, we'll go.’”

### Eisenhower Never Challenges Different Versions of Quote

Eisenhower had the chance to amend his words when he reviewed galley proofs of the interview transcripts prepared for publication in the New York Herald Tribune by historian Martin Blumenson. Ike made almost 80 revisions to the text but did not touch the D-day quote.

A similar version of the Wilmot/Cronkite quote is Stephen Ambrose's “Ok, let's go,” which appears in his many World War II books. In *The Supreme Commander* (1970), Ambrose claimed he garnered it from Eisenhower during an October 27, 1967, interview. “He was sure that was what he said.” But Ike's post-presidential records disprove his claim. He didn't see Ambrose that day. He was playing golf in Augusta, Georgia, not revisiting the past. Furthermore, in Ambrose's book, *D Day: June 6, 1944, The Climatic Battle of World War II* (1994), he mistakenly attributes the quote to the 1963 Cronkite interview.



The confusion over Ike's D-day words would spread beyond the English-speaking world. Claus Jacobi of the German magazine *Der Spiegel* interviewed Eisenhower at his Palm Desert, California, vacation home on May 6, 1964. His version approximates the Wilmot/Cronkite quote, adding one word: "Ok, we'll go ahead." Eisenhower reviewed Jacobi's article before publication, but as usual did not comment on the quote, although he did strike out the statement that the Allies would have dropped atomic weapons on Germany had the invasion failed.

### Even Eisenhower Himself Couldn't Decide on Wording

Eisenhower never once commented on or corrected the different quotes he found in the work of journalists, biographers, or former comrades. But neither did he use them in his most detailed account of the June 5 meeting. Nor for that matter did he use his own most recent statement. Instead, Eisenhower wrote five different versions of the quote in drafts of a 1964 article for the *Paris Match*.

The *Paris Match* article was about D-day, but it had a contemporary strategic purpose as well. France was becoming more and more independent of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the time. Reminding the French of their shared sacrifice during the second World War might strengthen their bond with the Allies. As Jean Monnet, a leading advocate for European unity, said to Ike in a telegram: "I feel sure that an article by you at this moment on the landing would be politically most important."

Given this importance, Ike presumably put a lot of thought into the story, which either makes the various versions it contains more perplexing, or it explains them. Eisenhower may have been searching for just the right words to inspire French readers.

In his notes for the article, Ike wrote, "Yes, we will attack on the 6th." In the first full draft of the story, he said, "Yes, gentlemen, we will attack on the 6th."

In the penultimate draft, Ike scratched this out and wrote, "Gentlemen, we will attack tomorrow."

Elsewhere in the draft, referring back to his decision, he said, "We will make the attack on June 6," which he then marked out and wrote, "We will attack tomorrow."

In the final draft he makes two references to the decision: "We will attack tomorrow" and "Gentlemen, we will attack tomorrow," thereby demonstrating once again his apparent lack of concern with exactly what he said in the early morning hours of June 5, 1944. The *Paris Match* article appeared within days of the *New York Herald Tribune* series, the CBS airing of "D-Day Plus 20 Years," and the *Der Spiegel* article. Three different Eisenhower quotes in three languages were put before the international public at the same time. The quote was lost before there was even a chance for it to be lost in translation.

What accounts for all these versions of Ike's D-day words? The historian David Howarth perhaps captured it best in his description of the June 5 meeting:

Nobody was there as an observer. However high a rank a man achieves, his capacity for thought and feeling is only human, and one may imagine that the capacity of each of these men was taxed to the limit by the

decision they had to make so that none of them had the leisure or inclination to detach his mind from the problem and observe exactly what happened and remember it for the sake of historians.

### Confusion Also Reigns Over Time of decision

The stress confounding the commanders obscured other key details of the meeting: What time did they meet? Who was there? Was Ike sitting or pacing when he made the decision? How long did it take him to make up his mind?

Various eyewitnesses place the June 5 meeting at 4:00, 4:15, and 4:30 a.m. Eisenhower was nearly as inconsistent with the time as he was with his words. In the early *Paris Match* drafts, he states he made the final decision at 4:00, but in the last draft he says the meeting started at 4:15. His 1948 war memoir records that he made the decision at 4:15. Field Marshal Montgomery puts the decision at 4:00 in his 1946 account of the meeting, but at 4:15 in his memoir 12 years later. Another six eyewitnesses who noted the time of the meeting cast one vote for 4:00, four for 4:15, and one for 4:30. Francis De Guingand omits the June 5 date altogether and places the final decision on the night of June 4.

The identity of the eyewitnesses is questioned by . . . the eyewitnesses.

A June 5, 1944, memorandum by operations planner Maj. Gen. Harold Bull names Eisenhower, Montgomery, Ramsay, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Leigh-Mallory, Air Vice Marshal James Robb, Rear Admiral George Creasy, Smith, Strong, and De Guingand as present. In some accounts Stagg attended the meeting but left before the decision was made. Air Vice Marshal Robb had his own list, which adds Gen. Sir Humfrey Hale, Ike's chief administrative officer, and Air Vice Marshal H.E.P. Wigglesworth. Eisenhower is alone in including Gen. Omar Bradley in his account of the final meeting, but Bradley wrote in his 1951 war memoir that he was aboard the USS *Augusta* at the time of Ike's decision.

The eyewitnesses—a designation rapidly losing its force—further disagree on Ike's movements during the final decision meeting. Eisenhower paced the room in the account shared above, which came from General Strong. But General Smith asserts that Ike sat. But was it on a sofa, as Smith writes? Or at a conference table, as General De Guingand says? Or in an



easy chair, as the weatherman Stagg remembers?

And how long did it take Eisenhower to make up his mind once his commanders had given their opinions? Was it the 30 to 45 seconds he recalled in 1963? Or “a full five minutes” as Smith recorded in his 1956 memoir? Eisenhower pondered these discrepancies in later years. While he did not directly invoke David Howarth’s “fog of war” explanation in his unpublished 1967 essay, “Writing a memoir,” he agreed with its implications. He wrote:

When accuracy is all important, memory is an untrustworthy crutch on which to lean. Witnesses of an accident often give, under oath, contradictory testimony concerning its details only hours later. How, then, can we expect two or more individuals, participants in the same dramatic occurrence of years past, to give identical accounts of the event?

### With Eisenhower, There Were No Theatrics, Just Modesty

But there is more to the mystery of Ike’s D-day words than the inability of memory to preserve the past. Eisenhower’s humble character contributes to the riddle. And while his character alone cannot solve the mystery, it may explain why there is no single, memorable quote. Ike disdained pomposity in word and manner. He disliked the “slick talker” and the “desk pounder.” The histrionic gesture or declamation just wasn’t in him.

