

TRUMPETER

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POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

Fall 2005

YOUTH GROUP CELEBRATES POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

By Lauren Boston



left to right: Michal Krasel, Lauren Boston, Angelika Osowska, Marie Chorabik, Halszka Graczyk, and Filip Osowski

The Polish Heritage Association celebrated Polish Heritage Month on Sunday, October 16 with “Men and Women of Polish Descent,” a program sponsored by the youth of the PHA.

The young members involved in the program were adorned with traditional Polish costumes and read the biographies of several key figures of Polish descent. Three participants read their biographies in Polish and three in English.

After an introduction by Krystyna Osowska and Maryann Chorabik, the Co-Chairs of the Youth Group, Halszka Graczyk read the biography of “Królowa Jadwiga.” Filip Osowski spoke of “Henryk Sienkiewicz,” followed by Michal Krasel, who read the biography of “Jan Pawel Wiełki.” Marie Chorabik spoke of “Marie Skłodowska Curie,” followed by Angelika Osowska, who read about “Ignacy Jan Paderewski.” Lauren Boston concluded the program with the biography of “Colonel Francis S. Gabreski.”



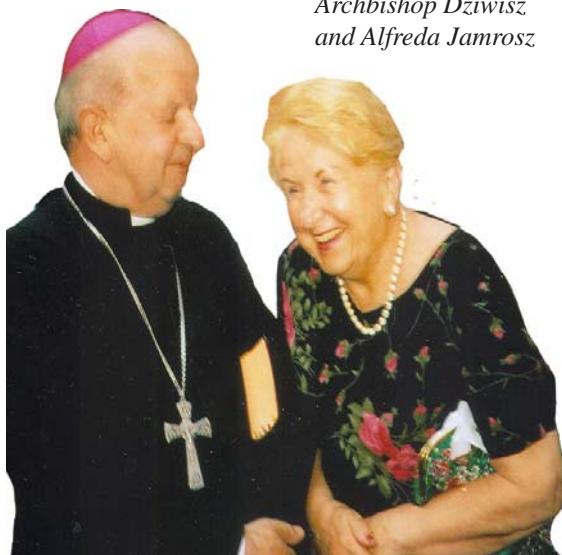
Members of PHA celebrated Polish Heritage Month by donning Polish Costumes

Guests were encouraged to stay after the ceremony and enjoy a large spread of Polish foods and desserts.

THREE WEEKS AT THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY OF POLISH CULTURE

By
Alfreda Jamrosz

This summer, as during the 3 previous summers, I studied at the Summer University of Polish Culture in Rome. Our school was located at the “Dom Polski” of the Pope John Paul II in Rome. Besides attending lectures, we traveled a great deal to places like Assisi, Oviedo, Pompeii, Monte Casino, Benevento and visited different sections of Rome at night.



*Archbishop Dziwisz
and Alfreda Jamrosz*

During the previous years, after finishing the course at the University we had a private audience with Pope John Paul II, received his blessings and beautiful rosaries. This year was very difficult, because our beloved Pope was no longer with us. Yet, we were very lucky, because we had an opportunity to meet with Archbishop Stanisław Dziwisz who was with us at the Polish Home.

Archbishop Dziwisz served as private secretary to Cardinal Karol Wojtyła in Krakow. He continued to serve in this capacity at the Vatican after Karol Wojtyła became Pope John Paul II in 1978. He held the post up until the Pontiff's death in April at the age of 84. In June he was named Archbishop of Krakow.

The former papal secretary told us that the last words he heard the Pope utter were: “Totus tuus.” The Pontiff spoke in Latin and the phrase means “totally yours,” in reference to his dedicating himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Archbishop Dziwisz, who was with the Pope and held his hand as he was dying, told us the Pope was conscious and aware of the crowds in front of St. Peter's Basilica. To him death was a passage from one room to another, from one life to another.

