

Fall 2015  
No. 3



# THE MISSION

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



THE ANNUAL REPORT

# OUR STAFF

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## **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. As if that weren't enough, she's part of the OLS development team as well. 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.



## **MARZANNA OWINSKI**

Marzanna Owinski, MA, has been a coordinator and teacher at the Dąbrowski Polish Language School since 2010. For the last two years, she has been a teacher of Polish language at Saint Mary's Preparatory. She is a trained specialist for students with disabilities, and passionate not only about Polish language, but also literature, culture, and arts.

## Founder

Reverend Father Józef Dąbrowski (1885)

### Chancellor-Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools

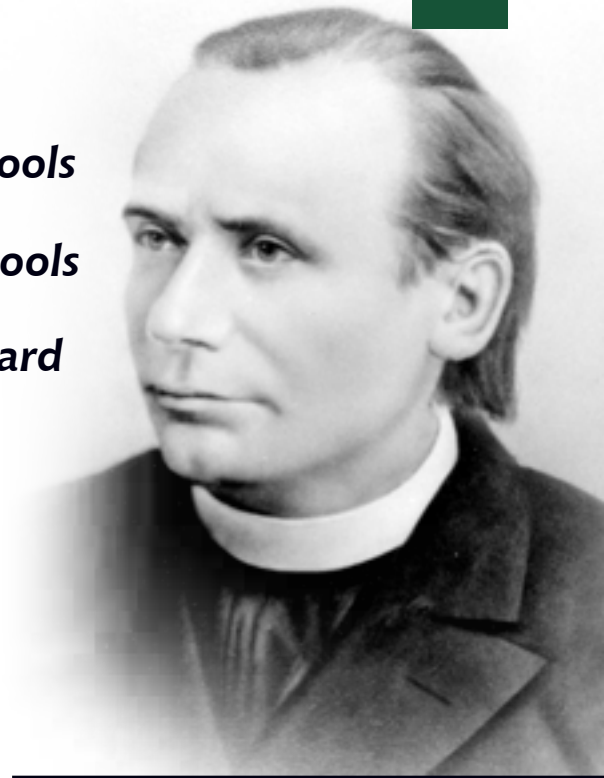
Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr.

### Vice Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools

Mr. Anthony Koterba

### Chairman of The Polish Mission Board

Dr. Stan Majewski



## Contributors



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[www.washington.msz.gov.pl/en/](http://www.washington.msz.gov.pl/en/)



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## Popular

# TWEETS



Jan 27 #Remember By shepherding  
#ForbiddenArt exhibit and furthering  
#Holocaust education (2,684 views)



Sep 29 The Polish Mission <3 the  
humanities because MHC Major  
Grants fund our Polish Mission  
programs. Dziękuję! (2,088 views)



July 30 Crash Course on the #Warsaw  
#Uprising @culture\_pl (1,777 views)

## The Polish Mission Board

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R. Wayne Gwizdala

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Jeff Lutz

Msgr. Tom Machalski

Mike Obloy

Paul Odrobina

Virginia Sikora

Dr. Richard Wandzel

# FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our latest and greatest archive of stories and events surrounding our treasured Polish legacy. Not only does this considerable volume contain the coverage our readers have come to expect from our team, but it's also a point of pride for everyone associated with The Polish Mission. Summarizing an entire season of programming is no simple task, but the resulting compendium you see before you is a way for us all to really reflect on the broad scope of our work together.

This issue, like every issue of *The Mission*, comes to you thanks to the tireless diligence of our team, and our guest contributors. I owe them all my deep thanks for the privilege of arranging their stories and photographs here for you.

As we celebrate 130 years, and the *Gloria Artis*, let me thank you all for your support, upon which we depend, and to which we look for inspiration.

Sincerely,



JJ Przewozniak

(248) 738-6720 - [jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com)

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# KEEP IN TOUCH WITH



The Polish Mission  
Of The Orchard Lake Schools

3535 Commerce Rd.  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

[www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com)  
[www.miplheritage.org](http://www.miplheritage.org)

Latitude: 42.597251  
Longitude: -83.355522



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



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



Instagram: @polishmission

## Did You Know...

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



...that we have over 3,000 likes on Facebook, and 800 followers on Twitter? Thank you!



...that The Polish Mission is supported financially by the Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wikiera Foundation?



...that the last Polish Ambassador to visit the Orchard Lake Schools was Count Jerzy Józef Potocki, in 1938? (77 years ago)!



...that *The Mission* is regularly sent to four Polish presidents and five United States presidents?



...that The Polish Mission is the only institution in North America that has earned a golden *Gloria Artis* award?





# FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Friends,

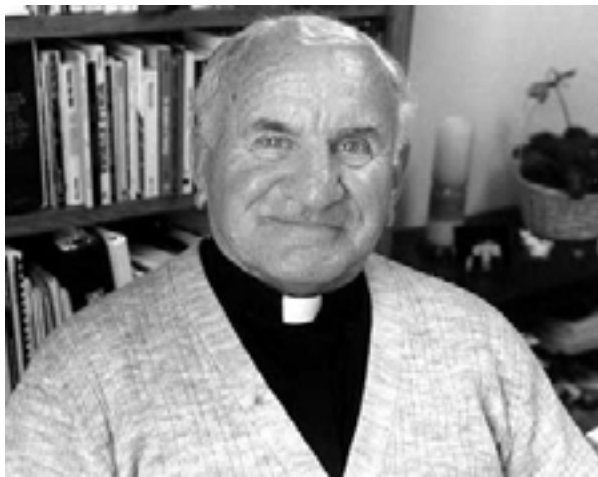
The fall is upon us once again and the campus is beginning to be filled with the beauty of color! The changing of each season is always marked with its own beauty. Fall also marks the beginning of the new Academic Year 2015-2016. As we begin to embark on our 131st year of service to God, country, Church and Polonia

we strive to continue the mission and vision of our Founder, Father Joseph Dąbrowski. Father Dąbrowski was concerned with the development of the students – intellectually, physically, morally, spiritually – entrusted to his care. He wanted to develop them into good leaders, people of faith, future saints.

It is well known that an alumnus of our seminary – Father Walter Ciszek – had his cause for beatification initiated in 1990 and all the documentation was sent to Rome in 2006. Father Ciszek worked secretly as a priest in the Soviet Union from 1939-1963. Many of those years were spent in confinement and the Gulag. He suffered greatly for the faith and remained faithful to his priestly duties and God throughout his life. His memoir, *With God In Russia*, is easily available for purchase as is his other book, *He Leadth Me*. (More information about this holy priest can be found at [ciszek.org](http://ciszek.org).)

This summer, while watching EWTN one Saturday afternoon, I saw that the next program was entitled The Life of Father Joe Walijewski. I was intrigued, as a Polish-American priest to find out who this man was and why there was a show on EWTN about his life. I watched the show and was fascinated by Father Joe's priestly zeal and holiness. Father Joe was a priest of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin who served not only the people of the diocese, but also spent many years of his priestly life in the missions in Bolivia and Peru. Father Walijewski's cause for beatification was opened and I searched for more information about him on the internet. I was surprised when I found out that he, too, spent some of his formative years at our seminary.

Father Joe was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After some time in the seminary system in Michigan, he was told that it might be better if he pursued a different calling in life. It was suggested that he become a religious brother due to his difficulties in studying Latin, Greek and French in the seminary. Father Joe was determined to follow the Lord's call to be a priest. He applied to and was accepted by our seminary where he was able to complete his studies successfully. (Father was a student here at Orchard Lake from 1943-1945.) Father Joe also promised that if he successfully completed his studies he would give five years of his priestly life to work in the missions.



Father Joe Walijewski

missions, this time in Peru, where he ministered to the people until his death in 2006.

Father Joe's deep, abiding faith came from his parents, especially his mother, who had an intense devotion to St. Joseph. Father Joe recalled that his mother prayed that she would have a son named Joseph who would become a priest; that this priest-son would build a church in St. Joseph's honor (which he did when he built St. Joseph's Chapel in Villa el Salvador, Peru); and that she would die on a feast



Father Walter Ciszek, during confinement in the Soviet Union c. 1941-55

He then encountered another obstacle when his home diocese, the Diocese of Grand Rapids, would not admit him into their seminary. Undaunted and convinced of his vocation, he wrote to a number of bishops throughout the United States seeking acceptance into their diocese explaining to them that he was fluent in Polish. He received only one positive response, that being from the Bishop of La Crosse who was in need of Polish speaking priests to minister to the Polish communities in his diocese.

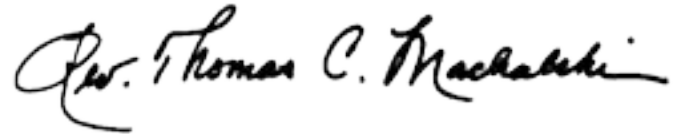
Father Joe was sent to St. Francis Major Seminary in Milwaukee to complete his studies. He continued to struggle academically and some of the faculty had doubts about recommending him for ordination. One of his professors, Monsignor John Schulien, told the faculty, "Joe Walijewski may not be the most intelligent priest, but he will be a holy priest." Obviously, he was able to convince the other faculty members of this truth and so Joe was ordained and became Father Joe. He worked in various assignments in the Diocese of La Crosse from 1950-1956. In 1956, father fulfilled his promise by going to work in the missions of Bolivia where he served until 1966. That year, he returned to La Crosse where he worked until 1971. At that time, he returned to the

day of St. Joseph which was fulfilled when she was called home to the Lord on March 19, 1971. How is that for a mother's love and prayer! Father Joe's cause for beatification was opened by The Most Reverend William P. Callahan, O.F.M. Conv., D.D., Bishop of La Crosse on March 19, 2013. (You can find out more about Father Joe's life and work at: [www.FrJoesGuild.org](http://www.FrJoesGuild.org))

Father Dąbrowski's dream, to develop the students entrusted to him and these schools into good leaders, people of faith and future saints has been going on for 130 years and is still going on today at Orchard Lake. Father Cizek and Father Walijewski are but two examples of how this dream becomes a reality. Countless other holy men and women have been students here throughout the years. Many will remain unknown to us until we reach, please God, eternity. It is your prayers, sacrifices and financial support that have allowed us to make Father Dąbrowski's dream a reality throughout the years.

Fall is a time of thanksgiving. Please know that we are grateful that you are part of The Orchard Lake Family. As you gather with your family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, know that we unite ourselves to you in prayer. Every day the priests, faculty, staff, seminarians and students remember you in their prayers and Masses.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a holy and fruitful Advent, a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy and Holy New Year, I am, Gratefully yours in Our Lady of Orchard Lake,



Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., M.Div., M. S. Ed., J.C.L., KCHS  
Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools  
Rector/President of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

What a year! I couldn't be more proud of the whole Polish Mission team for doing what they do best. As Chairman, the Polish Mission Director and the rest of the team report to me on a regular basis, and I contribute by helping set the strategy and guide our path. I couldn't be more fortunate to serve in this special department of the Orchard Lake Schools, supported generously by the Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wikiera Foundation.

Thinking about our founder, Fr. Dąbrowski (about whom I encourage you all to read on page 72), I know and believe in the good work of The Polish Mission. Marcin and company have certainly taken the novel idea of a "Polish Mission" department (which had been discussed for many years in the past), to heights that went far beyond anyone's imagination. When we at the Orchard Lake Schools first addressed the need for a formal cultural department, which would inherit and lead the beautiful Polish legacy of our community, we thought long and hard about what it would mean for the future of the Orchard Lake Schools. We needed a Director who could lead a group of people, and at the same time challenge us all to do everything we could to support our (sometimes honorary for some) ancestry. We needed the Polish Mission team to be effective storytellers in their own way, to make sure that the wealth of cultural activity that's occurred for the last 130 years will be remembered and celebrated. We needed a "shot in the arm," so to speak, of our European identity before it was lost, awash in the wake of the lukewarm cultural landscape of the 21st century. Our investment in this department, in all the great people in it, has paid off in a big way, and I'd like all of the Orchard Lake Schools family, students, parents, alumni, and supporters, to join me in saluting The Polish Mission.

Nothing shows this better than the *Gloria Artis* that you can see emblazoned on the cover. I'll leave it to Marcin and the Polish Mission team to tell you more about that and the *golden* evening we celebrated on October 29th! As we gathered on this special night with His Excellency Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf of the Republic of Poland, we were all joyous in our celebrations! You're invited to continue that celebration with us well into the future. I most kindly invite you to be generous in your giving, because I promise you, that the future holds great achievements for this amazing group of people.

Thank you for your caring and your generosity,





# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

Writing articles like these is always difficult for me. As I reflect on all of the activities of The Polish Mission this year, I cannot be anything but tremendously humbled by the dedication of the Polish Mission team, who through their impassioned work, have driven The Polish Mission to newer heights. Let me begin these few paragraphs with the unquestionable fact that I am certainly blessed to have crossed paths with Ceil, Hal, Allison, Marzanna, and JJ. That most prestigious honor that we've received this year; the golden *Gloria Artis*, belongs to you all, my dear colleagues--may posterity remember us all together for our unique accomplishments.

Several months ago, as my staff and I were preparing to launch our *Gloria Artis* award dinner event, a phrase came to me: this would be "our brightest hour." This is very true expression that rings clearer and clearer as we reflect on this year's accomplishments. When I was notified earlier this year that we were to be bestowed the golden *Gloria Artis*, I knew something to be true--something that as a director, I addressed often and with the utmost scrutiny: we are indeed fulfilling our mission. The *Gloria Artis* is among the rarest awards of the Polish state, which compares in prestige to only the most noble of European decorations. To have earned the same recognition as institutions like the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the National Theater of Poland, among others, is a thing of the greatest magnitude. I am proud that history will remember The Polish Mission as the first (and currently only) institution in North America to have earned it.

This golden year for The Polish Mission has indeed been marked with great achievements. Thanks to the passion and resourcefulness of our Polish Mission team, this issue of *The Mission* comes to you filled with reports from a most active year, which spans from the hallowed ground of Auschwitz to the capital city of Warsaw; from the stately halls of the United Nations to Rogalin; and from the lightning-fast digital world to the radio airwaves of yesteryear! I'd like to offer my great thanks to everyone who took the time to write us congratulatory letters, most of which, are featured throughout this issue.

The late Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wikiera, celebrated benefactors of the Orchard Lake Schools, were 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*, or show your support through a generous donation. Just flip to the back cover to learn how.

My colleagues can do a much better job of sharing their numerous successes than I could, so I invite you to learn about their work in their own words, in the upcoming pages. But before I do, I'd like to highlight the progress we've made on our primary task: the new Galeria. For those who may be unfamiliar, the 1888-built Galeria (Building #8), has been the home of our priceless art collection, and the main venue for the majority of our cultural events. For several years, I have tirelessly sought to substantially upgrade it to meet modern museum standards through a major renovation. I'd like to announce to you all that Mr. Jeff Lutz, Mr. Jeff Petrucci, Mr. R. Wayne Gwizdala, Mrs. Mary Ann Harrington, Mr. Mike Obloy, and Dr. Stan Majewski have formally undertaken this great task with me, by serving as a special committee with major renovation as its goal. With the most generous assistance of the Wikiera Foundation, I am more confident than ever to assure you, our readers and supporters, that very soon, we will unveil a restored and expanded Galeria, complete with luxuriously replicated Victorian accents, and up-to-date museum-grade safety and storage solutions, for not only the art collections, but our *entire* Polish Mission collection from the various locations around campus! Please speak with anyone on The Polish Mission team or the Galeria committee to learn more about how you can become a founding member of our nation's newest, biggest, and best initiative for Polish culture.

Finally, I want to draw attention to the fact that the good work that we do has been generously supported by colleagues in the Polish government, who with vision and generosity have supported some of the cultural programs that today make up our treasury of successes. As we bid farewell to many of those supporters, we welcome President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Beata Szydło, and all the incoming government leaders. I and my team wish you all the best as you lead the Polish nation into the future. It is my dearest hope that the coming years will be sealed with the same mark of democracy and freedom that has characterized Poland's legacy of statesmanship. This will surely make Poles and Polish-Americans all the more proud of their rich heritage.

Most Sincerely,





# FORBIDDEN ART

An exhibition | from the collections  
of photographs of camp art | of the Auschwitz Memorial

Presented in North America by The Polish Mission  
in exclusive cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

*How can you capture and express the unimaginable? How can you portray fear and helplessness, but also the longing for freedom? How can you keep your humanity in the inhuman world of Auschwitz? The works in this exhibition are the artists' attempt to cope with the camp experience; they hint at answers to these questions.*

## Future Venues

Madonna University -- Livonia, Michigan  
January 11 - February 21, 2016

*Commemorating the 71st Anniversary of the  
Liberation of Auschwitz*

Special event January 28th, 5:00-7:30 p.m.  
for more information, please contact  
prezevents@madonna.edu (734) 432-5589

3660 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150 [www.madonna.edu](http://www.madonna.edu)



University of Michigan-Dearborn -- Dearborn, Michigan  
September 16 - December 23, 2016

Special event September 18th, 2016, 4:00-6:00 p.m.  
for more information, please contact

Dr. Jamie L. Wraight: [jwraight@umich.edu](mailto:jwraight@umich.edu) (313) 583-6300

4901 Evergreen Rd, Dearborn, MI 48128 [www.umdearborn.edu](http://www.umdearborn.edu)



MARDIGIAN LIBRARY

ALFRED BERKOWITZ GALLERY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN

Mark your calendars to join The Polish Mission at our partner institutions as they host *Forbidden Art* in 2016. For information on becoming a host venue, contact Project Manager JJ Przewozniak at [jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com)

*Figure of a Prisoner*  
Carved in Auschwitz by an unknown artist  
[www.auschwitz.org](http://www.auschwitz.org)



Prezydent  
Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

Warszawa, 8 października 2015 roku

Pan  
Marcin Chumiński  
Dyrektor  
Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake  
Michigan, Stany Zjednoczone Ameryki

Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze!  
Drodzy Pracownicy i Przyjaciele Misji Polskiej!

Polska Misja w Orchard Lake pielęgnuje i współtworzy nasze narodowe dziedzictwo. Z okazji przyznania Państwu przez Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego RP Złotego Medalu *Zasłużony Kulturze Gloria Artis* oraz jubileuszu 130-lecia Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake składam serdeczne gratulacje Panu Dyrektorowi oraz wszystkim zaangażowanym w trwanie tego wyjątkowego przedsięwzięcia. Dziękuję za wkład Polskiej Misji w promocję polskiej kultury za granicą oraz za pielęgnowanie więzi z krajem.

W Roku Jana Długosza, który obchodzimy świętując 600 lecie urodzin tego wybitnego kronikarza dziejów Polski, przypomnę jedną z zapisanych przez niego myśli: *Znajomość bowiem przeszłości oraz spraw, jakie rozgrywały się wewnątrz i na zewnątrz kraju..., równa jest cnocie i mądrości uważają ją za mistrzynię życia*. Gromadząc polskie pamiątki w Orchard Lake potwierdzają Państwo, że te słowa z przeszłości nadal mają znaczenie i że historia Polski może formować liderów na całym świecie, będąc naprawdę *mistrzynią życia*. Mam nadzieję, że współpraca Misji Polskiej z państwowymi instytucjami kultury przyczyni się do jej rozwoju i kolejnych sukcesów. Dzięki Państwa działalności historyczne więzi między Polską a Stanami Zjednoczonymi Ameryki wzmacniają nasze dobre relacje i otwierają nowe perspektywy na przyszłość.

Kandydując na urząd Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej deklarowałem, że będę orędownikiem ożywienia kontaktów z Polakami mieszkającymi za granicą. Cieszę się, że mogę to realizować kierując do Państwa życzenia sukcesów w dalszej pracy. Misją wszystkich Polaków żyjących na całym świecie jest tworzenie wizerunku Polski dumnej ze swojej tradycji i odważnie podejmującej nowe wyzwania. Ta służba czyni z nas wspólnotę. Ufam, że sprawując urząd Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej będę miał wiele razy sposobność spotkać się i rozmawiać z rodakami na obczyźnie o Państwa potrzebach i oczekiwaniach. Całą społeczność Misji Polskiej w Orchard Lake pozdrawiam i życzę wszelkiej pomyślności.



Prezydent  
Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

Warszawa, 8 października 2015 roku

Pan  
Marcin Chumięcki  
Dyrektor  
Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake  
Michigan, Stany Zjednoczone Ameryki

Dear Director,  
Dear Staff and Friends of the Polish Mission,

The Polish Mission in Orchard Lake cultivates and contributes to our national heritage. On the occasion of the presentation of the Gloria Artis Gold Medal of Merit for Art to your organization by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, as well as the 130th Anniversary of the Orchard Lake Schools, I wish to convey my sincere congratulations to the Director and all those who contributed to the continuation of this extraordinary establishment. Thank you for the Polish Mission's contribution to the promotion of Polish culture abroad and cultivating ties with our Homeland.

During this Year of Jan Długosz, as we celebrate the 600th anniversary of the birth of this renowned chronicler of Poland's history, I wish to recall one of the thoughts recorded by him: Knowledge of the past and how things have played out inside and outside the country... equals virtue and sages believe it to be mastery of life. By gathering Polish mementos in Orchard Lake, you are confirming with your actions that these words from history continue to resonate to this day and that the history of Poland can shape leaders all around the world, making them true masters of life. It is my hope that the cooperation between the Polish Mission and government cultural institutions will contribute to the Mission's continued development and future successes. Thanks to your efforts, the historic ties between Poland and the United States strengthen current relations and open new perspectives for the future.

As a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Poland, I declared that I will be a proponent of reinvigorating ties with Poles living abroad. It greatly pleases me that I can realize this through conveying to you my best wishes for success in your continued work. The mission of all Poles living throughout the world is to represent Poland, a country that is proud of its traditions and boldly undertakes new challenges. Such effort and service unites us into a community. I trust that as the President of the Republic of Poland I will have numerous occasions to meet with my countrymen abroad and speak about your needs and expectations. I send my best regards to the entire community of the Polish Mission in Orchard Lake and wish you all the best.



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Washington, D.C.

# FROM THE AMBASSADOR

In the 130th anniversary year of the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf calls Polish-Americans to action.

Dear Friends:

Today I would like to confirm that Polish-American relations are better than ever.

Recently, President Duda in one of his first foreign travels came to New York to speak before the UN General Assembly. Our American friends responded to our request and created an opportunity for both presidents to meet and exchange views on matters of importance to both countries. And there is a lot on our agenda.

The crisis in Ukraine has shown that there is no alternative to U.S. engagement in Europe. We appreciate that the U.S. has stepped up and now we are working on furthering the implementation of the NATO Wales Summit decisions. I do not have to remind you that next year in July Poland will be hosting the NATO Summit. This Summit will take place in a complex security environment in Europe. In the east - a nuclear superpower who is not shy to use its military forces against neighbours and does not hesitate to present aggressive posture towards the whole Euro-Atlantic community. From the south - Daesh spreads terror which now leads to ongoing waves of immigrants in Europe. The Warsaw Summit will have to address these challenges. The Alliance has to adapt to the new circumstances and build up its capabilities to defend all Allies. We are working hand in hand with our American friends and partners to reach that goal.

At the same time -- responding to the U.S. call -- Poland joined the anti-Daesh coalition. We participate in all five working groups and actively support international coalition efforts against the so called Islamic State in the area of humanitarian aid. While in New York, President Duda took part in the Countering Violent Extremism summit that was hosted by President Obama and this week diplomats from our Embassy joined colleagues from eighteen other countries, in Washington, D.C., in discussing ways to eliminate the financing of the terrorist networks.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it goes without saying that the crisis in Ukraine is high on our bilateral agenda. Both Washington and Warsaw are outspoken about the need to keep the transatlantic community united and the need to implement the Minsk agreements. And we will keep on doing just that.

Dear Friends, as you know all too well we do not live in a vacuum. The Ukraine situation, the migration crisis in Europe and the Daesh presence in the Middle East and North Africa affect us all. Among others they influence U.S. visa policy, Washington's stance towards the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and its expansion. For obvious reasons the American population is concerned with the threat posed by the "foreign fighters." And it's understandable. The Oregon shootings made me realize -- yet again -- that it takes only one madman to create a tragedy on a national scale.

But does it mean that we should give up? Should we stop trying to get Poland into the Visa Waiver Program? I beg to differ with those cynics that tell me not to bother. For when I meet with U.S. Senators and Congressmen many of them are surprised when told that Poland remains outside of the VWP, when told that a Polish soldier, who fought arm in arm with his American partner in Afghanistan, may have trouble getting a visa for he's too young, not financially secure and often times still single.

Every fresh idea, every effort matters! All hands on deck!

I am hopeful that your efforts, all the letters sent to the Senate and House of Representatives will pay off. Therefore I would like to call on you to further promote these initiatives and ask your friends and neighbors to send letters to the Hill asking for Poland's accession to the VWP. We need all hands on deck! And next year -- while casting your vote in the Congressional elections -- make sure your candidate is on board with us to eliminate visas for Poles.

Let me conclude by thanking you again for giving me the opportunity to address you all. May we all together be inspired, and moved to action in the times ahead.

Most Sincerely,  
Ryszard Schnepf  
Ambassador

# #auschwitz70 at the United Nations

Proudly Supported By



by JJ Przewozniak

“Denying historical facts, especially on such an important subject as the Holocaust, is just not acceptable. Nor is it acceptable to call for the elimination of any State or people. I would like to see this fundamental principle respected both in rhetoric and in practice by all the members of the international community?”

– UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The thoughts of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon are resounding and relevant. The international community represented in the United Nations is keenly attune to how the lessons learned about the Holocaust can and should be applied to our modern world. Indeed, it is a world in which people still fear persecution, and in which the threat of

genocide looms ever present.

For us at The Polish Mission, Holocaust awareness, and historical

education on the crimes committed by the infamously oppressive Nazi German and Soviet governments, are hallmarks of



Top: H.E. Samantha Power, United States Ambassador to the UN, addresses the gathered community of observers and diplomats; Above: Dr. Stan, JJ, and Marcin smile for the camera on 1st Avenue at 46th Street.



concentration camps. In carefully designed form, these displays are meant to offer the viewer a deeply personal and

our continued outreach. The peoples of Poland, and indeed all peoples who were murdered in the name of barbarous agendas, weigh heavily on those of us who work to improve our world through cultural and historical engagement. We asked ourselves: how could we do the most good?

On Wednesday, January 21, the fruition of months of careful planning became apparent in an epic moment for our future of a world free of genocide. The *Forbidden Art* exhibition, created by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and presented in exclusive cooperation with The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools, was unveiled at the United Nations, New York, made possible through the work of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the UN.

*Forbidden Art* is a three-ton series of 20 wooden panels, showing the rarest and most fragile examples of artwork created by prisoners of Auschwitz and other

unique glimpse into the life of a prisoner. In addition to the panels, two replicas of the featured inmate artwork, in the form of glass sculptures, are displayed in 1:1 scale, allowing guests to appreciate the minute scale of the artwork, undertaken at extreme risk by the prisoners. The sculptures were originally unveiled at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home in Abilene, Kansas, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings, in June 2014.