As his biographer Kenneth S. Davis writes, “There was nothing dramatic in the way he made [the decision]. He didn’t think in terms of ‘history’ or ‘destiny,’ nor did there arise in him any of that grandiose self-consciousness which characterizes the decisive moments of a Napoleon or Hitler.”

Everything about Eisenhower was restrained, D-day historian Cornelius Ryan adds. “Apart from the four stars of his rank, a single ribbon of decorations above his breast pocket and the flaming shoulder patch of SHAEF, Eisenhower shunned all distinguishing marks. Even in the [command] trailer there was little evidence of his authority: no flags, maps, framed directives, or signed photographs of the great or near-greats who visited him.”

There is no memorable quote, in other words, because of Eisenhower’s good old-fashioned Kansas modesty. He did not have the kind of ego that spawns lofty sentiments for the press or posterity. Ike was a plain speaker from the plains of America’s heartland. Contrast this with Douglas MacArthur, whose “I shall return” was carefully composed for press and posterity. (The U.S. Office of War Information preferred, “We shall return” but lost the fight to the lofty MacArthur.)

Eisenhower’s self-effacing character is also revealed in his other D-day words, words he never intended anyone to hear. The words show he was far more concerned with taking responsibility for failure than with glorying in whatever success crowned D-day. During the somber lull between the decision and the invasion, Ike scribbled a quick note and stuffed it in his wallet, as was his custom before every major operation. He misdated it “July 5,” providing more evidence of the stress vexing him and his subordinates. He found the note a month later and showed it to an aide, who convinced him to save it.

The note said simply:

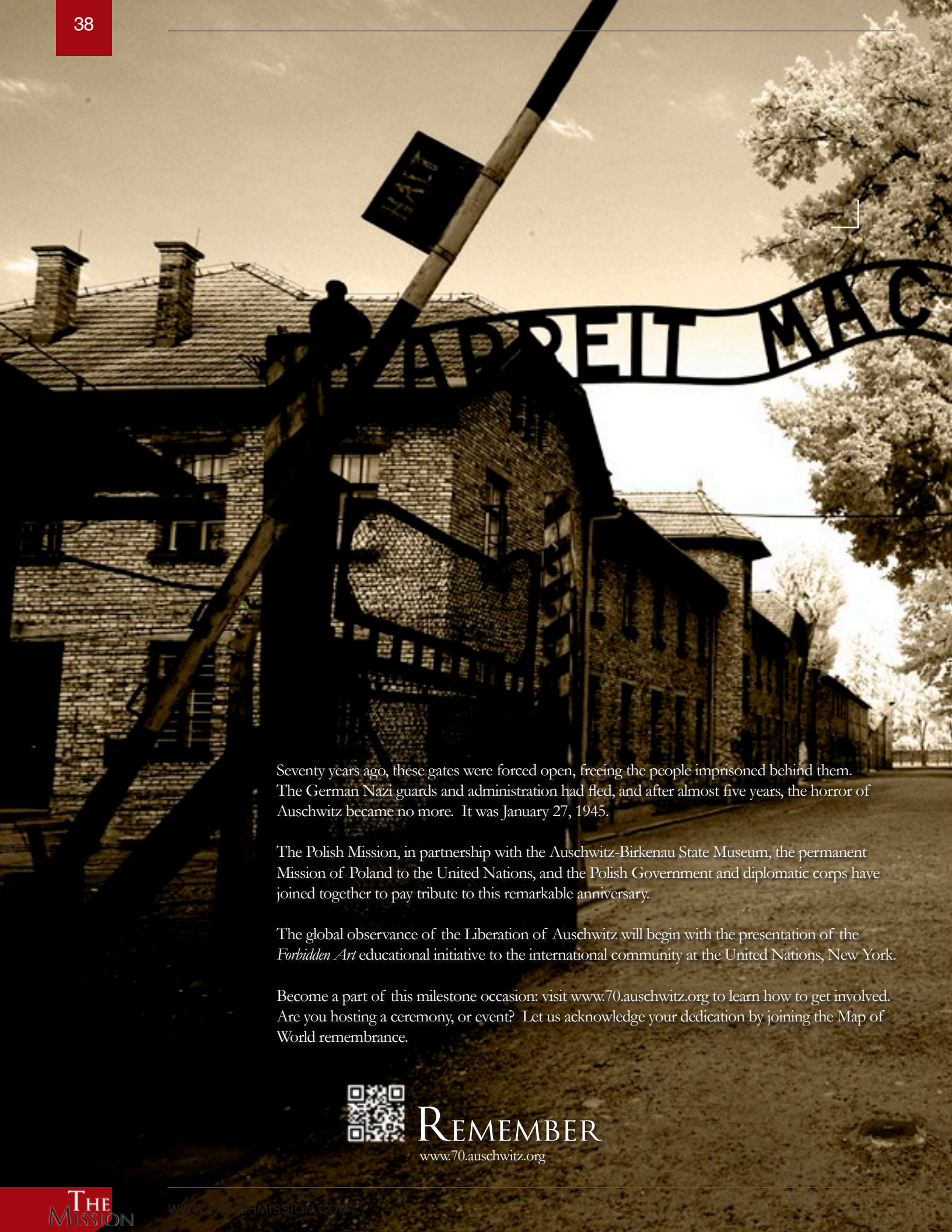
“Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a

satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.”

Eisenhower’s D-Day worries lay with the consequences of his decision, not the style in which it was uttered. and while the result of his D-day decision is well known, his words unleashing the mighty Allied assault on Normandy will remain a mystery, just the way he would have wanted it.

Originally published in *Prologue*, the official publication of the National Archives and Records Administration. Visit <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/> for more information.

Pg. 29: General Eisenhower talks with paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division on June 5th, 1944; Pg. 31: Aerial view of Operation Overlord, the largest amphibious force in history, in Normandy, France; Pg. 32: Operation Overlord commanders meet in London, January 1944; Above: Eisenhower’s note explaining his decision in case the D-Day landing failed (writing July instead on June in his haste).



Seventy years ago, these gates were forced open, freeing the people imprisoned behind them. The German Nazi guards and administration had fled, and after almost five years, the horror of Auschwitz became no more. It was January 27, 1945.

The Polish Mission, in partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations, and the Polish Government and diplomatic corps have joined together to pay tribute to this remarkable anniversary.

The global observance of the Liberation of Auschwitz will begin with the presentation of the *Forbidden Art* educational initiative to the international community at the United Nations, New York.