At the chapel of our Polish Home, the Archbishop celebrated daily mass and gave us holy communion with the same hand in which he held the hand of the dying John Paul II. Since the Pope's death people have come from around the world to the Polish Home to be close to Archbishop Dziwisz and touch his hand, thereby feeling close to the departed beloved Pope John Paul II.

Thanks to the Archbishop we Polish students were able to have a private visit followed by mass at Jan Paul's crypt. After my vacation in Rome, I traveled to London to visit friends before returning to Baltimore.

DUES ARE DUE

Have you renewed your dues? Don't delay send in your membership renewal today. The dues are: Single Membership \$20; Couple \$35; Family \$50; Student (Full-time) \$10.

TOOTING OUR HORN



Jack Ciesielski was quoted in a feature story on "Executive Pay Earnings" in the November 6th issue of the Baltimore *Sun* newspaper. He is the publisher of *The Analyst's Accounting Observer*.

Tom Hollowak gave a brief history of Polish settlement in Fells Point at the Second Annual Immigration Summit on November 18th at the Visionary Museum. The event was sponsored by Towson University.

On October 20th Marie Kijowski was one of the recipients of the Mayor's Community Volunteer Awards. The awards ceremony was held in Baltimore's City Hall.

Adam Mazurek presented a storytelling program at the annual Wigilia Celebration of the Polish-American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. This event was held on December 10th at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.



On December 12th Carla Hazard Tomaszewski was joined by her daughter Anastasia and brother Charles Hazard at the Polish Center of American Culture in Washington, D.C.

to present *Solidarność* heroine, Anna Walentynowicz with their artwork. The event was part of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Solidary Uprising.

IN MEMORIUM

Nadia Horodowicz Mazor

AN AFTERNOON OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC



On September 18, 2005 Mr. John Gardecki, the Co-Founder of the Washington International Piano Arts Council, gave a Piano Concert performing Chopin and Mozart compositions. The Baltimore born pianist who studied at the Peabody Conservatory

of Music was introduced by Music Chair, Patricia Bruchalska. In her introduction Mrs. Bruchalska told the members that she and Mr. Gardecki both took first place in the conservatory's Music Club Scholarships for voice. She won the senior division and he won in the student's division.

Mr. Gardecki played with both the Gettysburg and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras and since 1985 he has given a number of solo piano concerts, as well as for a number of charitable organizations.

The audience was enraptured with his performance of several Chopin pieces, not surprising since he has come to be known as the Chopin man. "The Dallas Times described him... 'a Chopin pianist in the manner born, with Old World generosity of expression'...."

A lavish buffet was offered the members after the concert. The concert and reception were underwritten by the organization's members who generously contributed to the PHA General Fund.

NEW MEMBERS - WITAMY!

Patricia Madlener

Mark Manak

Halina Obreska

Theresa Posko

Edith Pula

Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL FREDERIC CHOPIN COMPETITION: A PARTICIPANT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Elizabeth B. Borowsky

"I noted down recently that I liked a candidate because 'he played with his entire being.' The expression is not only in the fingers or head, it is in the whole player, in the body—and I do not mean the gestures. . . . This is what we are looking for—something that captivates people aside from a perfect performance."

Thus spoke Professor Andrzej Jasinski, Chair of the Jury -15th International Frederic Chopin Competition in Warsaw - when asked to describe what the jurors would be looking for among the 300-plus participants in the competition.

Certainly, narrowing down the field of candidates

was no easy task. From the first stage of competition, the vast majority of competitors gave performances that, under normal concert circumstances, would impress even a critical audience. But, as the Chopin



competition is one of the most prestigious competitions in the world, each competitor was listened to with heightened expectations.

One of the few pianists who won the hearts of the audience and the jury was the winner, Rafał Blechacz. Not only did the jury bestow on him all the special prizes (Best Mazurkas, Best Polonaise, Best Concerto, Best Sonata, Best Polish Performer (the first such sweep of the awards in the history of the competition), the unanimous approval of Blechacz's victory was the exception; nearly everything else was subject to debate and controversy.