Since the premier of *Forbidden Art* in Orchard Lake in 2012, it has since traveled the country at select venues from UCLA in California to Park East Synagogue in Manhattan, New York. In 2012, Vice President Joe Biden endorsed *Forbidden Art*, followed in 2013 by President Barack Obama. The exhibition had returned briefly to Orchard Lake in January 2014, when The Polish Mission hosted a ceremony in

observation of the 69th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, done in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the Holocaust Memorial Center of Farmington Hills, Michigan, and Wayne State University, Detroit.

Having *Forbidden Art* at the United Nations symbolizes the tremendous initiative to remember the tragedy of the concentration camps, through the memory of the most recognizable and infamous one of them all. Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest of all the Nazi German concentration camps in Europe. Today, the 472-acre museum has adopted the finest scientific and educational methods to offer the best care to the original site, and to provide the most authentic and comprehensive educational program about the Holocaust. In 1979, Auschwitz-Birkenau became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On January 15th, the exhibition arrived at the United Nations from its former venue at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. After several days of unloading, construction, and careful preparations, Wednesday, January 21st began with a panel discussion chaired by Polish Ambassador to the UN Boguslaw Winid. Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Director Dr. Piotr Cywiński was the keynote speaker, and the permanent representatives to the UN of the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Rwanda, Israel, and Germany were among those who spoke. In addition, the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Genocide, Adama Dieng, Philippe Boloignon of Human Rights Watch



Marcyn, Dr. Stan, and Ambassador Boguslaw Winid after the panel discussion.





and Robert Kostro, Director of the Museum of Polish History, also addressed the attentive audience.

As each participant contributed to the discussion, a recurring theme was touched upon by nearly everyone. It was the look toward the future, which so often is only remotely brought up in Holocaust education, that was stressed by the majority. Special Advisor Dieng brought special focus to this point by citing the genocide of 1994 in his home country of Rwanda: as distant as the tragedy of the Holocaust may seem, the systematic and gruesome attempted destruction of the Tutsi population left almost one million people murdered. As a special note for comparison, based on minimum data available, approximately 1.1 million people were murdered in Auschwitz. Throughout this comprehensive discussion, Auschwitz was a foundation upon which the speakers advocated a peaceful future.

Later that evening, a crowd of about 200 people gathered for the invitation-only evening gala which would mark the opening of *Forbidden Art*.

At 6:30 p.m., Maher Nasser, United Nations Acting Head for Communications and Public Information, declared the exhibition open, and brief addresses were then given by Ambassador Winid and Dr. Cywiński. Though the exhibition had attracted a large number of guests, quiet prevailed after the speeches were done, as the majority of guests were quickly taken in by the powerful images of *Forbidden Art*.

It is upon Auschwitz that the international community today builds and maintains an aggressive program of education and activism that will serve to stop genocide from happening. It is only through this most authentic memorial of the past that we gain the perspective that allows us to build a better future — the actual brick-and-mortar barracks at Auschwitz; the preserved killing grounds there; the testimony of those who were there; the traces of “forbidden” art they left for us. These realities allow us to confidently change the world for the better, which is why we at The Polish Mission pledge to continue our work in earnest with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

*Forbidden Art* was on public display at the United Nations until March 10. It was then taken to Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts, where it was on display until April 30. Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1928, Elms College is a premier center for Catholic-rooted education in Western Massachusetts. The *Forbidden Art* initiative was brought to Chicopee following an interfaith dialogue program. Key Christian and Jewish leaders were aware of the project, and thus decided to apply to host the exhibition in its first New England stop, in March 2015. Professors Scott Hartblay, and Maureen Holland were instrumental in coordinating the operation, working closely with the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. Both faith-based organizations worked in harmony to share the message of *Forbidden Art* with the greater Western Mass. community.

Check [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com) for updates on the continued *Forbidden Art* North American tour, including Madonna University (Livonia MI - January 2016), University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dearborn, MI - September 2016), and the United States Military Academy (West Point, NY - January 2017)

L-R: The familiar bronze sculpture, *Non-Violence*, just outside the UN, by Swedish sculptor Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd; JJ and UN exhibits technician Melissa put the finishing touches on *Forbidden Art* prior to the opening; Marcin and H.E. Vitaly Churkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the UN; Marcin and H.E. Ambassador Winid chat before the autographing of a souvenir; Dr. Cywiński addresses the crowd in the visitors' lobby of the UN.





ראש הממשלה  
Prime Minister

October 18, 2015  
ה' חשוון תשע"ו

Dear Friends,

I send warm greetings to the Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools on the occasion of your 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Through your educational programs, the Orchard Lake Schools ensure that the historic ties between the Polish and Jewish peoples continue to live on. In particular, your focus on Holocaust education is important now more than ever.

I congratulate the Polish Mission for receiving the Gloria Artis Medal for your work to protect and advance Polish culture, and Mr. Marcin Chumiecki on receiving the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

I wish you many more years of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Netanyahu', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benjamin Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Israel



Oświęcim, September 24, 2015

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
 Director  
 The Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools

*Dear Marcin*

I am aware of the good news of your receipt of the golden Gloria Artis, and I wish to offer a few thoughts to you, and your team of close colleagues as you celebrate this well-deserved honor.

The preservation of the Auschwitz site, which is my main goal, has been deeply supported by your dedication. This has been done especially through your embrace of *Forbidden Art*. The work of you and your colleagues in this regard is outstanding, and I remain in appreciation of it. Having such an exhibition travel through the United States, is a great feat that has been careful and thorough, accented in particular by your work with the United Nations in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.

We live in a time that is most important for the future. The work of the people of today will have great impact on how the next generation remembers the past. I am very pleased that as we at Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum dedicate ourselves fully to this task, you as well, our esteemed partners in Orchard Lake, in like fashion shall continue your 130-year legacy in service to the same.

As your partner, I and my colleagues offer you our most sincere congratulations, while envisioning the future in which our institutions may remain closely together.

*Yours*

Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński  
 Director  
 Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and Memorial

# The 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau

by Mike Smith

As Featured In



It was a spectacular event, to be sure, but it was not a gala affair. It was a serious, moving event. It was the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of prisoners from the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On January 27, 2015, over 300 survivors, along with 3000 guests and dignitaries, gathered in Oświęcim, Poland on the grounds of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museums for the commemoration. The survivors were - deservedly so -- the center of attention. They are some of the toughest people that one will ever meet. They lived through the horrors of the concentration camp. But, the commemoration also honored those who did not live to be liberated from the camp -- over 1.1 million Polish citizens, European and Polish Jews, political prisoners, Gypsies and others died there.

The event was the initiative of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the International Auschwitz Committee.

And, it was my distinct honor and privilege to attend the commemoration



Roman Rewald, Mike Smith, and Marcin Chumiecki

with Marcin Chumiecki, Director of the Polish Mission at Orchard Lake Schools, Orchard Lake Michigan, as special guests and American representatives.

The commemoration was held under what is said to be the largest tent ever erected in Europe. It held 3000 attendees, bathed in soft blue lighting. Also, within the tent, was the infamous railroad entrance to Birkenau, the "Death Gate" -- an ominous structure that is now a visitor's center for the 1.5 million tourists who visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museums last year. This entrance to the massive death camp was also featured in movie, "Schindler's List."

One could see the railroad tracks leading into the camp in the middle of the tent, under see-through Plexiglas. I wondered what thoughts the survivors had as they sat in the tent, facing the entrance to hell. This is where they entered the camp as prisoners over 70 years ago.

In addition to the survivors and guests, over 40 different nations sent dignitaries to the event. The President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, was there, along with United States Secretary of the Treasury, Jack Lew, President Francois Hollande of France and the Presidents of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia,

France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Prime Ministers of Belgium, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, the Queen of Sweden and the Crown Prince of Denmark, to name just a few of the dignitaries, who also came to honor the survivors. Other special guests included Steven Spielberg, who has provided support for the event, and created a film, "Voices of Auschwitz," released on the day of the event.

There were several speeches, all with solemn and respectful words. The main message was "remember what happened here, never forget." President Komorowski of Poland addressed the audience and noted that the world must prevent any replication of Auschwitz-Birkenau or the Nazi regime in the future. Piotr Cywinski, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museums provided brief, but direct remarks to the audience. He stated that, the museums "take on a form of warning, a horrid warning" for future generations.

Three survivors also spoke and, at times, moved the audience to tears. One, Roman Kent completely captivated the audience, and called for world leaders to remember what happened at Auschwitz-Birkenau. "We do not want our past to be our children's future," the 85-year-old said to applause, fighting back tears and repeating those words a second time.

Marcin and I sat next to Kent's niece, who had come from Colorado to be with her uncle. She described Roman as "a gentle, normal, next door neighbor type of guy," but one who had an extraordinary past. That perhaps, is the most extraordinary point to be made about the survivors. Once liberated from horrors we cannot imagine, these people led what we might call "normal" lives, as they worked, raised families, and lived, maybe, as your next-door neighbor.

To say the least, this was a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. As a historian, I often experience events and people through the pages of a book. On this occasion, however,

Marcin and I were on the actual grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau. We saw the camps, the ovens, and the evil that is left in the buildings that are preserved as museums for the world to consider and remember. We won't forget.



Above: Steven Spielberg tours the conservation laboratory at Auschwitz with Deputy Director Rafał Pióro (far right); below: A massive heated tent was erected over the infamous "death gate," which leads into the Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp. Dr Cywinski addresses the attendees.



# A SPECIAL GUEST.

## Michal Michalski Visits The Polish Mission

On Monday, November 17, it was our privilege to host Mr. Michal Michalski. He leads a division of the Polish Ministry of Culture (*Ministerstwo Kultury I Dziedzictwa Narodowego* – MKIDN) that specializes in Polish heritage abroad, and is responsible for a wide variety of cultural projects that mean the most to the legacy of the Polish diaspora around the world. On a routine basis, he travels from country to country, meeting with the Polish community in each one, from Tajikistan to the Trans-Dniester, from Switzerland to the U.S., and everywhere in between.

Our association with the Ministry of Culture is no new happening, however. One of the very first big initiatives started by Director Chumiecki was to reach out to them shortly after his appointment at The Polish Mission in 2008. Within less than a year, Ms. Karina Chabowska, Senior Expert from the Division of Wartime Losses visited the Orchard Lake campus at Chumiecki's invitation, to survey the then-unknown collections of The Polish Mission. It was around that time that we were first introduced to Mr. Jacek Miler, MKIDN Senior Advisor. Those early days witnessed the start of a long and warm association with not only MKIDN, but also with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych*) that have both served to launch The Polish Mission into the stratosphere.

Thanks to Chumiecki's original idea to present the holdings of The Polish Mission to key experts at the Ministry of Culture, the formative years of the modern-day Polish Mission have been marked with an unprecedented degree of financial support and cooperation with Polish institutions, all of which has been thanks to the support of this Ministry, dedicated to the preservation of Polish Heritage. It was thanks to them that our partnership with the Wyczółkowski

District Museum in Bydgoszcz was first established. Detroit's Polonia still fondly remembers when Curator Inga Kopciewicz visited the Orchard Lake Campus for three summers in a row to meticulously catalog the entire art collection at the Galeria. Up until that point, our treasury of art was little more than a valuable mystery—thanks to her work, we along with countless museum and academic institutions abroad now have a detailed record of the fine collection that will soon have a newly renovated home at the Galeria.

Furthermore, it was thanks to the Ministry of Culture that our cooperation with the National Archives of Poland had been launched. Today, our projects with the National Archives are healthy, productive, and growing, but it's taken due time and negotiation to reach that point. With the support of our numerous associates at the Ministry of Culture, cooperation with the National Archives was initiated, and today, our stunning collection of documents is steadily getting more organized and neatly cataloged, thanks to the work of archivists Mr. Tomasz Szpil and Mr. Pawel Pietrzyk.

In September, over 100 documents were sent to the Printing and Literature Museum in Grębocin (*Muzeum Piśmiennictwa i Drukarstwa*), where again thanks to MKIDN, director of the museum Prof. Dariusz Subocz and his staff will perform detailed conservation of our founding documents, among others. This cooperative project, funded entirely by MKIDN, came as a result of an appeal by Director Chumiecki, which identified many documents and objects in the PM collection that were rightfully defined as treasures of Polonia in great need of conservation.

Michalski's visit, planned as a follow-up to the *Gloria Artis* Award Dinner, signaled the beginning of several new projects that will materialize in the near future at Orchard Lake. One of these is a professional numismatic evaluation of our coin collection. Following the unprecedented and generous donation by an anonymous donor, The Polish Mission now holds one of the world's most comprehensive collections of ancient and Polish coins, dating from the first Polish settlements to the Iron Curtain. We're grateful for this new initiative, which allows us to honor our anonymous donor by providing the proper care for what has become one of our most prestigious collections.

During his visit, Michalski also visited with Bob Wittmann, who in a great feat of righteousness, worked tirelessly to return a painting looted during World War II, to the National Museum of Poland. Wittmann earned national acclaim for this dedication, and he along with Michalski and the Polish Mission team found time to share lunch together, while discussing the amazing amount of artwork that has yet to be returned to Poland.

If you know of any such works of art, please contact The Polish Mission at (248) 738-6720 to learn more about how you too can be recognized as a true hero of Polish heritage by returning it to its home country and culture.

Show your support for the work on the Ministry of Culture by learning more about their mission for the preservation of national heritage by visiting [www.mkidn.gov.pl](http://www.mkidn.gov.pl).

Please join the Polish Mission team in thanking Mr. Michalski for a wonderful visit. As we all welcome a new government administration, we'd like to thank all of our associates at the Ministry for their generous support, and we remain as ever, ready for more successes in the future.



Michalski and Wittman discuss the retrieval of great art, looted during and after WWII, at the Polish Mission office in the administration building.

# THE GALERIA

OUR DREAM REALITY

Special Feature by Mr. John Dziurman,  
Originally published as *Building our Future* in the *Orchard Lake Good News*

When we preserve an older building we are preserving not only a culture and visual asset, but an economic asset as well. America has a large investment in its older and historic buildings, and these buildings should be as prudently and wisely managed as any other scarce resource.

One-fourth of the existing buildings in America are older and historic buildings. These buildings are being used as intensively as their newer neighbors and they pull their weight in providing both workspace and a unique environment. Adapting older buildings for a new use often costs less than new ones, operating cost are usually less than those for new buildings, and sustainable strategies are inherent in the process. A well-built historic building that accommodates new needs and provides a real sense of place is also the greenest building in the neighborhood.



DREAMED



PLANNED



REALIZING

The Orchard Lake Schools campus occupies 120 acres on the north-shore of Orchard Lake and is one of the major centers for Polish Catholic culture in the nation. The Orchard Lake Schools Historic District was established and listed in the State Register of Historic Places in 1974 and in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The OLS historic district originally included eleven structures of the former Michigan Military Academy on 15 acres along the north shore. Today, there are eight structures remaining – Prep Building (Academic Building 1890), Old Gym (Gymnasium 1895), Maintenance Building (Engine House 1889), Castle (Castle 1858), Administration Building (Quartermaster's Building 1891), Galeria (Commissary 1888), Victorian House (Quartermaster's Residence 1892), and the Father Andrew Wotta Center (Riding Hall 1891). All eleven remaining buildings are red brick structures of Romanesque or Tudor design with the exception of the Father Andrew Wotta Center (former Riding Hall), which is a buttressed, gable-roofed, exhibition type structure. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archeological significance based on national standards used by every state.

Cecile Wendt Jensen, PARI Co-Director introduced me to Marcin Chumiecki and The Polish Mission in December of 2008. Cecile was the high school art educator for my two daughters, and instrumental in developing their art educational goals that resulted in art history and American history degrees and great careers.



Being of Polish decent and part of a family deeply involved in arts and American history – I was interested in learning more about the Polish Mission goals and future plans. From Marcin I learned the history of the Polish Mission and their goals and objectives. I saw the potential and the problems with the current collection storage facilities and the reasons for museum quality facilities. We continued to communicate over the next few years, while Marcin was deeply involved in creating an organization that is now known throughout the world.

In October 2013, Marcin contacted me and we scheduled a number of meetings to discuss the Mission's future plans, historic preservation design options for the Galeria building, and developing a museum quality program that eventually will include appropriate facilities for the art collection, exhibitions, education, meetings and seminars, a conservation laboratory, staff and other support facilities. In February 2014, my museum consultant and I met with the Polish Mission Board and Orchard Lake Schools representatives, to review and discuss recommendations and facility options for the preservation, restoration and expansion of the Galeria Building, conservation issues and museum collections storage. We also had a conversation about the OLS historic district buildings and the benefits of historic preservation on this campus. In May 2014, the Polish Mission Board awarded a phased professional services contract related to the historic Galeria Building to my firm - John Dziurman Architects Ltd.

The program includes the restoration and renovation of the one story Victorian Romanesque style Galeria building. The Galeria consists of a 2,900 sq. ft. art gallery and exhibit space and attached 1,200 sq. ft. storage and support areas on the east, and a new 1,750 sq. ft. one-story addition connected to east wall of the Galeria support building. The new addition will be designed specifically for an exhibit gallery for the historic coin collection, storage area for the collection, and addition support areas. This addition will be designed to accommodate future expansion needs of up to a total of 4,000 sq. ft. on the ground floor and a partial or full second floor addition. The total size of the new addition could grow to 8,000 sq. ft. with a second floor.

One of the first things we do when starting a historic project, is to research and collect all the previous and current

information relating to the use and history of the building and how and when it was built. We also want to know who designed and built the building, who used the building and how they use it. I always look forward to the research and the interesting things we discover about the people involved, the building materials used, the original purpose



for the building, the proposed reuse for the building, structural design, and the character defining features of the building. Usually, the next task is to create an accurate set of documents of the as-built condition and the plans, elevations and sections of the building.

Previously, our standard office practice for measuring a building was to use a combination of photographs, hand measuring the building, recording and transcribing field observations and sketching and notating a ready references along with the pictures. We have also utilized handheld tablets and laptop computers in the field to generate the as built drawings. This process was time consuming and often required multiple field visits to gather additional information overlooked during previous

trips. About five years ago, we started using laser scanning to measure our projects relating to existing and historic buildings. Our first laser scan assignment included 16 historic buildings within a traditional historic downtown. One of the questions I was asked when the CAD drawings were being completed was, "Do you want to show the exterior walls exactly as they are (leaning) or straight?"

A 3D scanner is a device that analyzes a real-world object or environment to collect data on its shape and possibly its appearance (i.e. color). The collected data is then used to construct digital three-dimensional, CAD, and Revit as-built models for the architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing documents. The JDA design team recently completed the laser scanning field work for both the Galeria and the Wotta buildings and a topographic site survey for the Galeria site. This technology is an important addition to our historic preservation tool box, and the file will be a historic artifact for the Polish Mission collection.

The accuracy of laser scanning is also being used to help preserve, repair and restore medieval cathedrals, such as the historic St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria – originally constructed in 1147. Since the original architectural paper drawings for the cathedral are 15 feet long and too fragile to handle, laser scanning was used to create detailed computer drawings of the ancient cathedral. This technology not only provided the information to create detailed computer plans and elevations, but also digital three-dimensional virtual models of the cathedral. Now when weathered stonework needs to be repaired or replaced, the computerized system can create life-sized models to accurately guide the architects and stonemasons.

Like any building project, a historic preservation project must comply with the federal, state and local building codes and ordinances. There is also a national system of historic building rehabilitation standards in the U.S., from the federal level down to the state and local levels. These standards grew out of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and all the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) are federally mandated to carry out provisions of the Act of 1966. The four Secretary of the Interior Standards provide guidelines for preservation, restoration, reconstruction and



rehabilitation. The major standards document in the U.S. preservation community, promulgated by the National Park Service since 1977, is the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The standards define rehabilitation as "the process of returning a property to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values." The standards are summarized in ten points, and primarily deals with the historic appearance and character-defining features of an historic property.

The historic appearance and character-defining features of the Galeria Building include the Romanesque or Tudor design style and the red bricks, the red brick corbels and features, the windows, doors, and the half round crown transoms in-filled with prismatic glass tile plates. The prismatic tiles are an innovative daylighting device from the turn-of-the-century that awaits a rebirth in today's energy conscious world.

The characteristic pattern of small glass tile plates above a display window can still be found on Main Street storefronts all over the United States. These glass tiles were one of the most successful new building materials at the turn of the twentieth century, but their purpose and the excitement they once caused have curiously vanished. Although barely visible from the street, the small horizontal prismatic ribs on the interior face of the tiles refract light rays deeper into a room. This feature meant that artificial light levels could be lowered or a light shaft could be eliminated. Currently, the prismatic tiles have been covered over on the interior of the Galeria and therefore, probably not apparent to most people walking by or attending a program. Fortunately, almost all of the original glass tile plates are still in place and will be restored and reused as originally designed.

Before we are done, I am sure we will have many more interesting stories about the Galeria and the original Michigan Military Academy Commissary built in 1888.



# Friends of the Polish Mission Appeal

As *Friends of the Polish Mission*, you will be supporting a mission whose purpose is to bring Polonia closer to its heritage and develop a greater appreciation of Polish culture worldwide. Your membership will help our leading multi-faceted mission preserve Polish-American legacy and provide a forum for contemporary issues.

### Annual Membership Levels:

- Individual - \$30
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- Sustaining - \$1,000
- Director's Circle - \$5,000
- 1885 Founder's Club - \$10,000

### Friends of the Polish Mission

Email: [pmission@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:pmission@orchardlakeschools.com) | 248-683-0323  
Make checks payable to: *Polish-American Art and Cultural Research Foundation*, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All or a portion of your annual membership dues may be tax-deductable. Membership cards will be mailed promptly. Mail your completed form to:

Friends of the Polish Mission  
3535 Commerce Rd.  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324-9907

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**Check here to receive additional mailings from Orchard Lake Schools**

# EXHIBITS

by Allison Follbaum

We were honored to host the North American premiere of *Po Prostu PINK* here on our campus on July 23, 2015. Created by Professor Agata Dworzak-Subocz, it acknowledges the color and beauty that was seen in Poland after the iron curtain was lifted in 1989.

Life was void of the colorful candy that lines store shelves today during that dark time of oppression in history. *PINK* is Professor Dworzak-Subocz's way of celebrating the liberation from that grey existence.

The bright pink shades of each graphic art piece create colors and shapes that are open and free. 19 different prints, hung in the Galeria, show different viewpoints and designs hidden in the pink colors.

Professor Dworzak-Subocz created *Po Prostu PINK* as part of her doctoral studies. She was inspired by color and the progression from the grey, colorless Communist Poland in which she grew up, to the vibrant, progressive Poland she's part of today!

In Europe, *PINK* has been hailed among the most prestigious and popular art exhibits, currently offered as part of the International Print Triennial Society in Krakow (IPT). We at The Polish Mission are honored to be the only venue in North America to host an IPT exhibition.

Many local leaders, university officials, and long-time supporters of The Polish Mission gathered to view the exhibit hanging on the walls of the Galeria in July. As people walked around and chatted with friends, they enjoyed pink frosted cupcakes and some delicious kremowka (also known as "Pope cake," supposedly St. John Paul II's favorite dessert).



#Agata Dworzak-Subocz#exhibiton#polishartist  
 #10.07-08.08 2015#Wernissage 10.07 godz. 16.00  
 #Galeria Sztuki Polskiej The Polish Mission w Orchard Lake, Michigan, USA

MTG 2015  
 KARCHER  
 The Polish Mission



Left: Department of Cultural Heritage Department Director Jacek Miller (from the Ministry of Culture - right) poses with AJC members Howard Brown (l) and Sheri Schiff (r) at the premier event; top: Guests welcome Minister Omilanowska; above: Minister Omilanowska offers words of wisdom at the Galeria; background: *Pink Kaleidoscope*, by Professor Dworczyk-Subocz

Our most honored guest at this event was Madam Professor Malgorzata Omilanowska, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Poland. She was visiting our campus partly to deliver and bestow upon us the gold degree of the *Gloria Artis* Medal. This medal is awarded to persons and organizations for distinguished contributions to, or protection for Polish culture and heritage. To read more about this prestigious award, please see *Our Brightest Hour* on page 38.

Professor Omilanowska herself, is a trained art historian and spent an hour or two touring various buildings on campus, speaking with our volunteers at PARI about current programs and visiting archivist Tomasz Szpil about his work re-organizing the OLS archives. She then joined us in the Galeria to officially open *Po Prostu PINK* at The Polish Mission! We are so glad that Professor Omilanowska was able to make time in her busy schedule to join us for this momentous occasion.

Prior to this premiere, a last minute preview was given to the ladies attending the Women of Grace conference hosted on our Orchard Lake campus the weekend before our premiere on July 23rd.

After the premiere of *Po Prostu PINK* in July, it was back in the Galeria for showings through the month of October! There's a few great reasons that we were happy to be presenting this exhibit: October is Polish-American Heritage Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

*PINK* is inspired by freedom. Freedom from oppression and restriction with the ability to use as much color and fun as is wished. Little rainbows of sweet candy are a stark contrast to dreary grey life and *PINK* celebrates liberation from the bland ordinary.

To learn more about the International Print Triennial Society, please visit [www.en.triennial.cracow.pl](http://www.en.triennial.cracow.pl).

# Remembering Warsaw

A 63-DAY STRUGGLE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS DEFINED THE BRAVERY OF A NATION IN 1944. THAT LEGACY IS ALIVE AND WELL.

by Allison Follbaum

THIS YEAR WE BROUGHT A TRADITION TO A CLOSE AS MRS. HALINA KONWIAK CLOSED THE DETROIT, MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE ARMIA KRAJOWA. FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS: DZIĘKUJĘ BARDZO FOR YOUR SERVICE.

On Sunday, October 4, we celebrated a very special mass with representatives from the Detroit, Michigan chapter of the *Armia Krajowa* (Home Army). Even though we're Americans, we still make it a priority to commemorate our Polish veterans and

the sacrifices that they made, especially during World War II, for the preservation of Poland.

We also want to remember these anniversaries, and the veterans that were there, while we still can. With each passing year, oral histories and memories are lost. We want to invest the time needed to capture these moments now, before it is too late.

It has always been the tradition to start our Sunday commemorations with 1 p.m. Polish mass at Our Lady of Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel on campus. It was a blustery October day, but the warmth that was felt from the friends gathered inside was enough to warm even the coldest fingers.

We wanted to make this celebration especially memorable for our dear friend, Mrs. Halina Konwiak, AK veteran who was a POW due to her involvement and support of the *Armia Krajowa*.

Curator of Collections, JJ Przewozniak, concocted a special plan to welcome historical re-enactors, dressed in reproduction uniforms



just like those that were worn by the AK during World War II, to present the ceremonial Home Army banner at the beginning of mass. He called on three reliable friends to volunteer several hours on a Sunday afternoon to make this memorial unique. We want to especially thank DJ. Morin and Bogdan "Ben" Ivaniv, St. Mary's graduates, and Monica Suda, for their assistance in presenting the colors at mass!