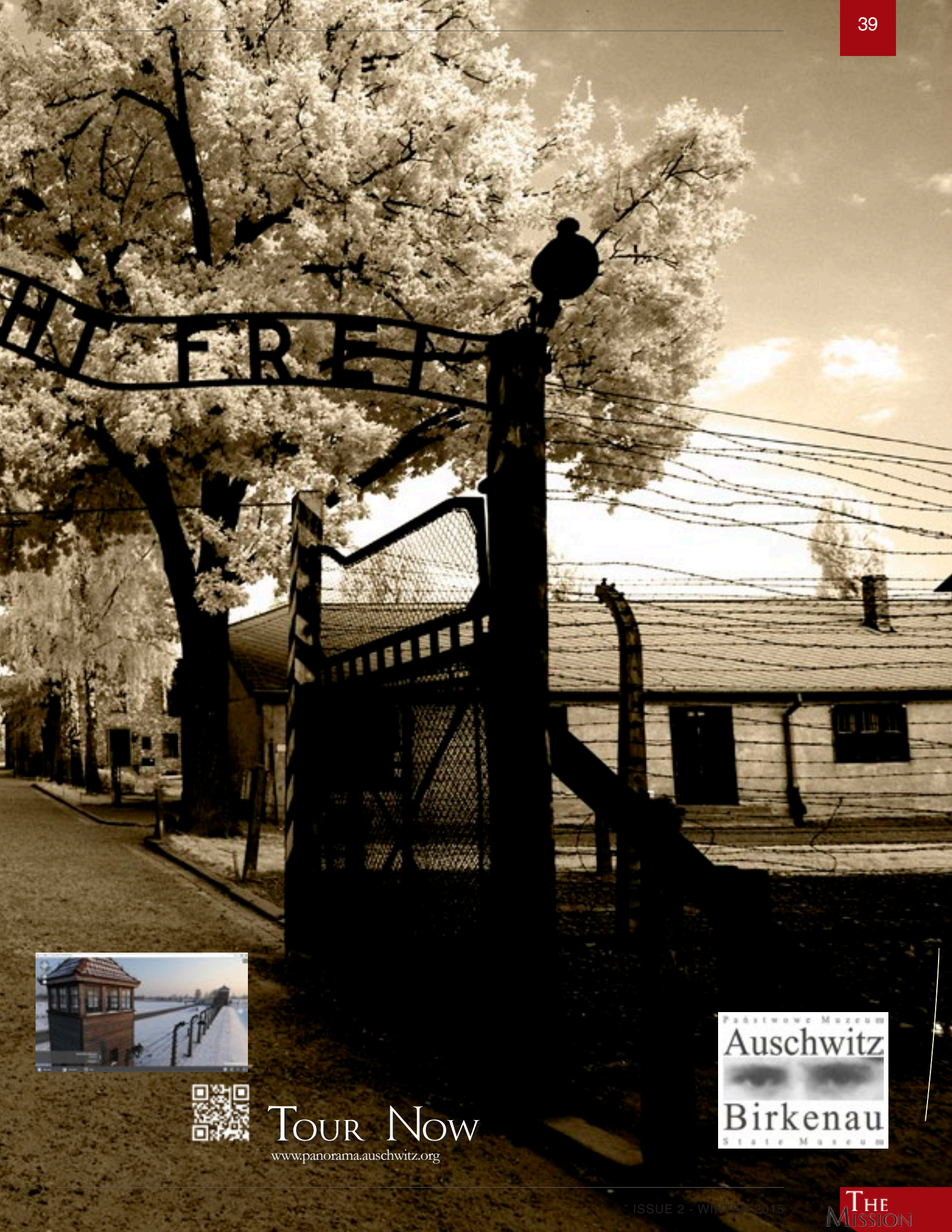
Become a part of this milestone occasion: visit [www.70.auschwitz.org](http://www.70.auschwitz.org) to learn how to get involved. Are you hosting a ceremony, or event? Let us acknowledge your dedication by joining the Map of World remembrance.



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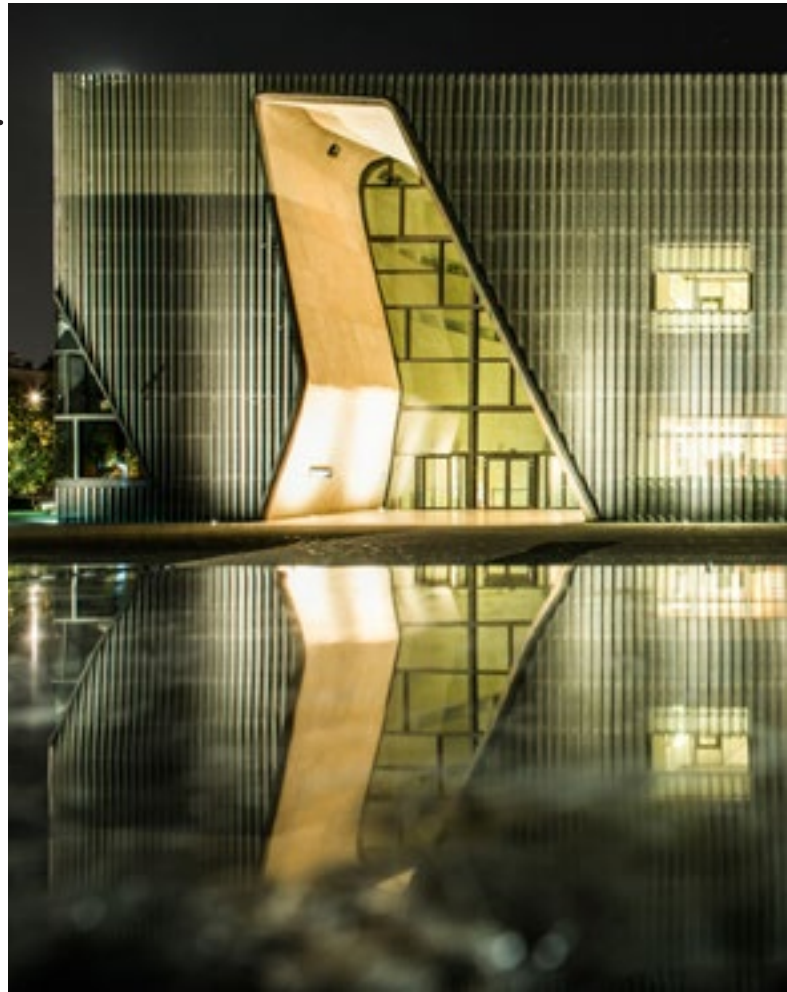
Dr. Dariusz Stola

# Journey of a Thousand Years

On October 28 the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw celebrated its grand opening. The POLIN Museum is the first and only museum dedicated to restoring the memory of the civilization created by Polish Jews in the course of a millennium. As a museum of life, it engages with the present and opens out to the future. As an educational and cultural institution, the museum is dedicated to stimulating dialogue in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



The POLIN Museum faces the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in Muranów, Warsaw's prewar Jewish neighborhood and, during the Holocaust, the site of the Warsaw ghetto. The museum completes the memorial complex. At the monument, we honor those who perished by remembering how they died. At the museum, we honor them, and those who came before and after, by remembering how they lived. The heart of the POLIN Museum is the interactive core exhibition, opened on October 28, 2014. Developed by an international team of historians and museum experts, it presents the history of a thousand years



of Polish Jews from the Middle Ages up to the present. The exhibition is narrative: visitors are immersed in the story told by interactive installations, paintings, original objects, reconstructions and models, video projections, sounds and texts.