The jury was comprised of nineteen prominent pianists from North America, Europe, and Asia.

The jury members were looking for: adherence to the intentions of the composer, technical control and agility, sensitivity, and that "special touch." When asked to describe how one should approach Chopin's music, most acknowledged that Chopin's music requires a deep sense of poetry; the music must not only be played but must be emotionally felt, analytically explored, carefully placed in historical context, and even (particularly for the mazurkas, polonaises, and waltzes) danced to.

One might imagine that the Polish competitors would have an advantage. However, the largest groups of participants by far were those representing Asian countries and the second largest were East Europeans.

The competition was a priceless experience. It was an immense honor to play Chopin for renowned in Chopin's homeland, to visit the Chopin Memorial in Łazienki Park, and Holy Cross Church where Chopin's heart is enshrined. Additionally, the competition proved to be fruitful for my career in that I was asked to participate in other competitions, was honored to record an all-Chopin CD with the renowned Polish recording company *Acte Preamble*, and was invited for performances in Poland and Germany. What more could one ask for?

Thanks to the generous support of the International Friends of Music Association, the American Chopin Foundation, numerous friends and supporters, and especially my family; my participation was made possible. As the only Polish-American participant I was honored to represent the great heritage, culture and tradition so well manifested by Chopin.

HOLY ROSARY POLISH FESTIVAL

On October 22 & 23 Holy Rosary held a Polish Heritage Festival in the church hall. PHA organized a cultural display with members displaying items from Poland. Carla Hazard Tomaszewski created scrolled banners and Adam Mazurek entertained the children with Polish folktales. Under the leadership of PHA President Victoria Leshinskie many of the members volunteered to be on hand to answer visitor's questions about the items on display. Krystyna Osowska sold soup she had made and the proceeds, \$300, were donated to Holy Rosary Church.

BALTIMORE'S POLONIA

At the November meeting Tom Hollowak gave an overview history of Baltimore's Polonia. He chronicled the origins of the community from approximately 1868 through the present. Although he planned to illustrate his history with a PowerPoint presentation, but because of technical difficulties he used an exhibit of photographs he assembled for the Polish Festival's cultural tent this past summer.

The majority of the items in the display came from the Maryland Polonia Archives he donated to the University of Baltimore in 1992. This collection continues to grow and Tom is hoping someone from PHA might be willing to volunteer to help file materials into the collection. If your interested phone him at 410-837-4268.

POLISH - JEWISH PROGRAM

The Dialogue in Understanding Through Youth (DUTY) program was led by Victoria Leshinskie and members of the Baltimore Jewish Council to bring together youth, ages 15-17, from both communities. The U.S. State Department will provide a \$250,000 grant to cover expenses. The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for high school students to share their respective historical and cultural heritages through dialogue, educational travel and training. For more information and an application please contact President Leshinskie at 410-962-8611.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006

January 15 - Movie Feature "Dangerous Moonlight"

The wartime story of a Polish concert pianist who is a pilot in the Polish Air Force. This 1941 movie features Richard Addinsell's well known "Warsaw Concerto"

February 19 - Travelogue "Poland - Teenage Point of View"

This travelogue is presented by Halszka Graczyk, a member of the PHA Youth Group

March 19 - A Family of Professional Artists

Stella Hazard her son, Charles R. Hazard and daughter, Carla Hazard Tomaszewski and granddaughter Stasia Tomaszewski will present a history of their art. They will also present a Polish Lenten/Easter Tradition palm weaving workshop.

April 9* - Madonna, The Bogarodzica in Polish Art

John F. Stachura will provide a presentation on this artform.

*Please note this is the 2nd Sunday of the month.

May 21 - Scholarship Awards



left to right: Art Abramson, Erica Hobby, Lorraine Bernstein, Tom Hollowak, Victoria Leshinskie, Frank Lanocha, Richard Strauss; foreground Anna Mussman, and Jim Mislak

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