Fr. Louis Madey, (USMC Ret.), offered mass, with priests and seminarians from SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary assisting him. Marcin Chumiecki, Director of The Polish Mission opened mass with a few words about what the *Armia Krajowa* has meant to our organization as well as to Poles and their families since the 1939 Invasion.

We were also honored enough to have members of the Knights of Columbus fourth degree attend the mass



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Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Chicago



over to the dining hall for coffee, kremowka and cookies and good conversation. We were serenaded by Mr. Kazimierz Jędralczyk playing all the old favorite Polish tunes while folks chatted, telling stories of the good old days.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success!

Previous page, left: Halina Konwiak addresses the community on October 4th; right: AK reenactor-volunteers Monica and Ben put fine touches on their AK impressions; left: Minister of Culture Małgorzata Omilanowska and Mrs. Konwiak on July 22nd; below: AK veterans Danuta Borowicz, and Halina Konwiak pose with friends after mass

and provide traditional honor guard ceremony. Thank you to Mr. Jim Jaczkowski from the St. Nicholas Sterling Heights Council 7011 for coordinating this great addition to a beautiful day.

After mass, Mrs. Konwiak spoke about her experiences in the AK and what the group meant to her ever since then and how glad she was of her involvement. You could hear a pin drop in the chapel as she shared her testimony and her emotion showed in her voice.

Such seriousness surrounding the celebration of the mass led everyone to be extremely glad to head



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## GENEALOGY TEAM PREPARES TO LAUNCH DZIENNIK POLSKI ONLINE

by Ceil Wendt-Jensen



Working with Co-Director, Dr. Hal Learman, we are designing a new Polish Mission resource - the website [<http://miphheritage.org>] referred to as Michigan Polish Heritage. Together we will develop content/databases for online access.

We will create a Quicksheet with detailed instruction for use of the various online databases with special emphasis on the finding aids for the newly digitized *Dziennik Polski*.

Participation in the programs draws on my expertise as a Pol-Am

genealogist and curriculum developer, as we select relevant newspapers, books, and databases and community stories relevant to the Polish experience in Michigan. We will put out a call to fellow Polish Americans to attend our "Scanning Days" to contribute their stories and artifacts to present on the website. Growing up as a Polish American, I felt separated from my ancestral history and sought resources and experiences to develop my knowledge. This includes establishing the Polonica Americana Research Institute on the campus of Orchard Lake, Michigan.

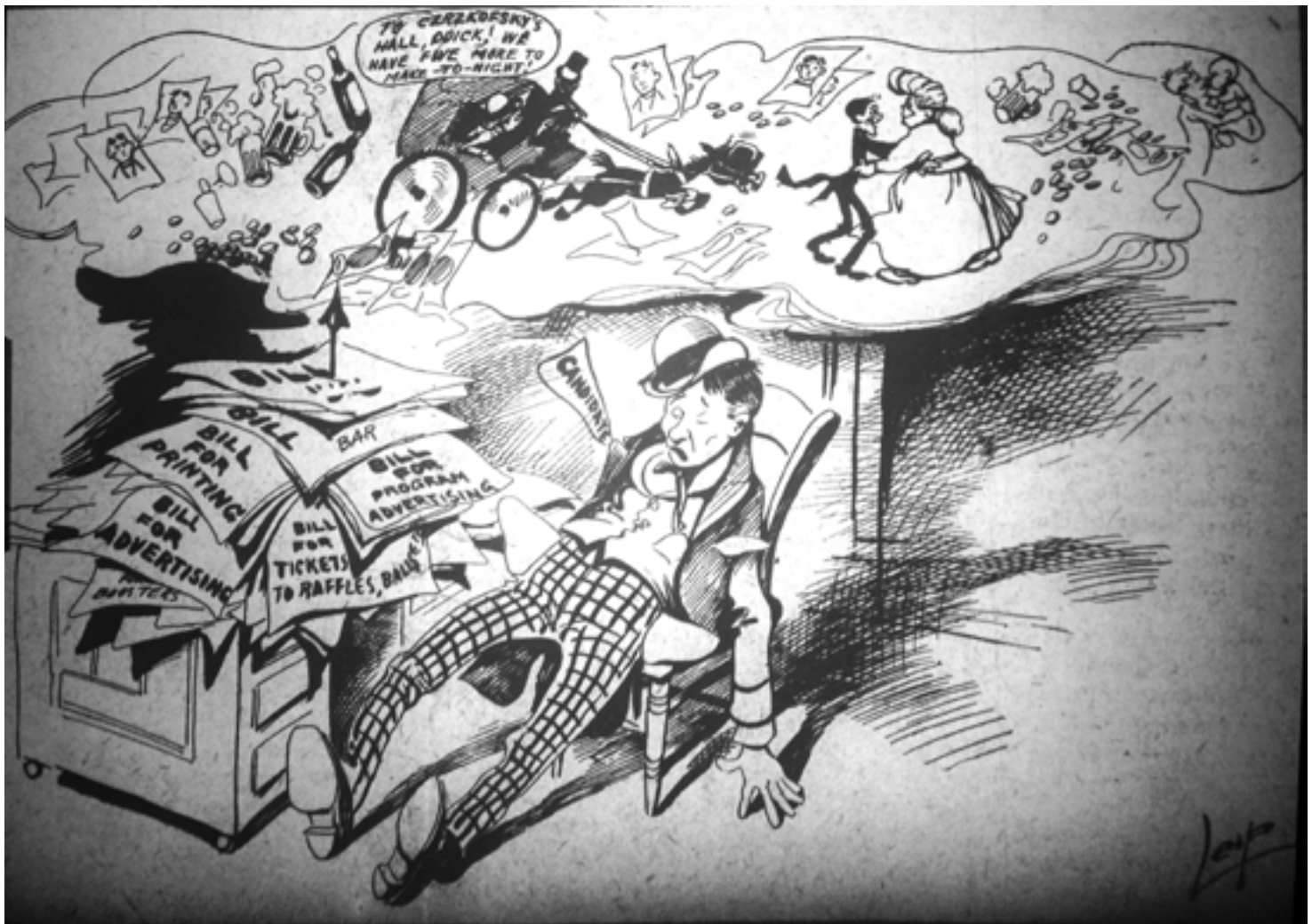
We will expand our resource website Michigan Polish Heritage [<http://miphheritage.org>]. Two featured databases funded by MHC (pending) to be added will be: *Dziennik Polski* and Jubilee Books (Histories of the Polish Communities). Bringing a resource like the *Dziennik Polski* online and translating the text with Google Toolbar, allows readers to unlock the immigration story. Having access to articles about World War I and World War II from a Polish viewpoint, not to mention the announcements and obituaries about researchers' Polish ancestors, will aid in this process.

Our project focuses on Polish immigration, assimilation, and cultural history.

The once thriving Polish communities of Michigan have dissipated into the suburbs; and the schools and parishes in which life in the late nineteenth and twentieth century revolved around, have shut their doors. The Polish Mission has become a repository for artifacts from this time period. We feel a sense of urgency to document this earlier way of life while those who lived it can contribute to its legacy. Today's generations, young and old alike, knew the immigrants and witnessed the assimilation into American life. Vestiges of this Polish American heritage such as booklets and badges are forgotten in boxes and closets; but with the help of our program, these relics will be identified and digitized for posterity.

It is our mission to preserve the past history of our community and make it accessible for future generations. We are often contacted by families after the death of parents; and offered their collections to our archive or museums. This expansion of the Michigan Polish Heritage project is a proactive





approach to helping families identify, record, and share their vintage collections.

Anyone with Polish heritage is a possible participant in this collection development and is invited to share materials important to their family or parish histories, such as photographs, artifacts, and jubilee books. Our project aligns with the thinking of NEH Chairman, William Adams, when he is quoted “We know that America’s cultural heritage isn’t found only in libraries and museums; but in our family histories, and the stories and objects we pass down to our children.” With the owner’s permission, the digitized materials will be made publicly available through the institution’s online collections. Our program

will feature public programming including lectures, workshops, webinars, and the website that will celebrate and expand knowledge of the community’s past and the diverse histories of its members.

**NIE** utrzymajcie małe sumy pieniędzy w banku przez pójście wysokie ceny dentystom.

“Nasza praca jest najlepsza”  
i gwarantowana pod każdym względem. Ciemna piątka więcej za pracę, która lepiej być nie może.



Cały garstak zębów .....	\$3.00
Złote korony .....	\$3.00
Roboty mostkowe (bridge work) .....	\$3.00
Plumbowanie .....	.50

**New Art Dental Parlors**  
107 Gratiot ave., Nad apteką  
nar. Brush ul. Van Vleet.

Additionally, we know the community already has queries ready awaiting the ability to search the *Dziennik Polski* database. Using social media we assessed the community’s interest and received the following replies: “I would like to look up my Grandmother’s obituary” [Edie Stokowski]; “I would like to search to see where people were from or visiting Buffalo with the same surnames as mine” [Kasia Dane]; “Just reading the reactions of our relatives would be interesting...Totally different perspective when reading history as a current event” [Diane Snellgrove]; “I would also want to search for names in general. There are many times that a news article would contain names of people” [George Pappas];

“My grandfather was struck and killed by a car in Hamtramck in April of 1942. His name was Joseph Porzondek...think it may have been in that newspaper?” [Thomas Porzondek]; “... marriage or other genealogical relevant information...and a short story about me hitting a grand slam when I was nine!” [Stephen Janis]. The mayor of Hamtramck, Karen Majewski, is quoted “This project is so important! I would use it to do research for the Chene Street History Project, Polish American progressives, early Polish American women business owners, as well as an upcoming book on Polish immigrant writer, Helena Stas.”

# Making a Difference with the AJC

## Celebrating our Supporters and Friends

AJC Detroit board meeting. Marcin was asked to speak on The Polish Mission's involvement with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and most especially on the event surrounding the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz (January 27, 2015). In addition, as The Polish Mission is known for cherishing Polish-Jewish relations in Detroit and nationally, he was asked to comment specifically on the future of Polish-Jewish relations. Delivering a comprehensive message, Marcin went on to explain the beginnings and development of The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools:

“The Orchard Lake Schools were founded in 1885 and has the unique history of being the only ethnic Polish seminary in the United States. Ever since then, we've been a driving force in Polonia. In more recent history, however, St. John Paul II made a special plea to Poles in America to donate artifacts and Polish-related collections to Orchard Lake as a depository of all things Polish. At that time, we had already amassed a considerable collection of rare books, artifacts, art, and archives, but his appeal really increased the flow of donations, and it's why we have the largest Polish collections anywhere in the United States.”

Marcin went on to discuss the *Forbidden Art* project, done in exclusive cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and The Polish Mission's influential role in Polish-Jewish history.

“There is just so much Jewish ancestry in Poland – the Jewish history of my country is one of the most vibrant parts of our heritage, of which I as a Pole am honored to promote and share as a part of a cultural organization. After so much tragedy, under the Nazi occupation, and so much oppression under the Soviet occupation of my country, I'm very happy to see a great resurgence of Jewish life in Poland. In places like Galicja especially, the Jewish festivals are growing at remarkable speed, and there's a treasury of Jewish museums and cultural institutions that are thriving now. Two of them that come to mind are the POLIN museum in Warsaw, under the direction of Professor Dariusz Stola, and the Galicja Jewish Museum in Krakow, under Director Jakub Nowakowski. Auschwitz-Birkenau is the sobering and authentic priceless relic of history, while these other two museums are doing much to advance and celebrate Jewish culture. We're working on new cooperation with Director Stola, and we've brought the *Traces of Memory* exhibit (on loan from the Galicja Museum) to the Holocaust Memorial Center — Director Steve Goldman is a great leader in this field, and my institution is lucky to have a good friend and colleague in him.”

Responding to questions and observations from the group, Marcin also touched on several colorful elements of his initial work with Orchard Lake Schools. “I was originally asked by the late Cardinal Szoka and Fr. Tim Whalen to serve in a voluntary capacity on the board of The Polish Mission. After that point, I began to fall in love with the history and future of the organization, and with my

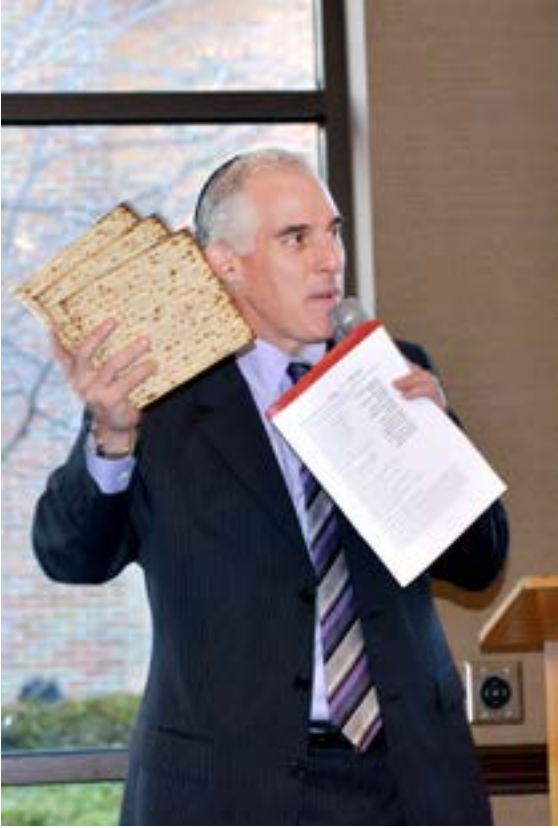
The American Jewish Committee (AJC) is one of the most active and influential Jewish advocacy groups worldwide. With members and offices in countries across the world, the AJC is dedicated to creating a bright future for the Jewish community, similar to how we at The Polish Mission are dedicated to the same for the Polish community.

On February 9th, Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki was invited to be a guest speaker at the



Consul General of Japan in Detroit Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama watches his wife Yukari light the candles at the beginning of the Global Diplomatic Seder.





Rabbi Joshua Bennett of Temple Israel explains matzah, the unleavened bread traditionally eaten at Passover.

passionate engagement of the work there, it wasn't long before then-Chancellor Fr. Tim appointed me as director, under recommendation from Cardinal Szoka. From the very beginning I wanted to be the best I could be, allowing this Polish organization to grow into everything it was supposed to be: a model organization that truly embraces its mission with clear focus and comprehensive strategy. That's why I'm here today. The team I've put together is young, and energetic about what we do."

"Being here tonight is like coming home after a day's work. The AJC was the first organization to reach out to me back in my first days as a Polish Mission Director—Kari Alterman and I had had many good conversations about what we could accomplish as colleagues and friends, and later Howard Brown and I connected. I couldn't be more thankful for how The Polish Mission and the AJC are cooperating today."

At the AJC's 3rd annual Global Diplomatic Seder, held at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield on March 17, a Polish Mission delegation was invited to represent Poland at this rich and inviting custom, where members of the community join together to socialize, eat, and be guided by a presiding Rabbi, ceremonially commemorating the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

Hosted across the world by regional AJC groups, the Diplomatic Seder is a premier initiative that brings members of a diverse and vibrant community together to commemorate a pivotal moment in Jewish history. All guests join in great food, happy spirits, and together create a beautiful atmosphere of togetherness that really sets an example for community involvement and outreach. Polish Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka (New York) said, "Events like this are so important because they unite people of different religions, backgrounds and countries." "Sitting, eating, and talking together brings us all closer together."

Marcin Chumiecki is a regular attendee at the AJC Detroit Seder, and as well as representing The Polish Mission, has the honor of representing the Polish Consulate in Chicago. Consul General Paulina Kapuścińska issued the

following to The Polish Mission headquarters: "Dear Mr. Director, thank you for participating in this important event, and for your representation of the Polish Nation, and myself. Please accept my best wishes." This year's Seder was sponsored by Consul General of Japan in Detroit, Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama. Altogether 10 nations were represented at Temple Israel.

According to Chumiecki, "In our age, silence can be violent, and we cultural leaders have an obligation to forge friendships that will promote togetherness and mutual respect. The Diplomatic Seder is a most admirable example of taking the first important step toward a friendly and good future for all people – I salute the efforts of the AJC, and remain deeply honored to be an invitee."

In 2017, it will be our honor to formally host the Global Diplomatic Seder, in cooperation with the Polish Consulate in Chicago, again at Temple Israel.

Here's wishing many continued blessings to our trusted friends and supporters at the AJC, and a bright future of continued cooperation.



From left: Rabbi Bennett, AJC Regional Director Kari Alterman, Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama, and Marcin Chumiecki. *Please join us in congratulating Kari for her years of service at the AJC, as she moves on to future endeavors!*

# CONSERVATION ISSUES

The Polish Mission owns about 4,000 coins and medals, making them a primary fixture of our entire collection, and the focus of our conservation efforts. Guest contributor ODr. Marek Kołyszko, professor at the University of Nicolaus Copernicus in Torun, Poland, presents new metallurgic research in the field of numismatics.

**SOME OF THE COINS MADE FOR GHETTO INHABITANTS DURING WWII ARE AMONG THE MOST RARE AND FRAGILE. CONSERVATION OF MAGNESIUM-ALLOY COINS FROM THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO IS A MAJOR ISSUE FOR MUSEUMS. DR. KOŁYSZKO EXPLAINS WHY.**

Magnesium and its alloys are not materials typically associated with art objects and even less so with the production of coins. This probably explains why the literature devoted to the conservation and restoration of historic artifacts has not dealt with the conservation and reconstruction of magnesium objects. However, there are some coins dating back to World War II which are unique because of the material used in their production. What makes them exceptional is also the limited time and place of their circulation. They were considered legal tender only in the Łódź ghetto and circulated for just a few months. The original specimens which are found in museum collections come from random ground archeological deposits. They are in extremely poor condition. Advanced corrosion in soil environment makes their

identification impossible. The work to save such coins is a great challenge for conservators. It is difficult to provide clear explanation for the choice of such alloy composition. In difficult times of war, magnesium was probably considered the least strategically valuable metal.

Magnesium is one of the most common metals and 2.04 % of the Earth's crust is composed of it. It is obtained from the rock-forming minerals: dolomite and magnesite. Metallic magnesium is obtained in the electrolysis of magnesium chloride with the addition of alkaline chlorides, by carbothermal reduction of magnesium oxide in the atmosphere of hydrogen, thermal vacuum reduction using silicone or carbide at a temperature reaching up to 2000 °C.

In Poland, the source of magnesium is dolomite  $MgCO_3 \cdot$

$CaCO_3$ . Magnesium in the form of a chemical compound was isolated in 1808 and in the metallic form as late as 1830 (Florow 1989, p. 69).

Magnesium is a silvery white metal with the melting point of 651 °C. It is a light metal, with a specific gravity of 1.74g/cm<sup>3</sup>. It is considered to be the lightest of all constructional metals (Ochrona 1986, p. 179). It is resistant to ammonia solutions, chromium salts, alkali solutions and hydrofluoric acid (Ochrona 1986, p. 179). The magnesium oxide covering the surfaces of objects made of this metal provides a protective layer. However, this layer is porous and less durable than that of e. g. aluminum (Florow 1989, p. 69). In the presence of oxygen, magnesium burns with a light flame. Due to the poor mechanical properties and the risk of spontaneous combustion during heating up, magnesium in its

pure form is of limited use in industry. This metal is used for production of light alloys and in the past it was used in the photographic industry and in the production of fireworks. Magnesium oxide (magnesia) is used in ceramic industry and in medicine. The alkaline magnesium carbonate is used as a filler for paints and paper, as an ingredient of thermal insulation and in the pharmaceutical industry (Chodkowski 1971, p. 312-313). This metal has poor corrosion resistance but in alloys with zinc it prevents intergranular corrosion. It is more commonly used in a form of alloys with other metals. It forms ultra-light alloys of very good mechanical properties, in some cases exceeding the properties of aluminum alloys (Ochrona 1986, p. 179). Thermal processing of such an alloy is based, among others, on the formation of intergranular compounds of high hardness (Rutkowski 1972, p. 1152). This composition was intended for the forming processes and after being heated to the temperature of 300 - 400°C could be pressed and rolled. After cooling in the atmospheric air it could be hardened (Florow 1989, p. 69).

The alloy of similar composition was used in the production of coins in the German-established Łódź ghetto between 1940 – 1944. The designer of the coins` was Pinkus Szwarc (Mikołajczyk 1988, p.158). Between 1943 – 1944 the Jewish self-government issued coins made of magnesium and aluminum alloy of various denomination, among others, 5 marks (introduced into use on February 22, 1944) and 10 marks (introduced into use on December 27, 1943) (Kamiński 1976, p.35 -36). Those coins were in use exclusively in the area of the Łódź ghetto. The alloy used for the manufacturing of the coins burned very well. When heated

to the temperature above 700°C the magnesium oxidizes fast and ignites spontaneously (Florow 1989, p. 69). Due to the permanent price increase in the ghetto, the coins were losing value and were used for lighting fire in the furnaces (Kamiński 1976, p.36 -37). It is hard to establish the number of coins which got irretrievably lost. This is one of the reasons why those coins are unique on the antique market and why it is so easy to find their forged copies (Suchanek, Krupiewski 1999, p. 204). Some of the coins which survived the turmoil of war are in poor condition caused by the soil environment where they were found. The surface of such numismatic items is usually slightly chipped. There are also clearly visible light-grey stratifications present on the surface which make the recognition of obverse and reverse almost impossible.



*Fig. 1. Coins of denominations of 5 and 10 marks from the Łódź ghetto made of magnesium alloy, before preservation works (photo by M. Kołyszko)*

The effect of flat coin surfaces free of corrosion stratifications can be achieved by several-second immersion in low percentage (up to 3%) solution

of  $\text{HNO}_3$ , provided that it does not contain chlorine and iron ions (Socha, Weber 1961, p. 112). It is not recommended to degrease the objects made of magnesium alloys by means of a solvent. It can only be done by using alcohol or cathode degreasing (Socha, Weber 1961, p. 131). With highly corroded coins made of magnesium alloy it is recommended to take actions allowing the constant monitoring of the preservation process. For preliminary cleaning of loose stratifications an ultrasonic scrubber can be used. After drying, further cleaning can be done with the use of synthetic bristle brushes. As corrosion protective coating it is recommended to use 10% acetone solution of Paraloid B-72 resin.



*Fig. 2. Coins of denominations of 5 and 10 marks from the Łódź ghetto made of magnesium alloy, after preservation works (photo by M. Kołyszko)*



## Honoring St. John Paul II in March



Composers Marek Wilczyński (left), and Jarosław Golembiowski

Cardinal Karol Wojtyła wanted the mission of the Orchard Lake Schools preserved throughout time, stating so when he visited the campus in 1969, and again reiterated this thought, after being elected Pope, at a private audience in 1978. This being the 10th year since his passing from this life, we felt especially passionate about creating an event to pay homage and remember his everlasting love of Poland and the Polish people.

Thanks to the dedication of our Polish Mission team and our generous supporters, we gathered on Saturday, March 21st, for a very special and enjoyable remembrance of Pope St. John Paul II. His life and accomplishments are held near and dear to the hearts of the Polish people, and he is fondly remembered, not just in religious communities.

We began with 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Shrine Chapel of our Lady of Orchard Lake here on campus. Celebrated by the Chancellor-Rector Msgr. Thomas Machalski, the hour spent in prayer was a reminder of how much St. John Paul II loved his faith and passionately preached the Gospel message his whole life. A special thanks to Chris Borowicz, who graciously assisted at Mass as music minister! He also offered a special rendition of *Tuba Mirum* in honor of St. John Paul II.

After Mass ended, the guests walked over to the Galeria building just across the street to continue the commemoration. While enjoying a small reception with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, attendees mingled and chatted with each other. Some discussed their memories of when Pope John Paul II was elected, and the few times he visited the United States and even Detroit, in September 1987.

We were privileged to have been able to screen the Polish documentary, *Missa Cracoviensis*, as part of our celebration.

Directed by Jerzy Jogalla, this film, released in late 1979, shows Karol Wojtyła's transition from Archbishop of Kraków to the "Polish Pope" who broke down barriers between countries and peoples. Many of his Masses, celebrated with people of all nations and races, in countries and continents around the world, are shown in a tender tribute to the love he had for all people. A "silent" film (there is no dialogue, the videography, by Dominik Koziol) is complimented by music originally composed by Marek Wilczyński.

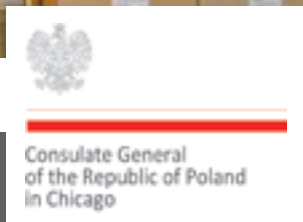
We were honored to be able to host the composer who wrote the score for the documentary, Marek Wilczyński, at the reception! Thank you, Marek, for taking the time to be with us!

Guests socializing in the Galeria were also treated to a special classical music concert by our friend, Dr. Jarosław Golembiowski, from Chicago! He performed classical piano selections, including his own compositions and a few pieces by Frédéric Chopin. Thank you, Jarek, for sharing your great talents with us!

We thank to all, who honored us with your presence, as you took the time to participate in this celebration with us. We are looking forward to continuing to share our love of this great man!



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# Great Connections

## Partnership with the National Archives of Poland brings Archivist Tomasz Szpil to campus for intense organization by Allison Follbaum

Summer is long gone and we are another year further into our partnership with the Archiwum Państwowe w Łodzi (State Archives of Poland in Łódź) and our multi-year project of re-cataloging and re-organizing our archives to make them accessible to the community! We were again joined by skilled archivist, Tomasz Szpil, for about two months while he continued his hard work in the second floor of the Ark Building on campus.

All of the boxes he organized last year got a final check and then we printed out official numbered labels and lined them all up on the shelves! The finished product is about 109 linear feet of archival storage. These newly labeled collections include:

- Polish Home Army AK Veterans Association – The US Headquarters**
- Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School, Hamtramck, Michigan**
- Adama Michiewicz Polish Supplementary School, Passaic, New Jersey**
- 5th Polish Kres. Infantry Division Ex-Soldiers Association in Chicago**
- Association of the Sons of Poland, Jersey City, New Jersey**
- Major Marian Lisowski**
- Kinga Zummer-Lisowska**

- General Stanislaw Feliks Kwasniewski**
- Attorney Edward Wrobelsko**
- Professor Arthur L. Waldo**
- Polish Military Mission in Canada Polish Aid Society**

We are so grateful for Tomek's hard work!

During his time on campus this year, from July to September, Tomek dug into the Polish American Veterans of America (PAVA) collection, containing documentation of the activities of this aid organization that has been in operation since 1921. According to their website, it is the oldest institution of this type in the world. He also started work on the Polish Falcons of America collection.

While Tomek's main focus this year continued to be the Archives of Polish-



Tomek shows recent work to Minister Omilanowska, while Tygodnik Polski Editor-in-Chief Alicja Karlic looks on.

American organizations, he found time to educate us and help out in various places and events on and around campus.