The exhibition is spread across an area of over 4000 square meters and consists of eight galleries: Forest (a legend about the origins of the Jewish presence in Poland), First Encounters (960–1500), Paradisus Iudaeorum (1569–1648), The Jewish Town (1648–1772), Encounters with Modernity (1772–1914), On the Jewish Street (1918–1939), Holocaust (1939–1945) and Postwar Years (1944 to the present). The exhibition discusses cooperation, competition and conflict, autonomy, integration and assimilation.

If you visit our website, [www.polin.pl](http://www.polin.pl), you will see a rich cultural and educational program full program of temporary and traveling exhibitions, music, theater, and film programs, lectures and panel discussions, and workshops and special activities for visitors of all ages. The museum is also running websites dedicated to local Jewish history (Virtual Shtetl: [www.sztetl.org.pl](http://www.sztetl.org.pl)), monuments and archival materials on Polish Jews ([www.judaica.jewishmuseum.org.pl](http://www.judaica.jewishmuseum.org.pl)), and the Polish Righteous Among the Nations ([www.sprawiedliwi.org.pl](http://www.sprawiedliwi.org.pl)).

The latter plays an important role in POLIN Museum's research and cultural program. One of its recent events dedicated to the Righteous is the temporary exhibition *They Risked Their Lives – Poles who saved Jews during the Holocaust*. This exhibition is based on a unique collection



of the Righteous Among the Nations and Holocaust survivor testimonies compiled as part the POLIN Museum "Polish Righteous - Recalling Forgotten History" project. It has been organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

The exhibition presents stories of Poles who risked their own lives and the lives of their families to help persecuted Jews. In Nazi-occupied Poland, unlike in the countries of Western Europe, there was a death penalty for aiding Jews. After the war, the State of Israel honored some of those who had rescued Jews with the Righteous Among the Nations title.

The exhibition depicts life stories of both the rescued and their helpers against the background of Nazi-occupied Poland. It offers an insight into historical circumstances, the scale of help provided and the personal motivations which drove the members of the Righteous.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews is the first public-private partnership institution of its kind in Poland created by the Ministry of Culture, the City of Warsaw, and the Association of the Jewish Historical institute of Poland. Under the Founding Act, the public party provided \$60 million for the construction of the Museum building and also covers the major part of the Museum's annual budget. The Association initiated the Museum project and was responsible for the development and production of the core exhibition. Thanks to the support of donors from all over the world, the Association raised \$48 million for this purpose.



THE POLIN MUSEUM



## Into the Future With PM



Left: Marcin Chumiecki with Museum Director Stola in August, 2014;  
Bottom: in front of the core exhibition with Klara Jackl, Exhibitions specialist, *The Polish Righteous -- Recalling Forgotten History*



The POLIN Museum's signature innovation and comprehensive message make them a world leader in presenting the togetherness of Polish and Jewish history. We congratulate their efforts and look forward to a future of cooperation. In the summer of 2015, in exclusive partnership with POLIN, The Polish

Mission will present the moving and unique exhibition *They risked their lives – Poles who saved Jews during the Holocaust*.

For information on the exhibition, or to become a host venue, please contact Curator of Collections JJ Przewozniak at [jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com)



# MISSION to Dobczyce

by Dr. Nick Hersh

This summer I had the opportunity to spend almost a month in a small town in lesser Poland. My goal was to teach English in a rural community and to “make a difference.” As the date approached, I became anxious as I was not Polish, understood no Polish, and was an American Jewish orthodox dentist. The town in which I was to reside was Dobczyce, which was less than an hour from Oświęcim, where the Nazis built the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. I stayed with a family that welcomed me into their home and lives.

Upon reflection, I realize that although my purpose was to make a “difference and positively impact some lives, the real difference was within myself. The people of Poland are warm, helpful, and appreciative. Although people in the US had told me I should be careful, I at no time felt uncomfortable or unsafe. I have learned that Polish people should be proud of their heritage. I found the culture



and land to be a diamond in the rough. I was even asked why did I not choose Paris or Rome! In hindsight I know I made all the right choices.

Marcin Chumiecki, who is the director of the Polish Mission, enthusiastically greeted me there. He served as my beginning guide, as he is extremely well connected and knowledgeable. He introduced me to prominent citizens of Poland and even had me stay one night in his mother’s home at Bielsko-Biala! Wherever he went, people knew and liked him—I was with a celebrity who knew prominent businessmen, politicians, representatives of the Red Cross, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State museum, film studios, jazz festivals, museums, and even our own American CNN crew! The list goes on! He represented St. Mary’s proudly and I am sure that Orchard Lake Schools is fortunate to have him as director of The Polish Mission. I am honored to say he has developed into my friend.

Upon his return to Poland I began my three weeks of teaching at Jana

Pawla II Gimnazjum in Dobczyce. In attendance are approximately 600 students age 13-16. The students were like sponges soaking up



all I had to say and teach. It was a pleasure and I looked forward to each day of teaching. I was greeted every day with respect: a smile and “dzień dobry.” I also had the opportunity to teach adult education, and even held class with some young kids at a primary school. I received proclamations from the ministry of education and awards from the headmaster with an invitation to return. I look forward to my next return visit, as these kids will forever be a part of me. I learned so much from these children that will benefit my soul, and also the West Bloomfield School District, where I have served on the school board for over a decade.

There is so much to relate to others about my trip and experience with Marcin, that this small article can only scratch the surface. I look forward to enlightening others about the numerous positive attributes of Polish society. Stories are always popping into my head, and they always make me smile.



# Documents, Photos, and Maps, Oh My!

National Archives Agent Tomasz Szpil Breathes New Life Into The Archives



From July until early December, if you had been near the Ark building, you may have noticed our special guest, Mr. Tomasz Szpil. Tomek is an archivist who works for the State Archives at Lodz, and he's here for a special purpose.

Szpil's presence in the U.S. (for the second time) was sanctioned by the Polish government as part of a program of assisting The Polish Mission to organize their archives and become more accessible to researchers and the general public. For The Polish Mission, Tomek's work is part of a lengthy close association with the State Archives, established years ago to preserve and present the largely untold story of Poles and Polish-Americans of the United States. According to Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki, "Our thanks to the National Archives of Poland is boundless, since our archival collections have been such a centerpiece of the Polish story in America."

At the state archives, Szpil's main job is to organize the archives and work to digitize the contents, describing them so researchers can determine if the documents they seek are available before even visiting the site. "My experience with digitizing documents for the archives is part of the reason my work at The Polish Mission is so important," Szpil said.

