

SUMMER
2008

THE

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

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73rd Annual Dinner and Ball

*A G*otillion of beautiful young women dressed in exquisite white gowns and the presence of legends both local and international highlighted another fun-filled evening at the Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner and Ball, held at its traditional location in the elegant Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in New York City on Saturday, April 26, 2008.

For the 73rd time, Foundation Trustees, members, friends and well wishers came together for an evening of celebration and dance. At this year's Ball, five young women were introduced to society, and the Ball saluted the long career of 96-year stage, screen, and operetta legend Marta Eggerth, wife and partner of the late Polish tenor Jan Kiepura. Last but not least, the Ball served as a tribute to the longtime service of Ball Chairperson Halina Kalitka to the causes of Polonia in the New York metropolitan area.

Each year's Ball is an opportunity for memorable moments, and this year's Ball was no exception. Ms. Eggerth was presented with the Kosciuszko Foundation's Medal of Recognition for her lifelong achievements in the field of entertainment. In honor of her 96th birthday just a few days before the Ball on April 17th, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Witold Sulimirski presented Ms. Eggerth with a birthday cake and the guests saluted her with a chorus of *Happy Birthday*, and the Polish celebratory song, *Sto Lat*, (*May You Live One Hundred Years*) to which Ms. Eggerth quipped in Polish, "But I'm already 96! You're only giving me four more years?" with a wink and a smile.

Yet another senior member of Polonia joined the fun into the wee hours of the night: Halina Kalitka's 84 year-old mother, Antonina Mazur, who kept in even step with her children and grandchildren, not to mention the several younger couples on the dance floor.

More Ball coverage on the pages that follow!



And They

Whenever we find

Kosciuszko Foundation members, friends and supporters near a dance floor, you can be sure that it won't stay empty for long! The parquet was filled with young and old alike, demonstrating for all there that the Annual Dinner and Ball is very much a family event. Not less than three generations ranging from just six months old to 96 were present on that beautiful spring evening.



Trustee Caroline N. Gundeck with Husband Richard Gundeck.



Vice Chairman William J. Nareski II with wife Nancy.



Misia Laskowski dancing with Trustee Mark Peszko, Esq.



Caroline Gundeck with Trustee Edward Mohylowski.



Last year's Ball Co-Chairs Nina and Dr. Andrew Boral.



Last year's debutante Marissa Goba, with her uncle, Vice Chairman William J. Nareski II.

Danced...



Samantha Polewac and friend.



Mrs. Camille Raia, with guest Randy Schrade.



Ms. Jessie Adamiak dancing with her grandfather, Mr. Frank Adamiak.



James Allen with son (and Halina Kalitka grandson) Peter Allen.



Bonnie and Michael Berkowicz .



Jan Myszkowski and Albina Jodlowska.



Trustee Marian Kornilowicz with wife Teresa Paris.

Music for the evening provided by the

Hank Lane Revue



Kazimiera Klimczak with Richard Szypula, Esq.



Consul Dr. Ewa Ger with Mr. Jacek Tatarynowicz.



Ms. Bozena Kuczynska and Mr. Leonard Levie.

And They Celebrated...



The Pre-Ball Reception at the renowned Kosciuszko Foundation House on 15 East 65th Street in New York City on the Friday before the Ball is an opportunity for Trustees, honored guests, debutantes and their families to mingle and prepare for "The Big Night".



Teresa Sulimirski Richard Mazur, Witold Sulimirski, and Debutante Laura Dabrowski.



(l. to r.) Joseph E. Gore, Esq., Trustee Mark Peszko, Esq., David Schopp, Lisa Peszko, and Mary Schopp.



Witold Sulimirski, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (l.) and Joseph E. Gore, Esq. (r.) with this year's Debutantes.



Left: Joseph E. Gore, Esq., President and Executive Director (center), with 2008 Debutante Patroness Dawn Polewac (l.) and 2008 Ball Chairperson Halina Kalitka (r.) at the Pre-Ball reception.

And then, the Big Night!

In addition to the presentation of debutantes and homage to the guests of honor, the Ball is an opportunity for families to get together and celebrate their Polish heritage, have their pictures taken, and engage in not a little bit of revelry, in the elegant surroundings offered by the Waldorf=Astoria's Grand Ball-room



Vice Chairman William Nareski II (far right), with wife Nancy, far left, and their guests, clearly enjoying the evening's festivities.



Just a few of the many children at this year's ball strike a pose for the camera.



(l. to r.) Longtime Kosciuszko Foundation supporters Mildred Tyszka, Foundation Corporate Secretary Helen Mary Tyszka, and Pro Arte League President Eugenia Gore.



Trustee Ed Mohylowski (c.), with cousin Nettie Jensen, (l.) and sister Mary Anne Lagana (r.)



Vice Chairperson Wanda Senko, and her daughter, Trustee Cynthia Rosicki, Esq.



Eugenia Gore, Joseph E. Gore, Esq., with daughter Regina Cavaliere, Esq.