He helped facilitate a collection donation from a local family with deep Polish roots, and spent time going over the documents and sorting them into appropriate folders. He also was a presenter at the conference held at PARI earlier this summer, *To The Manor Born*, which explored what it was like for our Polish ancestors that worked for the families that owned these huge houses and castles. Tomek contributed lectures on both days and also assisted with research for the patrons that attended.

Tomek also helped facilitate the tours of the archives and historical holdings of The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools for Madam Professor Malgorzata Omilanowska, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Poland. Professor Omilanowska visited the Orchard Lake Schools campus in July to present the *Gloria Artis* (gold degree) award to The Polish Mission. Tomek selected some of the best articles and artifacts from the archives and museums to display and share with Madam Professor, who herself is a very expert of art and history.

We also appreciated Tomek's helping hand with our annual *September 1939 Commemoration* on September 6 and the premiere of *Po Prostu PINK* on July 23. Dziękuję, Tomek, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

# Maple's Sweet Story

North American Tradition Combines with European Heritage at the Orchard Lake Campus  
by JJ Przewozniak



Last spring, just as winter began to subside, you may have noticed buckets, hoses, and other apparatus near select trees around the campus. Curiosity may have been ignited: “What kind of science experiment is going on here?” The answer was that it was no experiment at all, only that we were harvesting the natural sweet byproduct of maple trees: maple syrup!

The OLS campus is rich with healthy maple trees for making one’s own maple syrup, so this year I decided to put a particular backwoods skill set I have to good use. My main sugarbush was the beautiful maple grove next to the Admissions building, which is home

to maples that are around 180 years old. So with high boots, plenty of buckets, and some custom-made spires, I selected only mature maples, and carefully drilled and tapped them so the sweet sap would drip out slowly but surely. After putting some 20 taps on about 14 trees (bigger trees can handle 2-3 taps), we wound up with about 75 gallons of sap, but the process was far from over! Being careful not to wait too long, the next step was to to boil it all down, turning the roughly 2% sugar maple sap into the 66% sugar prized maple syrup. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to have one gallon of syrup, and considering that I used a traditional cauldron-over-an-open-fire method, it was



no quick task! After about a cord of wood and several weekends of boiling the syrup I filtered and bottled it all in fine bottles with gold sealing wax.

To commemorate the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools, the limited stock of maple syrup was offered for sale at \$130 per bottle. To our joy, we could barely keep the bottles on the shelf! Many thanks to Mr. Jeff Lutz,

who placed the biggest maple syrup order, and to the many other Ambassadors, regents, board members, and everyone who made our little maple sugaring operation one of our most successful fundraisers!

If you'd like to learn more about making maple syrup, I'll be tapping the trees again in early 2016,

as soon as the weather peaks above freezing - that's the only time of the whole year we can make syrup; just before the buds come out. Feel free to email or call me as we get closer to that time, to have a hands-on learning experience that will allow you to make your own maple syrup!





# OUR BRIGHTEST HOUR

We are proud to announce, that on July 23, 2015, The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools were awarded the *Gloria Artis* by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Poland, Professor Malgorzata Omilanowska. The *Gloria Artis* (the Medal for Merit to Culture) is an award presented to elite organizations and persons, for their protection and promotion of Polish culture and heritage. The Polish Mission is the only organization in North America to earn the gold degree of this prestigious award.

Our director, Marcin Chumiecki, and the Polish Mission team welcomed the Minister to Orchard Lake on July 23 for a behind-the-scenes tour of our campus. Marcin showed Madam Omilanowska our programming at PARI in the Fr. Wotta Building, and visiting archivist Tomasz Szpil discussed some of our most valuable collections in the archives.

Many local leaders, university officials, and long-time supporters of The Polish Mission gathered to celebrate our organization's accomplishments. Professor Omilanowska, welcomed attendees to the exclusive showing of *Po Prostu PINK* (Simply PINK) in the Galeria. She spoke about the importance of remembering and preserving the past, but also how beautiful it is to celebrate the future. Partnerships such as that between The Polish Mission and International Print Triennial Society in Krakow embodied the heart of Professor Omilanowska's words.

The day finished off with the viewing of the art exhibition in the Galeria with some of our Board Members, staff, and reporters from the Polish newspapers in Metro Detroit. Guests mingled, chatting and viewing the art, while eating delicious pink frosted cupcakes and one of our favorite Polish desserts: kremowka! It was so fitting that amidst such an intimate group of our friends and supporters,

Professor Omilanowska awarded The Polish Mission with the *Gloria Artis* (gold) award: the Medal for Merit to Culture, at the very heart of our historical organization and campus.



From left: Dr. Stan, Mr. Lud Koci, Minister Omilanowska, Msgr. Tom, and Marcin smile together for a milestone on July 22nd, at Pine Lake Country Club

# STATESMANSHIP

For the First Time in 77 Years, an Ambassador of Poland Came to the Shores of Orchard Lake.  
Ambassador Schnepf Honored The Polish Mission on October 29/30, 2015

It was a golden evening, to be certain. The Polish Mission team had been anxiously awaiting this night for months. Now, every detail was set: the electronics worked perfectly, the centerpieces and accents were arranged with minute attention to detail, and the freshly-printed copies of *The Mission* were poured over again and again for typos. The work had been non-stop in the months and weeks prior, but now everything was ready to shine.

And so began another part of *The Polish Mission's* Brightest Hour! It began when Minister of Culture Madam Malgorzata Omilanowska came to campus in late July to award us with the gold degree of the *Gloria Artis*, and on October 29, The Polish Mission welcomed Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf to formally mark the occasion in front of a group of our most generous friends, gathered at Pine Lake Country Club.

Over 115 guests came to mark the gala occasion, in a gorgeous room that was embellished by approximately 50 letters of congratulations, from people ranging from President of Poland Andrzej Duda, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Dr. Piotr Cywiński, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, President of the Grand Hotel R.D. Musser III, and even President Obama. Letters from leading influential Polish institutions were displayed in the elegant bar room, where a choice display of some of the best artwork from our collection was showcased in view of the panorama of Pine Lake at sunset. Works by Malczewski, Falat and Wyczółkowski, among others, inspired guests. The adjacent sample of modern art, a sample of *Po Prostu Pink* by Agata Dworzak-Subocz, part of the International Print Triennial Society of Krakow, accented the breadth of great art, from antiquity to the modern day.

L-R: Allison Follbaum, Marzanna Owinski, Vice Chancellor Anthony Koterba, Ambassador Schnepf, Marcin Chumiecki, JJ Przewozniak, Ceil Wendt Jensen, Dr. Hal Learman, and Msgr. Tom Machalski pose at the *Gloria Artis* Award Dinner, October 29th.





Above: Ambassador Schnepf addresses the student body of St. Mary's Prep, on October 30th;  
below: he stopped after Mass to greet students - Sophomore Ryan Boyd paused to share a smile and words of thanks.

At 7:00 p.m., the bells rang, and as the din of delightful conversation subdued, our program began with some kind words of welcome from Chancellor-Rector Msgr. Tom.

Ambassador Schnepf then went on to give a moving address on the status of Polish-American relations that captured everyone's attention. In a heartwarming expression of admiration, he mentioned that over 70 years since the last visit of an Ambassador was entirely too long of a time, and continued to congratulate The Polish Mission.

His words of affirmation resonated greatly with everyone—the work of The Polish Mission can only with the greatest of difficulty be complemented to a more fulfilling degree.

Pine Lake chef extraordinaire Nick Lundberg prepared an exquisite array for the guests – a luxurious American base with Polish accents. Matzo ball duck broth soup and Polish cheesecake were the book ends to the excellent main course of filet mignon and horseradish jus.

As the talented Pine Lake serving



team brought out the decadent cheesecake, it was time for a special addition to the speaking program that began with Mr. Bob Wittman, who most graciously offered guests an unforgettable telling of the true story of the 1728 oil painting by Krzysztof Lubieniecki, *Portrait of a Young Man*. Looted from Europe at the close of the Second World War, Mr. Wittman courageously endeavored to return the valuable early Baroque masterpiece to its original home of Poland. Wittmann's son, Christopher, is a St. Mary's man, a 2014 graduate of OLSM, and his father closed the presentation by challenging all collectors and museum professionals to closely investigate their collections to uncover the secret stories behind the prized items.

After Mr. Wittmann's enthralling presentation, guests were informed that the *Gloria Artis* wasn't the only prestigious award being celebrated that evening. Though many were aware of the *Gloria Artis*, only a trusted few were aware that our Director Marcin had been nominated to receive the *Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland*

(*Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*) several months ago. By decision of President Bronisław Komorowski, Marcin was to receive the award in recognition of outstanding service to the Polish Republic through cultural engagement in the United States, but he had requested that the ceremony take place on the 29th, at the place where Marcin received his first job in the United States so many years ago – Pine Lake Country Club!

The Ambassador was welcomed to the stage for a second time, but this time he focused on the vision of our esteemed Marcin, who he humorously likened to a movie star (which many of Marcin's associates understand well). But aside from warm-hearted humor, with Marcin on stage, it was with the utmost formality that the Ambassador read aloud the formal declarations necessary for the awarding of the

students, faculty and staff and formally welcomed him to the campus. The Ambassador addressed the St. Mary's men for about 15 minutes, sharing that the "proper" hour-long speech he had prepared for him was a bit boring for so early in the morning and that instead, he wanted to speak a few words from the heart.

He said that being on campus, and being with the men of St. Mary's reminded him of his younger years; the age where most teens want to goof off and hang out with friends, resenting pressure from parents and teachers. Ambassador Schnepf acknowledged that it was challenging to live up to the expectations of parents, who want you to always "do better" and learn from your mistakes. He said the world is changing so fast in those formative years, that it is sometimes difficult to make informed decisions quickly. He said the world is changing so much faster now than when he was a young man, that it is unbelievable what teens and young adults are faced with today. He challenged them to live great lives and to strive for those things that may seem too big to manage, but those that conquer these challenges will not regret the work that was invested.

To applause and cheers, the Ambassador stepped away from the microphone as a few students approached the ambo carrying a few packages. These were students from the Polish language class of St. Mary's, and their teacher, Marzanna Owinski, helped them prepare a few words of welcome, in Polish, for the Ambassador. The students then presented the Ambassador with a St. Mary's hockey jersey with his last name embroidered on the back and the number 15, so he'd remember the special year he visited St. Mary's Prep.

After snapping a few pictures with the boys and shaking a few hands, the Ambassador walked to the Administration building with the



After Mass, Polish language students greeted Ambassador Schnepf and presented a special gift

*Cavalier's Cross*. He pinned the blue silk award on Marcin's lapel, to the delight of the applauding guests, some of which were Pine Lake members who remember seeing Marcin working in the locker room all those years ago.

The evening was closed with a most heartwarming address by our Director Marcin, who with grace proceeded to thank his family, the Polish Mission team, and everyone who helped make that evening's dinner a reality and a success. Most importantly, he dedicated his award to his children Phillip and Michelle, and their generation, so that they may carry on the special purpose embodied by The Polish Mission. Amidst his brief remarks, he promised all that The Polish Mission would never stop our high-profile cultural program, and that the future would hold great things for us. As The Polish Mission is now anointed with prestigious gold, he said, "we are the top Polish organization in North America, and you are all responsible for this achievement. Thank you for supporting our mission, our Polish Mission."

The next morning (Friday, October 30th), we were all back on campus, bright and early, for Ambassador Schnepf's tour of our historic campus. This was the first visit of a Polish ambassador to the Orchard Lake campus in 77 years, since 1938! You could feel the excitement in the cool morning air.

We attended mass at the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake at 9:45 Am with the entire student body of St. Mary's Preparatory in attendance. After Mass, Cormac Lynn, Headmaster of St. Mary's Preparatory introduced Ambassador Schnepf to the



Marcin Chumiecki receives the *Cavalier's Cross*.

Polish Mission team for the unveiling of a special surprise! In 1938, a plaque was placed on the front of the building to commemorate the visit of the Polish Ambassador Count Jerzy Potocki. JJ Przewozniak helped create a replica of the plaque to commemorate this visit of Ambassador Schnepf in 2015, and Monsignor Tom presented this with a few words of thanks to the Ambassador!

The next stop was the Castle on campus, which is the permanent residence of the Chancellor, and the oldest building on our property (originally built in 1858). Just as most of our esteemed guests do, Ambassador Schnepf graciously signed our famous guest book. There is a lot of history in that single book, and also many recognizable names such as Karol Cardinal Wojtyła and Lech Walesa.

Fridays are busy days at Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI), The Polish Mission's Genealogy wing, and we were looking forward to showing the Ambassador the hustle and bustle of our daily genealogy programming. There were a few clients being assisted by Ceil Wendt Jensen and Dr. Hal Learman, genealogy institute co-directors. Several of our wonderful volunteers were there as well, working on digitizing, answering phones and fielding any questions that came up. The Ambassador went on a short tour about the room and then saw the beginning of our Panorama presentation showing 1,000 years of Polish history! He saw great value in the work of The Polish Mission, and encouraged us to continue to nurture these programs and make them accessible to larger audiences.

The foundation of the Orchard Lake Schools is our seminary, under the patronage of Ss. Cyril & Methodius. With 19 men studying for the priesthood this year, Ambassador Schnepf made a point to spend some time with them



Above: A trip to Orchard Lake would be incomplete without sharing smiles and words of wisdom with our seminarians, most of whom are recent immigrants from Poland; below: the Chumiecki family poses for a picture with Ambassador Schnepf after the dinner at Pine Lake Country Club.



as well, dining together with them all in the John Paul II Dining Hall.

The last stop before his departure to Washington D.C., was amongst the most meaningful. The Ambassador visited our monument commemorating the Katyn Massacre of 1940 and the 2010 tragedy at Smolensk. That monument, most recently enhanced by renown Polish sculptor Jan Siuta, was the first erected in America memorializing both of those historic tragedies. Ambassador Schnepf laid flowers at the hallowed site and stood a moment in silence, remembering those that have gone before us, and all those who lost their lives for Poland.

It's impossible to express how fortunate we were to be able to host Ambassador Schnepf for these few days and truly appreciated his time and the gift of his wise insight into the future. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Embassy in Washington D.C. and visiting Ambassador Schnepf on his turf in the future!

The Panorama of Polish History made the perfect backdrop by which to remember Ambassador Schnepf's visit to the PARI Genealogy lab in the Wotta Building.





The Polish Mission

# Cool Jazzy Nights in Poland

St. Mary's Prep

*"...It allowed me to go to Poland, where I had one of the most enriching and amazing experiences of my life."*

—Ben Jozwiak, OLSM student

Students from St. Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake triumphantly returned home as American stars on March 2nd from the first cultural/music exchange program at the renowned Stanisława Moniuszki National Music Academy in Bielsko-Biala, Poland. Performing at the 17th annual LOTOS Jazz Festival, one of Europe's premier festivals, they played on the same stage as international jazz greats, like 10-time Grammy winner Wayne Shorter and Grammy winner Esperanza Spalding.

After 10 fun-filled days studying, performing, sight-seeing and making friends, it's safe to say that it will be difficult for the boys to forget their experience.

*"As an international student from China...your generosity provided me this great opportunity to learn and understand music further. ...I really want to thank you for providing me such a good opportunity to both study music and enjoy Polish culture!"*

—Ryan Ding, OLSM student

Marcin Chumiecki, director of The Polish Mission, and Josh James, director of the St. Mary's music department, met several months ago with an idea: How can we get a group of St. Mary's students to Poland to experience the culture we work so hard to remember and promote right here at home?

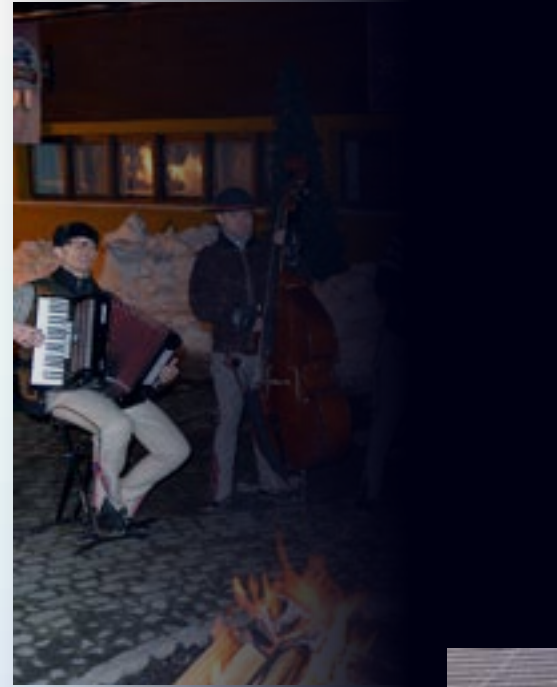
"At The Polish Mission, our daily goals encompass the idea that we celebrate our Polish roots while promoting the modern society in Poland that really isn't so much different from culture in America," said Chumiecki. "It's truly through our experience at The Polish Mission and our cooperation with St. Mary's Preparatory, that created this opportunity to present the best of Poland for the first

**Bielsko-Biala • Szczyrk • Kraków  
Oświęcim • Wiśła**

Below: The OLS and PM team, soggy but enthusiastic, stops for a rainy photo in front of (the "other") St. Mary's in Kraków where

St. John Paul II served as *Biskup Metropolii Krakowskiej*; left from top: OLSM was welcomed to Poland with a traditional welcome party at Hotel Orle Gniazdo;

The group poses at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum with our colleague Teresa Wontor-Cichy (Teresa opened the *Forbidden Art* exhibition alongside the Polish Mission team at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in 2014); OLSM and Polish students practice together; The combined ensemble gets a standing ovation after their final performance in Bielsko-Biala!





time to these students.”

“We hope that through the extensive groundwork that has already been laid, we will be able to make this experience an annual event,” he said.

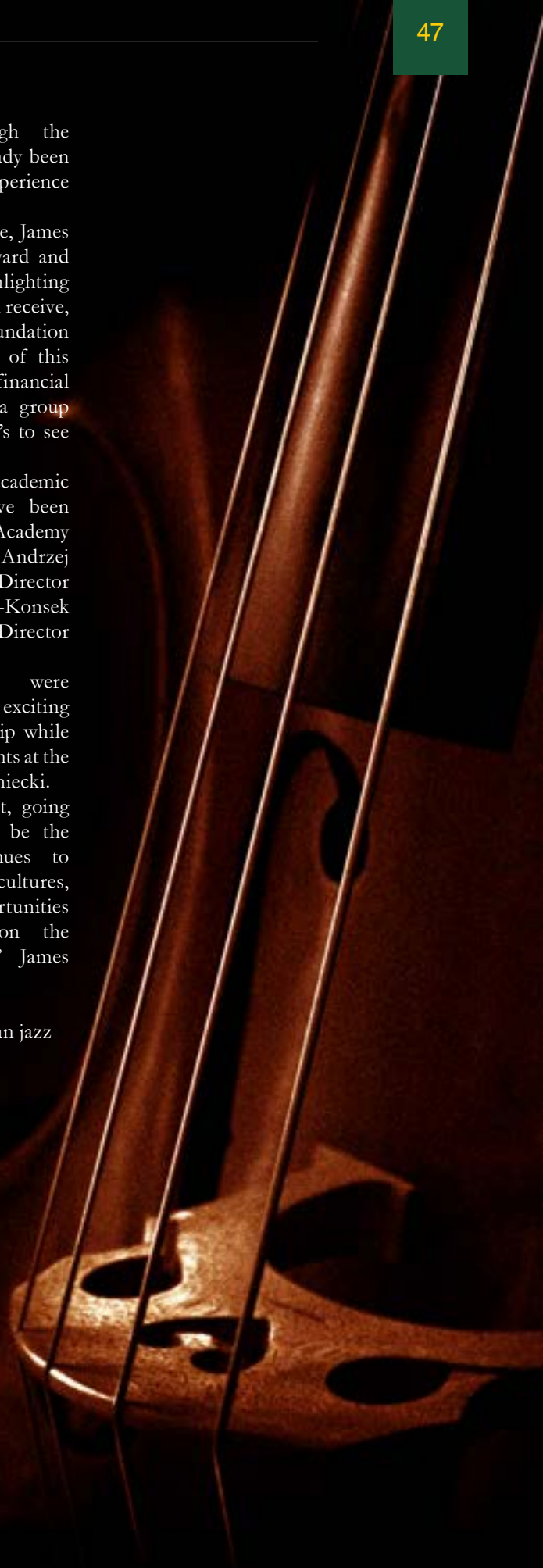
With Chumiecki’s assistance, James presented the program to the Edward and Josephine Wikiera Foundation, highlighting the great benefits the students would receive, culturally and academically. The Foundation members saw the unique benefits of this experience and provided major financial support toward the trip, helping a group of 26 men and women of St. Mary’s to see Poland for the first time.

Chumiecki said that the academic music partnership would not have been possible without the vision of Academy Director, Professor Andrzej Kucybala, Deputy Director Barbara Cybulska-Konsek and Big Band Director Tomasz Janusz.

“Our students were offered full-fledged, exciting academic musicianship while they were guest students at the Academy,” said Chumiecki.

“The hope is that, going forward, music will be the thread that continues to unify the two cultures, through rare opportunities for performance on the international stage,” James added.

James prepared recognizable American jazz



pieces (some with Detroit influence), modern, and classic jazz selections with his students in the months before departure. He even made sure to send the music to the teachers and students at the Stanisława Moniuszki Academy so the Polish and American students could perform together during classes.

What began as a partnership with a prestigious music



Above, our team pauses for a photo after Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland Sanctuary in Szczyrk;  
Below: Select American performers jam at the Sfera stage, in downtown Bielsko-Biala

school in Bielsko-Biala, turned into a very exciting invitation to perform at the LOTOS Jazz Festival. Through gracious support of LOTOS Jazz Festival director and association president, Jerzy Batycki, and Mirosław Szklarski, association vice-president, festival promoter and logistics manager, the St. Mary's Preparatory Jazz Band performed in a packed auditorium to an audience of more than 400. Many more were turned away at the door, as the performance was standing room only, everyone clamoring to hear the jazz band from the Orchard Lake Schools!

"I was so excited and privileged to present our Detroit culture, in collaboration with The Polish Mission, at this international festival," said James.

*"Thank you for the amazing trip, I had a great 10 days. I will never forget my time there."*

*—James Brooks, OLSM student*

As a native Pole, Chumiecki accompanied the students and parent chaperones as the Polish Mission representative and their personal guide around his hometown of Bielsko-Biala, a city tour of Kraków and a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, with which The Polish Mission has an exclusive partnership. The students had the opportunity to trace the steps of Pope St. John Paul II, through his beloved Kraków, in the year of the 10th anniversary of his death.

"We owe a big thank you to Irena Chumińska and her staff, for creating a home away from home for our Eaglets, at Hotel *Orle Gniazdo* (Eagle's Nest), and ensuring their safety through our entire stay in Poland," said James. "We all called her our Polish mom!"

"I wanted the kids in Poland and America to see that they have a lot more in common than they might have thought," said Chumiecki. "I watched the kids become great friends and I can only hope that this friendship will be maintained until we host the Polish students from the Academy at our own campus in 2016." "From our bus driver in Poland, to museum guides, to my mother's staff in the hotel, all had nothing but positive things to say about our students' behavior, sense of humor, and gentlemanly conduct; they were true ambassadors of Orchard Lake Schools, and the United States, and I must say personally that I'm proud of each and every one of our boys."



# SEAL OF APPROVAL

Keep an Eye Out for  
The Polish Mission's  
New Seal

## Thirteen stars

These represent the first United States. We are deeply proud of our American legacy, which has given us a foundation to celebrate and promote our Polish heritage. We honor the memory and legacy of Poles like Tadeusz Kościuszko and Casimir Pulaski, who supported, admired, and fought for the early American Republic.

## The Bible

This reminds us of the Christian values upon which we were founded. We're committed to embracing the highest of Christ-centered virtues, and upholding a never-ending search of knowledge in the Christian tradition.

## "Honor et Veritas pro Artis Gloria"

It means "Honor and Truth, for the Glory of Art." This motto is a reminder of our golden *Gloria Artis*, awarded in 2015. It's our pledge to always be honest and dignified in our work, in honor of the bright legacy of Polish culture.

## 1885

That was the year we were founded, by Fr. Józef Dąbrowski. Originally from the village of Żółtańce in Poland, Fr. Dąbrowski fought in the January Uprising against Imperialist Russia before immigrating to the U.S. In 1885 he established a Polish Seminary in honor of SS. Cyril and Methodius on St. Aubin Street in downtown Detroit, which today thrives as the Orchard Lake Schools.

## Rope

Bound in a heavy circle of rope reminiscent of the lashing on tall ships, we too are prepared for any voyage. The strength of the rope often meant life or death in high seas, and this reminds us of our preparedness for any situation.

## Oak Tree

The oak, regarded as one of the stately of trees, is characterized by endurance and strength. Planted from a tiny acorn, its wood is one of the hardest in existence, used to frame and support the heaviest of civilization's creations. Like the oak, our values are everlasting and deeply rooted.

## Two swords

The two swords are reminiscent of the traditional invitation to battle. Two swords were presented to the Polish army at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410, during which the Polish and Lithuanian armies soundly crushed the German Teutonic Order and their allies. Known today a symbol of victory, we stand ready to defend our heritage and honor by all means.

## The Crowned White Eagle

A national symbol that dates to around AD 1000, our eagle is taken from the cover of a massive book of 5.5 million Polish citizens' signatures, presented as a gift to the United States in 1926 in honor of the 150th anniversary of U.S. independence.



# HATS OFF TO THE VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers Continue to Propel The Polish Mission to Success



L-R: Richard and Bernadette are regular volunteers at PARI; Mike helps dismantle Polska Walczaca after the 1939 Commemoration in September; Dana whose parents wrote for the *Dziennik Polski* devoted many hours indexing obituaries, which contained valuable information for genealogists; Rosemary's experience in medical records allows her to expertly index the special collections library.

L-R: Despite a broken wing, Joan's smile has welcomed many guests at PARI; Monica helps honor the Polish Home Army in October; Claudia was often on the road this year, indexing records at Holy Cross and Our Lady of Hope Cemeteries. Below: St. Mary's grads DJ and Ben (Bogdan) portrayed Home Army soldiers with Monica in October, presenting the historic AK flag at Mass.





It is not known, not known at all,  
 What in your life awaits you,  
 And you can grow into a great man.  
 Maybe it is going to occur,  
 Maybe it is just going to happen,  
 That you do that you get it,  
 What many people dream about.  
 Maybe your mother will be blessed,  
 That she raised the brave son.  
 It is not known not known at all,  
 When the greatness begins in a life.

The last important event I need to mention here is that one of my students, Allen Willman, received a new award that was established as a result of the generosity of Dr. Anthony P. Kozma Jr. and his family in loving memory of his parents, in celebration of the strong Polish heritage of the family. The award was made possible through an initial one-time donation, from which the interest is awarded annually to a qualified underclassmen. Thanks to this, Allen received a \$1,000 scholarship toward his St. Mary's Preparatory tuition for the 2015-16 school year.