"There is so much rich history available on this campus, and not much of it is accessible."

Szpil uncovered letters from the 18th-20th centuries, some World War II artifacts, and other treasures that can be utilized as resources for future educational projects by The Polish Mission.

The organizational processes that Szpil is implementing mark the start of the next three-year phase of partnership between The Polish Mission and the State Archives in Poland. "The plan is to make the information in these archives easy to access and utilize," said Tomek. "My main task for 2014 is to write down the soldier's association records and evaluate specifically the other WWII aspects of the collections here at The Polish Mission."

Even though Szpil's five-month visit keeps him away from his wife and four-year-old son, he said he's excited to experience some of the attractions Michigan has to offer.

"I am especially excited to spend some time in Detroit visiting the DIA and The Henry Ford," said Szpil. "Also, in September, I will visit the upper part of Michigan in Mackinac City. In Łódź, we are not near the water, so in Michigan, I feel that there's water all over! I am so honored to be assisting at the Orchard Lake campus for the next few months," Szpil continued. "I know my skills will be well used by The Polish Mission team while I am here."



## *This is Your Life - Polish Style*

**Is 2015 the year you document your family history?  
The Polish Mission offers genealogy services!  
Call now to make YOUR appointment, and to order your  
copies of *Sto Lat* and *The History of The Polish Panorama*  
while they last!**

**(248) 683-0323 or email:  
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# A PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME



**T**

The Polish Mission team was as proud as ever to take part in the D-Day+70 commemoration at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas. Our delegation included Polish Mission Chairman Dr. Stan Majewski, Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Konrad Zieliński, Teresa Wontor-Cichy from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland, and St. Mary's Prep Headmaster Cormac Lynn. Together, our delegation was beyond proud to represent both the Polish military effort in World War Two, the Republic of Poland today, and the tragic memory of KL Auschwitz. What follows here is a brief recap of a superb weekend at one of our great nation's most prestigious institutions.

On Friday, June 6, we arrived to the Eisenhower campus early in the morning,

in preparation for the formal wreath laying ceremony at the feet of the larger-than-life sculpture of General Eisenhower at the very center of the grounds. The Eisenhower Library and Museum welcomed dignitaries that represented the allied war effort, including Commanding General of Ft. Riley, Kansas Major General Paul E. Funk II, Commanding General of Ft. Hood, Texas Lieutenant General Mark Milley, Deputy Commanding General of Ft. Riley Brigadier Christopher Ghika from the United Kingdom, and Lieutenant Colonel JC Reiffenstein of the Canadian Army, from the US Army Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Along with Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Konrad Zieliński, these officials formed a representative detail of the allied war effort from seventy-plus years ago.

The sun put a bright glow on the presidential seal in front of Ike's statue, just in front of the first row of dignitaries where we were all seated. After the singing of the national anthem and other patriotic songs, Consul Zieliński joined the military officers and presented a wreath at Ike's feet. As the sharp cracks of the twenty-one M4 rifles flew through the air, all were brought to attention in solemn remembrance as the US army bugler sounded taps. Smiles ensued throughout the morning as veterans shared stories, posed with the generals and visiting WWII reenactors, and honored the sacred past. After that, our delegation was treated to tours of the fruits of the museum team's labors: the presidential library and museum is home to an amazing collection of almost 70,000 artifacts, and all the stops were pulled out as premier exhibitions were unveiled to the public for the weekend. The day was filled with lectures from visiting historians, including our own close friend and colleague Dr. Guy Stern. Dr. Stern is a veteran of WWII and an original "Ritchie Boy," who traveled to Kansas with Holocaust Memorial Center Director Steve Goldman, to make a most valuable contribution to the story of the greatest generation. How wonderful to see our hometown friends from Michigan in Abilene!

WITH MANY THANKS...



**W**

e at The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools offer our highest thanks to the following: + Dr. Edward Wikiera; our anonymous friend in California; Polish Mission Chairman Dr. Stanley Z. Majewski; Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago Paulina Kapuścińska; Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Dr. Piotr Cywinski; President of the Eisenhower Foundation Stephen McLean; Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home Karl Weissenbach; Army Spouse of the Year Misti Stevens; Curator of the Eisenhower Presidential Museum William Snyder; Registrar Matthew Thompson; Public Relations Director Samantha Kenner; and most importantly, to the veterans who have fought, and are still fighting for, the freedoms we enjoy to this day.

## HOT TOPIC

# A SPECIAL UNVEILING

PM Team and Auschwitz present stunning addition to Forbidden Art

At 5:30 pm, it was “go time.” Over 300 invited guests, including dignitaries, executives, and members of the Eisenhower Foundation were welcomed to the Presidential Library auditorium for a gala presentation and opening of *Be Ye Men of Valour*, and *Forbidden Art*. The splendor of the room is difficult to put into words—nearly every official who spoke at the Library delivered their address from the very same room, including President Eisenhower himself, President Reagan, President Nixon, President Bush, Sr., and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki was

specially honored on this occasion by Mrs. Misti Stevens, Army Spouse of the Year for 2009. Marcin was selected by her to receive the prestigious Army Engineer’s pin, awarded to an institution or individual constructing partnerships that shape a better future.

Following that, the Orchard Lake Schools was introduced in great form by Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum Karl Weissenbach, and Marcin, Cormac, and JJ presented our cherished Polish institution to a packed room of the most influential people from across Kansas. The final component was a moving presentation by Teresa. Her sixteen years of experience at the Auschwitz-Birkenau



Over 300 active duty soldiers from nearby Ft. Riley, KS and Ft. Hood, TX honored Eisenhower’s memory in Abilene.



State Museum allowed her to deliver a most precise and powerful interpretation of Auschwitz, and specifically the artists featured in *Forbidden Art*, to an attentive crowd. She went on to close her presentation by offering a brief recounting of the notable events at Auschwitz that occurred on June 6th, 1944. She said:

“...for the prisoners, it was a day unlike many others, but one thing was different: even though news had not reached the prisoners, the camp administration knew that a second front had been opened in France, which foretold the coming liberation of Auschwitz.” With the audience in tears, Teresa and Director Weissenbach swept a black velvet cloth from the display case, unveiling the very first glass castings of artwork featured in *Forbidden Art*. The original objects had gone through 3D scanning in Poland, and the castings in glass then on display in Kansas are the most faithful representations of the original objects possible, allowing guests to further appreciate the risk undertaken by the prisoners to create their “forbidden” art.

In short, the weekend was remarkable, and we’re proud to say that our premier association with the most prestigious of the thirteen Presidential Library and Museum institutions in our country, is one worthy of everyone’s attention. Through our cooperation, our delegation has solidified numerous educational opportunities in fulfillment of the vision of our most generous Orchard Lake benefactor Dr. Wikiera, and indeed can claim responsibility for unprecedented recognition of Poland in World War Two to the United States Government.

The title carved into the marble of Ike’s statue reads “Champion of Peace.” Join us in saluting all who strive for this title today.

From Top: Representing the Allied forces, dignitaries move to place a wreath at General Eisenhower’s statue; After the ceremonies, our Polish delegation strikes a powerful pose for a final snapshot with Ike; All “48” states were represented (including Alaska and Hawaii); Marcin gets a lift from the WWII reenactors on their original Willys MB jeep.





# G.R.I.P.

## A NATIONAL GENEALOGY CONFERENCE AT THE POLISH MISSION

During the first week of August, sixty-five family researchers from twenty-three different states traveled to Orchard Lake to attend GRIP, a national genealogy conference. Four tracks of study were offered; and the Polish track was led by Ceil Wendt Jensen, MA and Dr. Hal Learman. Course work was enhanced by the lectures presented by visiting Archivist Tomasz Szpil of Łódź. The attendees seemed pleased to have assistance from a professional from Poland. Additional lecturers included Eugenia Gorecki (Polish Language), Patricia Yocum, Librarian Emeritus, University of Michigan, and Robert Sliwinski, M.A.

The Polish track was designed to help researchers start or advance their family research. The topics ranged from an overview of Polish History featuring the Polish Panorama,

Identifying Ancestral Villages in the Austrian, Prussian, and Prussian partitions, and using online catalogs to locate material in the Polish archives.

The evening activities were highlighted by the dance troupe Wawel, who maintained their stamina and composure in the August heat; and a visit from Kris W. Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist in Lansing for the State of Michigan. Rounding off the four evenings of activities was Julie Romano demonstrating safe archival framing for family documents; and our very own Marcin Chumiecki introducing researchers to the goals and accomplishments of The Polish Mission.

The week of classes and activities would not have been a success without the help and guidance of Kelley Stramaglia and Greg Urbanski.

The Polish Mission recognizes the contributions of the PARI volunteers and appreciates all their time and effort as they worked behind the scenes to make sure the week went smoothly. The team included: Dana Barrett, Sharon Boroski Deceuninck and her husband Lee, Bernadette Drobat, Joan Lamport, Richard J. Luszczyk, Marge Kolanowski Johnston, and Chuck Pokriefka.

Plans are already underway to hold the second season of family research here on campus during the first week of August. After a lengthy screening process to use the Pure Michigan designation and logo, the program will be entitled *Come Home to Michigan, Come Home Polonia*. If you cannot wait until next August, visit us at the Polonica Americana Research

Institute, here in the Rev. Wotta Building. We help families each Monday, Tuesday, and Friday look for their roots.

A Perfect Family Holiday Gift – The Polish “This Is Your Life” Event

We also launched a new program for families – hosting your family reunion, with a twist. After a viewing of the Polish Panorama and a traditional Polish lunch complete with kielbasa and pierogi, we finish the event with a lecture designed around your Polish heritage. If you are interested in scheduling a Polish “This Is Your Life” event, please contact us at: [pmission@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:pmission@orchardlakeschools.com) or 248-683-0323.



# STEPHANIE MUCHA

Our heroes are those who've led lives of dedication and virtue. This installment salutes them.

## LEADERS

BUFFALO, NY

“I always wanted to do good for people. Those young men were hurt badly and didn't have anybody around them who cared.

It was a long evening drive to Buffalo from Orchard Lake in late October. Marcin and I were a bit road weary by the time we saw signs for Niagara and crossed the border back into the USA, but we were excited to meet someone whose kindness and generosity earned accolades from the countless recipients of her care, and even from highest offices of the armed forces. It's our honor to present the story of Mrs. Stephanie Mucha to you our readers and supporters as a premier example of a generous, fulfilling life. Arriving to her house the next morning, we were greeted with a warm smile and kind words of welcome that

could only come from someone with a heart of gold. Stephanie Mucha, 97, of Buffalo, New York is a renowned figure in her community, who's spent her life doing good for others, all from within a few-mile radius from her home. Mrs. Mucha's life story of love, dedication, and generosity has made her an example for others, and as Marcin and I settled in for a day of conversation and laughter with our gracious host, we realized that we only saw the tip of the iceberg.

We had discovered Mrs. Mucha in an article that appeared in Barron's. Later, Euro Am-Sonntag published another article about her, using the proud title she had earned in recent history: The Oracle of Buffalo. It's a title well-earned: Mrs. Mucha's investment strategies and financial acumen have let her boast a pentapsize portfolio, and she's already given away millions of dollars to charitable institutions, among which The University at Buffalo

and the Kosciuszko Foundation are the most significant. From her home across the street from the university campus, she keeps an eye on her investments on television, and has her phone (and her accountant) ever at the ready. In the recent past, she's bought Snap-On Tools (SNA), and Illinois Tool Works (ITW), and even during our visit, wired over \$1 million dollars to the University at Buffalo. She wanted us to see just how easy it was! Beyond her financial wizardry though, we were interested in meeting the person behind the newspaper articles. What we discovered was a heroically humble Polish-American story that sets an example for others.

Young Stephanie Niciszewski had worked as a maid during the Great Depression to help her family keep their house. Later in the 40s, her father introduced her to Joseph Mucha, a strapping machinist, and on June 6th, 1946, the two were wed. A lifelong

love ensued, that is still active to this day. Mrs. Mucha still lovingly points out photos of the two of them together, and treasures a handcrafted metal box, on which it is inscribed: "We cannot change yesterday, that is quite clear, nor begin on to-morrow until it is here. So all that is left for you and for me, is to make today as sweet as can be." Joseph died in 1985, and since then, Mrs. Mucha has dedicated her life to his memory and their love. Joseph had come to the United States from Poland in 1903, and received assistance from the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York, which is why Mrs. Mucha made a considerable donation to them in 2009. "They helped him become a US citizen... as an immigrant, they reached out to him," she said. Joseph was a veteran of World War One, and recipient of the Distinguished Silver Cross of Poland.

Most of Mrs. Mucha's life was spent in dedication to wounded



“We cannot change yesterday, that is quite clear, nor begin on to-morrow until it is here. So all that is left for you and for me, is to make today as sweet as can be.”

soldiers at the local VA hospital. She retired from nursing in 1993 after a 43-year career at the VA. Some of the most memorable

elements of our day spent with her were the stories of the wounded soldiers

she cared for, about whom others had often forgot. “I loved spending time with them. Visiting and sharing a smile and a few laughs was the best medicine in the hospital,” she said. “Most of the time all they needed was a caring touch. I did that whenever I could; it put people at ease—they felt loved.” Her personal care and attention gave her a reputation among the local area, numerous accolades from the

Veterans Administration, and some very special recognition as far as the White House. Thanks to her service, she was one of only a hundred civilians to be awarded the prestigious Purple Heart, in 1975. Mrs. Mucha is still very much a nurse at heart, and is a ready (and appreciated) distributor of sound dietary and health advice. “I even had Polio when I was a kid, and being smart about how I look after myself is why I’m still around today.”