From left: Tygodnik Polski/Polish Times Editor-in-Chief Alicja Karlic, Chris Bean, Alan Wilman, Marcin Chumiecki, Tim Teklinski, Marzanna Owinski, and Regina Borowicz at the Shrine Chapel



# EVENTS



## Michigan Military Academy Morning!

by Allison Follbaum

It's not often that we consider the fact that if the Michigan Military Academy had not existed, the Orchard Lake Schools as a whole might exist very differently than it does today. When the Polish Seminary expanded beyond the level and capacity of that plot on St. Aubin and Forest Street in Detroit, it was providential that the MMA had recently gone under, giving Fr. Joseph Dąbrowski the opportunity to buy the property although he would never see his project realized while he was alive.

When Gina Gregory, President of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, approached us with the proposal for a program surrounding the history of the Michigan Military Academy, we were intrigued. The history of the MMA is fascinating and this would be a great opportunity to explore!

Through months of careful planning by GWBHS, and our assistance as needed, the event came together better than expected on October 10, 2015.

JJ Przewozniak, Curator of Collections at The Polish Mission, was a presenter for the event, along with Liam Collins from the Detroit Center for Public Archaeology. Author of *Them Was The Days!: Edgar Rice Burroughs and the History of the Michigan Military Academy* Brian Bohnnett took the role of keynote speaker, lending his years of expertise studying, and fascinating artifacts collected from the MMA history.

On October 10, interested folks from the surrounding Orchard Lake/ Greater West Bloomfield Community gathered for breakfast at the dining hall on the Orchard Lake Schools campus for some sustenance before they embarked on their journey into greater knowledge of the MMA and OLS history and ties.

Since an intimate group was gathered, rather than doing breakout sessions and splitting up the party, a last minute decision was made to tour the campus as a group, with presenters Brian, JJ and Liam tossing the conversation and back and forth amongst themselves. JJ was the expert on Orchard Lake and Polish Seminary history, while Liam shared tidbits about architecture styles from the Victorian time period and specifics about the buildings on campus. Brian, with his extensive knowledge of the day-to-day life in the MMA painted a picture of what life was like for the cadets and how bustling the campus was back in the day.

We had a fantastic time at this event and are grateful for the hard work that the GWBHS team put into this project! If you're interested in purchasing *Them Was The Days*, visit the St. Mary's Bookstore today to get your copy right away!



L-R: George Veazey Strong, as a cadet at the MMA, c. 1900; Liam Collins explains historical architecture to guests; Brian Bohnnett and JJ behind an original MMA cadet tunic, from Brian's personal collection.



# OUTREACH

## Making Connections at Holy Cross Cemetary

*Director's Note -*

*The genealogy staff constantly helps families document their Polish heritage, as well as developing and preserving resources for the community. We'd like to thank Maureen Chappell, Associate Director of Cemeteries for the Archdiocese of Detroit, for allowing our team to create this digital collection.*

The Polish Mission has recently completed an outreach project of interest to Catholic families in metro Detroit. PARI directors Dr. Hal Learman and Ceil Wendt Jensen organized a team of volunteers to scan and index the burial records of the historic Holy Cross Cemetery (HCC). Located in southwestern Detroit, it is the final resting place for thousands of Polish immigrants. While the office at HCC is permanently closed, the records are kept at the modern office of the Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services (CFCS) at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery in Brownstown, Michigan. The scanning and indexing project serves both the CFCS staff and the descendants of those buried at HCC.

The project allows the CFCS to quickly access the burial card records from their computer terminal, rather than making two round trips via a full flight of stairs to access the card catalog. This streamlines the research task and allows the staff to focus on their primary role of providing education, support, and resources for families currently experiencing one of life's most difficult moments. The research process is further enhanced by the modified index available on the Polish Mission's new website: Michigan Polish Heritage [www.miplheritage.org](http://www.miplheritage.org)

The CFCS staff must be commended for their fine care of a unique collection of porcelain portraits that once were displayed on the actual tombstones. Most were placed on the markers in the early 1900s. A century of Michigan's hot summers and freezing winters caused damage to some of the images. The staff at HCC dutifully identified each portrait when it was brought to the office for safe keeping. The PARI staff photographed the front and back of each portrait and has prepared a finding aid for the staff to use with families. The finding aid is in alphabetical order by surname and is housed in archival boxes donated by the Polish Mission. A digital version resides on the CFCS intranet server.

All other costs for this outreach program were covered by Friends of Polish Mission (FPM) members James Jensen, Dr. Hal Learman, and Charles Pokriefka who also served as the Project Manager.

This project would not have been possible without the volunteer hours contributed by all of our PARI / Friends of Polish Mission volunteers. Thank you, Dana Barrett, Eugenia K. Gorecki, Marge Kolanowski Johnston, Sharon Boroski Deceuninck, Claudia Locher Seymour, Joan Sultana Lamport, Richard Luszczyk, Rosemary Konwerski, Patricia D'Alessandro, and Bernadette Drobot! While we know your help is priceless, the hourly rate we are advised to use when grant writing and listing in-kind contributions is \$23.00 USD. Using the current hourly rate our team's efforts (both on-site and on campus) brought a value of \$15,000.00 to the project.



# *St. Mary of the Assumption Church*

Serving the people of God in the North Hills Since 1834

2510 Middle Road  
Glenshaw, PA 15116

(412) 486-4100  
FAX: (412) 486-4150

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Orchard Lake Schools  
3535 Commerce Road  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

December 6, 2015

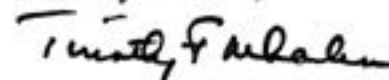
Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

Congratulations to the Orchard Lake Schools, to you, as the Director of the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools and to all your faithful colleagues who work with you in the Polish Mission on receiving the golden *Gloria Artis* award from the Ministry of Culture of Poland. This is such a beautiful tribute to the mission of the Orchard Lake Schools which is made even more significant by the fact that is the only institution in North America to receive the *golden degree*.

It was the vision of our beloved founder, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski, in 1885, to create an institution dedicated to the preservation of Polish culture through the evangelization of people of Polish descent, and this mission is just as relevant now as it was 130 years ago. However, it was the magnanimous generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wikiera that enabled us to create the Polish Mission as it is known to us today in 2005. This award is also a tribute to them and to the thousands of faithful in Polonia who have contributed gifts, both great and small, for the support of the Orchard Lake Schools for over 100 years. But the fact that in just one decade the Polish Mission has received such a singular recognition from the Polish Ministry of Culture can be attributed to a great degree to your untiring efforts and dedication as its director. So, I salute you also on receiving the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

On the eve of the 1,050 anniversary of the evangelization of Poland, I recall the blessed memory of Pope St. John Paul II, whose relics are enshrined in the Shrine-Chapel and who loved the Orchard Lake Schools. It was he who exhorted us to dedicate ourselves to the New Evangelization and to "open wide the doors to Christ" in every culture. May the Holy Spirit who has guided the Orchard Lake Schools for generations continue to use them in this third millennia of Christianity as an instrument of evangelization through its mission of preserving and promoting Polish tradition, culture and heritage.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Timothy F. Whalen  
Chancellor-emeritus of the Orchard  
Lake Schools

Anno Domini 966

AÑO DÑI 966  
MESCO • DUX  
BAPTIZATUR



W ROKU 2016 BEDZIE 1050  
ROCZNICA CHRZTU POLSKI.

THE YEAR 2016 WITH BE THE 1,050<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BAPTISM OF POLAND.

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## To The Manor Born

*When we were children, “knights and princesses” was played after school in the backyard. Today, we look at the history behind the fairy tales and the stories of our ancestors that served on these estates.*

This summer (July 31 and August 1), the Polish Mission invited family researchers to campus for a weekend of Polish workshops, small study groups, and a salon complete with music and literature. Dr. Hal Learman and Ceil Wendt Jensen, PARI co-directors, along with guest lecturers — Professional Researcher and Translator, Ola Heska; and visiting Polish Archivist, Tomasz Szpil — presented techniques and record sets held in Poland; but accessible to American genealogists. Friday was a special day reserved for the Friends of the Polish Mission, while Saturday was open to the public.

Friday began with Ola’s hands on workshop — *Szukaj w Archiwach* (Search in the Archives). Attendees learned how to obtain vital records from the Polish State Archives’ website with step-by-step instruction. Members logged onto the wireless network with their laptops and tablets and there were shrieks of joy when ancestors’ records were located.

After a convivial lunch held in our John Paul II Dining Room, members reconvened for Ola’s second presentation which covered: Search for Ancestors in the

PTG (Polish Genealogical Society – Warsaw); database of indexed records (Geneteka); and learning how to obtain digitized vital records from Metryki.

The third lecture of the day was a preview of our newest website, Michigan Polish Heritage, including Kulwicki Funeral Home and Holy Cross Cemetery Indices. It was led by Dr. Hal Learman and Ceil Wendt Jensen. With the workshops complete, attendees chose one of the four small study groups to participate in and ask questions. Group leaders were the lectures of the day: Ola Heska, Tomasz Szpil, Dr. Hal Learman, and Ceil Wendt Jensen.

“Ola Heska gave a great presentation; The handouts were really appreciated; The breakout session was very helpful, also.”

– Darlene Ziolkowski

“I thoroughly enjoyed the Polish Genealogy Workshop I attended at the Polonica Americana Research Institute. Presenter, Ola Heska, showed us how to use a few online databases to search for Polish historical records. The step by step format made

it possible for even an inexperienced researcher like me to follow along. I learned a lot and then had a tasty lunch. Thank you PARI!”

– Kathryn Gonsior

Saturday was a demonstration on how to research ancestors’ lives who were workers on manorial estates. The records, maps, and histories of the manors help family historians expand the history of their ancestors. The session included a survey of available European records and practical guidance to the repositories. Parallels between the palace of Rogalin (Poznań), the fictitious Downton Abbey, and the Vanderbilt’s Biltmore Estate were explored.

Ola Heska & Ceil Wendt Jensen began the morning that was devoted to The Life & Records of the Palace of Rogalin. Ceil presented excerpts from the 1889 ledger book of the Raczyński palace and estate in Rogalin. It was discovered at the State archives in Poznań on a research trip seeking estate records. Ola translated pages from the record book that listed the



Ola Heska reads aloud

workers by surname, occupation, and the payments they received. Some workers earned bed and board; while others received marks, grains, and housing. Ola joined Ceil and read excerpts from Count Raczyński's memoir, *Rogalin i jego mieszkańcy*. This was an interesting exercise, as the Polish text was on the screen and attendees could follow along. Ola would read a paragraph in Polish; and then she offered the translation in English. An excerpt included Edward's reflection on his mother Róża Potocka:

"She knew the history of her country very well but also, as it was a custom back then, she knew the history of many palaces and of the larger and smaller manor houses. She was the only one to carefully rummage through the archive. She was competent in genealogy and had an unfailing memory. She saw everything without any illusion but also

without prejudice. Mother was the pillar of our home and family, its finance minister and its advisor. Sometimes – a savior from troubles of various sorts. Finally – a teacher of love for the Motherland and of the sense of duty. She didn't distinguish herself as the matron of the house. She kept up with the bills and, knowing that father and the guests value good kitchen, hired good cooks."

Regarding the staff he wrote:

"Other than Szarzyńskis, at the house there also was a pantry butler, my father's personal servant, a lamp trimmer, a cook with a helper, mother's maid, two "girls" at home, one in the kitchen and two in the laundry. The latter were hired from the neighboring villages for a season. We were guarded at night by one watchman with the last name Paluszkiwicz. In the garden bustled a gardener with a number of hired help. In the stable we had two coachmen and a stable boy. Until World War I a few servants wore navy livery with silver buttons. After the war mother introduced black or dark suit coats. As for those times, this number of staff was neither too small nor too excessive. My parents avoided exuding any show of great style. In addition, father saved on stables and the garden caring more about masterpieces produced by a human hand rather than about horses and flowers."

"Saturday's "Manor Day" was very enjoyable. For me, never really having heard Polish spoken at length, Ola's reading was very interesting."

– Michael Stando

After a morning discussing life at the palace, we acknowledged ourselves as the descendants of the servants and sat down to a sweet and savory lunch that offered hearty peasant fare, the type of cooking many associate with their Grandmother's table. The meal was served in the John Paul II Room in our Dining Hall and the fare included Bigos, goląbki, pierogi, kompot, mizeria, kołaczki, kremówka papieska, and beverages. Our own AVI chef, Emily Van Nest, demonstrated Polish pastry making; and Greg Urbanski, AVI manager, provided copies of the recipes so attendees could try them at home.

After lunch attendees took a brief stroll on campus to the Galeria where soprano, Deborah Frontczak and accompanist, Michael Emshwiller, performed. The program notes, written by Ms. Frontczak, offered a synopsis of a European Salon, the type held by Count Raczyński:

A salon is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine taste and culture and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation. The salon

was an Italian invention of the 16th century which flourished in France throughout the 17th and 18th centuries.

Deborah, a gifted performer, sang in four languages during the recital (German, French, Italian, and Polish) including Fryderyk Chopin's *Życzenie Piosnka Litewska*.

"Deborah Frontczak made our Salon extra special by singing a selection of songs, one of them by Fryderyk Chopin. Thank you Deborah for this beautiful performance."

– Ola Heska

Archivist Tomasz Szpil highlighted Polish cookbooks, gardens, and foodways with examples held at the Łódź Archives where he is employed. Dana Barrett, one of our treasured volunteers, noticed Tomasz Szpil's presentation included a recipe for Nalewka. While the recipe from the Łódź archive was for a medicinal tincture, we enjoyed a gift from Dana, Cherry Nalewka. Dr. Hal served the liqueur.

It was the perfect highlight to his very fine lecture. *Na Zdrowie!* – Marge Kolanowski Johnston

The day closed with small study groups with the lecturers.

"This was such a fun day, sharing (Polish) history and culture." – Darlene Ziolkowski



# Rendezvous at RAPPEERSWIL

Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki annually travels to Europe to meet with colleagues, develop partnerships, and attend special events. One annual custom is the M.A.B. (Museums, Archives, and Libraries) (*Stala Konferencja Muzeów, Bibliotek i Archiwów na Zachodzie*) conference, held each year and attended by the top 25 Polish institutions across the globe



At the end of the summer, as usual, it's time for the meeting of the most important and influential Polish cultural organizations in the world. This year, this gathering was held in Rapperswil, Switzerland; a picturesque, small Swiss town on the shores of Lake Zurich. For four days, this group of scholars and leaders, shared presentations about the most influential persons in the history of each organization. Most importantly, this conference is a time to share ideas and strengthen future partnerships with the goal of promoting Polish history and culture in an ever-changing modern world. I would like to thank all the attendees of this conference, especially the organizers at the Polish museum in Rapperswil. It is because of the dedication

of Mrs. Anna Buchmann, who poured her heart and soul into planning, that we owe the successful presentation of these meetings. I would also like to express special thanks to our guests from Polish governmental institutions: Jacek Miller and Michal Michalski, Ministry of Culture, Professor Wladyslaw Stepniak and Professor Andrez Biernat, National Archives of Poland, Mrs. Joanna Kozínska-Frybes, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Poland, His Excellency Mr. Jaromir Sokolowski Ambassador of Republic of Poland to Switzerland, Professor Robert Kostro, Museum of Polish History, and Dr. Tomasz Makowski, National Library of Poland who shared their visions for the future. See you all next year!



Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture Professor Jacek Miler, Deputy Director of the National Archives of Poland Professor Andrez Biernat, and Executive Director of the National Archives of Poland Professor Wladyslaw Stepniak.



Marcin smiles for a photo with Mrs. Joanna Kozínska-Frybes, Director of the Department of Cooperation with Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador of Poland to Switzerland Jaromir Sokolowski.

# nasza polska kuchnia

One of the most recognizable traditions that show how we cling to our ancestry is our foodways and family recipes. We dust off the well-loved and crinkled sheets of paper, spattered with tomato sauce and smeared with butter, often scribed in spidery handwriting, and receive comfort during important holiday seasons from the food that we remember from our childhood. We can picture ourselves, sitting at the “kids table” in Babcia’s house, kicking our cousins during the long 12-course dinner and pushing karp *smażony* (fried carp) and *goląbki* (cabbage rolls) around on our plates. Years later, when our grandparents and parents are gone, and we are tasked with carrying on these longstanding traditions and showing our children and grandchildren what foods were eaten by their great-grandparents, going back generations. It’s a joy to be able to pass on a family legacy through delicious food, especially those secret family recipes that are only taught orally through sight and touch. “You just have to knead it until it feels right.” We want you to enjoy these dishes with your family and friends, and if you have enough leftovers, come share them with us!

## Bigos (Hunter’s Stew)

½ lb roast beef or pot roast  
 ½ lb roasted pork  
 ½ lb Polish or smoked ham  
 ½ lb smoked sausage  
 6 lbs sauerkraut (rinsed)  
 3 lbs shredded cabbage (thin)  
 6 ounces sliced mushrooms  
 6 ounces shredded carrots  
 1 tablespoon raisins  
 1 teaspoon dill weed  
 1 chicken bouillon cube  
 2 tablespoon tomato paste  
 ¼ cup red wine  
 1 bay leaf

Rinse sauerkraut to lessen the sour taste. In a large pot, combine the shredded cabbage, sliced mushrooms, shredded carrots, dill, chicken bouillon, tomato paste, raisins, bay leaf, and red wine. Add 2 quarts of water to keep the mixture wet and prevent from burning. Cook on low heat and stir.

Dice up meats in bite sized pieces and add to the pot. Stir well. When the sauerkraut is rinsed to desired taste, add to the pot and mix well. While simmering, stir occasionally to incorporate the ingredients to ensure even cooking. Add water as needed during the simmering process. Simmer on low for 3-4 hours stirring occasionally. After simmering, cook Bigos to a stew-like consistency.

## Mizeria (Cucumber Salad)

3 large cucumbers  
 1 small white onion  
 ½ cup sour cream (or add more for creaminess as needed)  
 1 tablespoon vinegar  
 1 tablespoon dill  
 salt and pepper to taste

Peel cucumbers and slice thin. Place cucumbers in a bowl, add salt and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for one hour. Drain or squeeze out juice very well. Peel and julienne slice onion thin. Thoroughly mix all ingredients in a bowl and let it sit, covered, in the refrigerator for two hours. Add more salt to taste, if desired.





# Kołaczkci (Filled Cookies)

8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
3 sticks butter, softened  
3 cups flour  
1 cup powdered or confectioner's sugar  
Choose your filling! (apricot, raspberry, prune, strawberry, blueberry, etc.)

Set your oven to 350 degrees. Cream together cream cheese and butter on medium speed until fluffy. Add flour one cup at a time until well blended. Refrigerate dough for one hour. Dust rolling surface with powdered/confectioner's sugar and roll dough to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness. Cut rolled out dough into 2" squares or triangles. Place  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 teaspoon of your chosen filling in the center of each square. Choose two corners, across from each other, and fold them towards the middle, overlapping them over the filling. Place them about 2" apart on the baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Let cool completely and dust with more powdered/confectioner's sugar.



# ROBOTICS!

## YOUNG POLISH-AMERICAN ENGINEERS TAKE FLIGHT FROM ORCHARD LAKE

by Miroslaw Owinski,  
Volunteer Program Director

### Proudly Supported By



Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Chicago

The stories and legends, and sometimes pure fairy tales of mechanical contraptions (of both devious and benevolent nature) and visionary inventors have woven through the history and literature of Poland, inspiring generations of young people in the Homeland and abroad.

Indeed, before *Terminator* and *Transformers* there was Golem IV, a super computer from a science-fiction story by a renowned Polish writer, Stanislaw Lem. Even before that, five centuries ago, Pan Twardowski allegedly made a trip from his hometown Kraków to the Moon, where he lives to this day with his beloved sidekick, turned spider, as his companion. And then there was a Polish legionnaire, Antoni Patek, who pioneered watch-making in Switzerland and eventually established the world's most famous hand-watch brand.

Perhaps that's precisely how the story was started that the Turk, the famous and mysterious chess playing machine of that period, was supposedly operated by a Polish officer whose legs were amputated, and who was hidden inside the machine. And more recently, there were three Polish cryptologists: Marian Rejewski, Jerzy Różycki and Henryk Zygalski, who broke the code of Enigma, the German ciphering machine in the run up to World War II. Nowadays, the sophisticated robots and unique devices built by the Polish scientists and engineers fly to other planets and into outer space.

To keep in tune with such a long and intriguing tradition, the Fr. Józef Dąbrowski Polish Language School in Orchard Lake decided to introduce a robotics outreach program for elementary school-age students. The pilot program started last September thanks to the rock-solid support by The Polish Mission, is currently offered as a regular extracurricular activity.

Our robotics program (VEX IQ) is part of a greater STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative, funded by major charitable organizations (Carnegie-Mellon, Bill and Linda Gates, Robotics Education & Competition Foundation and many corporate sponsors). Students have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the STEM education, based on carefully designed curricula, and have lots of fun in the process. The robots compete locally at scrimmages and matches qualifying for the state finals. Winners of the state finals compete in the world finals at the conclusion of the season. Cranbrook Schools, U of M, MSU and Nissan Technical Center have had the most active and successful teams in the 2013-2014 season. And now, our teams are joining this distinguished league!

There are currently two teams active within the program, "Claws" and "Zeptronics," comprised of children ages 8 through 11. We meet every Sunday on the Orchard Lake campus to learn about the STEM topics and build robots from the pre-made components. The VEX IQ system was designed to be simple and easy for students to use. Structural pieces snap together and come apart without tools, allowing for quick build times and easy modifications. A variety of gears, wheels and other accessories allows for complete customization of VEX IQ projects and mobile robots. Any combination of up to 12 Smart Port devices, such as a motor, gyroscope,

or distance and color sensor, can be connected to the Robot Brain, and controlled programmatically or with a remote controller.

This advanced system allows for quite elaborate robots and unlimited teaching opportunities.

We started with the basic engineering concepts, such as mass and gravity, torque and simple machines, and then quickly moved to building and testing robots. In the process, it has been fascinating to watch how the individual personalities surface and bubble, leading to tensions



and, sometimes, conflicts. So, the program has also been a great opportunity for the children to learn about conflict resolution, effective communication and negotiation of the best course of action. The goal is that by the end of the season, the students develop an understanding that the teamwork is a prerequisite to success, and infighting leads to destruction and misery. This has also been a truly testing time for the parents, who assist by bringing the young students to Sunday sessions, assist them with the harder aspects of the program and keep them focused and active for two hours. Luckily, all of us involved in the program have learned that to succeed, both the children and adults have to be fully committed and supportive of each other.

Despite all the technical and emotional challenges, our young students and their robots have successfully competed with more seasoned teams and their sophisticated machines. In December of last year, the team Zeptronics won the Teamwork Challenge and earned the Design Award for their robot at the state qualifying tournament at Cranbrook. This opened the door to the VEX IQ Worlds Championship in Louisville, Kentucky, in April of this year. Initially shaken by the scale of the venue and intimidated by the magnitude of the event itself, they quickly regained their usual fighting spirit and came in sixth in the finals. On top of that, they managed to impress the judges with their robot, programming skills and the game strategy enough to be presented with a special prize, the Think Award. The trip to Louisville was such a life-changing event for both the student and parents, and everyone is ready to go to the very top at the next World Championship in April of 2016!

***We need your direct support to continue this program. Please email Allison Follbaum at [afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com), or give her a call at (248) 683-0433 to make your pledge today.*** Olaf, Kasia, Amelia, Tomek, Tymon, Asia and Marcin are looking forward to working and playing even harder in the next VEX IQ season!



Top: Olaf, Amelia, Kasia, and Tomek pose with their parents and chaperones, Joanna Trojanowska-Lukasik, Gregory Lukasik, Sebastian Gon, Iwona Gon, and Miroslaw Owinski; above: no robotics tournament is complete without eye protection; below: Tomek, Olaf, Ameila, and Kasia look on at the main arena at the world finals



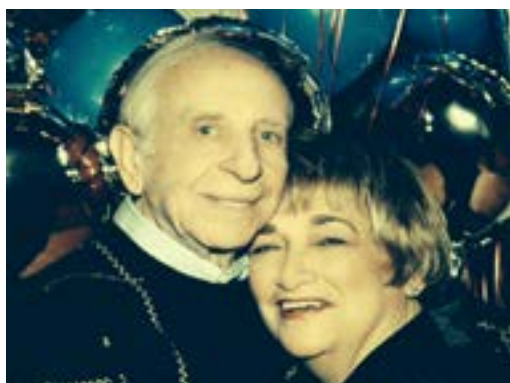
# SAYING GOODBYE

## WISHING FAREWELL TO LEADERS AND FRIENDS



### **Władysław Bartoszewski 1922-2015**

Professor Władysław Bartoszewski, soldier of the underground Home Army and participant in the Warsaw Uprising; member of “Zegota” — the underground Council to Aid Jews; prisoner of the Auschwitz death camp, recipient of the *Righteous Among the Nations* Medal, honorary citizen of the State of Israel, died in Warsaw at the age of 93. Persecuted by the Communist authorities for his involvement in the opposition, after the 1989 transformation he twice served as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Professor Bartoszewski was a pioneer of Polish-German and Polish-Jewish reconciliation. He was a model patriot, pride of Poland, and a great moral authority whose guidelines we follow and honor at The Polish Mission.



### **Perry Schulman 1930-2015**

Perry Schulman first met Marcin at the premier of the *Forbidden Art* exhibition at the Galeria in 2012 with his wife, Passie. Perry was among the first groups of Jews admitted to the Auschwitz death camp. After years of imprisonment, he was forced to participate in the infamous death march from Auschwitz to Buchenwald in early 1945, during which he contracted debilitating frostbite. Perry and Marcin became fast friends; Perry would call the Polish Mission office from time to time to “see how things were going,” and would meet Marcin for lunch whenever time would allow. He was a life-long son of Poland who held his native land in loving esteem.



### **Irvin Swider 1927-2015**

Irvin “Irv” Swider was a lifelong friend of The Polish Mission and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, supporting the endeavor to promote American and Polish culture and Christian values. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he saw value in our work to preserve and protect history and heritage for future generations. Mr. Swider’s work ethic inspired us greatly, and hearing his stories of his days as an elementary school teacher in Detroit, to where he ended up as Chairman of two successful companies, were remarkable. He loved his family and his faith. He will be dearly missed by The Polish Mission, especially our director. He adopted Marcin as a son the second time that they met, and Marcin spent many wonderful days with Irv and his family.



### **Juliusz Przesmycki 1923-2015**

Juliusz Przesmycki was a decorated soldier in the Polish Home Army (AK) who took part in multiple actions against the Nazi German military, including heavy action around Radoszyce during the *Burza* (Tempest) Offensive. Juliusz was a main force behind creating the Polish Home Army museum collection room in the Ark building, and was an active participant in the Home Army veterans’ circle. He was an ardent supporter of The Polish Mission, and liked to share proud war stories with friends.