We left Buffalo later than we thought we would, after spending a lengthy and enjoyable day of great company. After enjoying a hearty

homemade soup dinner with our host, and a few evening laughs over the dinner table. Mrs. Mucha sent us off with a kiss goodbye, some low-sodium quinoa, and even some garlic to plant in the garden! Beyond all that though, we were especially touched to receive a treasured photograph of Joseph, and several important items for the archives! We left her with a gift of precious amber from Northern Poland, a symbol of uniquely Polish beauty. We at The Polish Mission salute Mrs. Mucha and her long life of compassion and dedication, and look forward to continued years of friendship! Sto Lat!





# Corner

# Museum

with Collections Curator JJ Przewozniak

This installment of *Museum Corner* comes on the heels of several tremendous exhibitions recently featured here at The Polish Mission. Following in the path set by Dr. Wikiera, we know that history plays a crucial role in shaping the future, and that's why we've dedicated specific programs of historical education aimed at not only our OLSM student body, but audiences across the US as well.

In the spring and summer months, we were fortunate to receive a celebrated exhibition created by the Museum of Polish History, through our partnership with the Polish consulate of Chicago.

We received *Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero*, just after our screening of *A Place to Stand* on March 18. After a showing at the Galeria, it was off to Mott Community College in Flint, where the moving story of Jan Karski was displayed for the students there in the main library. Our good friend Ken Koskodan (award-winning author of *No Greater Ally*) then went on to present lectures to the students there in the following weeks.

Later in the summer, we were excited to receive another exhibition that arrived in a much smaller package: an email! Once again, the Museum of Polish History (MUZHP) generously welcomed our cooperation on the *Anders' Army educational program*, a comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the Polish Second Corps and the people from Poland exiled to the former Soviet Union. The exhibition program uses original artifacts and distinct "paths" that allowed viewers to learn about the experiences of civilians, soldiers, or even General Anders himself.

Through the tireless work of Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki, three more special exhibitions were a part of our

*1939 Commemoration* in September, on display in the historic Galeria, on the steps of the Shrine Chapel, and at the Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) in Farmington Hills. From the Institute of National Remembrance of the Republic of Poland (IPN), we were proud to host the North American Premier of *Od Wojny Do Zwyciestwa* (From War to Victory) 1939-1989. With appreciation to Mr. Pawel Rokicki and Mr. Sergiusz Kazimierzczuk of IPN, the comprehensive exhibition, which offers multi-fold viewpoints and cutting-edge perspectives on Polish history, has received an unprecedented welcome in the United States. From the Galicja Jewish Museum, the *Traces of Memory* exhibition had arrived on campus a couple weeks prior to the *1939 Commemoration*. It offers a rich look into the past by exploring historical landmarks of the Jewish community in Poland, and was on display at the HMC until November 26th. Finally, thanks to the work of our visiting Archivist Tomek Szpil, from the State Archives of Łódź, *Wielka Szpera* tells the haunting and terrible story of the Łódź Ghetto, the second largest Jewish Ghetto of World War II. A sample of only



three panels was on display, in anticipation of the much larger twenty-five panel full exhibition, which will be available to partner institutions in early spring 2015.

Of all the partnerships we've embarked upon that highlight the amazing spectrum of Polish 20th century history through exhibitions, we're proud to make our own contributions to museum education as well. A couple of years ago, in a dusty closet in the Wotta building, we were fortunate to discover a lost treasure that had made its way to Orchard Lake decades before. The wooden-paneled exhibition inside a tired turquoise shipping crate told the story of the Polish war effort of the second world war, and has since become part of the temporary exhibit *London: Capital of Poland*, presented in cooperation with MUZHP and the Ministry of Culture. During his annual business trip to Poland, Marcin joined MUZHP Director Robert Kostro and Undersecretary Piotr Żuchowski of the Ministry of Culture at the closing ceremony of the exhibit's celebrated venue at the University of Warsaw. Now, the exhibit is with our colleague Draiusz Subocz at the Museum of Printing and Literature in Grębocin, where conservation continues before it travels to London, England!

Apart from exhibitions, much of the work that goes on with our collections consists of back-end work behind the scenes. We're very fortunate to have crossed paths recently with a number of great donors like Susan Rokosz, Dennis Olkowski, Patty Rice, and Pat and Blane Zublin over the past few months, who've generously donated objects, documents and photographs to our collection. Though we like to find every opportunity to display these items as part of an exhibition, in the long term, the items themselves really spend most of their lives in storage, just as in any museum collection from the Smithsonian to The Henry Ford. This means we need to pay special attention to how relics of the past are cared for by investing in archival-quality storage materials and arranging suitable low-light constant-climate locations in our storage areas. Hats off to the Polish Consulate in Chicago for awarding us with a grant this fall for this very purpose. Our new Collections and Galeria Assistant Allison



Follbaum and I have been hard at work in the Ark museums lately, removing documents and photos from their deteriorating frames, and storing our precious collections in safe, smart ways to ensure they'll survive in the best conditions for the future. Watch [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com) for all updates, and if you have items to donate, please email or call Allison or myself: [jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com), (248) 738-6720; [afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com), (248) 683-0433.

Facing page: Marcin and Director Kostro in Warsaw; Above: Archivist Tomasz Szpil and Allison display the Rokosz donation at the archives; Left: *Od Wojny Do Zwyciestwa* draws attention at the Galeria; Below; a sample of items donated by Mrs. Mucha.



# Welcoming a New Team Member

## ALLISON FOLLBAUM JOINS THE POLISH MISSION



Please join The Polish Mission as we welcome a new member to our team! Ms. Allison Follbaum signed up to lend her expertise and energy to our daily operations, just a few months ago, and we couldn't be happier. She comes to us with media relations skills honed at The Henry Ford (Dearborn), and also the Thomas More Law Center (Ann Arbor), and journalism experience with the Michigan Catholic (Detroit).

"I've always liked playing with words," she said. "When I was younger, I was always writing stories and try to find ways to make them come to life, so that's one of the reasons why I chose to study journalism and public relations in college."

As a Madonna University graduate with high honors, Allison was familiar with Orchard Lake Schools, so she hit the ground running with her new assignments. She's taken two important roles here, as both the Galeria and Collections Assistant, and Social Media Coordinator. She's already helped coordinate two major mailings (1,000+ addresses), dramatically increased our social media visibility (500+ new likes), and has done a lion's share of work in the Ark museums!

"My favorite thing about working at the Polish Mission is definitely the ability to combine my love of writing and communication with my love of history," she said. "My hunger for the written word comes second only to my goal hear all the stories of the past!"

Please drop by The Polish Mission administrative offices on a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday to say hello and get a firsthand look at what we do, and remember to like us on Facebook!

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# Across the Ocean

Genealogy Team Visits Poland

**PART TWO!**



Where do Polish Mission team members travel while they are on their personal vacations? To Poland, of course! Dr. Hal Learman and Ceil Wendt Jensen traveled with PARI volunteers Rosemary Konwerski and Chuck Pokriefka to Poland in May. Their itinerary included cultural and religious sites that enhance their ability to promote and advance The Polish Mission's goals. Here is a sample of where they went and who they met.

**17 May, Kraków** - Sanctuary of Divine Mercy and the Centrum Jana Pawła II. There is a footpath that connects these two religious sites.

**18 May, Kraków** - Tour of the city including the Jewish synagogue and cemetery in Kazimierz district. Dr. Hal Learman and Ceil Wendt Jensen renewed The Polish Mission's cooperation with Dr. Barbara Berska in her office at the State Archives of Kraków.

**20 May, Częstochowa** - Our guided tour was with Ks. Szymon Stefanowicz, OSPPE, a friend of Monsignor Milewski and PAPA. He taught us a joke about how to make Holy Water (You boil the he\*\*out of it!). He also welcomed us into a group of First Communicants who were making their traditional visit to Częstochowa that day.

**21 May, Oświęcim** - The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. It was good to meet again with our colleagues Elżbieta Cajzer, Head of Collections; and Agnieszka Sieradzka, Art Historian. We also spoke with Archives Director, Wojciech Płosa, Ph.D., about The Polish Mission's collection of Survivors materials.

**22 May, Wadowice** - We visited the newly renovated Muzeum - Dom Rodzinny Ojca



Świętego Jana Pawła II and the town museum which featured the school records of Karol Wojtyła. We thanked the museum historian, Marcin, who helped us with our research for "Genealogy Roadshow" last year.

**23 May, Zakopane** - Stary Cmentarz - The Old Cemetery. We visited the cemetery with its unique monuments, including that of Karol Stryjeński, husband of artist Zofia Stryjeńska. We have works by Zofia Stryjeńska in our Polish Mission collection.

**24 May, Chochołów** - We visited local wood carver, Jan Zięder, in a log home built in 1822 which now serves as his workshop. He learned his trade from older village carvers and is passing the craft onto his two sons. We also visited the private art gallery of glass painter Aniela Stanek.

**25 May, Kraków** - The Walery Rzewuski Museum of History of Photography. While visiting colleagues in Poland, we also collected new ideas in display and signage from the museums and historical sites. We were delighted to see that the Photography Museum in Kraków has displays similar to the ones we created for our Faces of Polish Immigration exhibit this October.

**26 May, Jaśło** - Muzeum Regionalne. We made a visit to the ethnographic and historical collections at the Regional Museum in Jaśło. We were greeted by staff member, Mariusz Świątek, who will collaborate with us on forthcoming projects. The exhibition rooms gave us ideas of what we can do with the Polish Mission collections. We really appreciated the folk art (wooden sculptures).





W. W. WATSON'S FLAG

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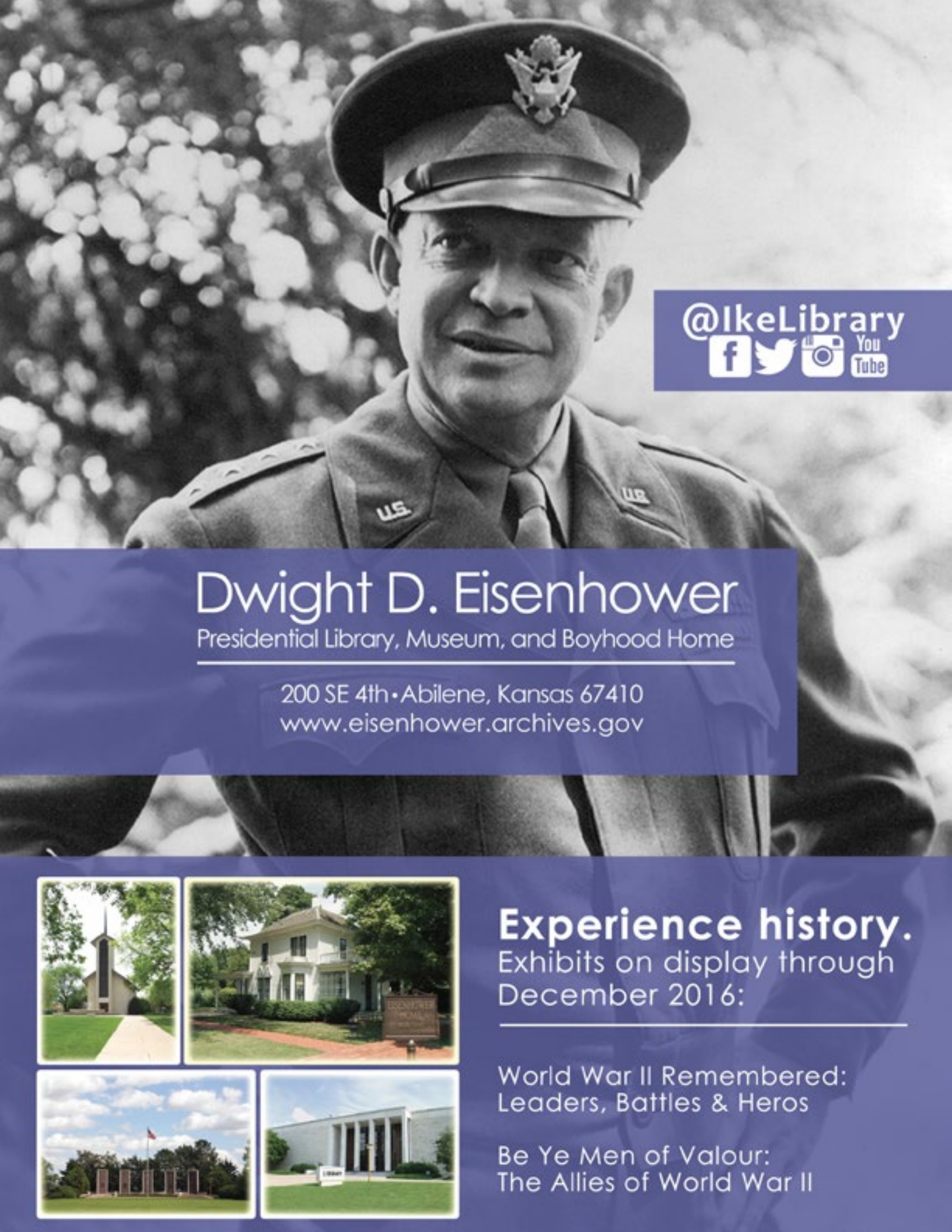
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