# RICK DORSCH: HAM RADIO OPERATOR, GENEALOGIST



## CALL SIGN: NE8Z

by Ceil Wendt-Jensen

An evening chat with his mother Mary Lizoń Dorsch (Call Sign: WB8WNJ) on the night before she died, included a moment when she pointed her impaired hand at him and commanded “You find my family!”. So,

in the spring of 2015 Rick joined the Friends of Polish Mission and began the journey “home” at his mother’s request.

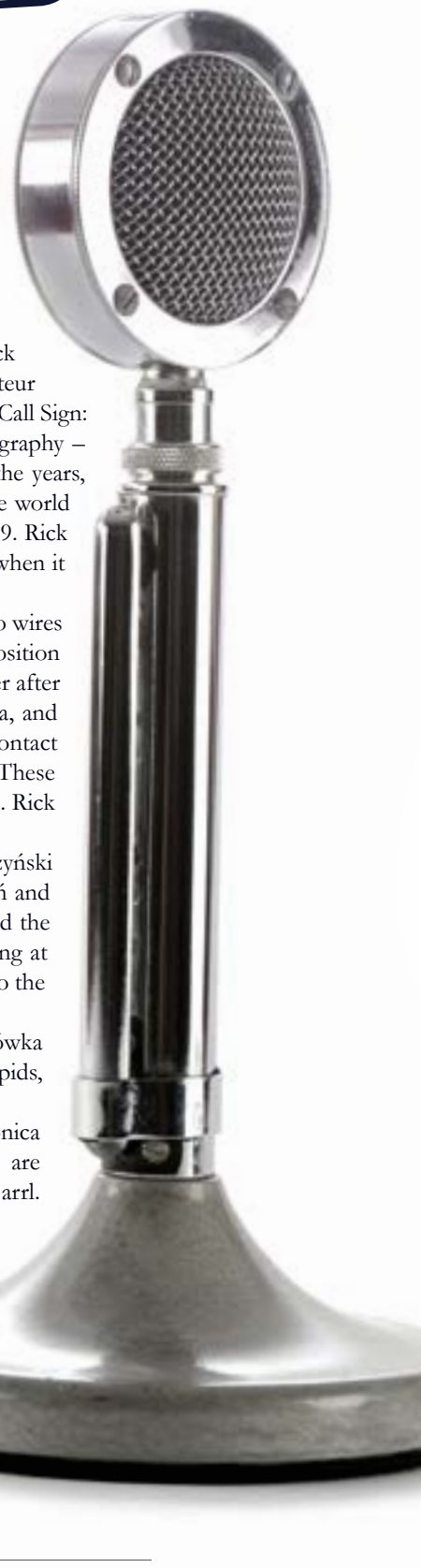
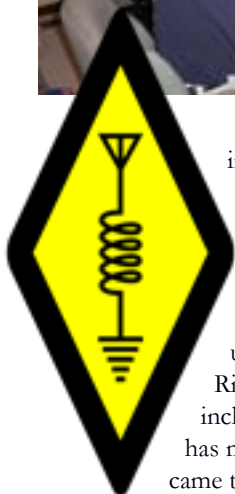
After an initial introduction to traditional genealogy research methods, Rick decided to employ a tool he has been licensed to use since 1968 – namely Amateur (Ham) Radio. Rick’s mentor in this field was his high school art teacher Lee Ewald (Call Sign: W8WA) who was an experienced ham radio operator. He learned Morse Code telegraphy – using radio waves to speak directly to other operators anywhere in the world. Over the years, Rick has communicated via Morse Code and by voice with fellow operators around the world including King Hussein of Jordan (Call Sign: JY1) from 1974 until he passed away in 1999. Rick has met many Polish colleagues over the years, so it was natural to employ these methods when it came to researching ancestral homes in Poland.

The strongest signals from Poland come in the morning here in Michigan. There are no wires involved – the signals bounce off the ionosphere. Rick keeps in mind the time difference and the position of the sun, and begins to listen for signals that begin with the prefix SP that indicates Poland. The number after SP indicates the province the operator resides. Rick’s interest is in SP2- Pomorskie, SP3 – Wielkopolska, and SP9 – Malopolska. Rick currently has two contacts willing to undertake research for him, his longtime contact Andy Pfeiffer (Call Sign: SP9KR) and a new contact Mariusz Szczurko (Call Sign: SP2YY) of Kwidzyn. These are friends in the international “fraternity” whose motto is “Worldwide friendship through amateur radio”. Rick first met Andy on the air when Rick lived in Ecuador and Andy was living in Ontario, Canada.

Currently Mariusz is waiting for Rick to identify the village and house number for his Dorszyński ancestors in Nowa Cerkiew parish. Andy has already traveled to the villages and homes of Rick’s Lizoń and Goldyn families. Andy found that house 37 in Obidza and 51 in Ochotnica Gorna are still standing, and the relatives residing there are awaiting Rick’s visit in 2016. Since Andy’s visit, the Tokarczyk family, residing at house 37, has started preparing for his visit, and found a box of old black and white photos that go back to the late 1800s.

Rick is returning the research favor for a “ham” in Poland, Krzysztof “Chris” Gryc of Hajnówka (Call Sign: SP4WRF/3Z4Z). Chris has a branch of his Kołęda (Kolenda) family who settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

If you would like to begin your family genealogy, please contact the Polish Mission’s Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) at 248-683-0323 or [pmission@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:pmission@orchardlakeschools.com). If you are interested in becoming a ham radio operator, go to the American Radio Relay League’s web page at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and use the search page to find free classes in your area.





## ■ Corner

# Museum

with Collections Curator JJ Przewozniak

Pretty much everyone has a collection of something, whether it be stamps, coins, china, firearms, dolls, or otherwise. Most collectors have detailed storage and display systems for their prized things, tailor-made to get the perfect fit. For the museum collections however, we have to accommodate a wide variety of items, from World War II-era uniforms to documents and photos, and from delicate wood and bone carvings to large hand-embroidered flags and banners. Moreover, our objective is to minimize the natural deterioration that happens with age. Yes, we're fighting nature! Finding the right storage and display solutions for this great variety of items is no easy challenge, which is why each year we invest in archival-grade storage solutions,

like appropriately-sized containers packed with acid-free tissue. With the future in mind, we want to make sure our tangible treasures of our Polish heritage are kept safe and secure as long as possible. That said, having correctly-sized boxes and crates for our items is only the tip of the iceberg. Just like you'd see in any modern museum, all of the items need to be kept in temperature-controlled environments, away from any sunlight or damaging environmental conditions. To offer the best care possible for our items, we're constantly giving attention our collections, re-arranging, sorting, and cleaning based on standard museum guidelines.

This year, we were very fortunate to receive two special items from the estate of the late Cardinal Szoka. Pictured above,





the stately *szabla* (saber), etched with the words “*Honor i Ojczyzna*” (Honor and Fatherland) was made in the city of Łódź in 2004, and was given to Cardinal Szoka as a gift. It’s a decorative *szabla* made of brass, leather, and low-carbon steel, and is artfully reminiscent of the wz. 1934 / wz. 1921 sabres issued to Polish mounted cavalry troops. Soon, we’re having the symbol of Cardinal Szoka’s leadership cleaned (chemically neutralized), and applied with a

light coat of synthetic archival preservative to protect it against moisture. The second addition was his mitre (also pictured). One of Christianity’s oldest symbols, the mitre was likely developed from the greek camelaucum (καμυλάκιον), and was first mentioned by name in a Papal Bull from AD 1049. This particularly lavish mitre may be called a *pretiosa*, and was worn by His Eminence on special occasions. Most of the rich embroidery appears to have been done with cotton/synthetic thread, but the interior thin hard base material is likely cardboard, which means that in storage, we’ll be using a rigid form to ensure that the shape is kept safe, rather than soft fillers that may cause the delicate cardboard to fold during handling.

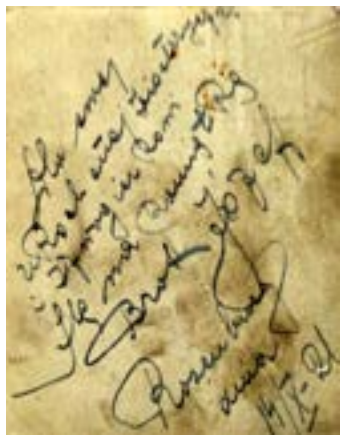
Aside from conservation of our items, the main purpose of having a museum is...to educate! On that note, I’d like to express thanks, on behalf of the entire Polish Mission and Orchard Lake community to the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN - *Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*). Thanks to our great partnership with this unique department of the Polish government, we’ve been able to receive traveling exhibitions that address truly cutting-edge topics. Earlier this year, we received *Cum Tacet, Clamant* (When They are Silent, They Shout), which explored a recently discovered tragedy inflicted on Polish people at the hands of the tyrannical Soviet authorities. More recently, and just in time for this year’s *1939 Commemoration, Polska Walcząca* (Fighting Poland) also came to campus, which told the enthralling true story of those Poles who fought against the occupying Nazi German authorities and armies during World War II. Both exhibits were on display at the Maida Library this year thanks to Library Director Caryn Noel, and *Polska Walcząca* was also shared with our friends in Sterling Heights at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. All in all, IPN is responsible for a major part of our educational outreach. Be sure to watch [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com) for details about the next exhibit initiative, on a lesser-known hero of World War II, Captain Witold Pilecki, coming in January 2016.



# Across the **AGAIN!** Ocean

Dr. Hal Goes to Poland!

Dr. Hal Learman — that's me — recently returned from a trip to Poland, at my own expense, to help secure a stronger relationship for the Polonica Americana Research Institute with professional genealogists in Poland. Commonly referred to as PARI, this department of The Polish Mission assists genealogy researchers in finding their home villages in Poland and surrounding areas. Acquiring records for certain regions in Poland remains difficult without the assistance of contacts in Poland. Our guide and translator on this journey was professional genealogist, Maciej Orzechowski, a resident of Przemyśl. He has more than 10 years of experience in genealogy and works mainly in the State and Catholic archives of Przemyśl, Rzeszow, and Tarnow; although research in other parts of Poland and the Ukraine are possible as well. Details regarding Maciej Orzechowski's work can be found at [www.PolishDocuments.com](http://www.PolishDocuments.com).



I joined Conservator Member of Friends of the Polish Mission, Cynthia Lock, on her first European visit to a number of her home villages that included Olchowce, Nowosielce, and Bzianka. However, our adventure began in Przemyśl with a visit to Cynthia's first cousin once removed, Waldemar Domin; and his sister in law, Irena Domin. That first contact was emotional, inspiring, and filling with cakes and beverages appearing out

of nowhere! Waldemar's father was Franciszek Domin, brother of Cynthia's grandmother Maria Domin Żolnierczyk. The families shared a great number of photographs, stories, and legal documents. That same day we ventured to nearby Pikulice to the residence of descendants of Józef Domin, another brother of Cynthia's grandmother, Maria. Once more, the tears flowed with the excitement of the encounter; and more photos, stories, food, and a bit of local wine to celebrate the occasion followed.

From Pikulice we traveled to the Sanok area where we visited archives, cemeteries, and churches that centered around home villages of Cynthia's ancestors.

A stop at the corner store in Bzianka provided information about a 100 year old lady residing two houses away! Her name was Kazimiera Domin and she was quite alert and knowledgeable for her age. Having recently lost her vision, probably due to macular degeneration, she came into the room firmly holding on to what may have served as a milk stool in order to guide and support her

during her shuffled amble. Although it was deduced that her Domin people were not immediate relatives to Cynthia, the visit was most memorable.

After our five day stay in the Sanok area, we returned to Przemyśl where we hosted eleven Domin relatives to a hearty breakfast at our hotel. Friendships with newly discovered family were soundly cemented for Cynthia. But our adventure did not end there. We travelled by express train to Kraków from where we accomplished day trips with a local guide. One of the days included a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. Just north of Oświęcim in the village of Chelmek lived another first cousin of Cynthia's father. As with the relatives in the Przemyśl area, Cynthia was unaware of the existence of these cousins until a few months ago. Zofia Domin's husband, Józef Artuik, was outside waiting for us as a result of the previous arrangements made by Maciej. Our Kraków guide, Czesław Chmielowski, provided the translation for another unforgettable encounter that photos cannot capture. Or can they? Józef Domin was a brother to Cynthia's grandmother, Maria. Zofia Artuik, nee Domin, was the youngest child of Józef having been born in 1941. Zofia's father died sometime during WW II and knowledge of his demise and body were never discovered; and 74 year old Zofia had no photos or recall of what her father looked like. As fortune would have it, Józef Domin sent a photo of himself, taken in 1921 to his dear sister, Maria, Cynthia's grandmother. Cynthia then created a tearful number of minutes as she presented this photo to Zofia, who was finally able to set eyes on the image of her father which childhood memories would not allow her to recall!

This part of our story comes to a close with this last encounter. However, we at PARI would like you to know that this is what we strive for in helping people locate not only their home villages; but, also, trying to create the opportunity to meet up with long lost relatives! Discover what we can do for you by contacting us at PARI at 248-683-0323.







# BOOK NEWS!

## PM TEAM CONTINUES PUBLISHING PROJECTS

As an organization, the Polish Mission wears many hats to best support our Mission Statement. We work to promote Polish culture in America and vice-versa, we preserve our rich history, of Poland, Polonia and the Orchard Lake schools, and we act as stewards of historical and art collections, just to name a few. A hat that we have not discussed in a while is that of publishers and authors!

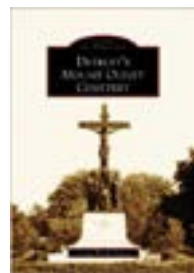
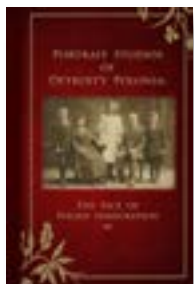
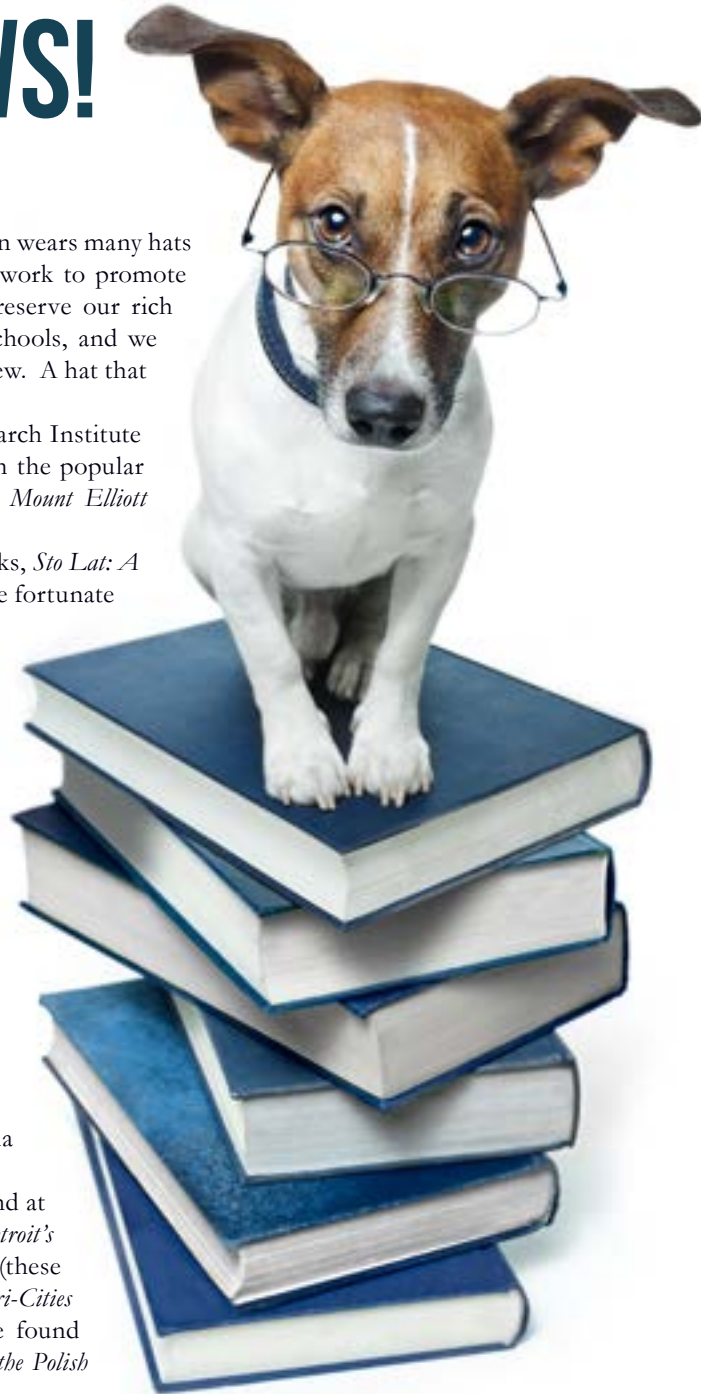
Ceil Wendt Jensen, co-director of the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI), has researched and authored three Arcadia Publishing books in the popular Images of America series. Her titles include: *Detroit's Polonia*, *Detroit's Mount Elliott Cemetery* and *Detroit's Mount Olivet Cemetery*.

Ceil also worked with Dr. Hal Learman to author two more books, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy* and *The History of the Polish Panorama*. We are fortunate to have Polish Panorama as a documentation of the Panorama exhibit that is housed in the Fr. Andrew Wotta Center on campus. To see the Polish Panorama in action, you can call PARI at (248) 683-0323 to schedule a tour.

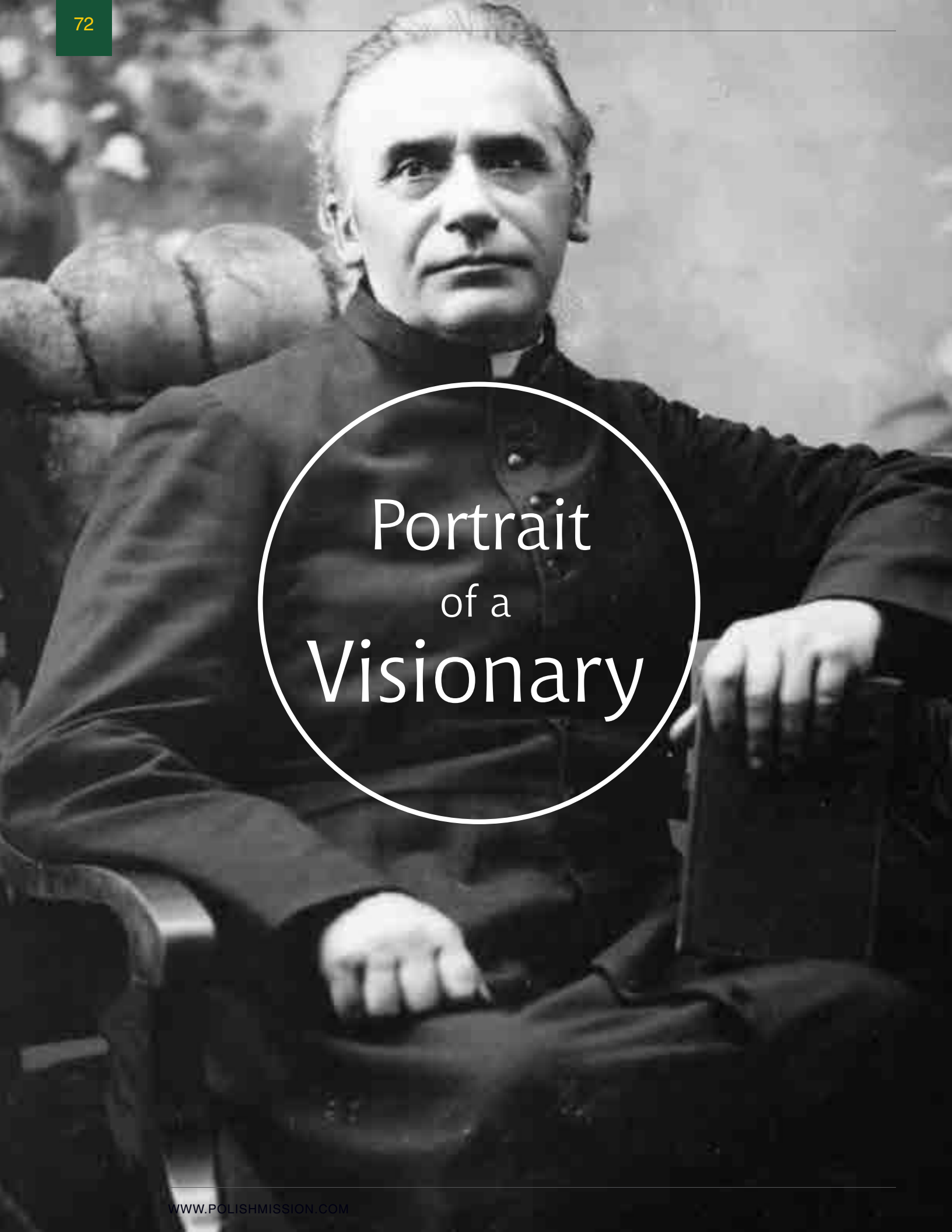
The Polish Mission also works as a contributor for various historical and research projects. Ronald K. Gay, author of *West Bloomfield and the Tri-Cities* (another title in the Images of America Arcadia series), worked with our curator of collections, JJ Przewozniak, to secure early images of campus, documenting the last few years of the Michigan Military Academy (MMA) and the beginnings of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, after the purchase of the land from the MMA in 1909. Before that, award winning author Ken Koskodan conducted research on his great survey of the Polish military in World War II, *No Greater Ally*.

Stay tuned for more publishing projects that are in the works here at The Polish Mission, including an upcoming short biography of renowned Buffalo Polish-American Stephanie Niciszewska Mucha (featured in the issue no. 2 of *The Mission*)!

If you're looking to purchase these titles, a selection can be found at the St. Mary's Bookstore: *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy*, *Detroit's Polonia*, *Detroit's Mount Elliott Cemetery*, and *Detroit's Mount Olivet Cemetery* (these are also available at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)). *West Bloomfield and the Tri-Cities* is available at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com), and *No Greater Ally* can be found on Amazon.com. Call (248) 683-0323 for availability of *The History of the Polish Panorama*, and stay tuned for the release of *The Oracle of Buffalo*!



COMING SOON!

A black and white photograph of a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark clerical suit with a white collar. He is seated in a chair with a large, rounded backrest, looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a stone wall or architectural detail.

Portrait  
of a  
Visionary

Guest contributor Fr. Roman Nir reflects upon Fr. Józef Dąbrowski, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. Originally written in 2003, on the 100th anniversary of his passing. Translated from Polish by Allison Follbaum and Marzanna Owinski



## “He has faithfully met the Good Shepherd.”

His Excellency John S. Foley, a bishop in Detroit, on February 21, 1903, meaningfully summed up the life of Fr. Joseph Dąbrowski by writing: “Tireless work, countless sacrifices, unwavering confluence of all virtues of a Christian and a priest, made him dear to all of us.... Indeed, he truly fulfilled his duty of the Good Shepherd.” “This man can and should be trusted unequivocally, because he is eager to serve and lead on the right path.”

February 15, 2003 -- It's been 100 years since the death of Polish Seminary rector father Joseph Dąbrowski, who departed from this world while in Detroit at 7.00 a.m. on Sunday. His entire life he devoted his priestly vocation and the American Polonia community.

It is not difficult to claim that Fr. Dąbrowski is one of the most outstanding figures in the history of Catholic Poles in America. It's not just the kindness of his countenance and his strength in spirit; it is in personal stories about this man, the struggles through which he prevailed and how he lived under the truth and in the light of a great vision. He persevered through many trials, fighting against oppression and disaster particularly in his parish in a Polonia community in Wisconsin and in his creation of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary. Thankfully, his spirit of dedication helped him to overcome all obstacles.

He was one of those “splitting wood, carrying water, laying bricks, sifting sand and cement, he was a mason of the church, presbytery, school, monastery and the first building of the seminary. Pioneers, such as Fr. Dąbrowski, by the sweat of his brow, created the foundation for the present campus for the Orchard Lake Schools, Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory, the Polish seminary of SS. Cyril and

Methodius, and The Polish Mission. In truth, not in Detroit, but overlooking the beautiful scenery provided by Orchard Lake. Father Dąbrowski began his fundraising collections with the generosity of the working people, the effects of which surely have passed their wildest expectations. Here, a son of the Polish Fatherland is found on the American soil fighting spiritual giants on the earth.

His whole life was vigorous and inventive, indefatigable, and modest; he was a humble man, avoiding praise and fame. When he took over the Polish Seminary project from Fr. Leopold Moczygamba, he worked hard to create a modern and beautiful campus. Fr. Dąbrowski provided a humble example of his vows of poverty, specifically on Fridays, by eating bread and water as a sacrifice. He never spent much time on himself because his mission was to always be serving others, and when he came to the United States, he tried to inspire his brother priests to live a more simple life as “examples of an old masterpiece.” A patched up robe, run-down shoes, entire outfit far from elegance, but as described by Tomasz Jez “...from his eyes and face emanated a message: This man can and should be trusted unequivocally, because he is eager to serve and lead on the right path.”

Fr. Dąbrowski's life was accompanied by the motto: “Where there is no idea, people suffer.” This had to be a vision, stemming from his belief in the will of God, because it has inspired all the steps he took in this life: a high school student to college student of mathematics, patriot to a theologian and priest, from an immigrant to the United States to a pastor in a Wisconsin town, founder of a Felician Sisters convent in the United States to the founder of a Polish Seminary, a spiritual father of Polish migrants and a missionary among American Indians, not to mention a contributing writer for Polish magazines and manuals..

These are just a few exhibits of his hard work in the United States and Poland, and in discussing these, it is evident that Fr. Dąbrowski's memory deserves our respect. He was a strong-willed follower with total commitment to God's Providence. He became a beggar, going from door to door asking everyone, even the quietest of widows for any spare pennies so he could purchase two-and-a-half acres of land at the corner of St. Aubin and Forest Streets in Detroit, Michigan.

Fr. Joseph Dąbrowski was born on January 27, 1842 in the town of the former Polish kingdom, Żółtańce. Being the oldest son of four children, he received a basic education while he was at home. He was brought up by an intelligent and uniquely talented and energetic mother. His father was an engineer and died when Joseph was 12 years old. As young man Dąbrowski began to study in Lublin, and in 1862, he went to Warsaw University, to study mathematics and natural sciences. During his schooling, he answered the call to take part in the January Uprising of 1863, fighting with General Mieroslawskiego, where he was given the command of a platoon of soldiers. During one of the Russian attacks he realized that he would have to act quickly to save the lives of his men, as the rebels needed to flee from danger. Dąbrowski had reached the castle, where they hiding under the floor. The Russians searched the castle and finding no rebel patriots, departed. The name Joseph Dąbrowski was too well-known by the Russian forces, so he could not count on safety if he stayed in the country. He traveled to the border and went to Dresden in Germany. The next few years spent in Switzerland. By this time, we know the resilient and joyful spirit Dąbrowski had, who in a letter to his mother, wrote: “Fortune is uncertain, my dear mother, as you see, the one who once commanded soldiers now works in a blacksmith shop! Thanks be to

works in a blacksmith shop! Thanks be to God, I am well and soon I will go to Rome.” During these years he continued his studies in science and mathematics in Lucerne and Brno.

Finally, he received another call to the service, but by the largest Commander, and for the salvation of human souls. After years of wandering, Dąbrowski arrived in Rome for his theological studies at the College under the direction of the Congregation of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was impressed with the spirituality of one of the founders, Fr. Peter Semenenko, who taught his students total dedication to the Church and the mission of working with and supporting Polish immigrants and parishes around the world. Joseph was ordained a priest at the Basilica of St. John in Lateran in 1869, and at the request of Fr. Semenenko, the newly ordained Fr. Dąbrowski immediately reported to work in America. That same year he went to Krakow, to say goodbye to his mother and at the end of 1869, sailed to America. He served the Polonia, Wisconsin community of Polish immigrants for 13 years, coordinating the building of a new church, rectory, school and convent.

He built a new church, presbytery, school and convent. Christianized native Indians, having learned their language within 3 months. He taught them farming and gardening. He wrote and printed textbooks and religious books for them to study. Fr. Dąbrowski even played a decisive role in bringing to America the Polish order of Felician Sisters, which was an event of extraordinary importance, especially to the Metro Detroit community. We know their positive role in the field of education, specifically that of Polish immigrant schooling in America. The Felician Sisters’ presence in the United States opened the door to religious vocations which grew into new convents and provinces while they tirelessly worked in parishes, schools and orphanages.

In 1883, Fr. Dąbrowski was launched the proposal of what would become his largest project in his lifetime: the foundation of a Polish Seminary to train young men called to be Roman Catholic priests, from and for Polish immigrants to the United States. Fr. Leopold Moczgamba, a Franciscan, had met with and received permission from Pope Leo XIII for the creation of such a seminary, but in his advanced years, he entrusted the project and mission to found a seminary for Poles to a young and enthusiastic Fr. Dąbrowski. After arriving in Detroit,

Fr. Dąbrowski purchased a plot of land relatively close to the religious house of the Felician Sisters, between the streets of St. Aubin, Forest, and Garfield.

Construction began in 1884 with Fr. Dąbrowski joining the ranks of the ordinary workers and completing the same tasks alongside the men, using his knowledge of blacksmithing and forging. The foundation stone was marked on July 24, 1885 with the names of SS. Cyril and Methodius as patrons. In its first year of existence, the seminary program drew more than 25 students and this number increased from year to year.

The beginnings of this great work contributed many difficulties. Fr. Dąbrowski had, with the generous support of Cardinal Ledóchowski, special approval for his project. Now it all depended on scarce financial resources Fr. Dąbrowski had collected. In addition to the lack of funds, and partly because of this, there was desperate need for professors. Fr. Dąbrowski himself, he was a professor, after all, had extensive knowledge and could have been one of the educators himself. However, priest’s desire was that the different subjects should be contributed by various professionals of each particular area. He chose to journey back to Europe in the search for the appropriate professors, willing teach seminary and at the Felician Sisters Academy. This task proved impossible in Rome. Though that first visit did not prove a great success, today, with each new school year, we have never lacked for a complete and talented teaching staff.

The continued results were successful through the effort of Fr. Dąbrowski’s dedication to the work, but the mission he undertook required much from him. In fact, the number of students increased to the point that it became necessary to consider expanding the seminary campus, though they did not have any more room at the St. Aubin Street location.

When this monumental step in the history of the institution was fully underway, there was a great uproar in the seminary community. On January 23, 1903, a group of seminary students delivered to the hands of the rector, Fr. Dąbrowski a so-called “petition,” outlining deficiencies in the seminary and requiring the removal of the Vice-Rector. It stated that if these demands were not met in three days, the students would be leaving the school. This news was a dagger straight to the weakened heart of

Fr. Dąbrowski. The students who made the threats were expelled immediately from the seminary. Only God knew what pain and heartache were endured by Fr. Dąbrowski, caused by those he trusted and for which he cared. Shortly after this incident, at the beginning of February he had a heart attack and on the morning of February 15, 1903 he died. His death took away one of the good shepherds and through the funeral ceremonies, commemorated his life accordingly. It was a manifestation of the thousands of people who were served by this great son of the Polish nation, who worked tirelessly for this nation while on American soil. His grave is located in Mount Elliott Cemetery in Detroit, near the entrance gate and is marked with a great stone cross with a bust in bronze.

Fr. Joseph Dąbrowski receded into just a memory. But the strength of his spirit and his work remained and developed in an way probably far larger than he ever imagined. And that is exactly as Fr. Dąbrowski would have wanted - to be part of the great history of American Polonia. And so it happened. To this day, his memory rests in the heart of the Polish community. Hold on to his memory and live joyfully in the present and dark days, because “Whom God loves, these experience.” Just like Fr. Dąbrowski acted in harmony with the decrees of Divine Providence, we can follow the hand of God through the life of the head of the founder of our Schools and as such, we should follow the hand of God in the present day direction of our institution as we continue to fulfill the work of Fr. Dąbrowski. The Polish Seminary and the Orchard Lake Schools is a personal testament to the Polish American community, left by its founder, and shows total dedication and sacrifice of oneself to the task of maintaining and teaching the faith: a faith which is inextricably linked to our Polish fatherland.





APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

No. 11306

June 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

Through your kindness I have learned with pleasure that July 22, 2015 will mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the **Orchard Lake Schools** and **The Orchard Lake Polish Mission** and gladly take this opportunity to send to the entire Orchard Lake Community my warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations.

Indeed, I unite myself spiritually with you and your collaborators as you commemorate this historic milestone and give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings of these past thirteen decades on behalf of the Catholic faith, higher education and Polish cultural heritage.

May the prayerful intercession of Saint John Paul II and the loving protection of Our Lady of Czestochowa guide and accompany **St. Mary's Preparatory** and **Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary** together with **The Polish Mission** into a future radiating ever more clearly the joy of the Gospel.

With my blessing, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Carlo Maria Viganò*  
Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio

---

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Director  
**The Polish Mission**



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Hon. Walter Shapiro

August 12, 2015

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
 Director, The Polish Mission  
 3535 Commerce Road  
 Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Marcin,

It is with great honor and privilege that the Detroit Regional office of American Jewish Committee (AJC Detroit) offers congratulations on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools. We also applaud you on the well-deserved Gloria Artis award.

The Polish Mission is an inspiration to our local organization as we share in fighting for tolerance and respect for all peoples. Your work is incredibly important. Your coordination and curation of the prestigious Forbidden Art exhibition in honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz is just one example of your compassion and principled leadership.

We are pleased to support your legacy at the upcoming awards ceremony. It is truly a privilege to call you our esteemed partner and friend.

With best wishes,

Karl L. Alterman

Todd R. Mendel

Howard S. Brown



July 1, 2015

Marcin Chumiecki, Director  
Orchard Lake Polish Mission  
Orchard Lake Schools  
3535 Commerce  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

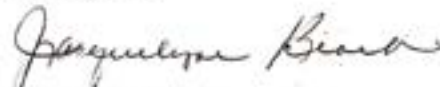
Congratulations! I was so excited when I realized that the Orchard Lake Polish Mission will be celebrating your 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month.

I'm sure that Fr. Józef Dabrowski never imagined that his founding efforts would have such an impact on the community for so many years to come. You have shaped the intellect and character of young people beginning with the Polish immigrants in 1885. The purchase of the Michigan Military Academy provided you with a very scenic campus where you have been able to preserve and promote Polish and Polish-American culture, tradition, and history for present and future generations.

Some of the highlights that come to my mind was your exclusive North American partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland. Hosting the prestigious and massive *Forbidden Art* exhibition at the United Nations celebrating the liberation of Auschwitz was an important historical event. Not to mention the huge honor to receive the *Gloria Artis*, the highest form of recognition awarded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland.

Congratulations and best wishes for a long and prosperous future.

Respectfully,



Jacquelyne Beach  
Mayor



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-9999

**THE POLISH MISSION  
ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS  
130TH ANNIVERSARY  
22 July 2015**

In honor of the 130th anniversary of The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools, I join each of you in applauding your program that focuses on our youth and ensures they have the right tools to succeed in life and in our communities.

The Polish Mission is a remarkable cultural department of the Orchard Lake Schools dedicated to providing our youth with leadership, values, personal integrity, responsibility, self-discipline, and good citizenship skills. Events such as the 130th anniversary offer a time to honor the past and build the future.

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, thank you for your service, sacrifice, and continued support. Best wishes for a happy and safe celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin E. Dempsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

MARTIN E. DEMPSEY  
General, U.S. Army



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

22 July 2015

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

I thank you for your letter of 18 June 2015 informing me of the initiatives planned to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The Polish Mission at The Orchard Lake Schools.

This year was also marked by our fruitful collaboration in bringing to the United Nations Headquarters, in New York City, the *Forbidden Art* exhibition, one of the outcomes of your longstanding partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland. I understand that the exhibit is currently 'on tour' in many colleges of North America. This initiative is an example of the important role that your institution continues to play in making education an awareness-raising tool for the prevention of atrocity crimes.

I really hope that the anniversary of your prestigious institution can contribute to give even further visibility to such efforts. This could serve as a stimulus to an increasing number of educational institutions and other actors to pursue activities on memory and remembrance. I am also fully supportive of your efforts to educate future generations on the constructive management of diversity. As the United Nations Secretary-General has often said, the Holocaust did not start with the gas chambers. It started with the dehumanization of a specific group of persons. The prevention of future genocides requires that we collectively prioritise educational efforts that promote the value of diversity in society, as well as the respect for the culture, beliefs and practices of members of different communities.

In conclusion, the Orchard Lake School's efforts on education for prevention send an important message that is relevant not only for similar institutions in the United States of America but also in many other States around the world. On the occasion of this anniversary, let me therefore join you, your students, staff and colleagues in the celebrations. In parallel, I wish you all success for all future endeavours of The Polish Mission and The Orchard Lake Schools and I look forward to a continued good co-operation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adama Dieng'.

Adama Dieng  
Under Secretary-General /  
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General  
on the Prevention of Genocide

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Director  
The Polish Mission  
Orchard Lake School  
Michigan

OFFICE ON GENOCIDE PREVENTION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT  
866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA SUITE 600, NEW YORK, NY 10017



**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 5, 2015

Marcin Chumiecki  
Director of The Polish Mission  
3535 Commerce Road  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

Congratulations on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Polish Mission. You, your colleagues, and your organization are to be commended on your tradition of empowering people of all nationalities. I sincerely appreciate the work that you do.

You also deserve congratulations for the two hallmarks of this past year with the *Forbidden Art* exhibition at the United Nations and for being awarded the *Gloria Artis* by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland. Cultural heritage and diversity are important to Ferris State University and I want to thank the Polish Mission for your advancements in these areas.

Thank you for sharing information about your upcoming awards ceremony. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and for the continued success of your efforts.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler  
President

1201 S. State Street, CSS 301  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2747

Phone: (231) 591-2500  
Web: [www.ferris.edu](http://www.ferris.edu)



## CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

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**DONALD F. FRACASSI**

MAYOR

(248) 796-5100

FAX: (248) 796-5105

July 22, 2015

The Polish Mission  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

Dear Friends:

Please accept my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Polish Mission and The Orchard Lake Schools!

I am so proud and honored to commemorate this special occasion with you as it is personally meaningful to me. I am fully aware of the Polish heritage as my own mother was of Polish descent and I had the privilege to meet with the Mayor of Poland and share information and accomplishments.

The Orchard Lake Polish Mission and The Orchard Lake Schools serve as a symbol of life, where the Polish language, history, customs and culture are celebrated and preserved for future generations to come. I am delighted that The Orchard Lake Polish Mission has flourished since its founding in 1885, and today remains as strong and committed to faith as it did some 130 years ago. The City of Southfield appreciates the many contributions made by you and the friends of Orchard Lake Polish Mission to the quality of life in our community, and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship for many more years to come.

Again, congratulations on marking the milestone of 130 years of service and best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

Donald F. Fracassi  
Mayor



29TH DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
PO. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48209-7514

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HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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FAX: (517) 373-0061  
E-MAIL: [timgreimel@house.mi.gov](mailto:timgreimel@house.mi.gov)

July 22, 2015

The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of your 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am proud to say that the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools have been of great service to our children and our community in the spreading of polish culture.

I am delighted to learn that you will be receiving the Gloria Artis award, by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland, for promoting Polish culture in the United States. This award is a tremendous honor and you are the only institution in the United States to receive it. Based on your recent partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, as well as your continued efforts to progress the knowledge of Polish culture, it is an honor that you have earned.

Congratulations, once again, and may you continue to advance the awareness of Polish culture throughout our great state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Tim Greimel  
House Democratic Leader  
District 29





JÓZEF GUZDEK  
Biskup Polowy Wojska Polskiego

Warszawa, 22 czerwca 2015 r.

L.dz. 940/KZ/2015

Szanowni Państwo,

Z wielką radością przyjąłem informację, że Państwa działania związane z kultywowaniem polskości na terenie USA, promocją dziedzictwa kultury i historii Polski zostały uhonorowane poprzez nadanie medalu *Gloria Artis*.

*Jak mówił św. Jan Paweł II – Ojczyzna jest wymiarem społecznej miłości. Synowie i córki jednego narodu trwają w miłości wspólnego dobra, jakie czerpią z kultury i historii, znajdując w nich oparcie dla swej społecznej tożsamości, a zarazem dostarczając tego oparcia bliźnim, rodakom. Ten krąg miłości społecznej posiada szczególne znaczenie w naszym polskim doświadczeniu dziejowym – i w naszej współczesności. Miłość społeczna jest otwarta ku wszystkim ludziom i ku wszystkim ludom. Jeżeli ukształtuje się ona głęboko i rzetelnie w swych podstawowych kręgach – człowiek, rodzina, ojczyzna – wówczas zdaje również egzamin w kręgu najszerszym (Homilia w czasie nabożeństwa maryjnego odprawionego na lotnisku w Muchowcu, Katowice 1983).*

Rozwijając myśl św. Jana Pawła II, możemy w tej mądrości skutecznie szukać drogowskazów dla współczesnych pokoleń. Pamięć o wielkich narodowych wydarzeniach historycznych, o sukcesach, a także tragediach, sprawia, że wobec Europy i świata jesteśmy i zawsze powinniśmy być dumni, niepokonani i nieugięci.

Życzę wielu kolejnych owocnych lat działalności dla dobra kultury polskiej i upowszechniania dziedzictwa narodowego. Niech radość z obcowania z Ojczyzną, także poza jej granicami, towarzyszy Państwu każdego dnia.

Na zakończenie pragnę podziękować tym wszystkim, którzy przyczynili się do otrzymania wyróżnienia i każdego dnia dbają o dobre imię i honor Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Dziękuję za wszelkie działania podejmowane na rzecz rozwoju patriotyzmu i miłości do Ojczyzny nie dla swojej chwały, lecz dla chwały całego narodu. Niech ta praca, która wypływając z umiłowania polskiej ziemi oraz jej materialnego i duchowego bogactwa, przynosi cenne owoce także w przyszłych pokoleniach.

Z serca błogosławię



*+ J. Guzdek*

bp Józef GUZDEK



June 24, 2015

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki, Director  
The Polish Mission  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki:

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, the Wixom City Council unanimously approved the enclosed Polish Mission Proclamation.

Congratulations on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Orchard Lake Polish Mission. That is truly an accomplishment of which to be proud.

Enjoy your celebrations!

Sincerely,

*Catherine Buck*

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

City Clerk's Office - 49045 Pontiac Trail - Wixom, MI 48393

## THE POLISH MISSION PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1885 in Detroit by Fr. Jozef Dabrowski, The Polish Mission, America's leading Polish cultural organization, is the cultural department of the Orchard Lake Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, permission to establish such an institution of higher learning for the masses of Polish immigrants was expressly granted in writing by Pope Leo XIII; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1885, Orchard Lake Polish Mission has dutifully performed a critical role in shaping the intellect and character of young people who desire to become our future's leaders; and

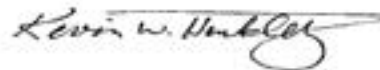
**WHEREAS**, the combined student body of St. Mary's Preparatory and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary is about 600. The team of faculty, staff and administration embraces the virtues of yesteryear while offering the most up-to-date educational and cultural experiences to all who enroll; and

**WHEREAS**, The Polish Mission is the exclusive North American partner institution with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland; and

**WHEREAS**, for their continued cultural activities, The Polish Mission was awarded the *Gloria Artis* (gold), which is the highest form of recognition awarded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland, being the only institution in the United States that bears the honor; and

**WHEREAS**, July 22, 2015 will mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Orchard Lake Polish Mission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Kevin W. Hinkley, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Wixom and in recognition of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "The Polish Mission", declare Wednesday, July 22, 2015 to be "The Polish Mission Day" in the City of Wixom.



Kevin W. Hinkley  
Mayor  
City of Wixom



Warszawa, 20 lipca 2015 r.

**PREZES**

Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej  
Komisji Ścigania Zbrodni  
przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu

*dr Łukasz Kamiński*  
892 - 080 - 35(3)/15

**Pan**  
**Marcin Chumiecki**  
**Dyrektor**  
**Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake, Michigan, USA**

## List gratulacyjny

Z okazji 130. rocznicy działalności Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake oraz uhonorowania będącej jej częścią Polskiej Misji złotym medalem Gloria Artis - wyjątkowym odznaczeniem Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego RP, pragnę złożyć na Pana ręce najszczerze gratulacje dla wszystkich pracowników kierowanej przez Pana placówki.

Z ogromną satysfakcją przyjąłem fakt, że wkład Polskiej Misji w szerzenie polskiej kultury, historii i tradycji w Stanach Zjednoczonych został doceniony przez władze Rzeczypospolitej. Zasługi środowiska skupionego wokół ośrodka w Michigan na tym polu są bowiem niezaprzeczone. Liczne przedsięwzięcia edukacyjne i kulturalne podejmowane przez Polską Misję: przechowywanie i udostępnianie imponujących zbiorów bibliotecznych i muzealnych, spotkania, prelekcje i tworzenie pozytywnego wizerunku Polski i jej historii w lokalnym środowisku służą kultywowaniu tradycyjnych wartości patriotycznych wśród Polonii amerykańskiej, ale też promują Polskę i jej historię wśród Amerykanów. Cieszę się także z trwającej od kilku lat intensywnej współpracy między Polską Misją a Instytutem Pamięci Narodowej. Żywię nadzieję, że dalsze lata dadzą naszym instytucjom wiele okazji do równie owocnej jak dotychczasowa kooperacji w obszarze naukowo-edukacyjnym na rzecz upowszechniania wiedzy o najnowszej historii Polski.

Gratuluje wyróżnienia i życzę dalszych sukcesów całemu zespołowi.



1/1





Consul General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Chicago

Paulina Kapuścińska

June 17, 2015

**Mr. Marcin Chumięcki**  
**Director**  
**The Polish Mission**  
**Orchard Lake, MI**

*Dear Director Chumięcki,*

It is with pleasure that I received the news of the celebration on July 22, 2015 marking the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools.

It is inspiring to see how effectively and successfully the Orchard Lake Schools have for such a long time provided commendable learning opportunities for Polish immigrants and played an important role in passing the spirit of Polish traditions from generation to generation.

I am equally pleased to see how the fruitful efforts of the Orchard Lake Schools' cultural branch, The Polish Mission, educate the American and international youth about important historical and cultural facts relating to Poland and Polonia.

For these and many other contributions to the protection of the Republic of Poland's cultural heritage, I will have the distinct honor of presenting the Orchard Lake Schools with the Gold Medal of Merit for Culture *Gloria Artis* on behalf of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland. Please communicate any details regarding the preferred date of decoration to my office.

I am looking forward to the celebration and I commend your great work for the advancement of Poland's good name.

*Sincerely,*

  
Paulina Kapuścińska  
Consul General

1530 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60610, USA

Phone: (312) 337-8166  
Fax: (312) 337-7841



MINISTER EDUKACJI NARODOWEJ  
JOANNA KLUZIK-ROSTKOWSKA

Warszawa, 16 lipca 2015 r.

DSWM-WOPG.0851.15.2015.ZC

**Pan**  
**Marcin Chumięcki**  
**Dyrektor Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake**

*Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,*

z okazji przypadającej w tym roku 130. rocznicy założenia Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake, na Pana ręce, pragnę przesłać serdeczne gratulacje.

Misja Polska założona przez ks. Józefa Dąbrowskiego od 1885 roku promuje Polskę, szerzy polską kulturę, historię, tradycję oraz prowadzi edukację kolejnych pokoleń.

Z szacunkiem należy zauważyć, że Polska Szkoła im. J. Dąbrowskiego w Orchard Lake oferuje naukę języka polskiego, historii i geografii Polski nie tylko dzieciom, ale także dorosłym. Szczególnym uznaniem Ministerstwa Edukacji Narodowej cieszy się działalność Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake na polu edukacji i wychowania młodych pokoleń amerykańskiej Polonii. Dzięki organizacji konkursów oraz okolicznościowych imprez artystycznych szkoła jest także ośrodkiem polskości gromadzącym kolejne generacje dzieci i rodziców.

Z okazji tak doniosłej rocznicy, pragnę życzyć społeczności szkolnej Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake kolejnych sukcesów – gronu pedagogicznemu dalszych sił do pracy dydaktycznej, zaś uczniom zapału i radości z poznawania języka i historii przodków.

*Serdecznie pozdrawiam*



November 2, 2015

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Orchard Lake Schools  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Marcin,

On behalf of the entire Board of Regents let me congratulate you and all of the people of the Polish Mission on the fine awards event and on the tremendous honor of receiving the Gloria Artis as presented by the Polish Ambassador. It is truly an outstanding honor and recognition and a unique one. I am only sorry that for various reasons the entire membership of the Board of Regent's could not be present to participate with the varied and interesting people who were there that evening.

Further, in addition to the receiving of the Gloria Artis was the honor of our own Director, Marcin, being recognized by receiving the "Cavaliers Cross of the Order of Merit" of Poland. What an incredible honor! (I can't wait to tell my grandson that I know a Cavalier.)

I cannot close without recognition that Bojena deserves a lot of credit for raising those beautiful children during the hours that you are here, there, and everywhere and putting up with what your commitment demands. Perhaps she should wear the award.

Lastly, I should also note the fine quality of the "Mission" Annual Report – a great job and a great cover!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lud Koci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lud Koci

cc: Board of Regents



## STOWARZYSZENIE „WSPÓLNOTA POLSKA”

ZARZĄD KRAJOWY

00-322 Warszawa, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 64  
tel. +48 22 556 90 02, fax +48 22 556 90 43  
swp@swp.org.pl, [www.wspolnotapolska.org.pl](http://www.wspolnotapolska.org.pl)

Warszawa, 26 czerwca 2015 r.

**Pan**  
**Marcin Chumięcki**  
**Dyrektor**  
**Orchard Lake Polish Mission**

*Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,*

na Pana ręce w imieniu własnym oraz władz naczelnych Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska” pragnę złożyć serdeczne gratulacje w związku z przyznaniem złotego medalu Gloria Artis oraz z okazji tak doniosłego jubileuszu jakim jest 130-ta rocznica działalności Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake.

Na przestrzeni 130 lat Państwa organizacja urosła do rangi jednego z ważniejszych miejsc na mapie Ameryki Stanów Zjednoczonych pielęgnujących i promujących polską kulturę, historię, tradycję oraz dbających o edukację w oparciu o historyczne związki Polski i USA.

Państwa nieoceniony wkład w kształcenie młodych pokoleń w duchu patriotyzmu, uniwersalnych wartości, umiłowania Ojczyzny zasługują na najwyższy podziw i uznanie.

Na szczególne podkreślenie zasługuje fakt wspólnego łączenia dbałości o zachowanie polonijnego dziedzictwa na terenie USA oraz promocji współczesnych osiągnięć Polonii oraz Polski na ziemi amerykańskiej. Działania te nie tylko pozwalają zachować pamięć o przeszłości, służą również podwyższeniu statusu polskiej społeczności w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

Dlatego pragnę podziękować wszystkim członkom organizacji, którzy poświęcają całą swoją energię oraz czas, za dotychczasową pracę, trud i entuzjazm, z jakim promują dziedzictwo kultury i historii Polski na terenie USA uwzględniając historyczne związki naszych dwóch krajów oraz zapewnić, że w Polsce ich wysiłek jest dostrzegany i doceniany.

Życząc Państwu wielu dalszych sukcesów oraz udanej uroczystości wręczenia tak znacznego wyróżnienia

*Z wyrazami szacunku*

Prezes  
Stowarzyszenia „Wspólnota Polska”  
*Longin Komolowski*  
Longin Komolowski

PREZES RADY MINISTRÓW

Warszawa, 20 lipca 2015 roku

*Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,*

w związku z obchodzonym 22 lipca 2015 roku jubileuszem 130-lecia istnienia Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake w Michigan, pragnę na Pańskie ręce złożyć serdeczne gratulacje i podziękowania za wyteżoną pracę Pana, całego kierownictwa Polskiej Misji i wszystkich zaangażowanych w jej funkcjonowanie osób.

Orchard Lake to jeden z najważniejszych i najstarszych polskich ośrodków poza granicami Ojczyzny. Od 130 lat zapewnia rzeszom polskich imigrantów w Stanach Zjednoczonych szerokie możliwości kształcenia, a także łączność z Polską, polskim dziedzictwem oraz tradycjami.

Polska Misja pod Pana kierownictwem jest ośrodkiem aktywnym w upowszechnianiu polskiej historii, edukacji i kultury. Jest miejscem, w którym kultywowana jest pamięć o bohaterskiej tradycji oręża polskiego i opieka nad weteranami. Na specjalne uznanie zasługują też działania skierowane do środowisk amerykańskich mające na celu wzrost świadomości i uwrażliwienia na kwestie niezmiernie istotne z punktu widzenia polskiej racji stanu, w tym także w obszarze dialogu polsko-żydowskiego.

Składam Panu jednocześnie serdeczne gratulacje z okazji nadania przez Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego RP Złotego Medalu *Zasłużony Kulturze Gloria Artis*. Medal ten jest wyrazem wdzięczności Państwa Polskiego za wytrwałą pracę i dokonania Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake.

**Pan Marcin Chumięcki**  
**Dyrektor**  
**Polska Misja w Orchard Lake,**  
**Michigan, Stany Zjednoczone Ameryki**

DW.62/LK/15

Warszawa, 22.06.2015

 Marcin Chumiecki  
 Dyrektor Polish Mission  
 Orchard Lake Schools  
 3535 Indian Trail,  
 Orchard Lake, MI

*Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,*

Składam serdeczne gratulacje z okazji przyznania Polskiej Misji złotego medalu Gloria Artis. To wspaniałe wyróżnienie za niezwykle intensywną i owocną działalność Państwa instytucji, za wielką pracę związaną z promocją historii Polski w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Przyznanie złotego medalu Gloria Artis zbiega się ze 130. rocznicą utworzenia Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake, które od początku działalności wychowywały swych uczniów w duchu patriotyzmu. Ponadto Misja pełni rolę kustosa polskiego dziedzictwa, pamiątek związanych z Kościołem oraz Polakami przybyłymi do Stanów Zjednoczonych. Warto podkreślić też, że Misja nie tylko prowadzi działalność w swojej głównej siedzibie ale również we współpracy z czołowymi instytucjami amerykańskimi. Te inicjatywy popularyzujące polską historię są cenne dla całej polskiej społeczności w Stanach Zjednoczonych oraz dla rozwoju stosunków polsko-amerykańskich.

Pozwolę sobie przy tej okazji wyrazić podziękowanie za dotychczasową współpracę. Obiekty ze zbiorów Misji Polskiej były prezentowane na wystawie czasowej Muzeum Historii Polski pt. "Londyn stolica Polski" poświęconej losom polskiej emigracji w Wielkiej Brytanii. Ze swojej strony udostępniłmy wystawę o Armii Andersa. Energia, życzliwość i otwartość Pana Dyrektora, kierownictwa Misji i jej pracowników sprawiają, że współpraca przynosi wzajemne korzyści a zarazem jest ogromną przyjemnością.

Pragnę złożyć najserdeczniejsze gratulacje wszystkim pracownikom i współpracownikom Polskiej Misji, których ogromny wkład i pasja została dostrzeżona i doceniona przez Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego. Życzę Państwu kolejnych wspaniałych inicjatyw i sukcesów w służbie Starej i Nowej Ojczyzny.

*Z wyrazami szacunku*

 DYREKTOR  
 Muzeum Historii Polski w Warszawie  
  
 Robert Kostro



KANCELARIA SENATU

DYREKTOR GABINETU MARSZAŁKA SENATU

GMS/044- 22/15

Warszawa, 9 lipca 2015 r.

Szanowny Pan  
 Marcin Chumiecki  
 Office of Polish Mission Director  
 3535 Indian Trail  
 Orchard Lake, MI 48324

*Szanowny Panie! Dyrektorze*

dziękuję za pański list, w którym przybliżył Pan bieżącą sytuację oraz informuje o inicjatywach Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake. Od wielu lat z uwagą i zainteresowaniem śledzę zaangażowanie Misji w działania mające na celu promocję współczesnej Polski poprzez upowszechnianie kultury, historii, tradycji oraz edukację.

Gratuluje wyróżnienia organizacji Złotym Medalem „Zasłużony Kulturze Gloria Artis” przyznany przez Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego. To wysokiej klasy odznaczenie jest wyrazem uznania ogromnego wkładu Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake w promocję polskiego dziedzictwa na terenie Stanów Zjednoczonych.

W związku z przypadającą w tym roku 130-tą rocznicą działalności Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake życzę Panu oraz całej społeczności polonijnej skupionej wokół Polskiej Misji wytrwałości, wielu dalszych sukcesów i satysfakcji z pracy na rzecz Polski i Polonii w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

2 *parcie*  
  
 Dyrektor  
 Artur Kozłowski

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
14th DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

[www.lawrence.house.gov](http://www.lawrence.house.gov)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2214**

HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS

SENIOR WHIP  
FRESHMAN CLASS WHIP

July 22, 2015

Dear Polish Mission and Orchard Lake Schools,

Congratulations on celebrating the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Polish Mission. I am pleased to recognize the hard work that The Polish Mission has accomplished for the State of Michigan and the Polish community for over a century. The critical role played in shaping the intellect and character of young people who will become our nation's great leaders is remarkable. The investment in our youth and the growth of our country will have an impact for decades to come.

The legacy of The Polish Mission affords me the opportunity to celebrate the organization as it receives the well-deserved *Gloria Artis* award for continued cultural engagement by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland. It is my privilege to honor The Polish Mission as they host the prestigious and massive *Forbidden Art* exhibition at the United Nations with an objective to prevent future genocides.

I am grateful to have friends and constituents in Michigan's 14th Congressional District that are a part of The Polish Mission and their cultural commitment. As the Polish Mission and Orchard Lake Schools celebrate this historic occasion, I am confident the extraordinary service of this outstanding organization will continue for generations.

Warm Regards,

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

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Szanowny Pan  
 Marcin Chumiecki  
 Dyrektor Polskiej Misji przy Orchard Lake Schools

Nasz znak: E-065-15(2)/15    Data: 2015-07-01

*Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,*

Składam wyrazy najwyższego uznania Polskiej Misji przy Orchard Lake Schools z okazji uhonorowania Złotym Medalem Zasłużony Kulturze „Gloria Artis”. Państwa placówka wchodzi w ten sposób do grona nielicznych instytucji, wyróżnionych tym najwyższym polskim odznaczeniem w dziedzinie kultury. Nie może być jednak inaczej, skoro Polska Misja w Orchard Lake ma za sobą już 130 lat wyjątkowej pracy edukacyjnej.

Zadaniem Muzeum II Wojny Światowej w Gdańsku jest stworzenie nowoczesnej instytucji, w której opowiedziana zostanie historia wojny jako największego kataklizmu XX wieku. Dokonania Państwa placówki są wyraźnym dowodem, że dobrze obrana metoda prezentacji audytorium zagranicznemu trudnych, wojennych losów Polaków, jest gwarantem sukcesu instytucji. W wyjątkowy sposób potraficie Państwo łączyć ponad wiekową tradycję przekazywania wartości patriotycznych i wiedzy o Polsce, z zaangażowaniem i energią w realizacji różnorodnych projektów edukacyjnych.

Życzę Polskiej Misji przy Orchard Lake Schools wytrwałości i kreatywności w odnajdywaniu wciąż nowych sposobów krzewienia historii i kultury naszego kraju, w społeczeństwie amerykańskim.

*Stęsus wojny macumka*

Prof. dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz

*Paweł Machcewicz*

Dyrektor Muzeum II Wojny Światowej w Gdańsku

80

80-831 Gdańsk, ul. Długa 81/83  
 tel./fax: +48 58 323-75-20, 58 323-75-30  
 sekretariat@muzeum1939.pl  
[www.muzeum1939.pl](http://www.muzeum1939.pl)



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[www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl)

dr Tomasz Makowski | dyrektor Biblioteki Narodowej

Warszawa, 15 lipca 2015

ND/065/39/15

Pan  
**Marcin Chumiecki**  
Orchard Lake Schools

pragnę złożyć serdecznie gratulacje i wyrazy uznania za szczególne wyróżnienie Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake złotym medalem Gloria Artis, przyznawanym w dziedzinie twórczości artystycznej, działalności kulturalnej oraz ochronie kultury i dziedzictwa narodowego.

Prowadzona przez Państwa działalność mająca na celu promocję najnowszych osiągnięć Polski, ze szczególną uwagą zwracaną na historię, kulturę i tradycje, przekazywane przez grono nauczycielskie ponad 600 studentom, jest godna podziwu i uznania. Kształtowanie intelektu i postaw młodego pokolenia, które niezłomnie wypełniania Państwa instytucja od 130-tu lat jest wielkim dobrem wykonanym na rzecz Polski i Polonii.

Zaangażowanie Misji w sprawy polskie na arenie międzynarodowej służy promocji i kształtowaniu prawidłowych postaw wobec kultury i historii Polski. Warto podkreślić, że organizowane z dużym zaangażowaniem programy, kursy i wydarzenia promują Polskę i podkreślają polsko-amerykańskie osiągnięcia. Przyczyniając się do wychowania młodego pokolenia, na przyszłych liderów, w duchu patriotyzmu.

Za pośrednictwem tego listu przesyłam na Pana ręce wyrazy uznania dla organizatorów i podziwu dla zaangażowania w działalność Polskiej Misji.

Życzę Państwu wytrwałości i dalszych sukcesów w realizacji tych ze wszech miar ważnych przedsięwzięć.

dr Tomasz Makowski



*Certificate of Special  
Congressional Recognition*

*Presented to*

**MARCIN CHUMIECKI**

*in recognition of receiving the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of  
Poland*

OCTOBER 29, 2015  
DATE

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



*Certificate of Special  
Congressional Recognition*

*Presented to*

**Orchard Lake Schools**

*In commemoration of 130 years of service and*

*in recognition of outstanding and invaluable  
service to the community.*

8<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2015

DATE

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
WARSAW, POLAND

THE AMBASSADOR

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

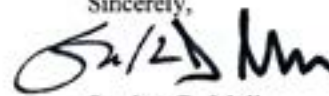
Marcin Chumiecki  
Director  
The Polish Mission  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to you and the Orchard Lake Polish Mission on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's founding in 1885. The Orchard Lake Polish Mission (or "Polish Seminary," as it was first called) has served a valuable purpose as a unique place in the United States – a school, an archive, and an institution dedicated to deepening the U.S.-Polish relationship. The traditions of your school reflect the strong bonds between the United States and Poland that reach back to the very beginning of our country. Ever since then, the people of Poland have shown themselves to be among America's closest allies and friends.

I would also like to thank you for your kind letter regarding my service in Poland. It has truly been a wonderful experience serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Poland over the past three years – and fortunately, I am not leaving just yet! I will remain on the job for at least a few more months until my successor is confirmed by the United States Senate, the timing of which is unpredictable. In the meantime, I will continue to work hard every day to make the great U.S.-Polish friendship even stronger and closer.

Thank you again for everything you do to preserve and strengthen the bonds between our countries, and congratulations on an amazing 130 years!

Sincerely,  
  
Stephen D. Mull



R. D. Musser, III, *President*

August 5, 2015  
Our Third Century

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Director  
The Polish Mission  
Orchard Lake Schools  
3535 Commerce Road  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki:

On behalf of the Musser family and the entire staff of Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, congratulations on the wonderful accomplishment of celebrating the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Polish Mission. The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools should be very proud of establishing such a wonderful legacy that has benefited so many.

As the third generation member of my family to operate Grand Hotel, which will celebrate its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 10, 2017, I commend The Polish Mission for preserving and cultivating your heritage and the traditions of providing exceptional educational opportunities and cultural experiences.

As you celebrate at the Gloria Artis on October 8, congratulations to you, your current students, alumni, staff and all involved. Moving forward, I wish you continued success and our sincere well wishes on such a wonderful accomplishment.

Most sincerely,

President

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**UNITED STATES ARMY  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

**JUL 30 2015**

The Polish Mission  
3535 Commerce Road  
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

To the Members of The Polish Mission:

Congratulations on marking the 130th anniversary of the founding of The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools. Your commitment to education and cultural engagement has created a distinguished legacy of which to be proud.

I applaud your efforts and celebrate this milestone with you. I thank you for your advocacy of military service and support for all the members of the Armed Forces who selflessly serve this country every day. Best wishes for your continued success. Army Strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Odierno', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army

Police Emergency: 9-1-1

Fire Rescue: 9-1-1

Business: (248) 975-9200

Fax: (248) 682-1811

Michael Patton  
Chief of Police



**WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**Police Department**

4530 Walnut Lake Road Box 250188 West Bloomfield, MI 48325

Michele Economou Ureste  
Township Supervisor

July 6, 2015

Mr. Jeffrey J. Przewozniak  
The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools  
Polish-American Art and Cultural Research Foundation  
3535 Commerce Road  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Przewozniak,

Congratulations on your 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

On behalf of everyone at the West Bloomfield Police Department, please accept my thanks for the continuing educational and cultural opportunities that The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools provides the greater West Bloomfield community.

We are fortunate to live and work in an area that is so rich in cultures which join together in peace and prosperity. We are proud of this diversity, and as you celebrate your anniversary, please know that the efforts and contributions of your institution, as well as those who celebrate their Polish heritage, are appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Patton", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Michael Patton  
Chief of Police



DYREKTOR ZAMKU KRÓLEWSKIEGO W WARSZAWIE – MUZEUM

Warszawa, 23 czerwca 2015 r.

W Pan

Marcin Chumiecki

The Orchard Lake Schools Polish Mission

3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake,

Michigan 48324 - 1623

Wielce Szanowny Panie,

Pragnę Panu bardzo serdecznie pogratulować wyjątkowego wyróżnienia, które Pani Minister prof. Małgorzata Omilanowska przyznała Orchard Lake Polish Mission. Jestem głęboko przekonany, że Złoty Medal Gloria Artis dostał się w dobre, bardzo zasłużone ręce instytucji, która z wielkim powodzeniem promuje polskie dziedzictwo w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Gratulując Państwu dotychczasowych osiągnięć, życzę owocnej pracy i sukcesów także w przyszłości.

Z wyrazami najgłębszego szacunku

Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Rottermund

ZAMEK KRÓLEWSKI W WARSZAWIE – MUZEUM, REZYDENCJA KRÓLÓW I RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ

PLAC ZAMKOWY 4 • 00-277 WARSZAWA

tel. 22 635 08 08 • fax 22 635 72 60 • e-mail: a.rottermund@zamek-krolewski.pl



Warszawa, 30 czerwca 2015 5

IAM/201.../D/15/DW/AD

**Pan Marcin Chumiecki**  
Dyrektor  
Zespołu Szkół  
Orchard Lake Polish Mission  
Michigan

*Stanowy Państwo,*

W związku z otrzymaniem przez Polską Misję w Orchard Lake najwyższego wyróżnienia w dziedzinie kultury, złotego medalu „Gloria Artis” na ręce Pana Dyrektora pragnę złożyć serdeczne gratulacje dla całego zespołu Misji.

Myśląc o Polonii w Stanach Zjednoczonych trudno pominąć wkład jaki Misja Zespołu Szkół Orchard Lake wniosła w budowanie wiedzy o współczesnej Polsce i Polakach wśród obywateli amerykańskich. Trudno też nie wspomnieć o skrupulatnie budowanej przez pracowników Misji imponującej kolekcji poloników oraz dokumentów związanych z polskim wkładem w zwycięstwo sił alianckich w czasie II Wojny Światowej.

Życzę Państwu, aby ta założona przez księdza Józefa Dąbrowskiego placówka dalej spełniała swoją szczytną misję i życzę wielu sukcesów w umacnianiu pozytywnego wizerunku współczesnej Polski.

*Z powodzeniem,  
Paweł Potoczyn*

Paweł Potoczyn



Minister  
Spraw Zagranicznych  
Grzegorz Schetyna

DDPK.110.3.2015 / 1

Warszawa, dnia 14 lipca 2015 r.

**Pan Marcin Chumięcki**  
**Dyrektor**  
**Polska Misja w Orchard Lake,**  
**Michigan, Stany Zjednoczone Ameryki**

*Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,*

Z dużą satysfakcją odebrałem informację o obchodzonym 22 lipca 2015 r. jubileuszu 130-lecia istnienia Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake w stanie Michigan.

To imponujące, że przez 130 lat Zespół Szkół w Orchard Lake z dużym sukcesem zapewniał rzeszom polskich imigrantów w Stanach Zjednoczonych szerokie możliwości kształcenia, a także ważną łączność z Polską i polskimi obyczajami oraz tradycjami.

Tym bardziej cieszy fakt, że kierowana przez Pana Polska Misja w Orchard Lake od lat istotnie przyczynia się do promocji wiedzy i edukacji o Polsce i Polonii wśród młodzieży z całego świata, która przybywa do Orchard Lake na kształcenie.

Składam Panu serdeczne gratulacje z okazji nadania przez Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego RP Złotego Medalu *Zasłużony Kulturze Gloria Artis*. Medal ten jest wyrazem wdzięczności Państwa Polskiego za wspaniałe dokonania Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake na rzecz ochrony polskiego dziedzictwa narodowego.

Proszę przyjąć moje podziękowania za wytrwałą pracę całego Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake na rzecz sławienia dobrego imienia Polski i polskiej społeczności w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

*Z poważaniem*

## AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Washington, June 5, 2015

*Dear Mr. Chumiecki,*

Please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the foundation of the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools. This jubilee is possible thanks to the great effort and commitment of so many individuals, who in 1885 decided to establish a mission to shape the intellect and character of young people. Throughout all those years, the Polish Mission has been a source of knowledge about Polish tradition, culture and history, enriching the minds of students of Polish descent.

I don't have to tell you how important it is to preserve and cultivate Polish heritage and our traditions abroad, and I am really glad that the institution that you lead is offering the most up to date educational and cultural experiences. This would not be possible without your devotion to the preservation of faith and our traditions.

Let me take this opportunity to express my great appreciation for all your hard work as the Director of the Polish Mission. I would like to wish you much success in your future endeavors and last but not least I salute The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools on the occasion of this beautiful anniversary.

Sincerely,



Ryszard Schnepf

**The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools**



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

October 29, 2015

Dear Friends,

It is an honor, as governor of the state of Michigan, to recognize the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools. Polish Americans have long called Michigan home. In fact, Michigan has the third largest Polish population among the United States. Given this especially strong Polish presence within our state, it is a pleasure to recognize an organization so steadfast in their commitment to preserving and promoting Polish-American culture and history.

I would additionally like to congratulate you for receiving the prestigious *Gloria Artis Award* recognizing your tireless efforts. May this award be a reminder of the product of your consistent compassion, energy, and leadership. I am confident that our state and nation will benefit from your positive impacts for years to come.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable gathering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Snyder".

Rick Snyder  
Governor

DH2.064.1.2015



Warszawa, 24 czerwca 2015 r.

Pan  
 Marcin Chumiecki  
 Dyrektor  
 Polska Misja w Orchard Lake

Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,

Z prawdziwą radością dowiedziałem się, że Minister Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego RP prof. Małgorzata Omilanowska, przyznała Polskiej Misji w Orchard Lake złoty medal Gloria Artis.

To zasłużone wyróżnienie potwierdza znaczący wkład Misji w kultywowanie polskiej kultury i świadomości historycznej wśród Polonii amerykańskiej – dzieło, które prowadzi już 130 lat. Ważnym zadaniem Misji jest też zachowanie wyjątkowych zbiorów muzealnych i archiwalnych. Jako historyk polskich migracji i dyrektor muzeum wiem jak zaszczytne i trudne jest to zadanie.

Serdecznie gratuluję sukcesu i życzę dalszych osiągnięć.

Z poważaniem,

Dariusz Stola  
 Dyrektor

Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich  
 ul. Międzyzdrojów-Alektrowic 5  
 00-527 Warszawa, Polska  
 Tel. +48 22 471 03 01  
 biuro@polin.pl  
 www.polin.pl

959.063, 1.2015

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 31-010 Kraków, ul. Jagiellońska 15  
 tel. 422-05-49, 663-13-07  
 fax 422-27-34

Kraków, dnia 26 czerwca 2015



M U Z E U M  
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Sz. P.  
**Marcin Chumiecki**  
**Dyrektor Polskiej Misji**  
**Zespołu Szkół w Orchard Lake**

Szanowny Panie Dyrektorze,

pragnę na ręce Pana Dyrektora złożyć najserdeczniejsze gratulacje z okazji otrzymania złotego medalu *Gloria Artis*, jakim Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej postanowiło uhonorować Polską Misję za jej wybitny wkład w promocję polskiej kultury i historii za oceanem.

W dzisiejszych, dynamicznych czasach, w obliczu globalizacji i unifikacji kulturowej świata zachodniego, niezwykle ważne jest, by umacniać i poszerzać wiedzę o Polsce, zarówno pośród tych Polaków, którzy mieszkają poza jej granicami, jak i wśród kultur, które Polaków zechciały w swoich progach na przestrzeni wieków ugościć. I za to właśnie, jako przedstawiciel społeczności akademickiej Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego i jako Polak, serdecznie dziękuję.

Gratuluje także imponującej rocznicy i życzę wszelkiej pomyślności w realizacji przyszłych przedsięwzięć.

Z poważaniem

Dyrektor  
 Muzeum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

ul. Jagiellońska 15  
 PL 31-010 Kraków

tel. 12 422 05 49  
 12 663 13 07

fax: 12 422 27 34

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**Office of the President**

4200 Faculty/Administration Building  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-577-2230  
Fax: 313-577-3200

June 15, 2015

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Director, The Polish Mission  
3535 Commerce Road  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

On behalf of Wayne State University, please allow me to express my sincerest congratulations to The Polish Mission and to the Orchard Lake Schools on reaching its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Your organization has much to celebrate. Established in 1885 by Pope Leo XIII, The Polish Mission had no ordinary task: the education of many Polish immigrants. Over the course of thirteen decades, the mission has risen to the occasion and helped nurture thousands of young people into thoughtful, capable leaders.

The honorable work of The Polish Mission has been recognized internationally, most notably with the *Gloria Artis* award from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Poland. As the only institution in the United States to receive this award, The Polish Mission should be especially proud of this recognition.

Today The Polish Mission enjoys a rich history of excellence in education and cultural preservation, as well as a reputation as the leading Polish organization in America.

In closing, it is my great pleasure to congratulate The Polish Mission and the Orchard Lake Schools on 130 years of successes and offer my best wishes for many more years of distinguished service to our Michigan community to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Roy Wilson".

M. Roy Wilson  
President



Bydgoszcz, 15 lipca 2015 r.  
MOB.ZDZ.055.5.15

Szanowny Pan  
Marcin Chumięcki  
Dyrektor  
Polskiej Misji  
przy Zespole Szkół w Orchard Lake

Szanowny Panie Dyrektore,

Z wielką radością przyjąłem informację o przyznaniu Zespołowi Szkół w Orchard Lake Złotego Medalu „Zasłużony Kulturze Gloria Artis”. Wyróżnienie to jest uhonorowaniem 130 lat aktywności Państwa Instytucji na rzecz polskiej nauki, kultury i dziedzictwa narodowego oraz docenieniem rangi prowadzonej działalności edukacyjnej, zgromadzonych zasobów archiwalnych, historycznych zbiorów muzealnych i kolekcji sztuki.

Cieszę się, że w ostatnim okresie mieliśmy możliwość podjęcia partnerskiej współpracy, co zaowocowało ewaluacją i inwentaryzacją kolekcji dzieł sztuki zgromadzonych w Galerii Polskiej Misji oraz przygotowaniem wystawy *Leon Wyczółkowski i sztuka jego epoki*.

Wierzę, że nadchodzące lata przyniosą Zespołowi Szkół w Orchard Lake, w tym Polskiej Misji, wiele cennych inicjatyw kultywujących polską tradycję oraz popularyzujących naukę i kulturę szerokim kręgom zarówno polonijnych, jak i amerykańskich odbiorców.

W związku z przyznaniem Złotego Medalu „Zasłużony Kulturze Gloria Artis” oraz Jubileuszem 130-lecia działalności proszę o przyjęcie gratulacji, które mam przyjemność przekazać w imieniu pracowników Muzeum Okręgowego im. Leona Wyczółkowskiego w Bydgoszczy i swoim własnym.

Łączę pozdrowienia i wyrazy szacunku

dr hab. Michał F. Woźniak, prof. UMK  
Dyrektor Muzeum

**Muzeum Okręgowe im. Leona Wyczółkowskiego w Bydgoszczy**  
85-006 Bydgoszcz, ul. Gdańska 4  
Sekretariat Muzeum:  
telefon: (+48)52 585 99 66, fax: (+48)52 585 99 68  
e-mail: sekretariat@muzeum.bydgoszcz.pl  
www.muzeum.bydgoszcz.pl

NIP 967 00 56 094  
REGON 092554209  
nr konta 65 1030 1090 0000 0000 8780 7002





**Lynn Forney Young**  
**President General**  
**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**  
1776 D Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5303  
(202) 628-1776

July 30, 2015

Marcin Chumiecki  
Director, The Polish Mission  
3535 Commerce Rd.  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

On behalf of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, it is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your founding.

Your reputation as the leading Polish organization in the United States is impactful. As you work towards building a better future by offering the most relevant educational and cultural experiences, you are empowering students across the nation. You are developing our future leaders. We appreciate everything the Polish Mission is doing in the lives of these students.

On behalf of the National Society, I congratulate you for your work and many wonderful accomplishments and wish you many happy and successful years to come

Sincerely,

Lynn Forney Young  
LFY/ik

# Thank You!

Acknowledging our donors from December 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

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# GIVING BACK

## How **You** Can Make a Difference at The Polish Mission.

Working for The Polish Mission is not just a job. Yes, it has the guise of a normal work day with email to answer, phone calls to make, and reports to write, but the reason that our team comes into work every day serves a much bigger purpose. We always have two pictures in our minds: the small daily picture that focuses on a few tasks at a time, and the second “big picture,” in which we envision what we will be in 10, 25, or 50 years. This isn’t just about us; it’s about our children, and our children’s children.

Even though The Polish Mission was only formally established in 2008, ever since the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools in 1885, there has been a “Polish” mission here. We are a third pillar of the Orchard Lake Schools, operating in cooperation with SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and St. Mary’s Preparatory. Our purpose is to preserve and promote Polish and Polish-American heritage and culture for current and future generations, while ensuring a safe place for artifacts, archival

materials, works of art, and rare publications.

Our extensive collections, operations, and workspaces are a big part of the 115-acre Orchard Lake campus. We were built upon the foundation laid by Fr. Dabrowski. We are rooted in the educational mission of the Prep. But now we need your support to be strong enough to fulfill our Polish mission.

The Dr. Edward and Josephine Wikiera Foundation is our financial base, but the majority of our cultural projects are funded exclusively by donations and grants. We rely on the generosity of people like **you**, and the **strength** and **value** of our mission, to continue. We need everyone’s help.

On the previous pages, you’ve seen what we can do in only one year. Here are some ways that you can be a part of our legacy:

- **The Galeria:** Originally built in 1888, today’s Galeria was originally a commissary for the Michigan Military Academy. We’re committed to renovating it to its original appearance, making it a proper home for our priceless art collection. The Wikiera Foundation has already pledged to help, but we need additional funding to complete this massive project.
- **The *Dziennik Polski*:** That newspaper is oldest Polish-American one, and digitalization is a laborious process that will take a large amount of hours to complete. We will be the only place in the U.S. that could offer this valuable material to researchers around the world.
- **Conservation:** Our core art collection is 410 priceless objects, about 90% of which have never been given a professional cleaning. Still more art and artifacts suffer from past decades of neglect. Museum-quality conservation of the art alone will cost almost \$600,000.

Now is the time to invest in our work.

If 673 people gave us \$30, we could preserve about 15 of our most precious paintings, ensuring their safety for the next 100 years. If 480 gave \$50, we could preserve every existing issue of *Dziennik Polski*. If 1,690 people gave \$200, we could send *Forbidden Art*, or other exhibitions, to universities and galleries in every state East of the Mississippi.

We exist to preserve and promote Polish culture, and we pledge to continue doing it, for those future generations in our “big picture.” If you like what we do; if like us, you believe in the **strength** and **value** of our mission, please consider a donation to The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools - I can be reached anytime.

Thank you for your generosity.  
Sincerely,

**Allison Follbaum**  
**(248) 683-0433**

**[afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:afollbaum@orchardlakeschools.com)**



WILLIAM WATSON FLAGG

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