Anna Utecht, Eugenia Gore, and Ela Ingarden



Chairman of the Board of Trustees Witold Sulimirski and wife Teresa had the honor of hosting Mme Marta Eggerth at their table. Standing, l to r: Ms. Jadwiga Towpik, Ambassador Andrzej Towpik, Teresa Sulimirski, Witold Sulimirski, Consul Dr. Ewa Ger, Mr. Jacek Tatarynowicz. Seated, l to r: Jane Knox Kiepora, Marian Kiepora, Madame Marta Eggerth, Ms. Mary Kabebo, Ms. Deborah Kinzler



Northeast Ohio Chapter President Mary Kay Pieski, with daughter 2006 Debutante Maris Alyse Pieski



The Polish American Folk Dance Company

provided a rousing evening of dance and song entertainment, featuring an entire set of Polish Highlander song and dance in traditional highlander costume. The Highlanders, or *góraly* as they are known in Polish, represent one of the more colorful and unique regional cultures in Poland. The Highlander theme honored Karol Szymanowski's body of work. The great composer was honored last year by the Republic of Poland, which declared it "the Year of Szymanowski" in recognition of the 80th anniversary of his death.

And they

Marta Eggerth

is truly one of the last survivors of what is referred to as "The Silver Age of Operetta." Many of the 20th century's most famous operetta composers, including Franz Lehár, Fritz Kreisler, Robert Stolz, Oscar Straus, and Paul Abraham, composed works especially for her. After a celebrated stage and film career, Marta Eggerth remains active, singing right up until today at the age of 96, with more than 80 years on stage. Combining the old with the new, encompassing stage, screen, recordings, radio, and television — Mme Eggerth's career brings a wealth of knowledge and artistry to her audiences and is an inspiration to young singers. Marta Eggerth sums up the cultural richness of an era past, while still being a vital and compelling performer in the 21st century.



Born in Budapest on April 17, 1912, she began singing as a child, making her theatrical debut in the operetta *Mannequins* at the age 11. She sang the most demanding coloratura repertoire by composers including Rossini, Meyerbeer, Offenbach, and Johann Strauss II, performing the role of Adele in Max Reinhardt's famous 1929 Hamburg production of *Die Fledermaus* at the age of 17, perhaps the youngest singer ever to undertake the part.

During the early 1930s, Marta Eggerth was discovered by the film industry, and her career took off resulting in international fame. She made more than forty films in four languages — English, German, French and Italian. A contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer in Hollywood led to two movies with Judy Garland — *For Me and My Gal* in 1942 (also Gene Kelly's first major film role) and *Presenting Lily Mars* in 1943.



Witold Sulimirski presenting Mme Marta Eggerth with the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition.

It was on the set of the 1934 film *Mein Herz ruft nach dir* (My Heart is Calling You) that she met and fell in love with the dashing young Polish tenor, Jan Kiepura. They were married in 1936 and together became known as Europe's *Liebespaar* (Love Pair)



Mme Marta Eggerth in the 1930s (photo courtesy of Mme Eggerth)

causing a sensation and thrilling audiences wherever they appeared. As a singing team they were perfectly matched, performing together on the operatic stage to rave reviews. In 1943, they starred together on Broadway in a production of Lehár's *The Merry Widow*, with Robert Stolz conducting and George Balanchine as choreographer, a work they would eventually perform more than 2,000 times, in five languages throughout America and Europe. Marta Eggerth would become perhaps the most famous "Widow" of all time.



Throughout her career, Marta Eggerth has maintained an active recital schedule throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States, combining

Mme Eggerth entertained the guests at the Ball with anecdotes from her long career and a few bars of song.

her extensive repertoire of lieder, opera, film songs, and especially Viennese operetta. However, Jan Kiepura's premature death in 1966 caused Marta Eggerth to stop singing for several years. She revived her career in the 1970's and began to make regular television appearances and perform concerts in Europe and in the United States.

In recent years, Marta Eggerth has been awarded many major artistic decorations from Austria, Germany, Poland, and Italy in recognition of her accomplishments in operetta, theatre and film. She received the Knight's Cross of the Order of the Merit of the Republic of Hungary, her native land's highest honor, and the Erwin Piscator Life Achievement Award for her legendary achievements as a star of operetta, opera, stage and film and for the inspiration and wisdom that she continues to share with others.

Honored...

Halina Kalitka

Chairman of the 73rd Annual Kosciuszko Foundation Dinner and Ball is a faithful friend and a familiar face throughout Polonia. Halina is active throughout the Polish American community and holds dear to her heart anything that promotes Polish heritage and culture, especially through music.

Halina began her musical studies at the early age of seven,



progressing through the years to piano accompanist and organist. Her main affiliation is with St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Greenpoint as organist and soprano soloist. She has accompanied many Polish American choral groups and various Polish American folk dance groups including the Matusz Polish Dance Circle and the Polish American Folk Dance Company, appearing with them at



Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Witold Sulimirski (left), and President and Executive Director Joseph E. Gore, Esq. (above) presided over the evening's ceremonies.

dance group, "Krakowianki and Gorale" of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, where she teaches singing, accompanies the dancing and helps prepare the annual Christmas and Spring shows. She has also worked with the Polish Supplementary Schools (Maria Konopnicka in Greenpoint and Rada Oswiatowa in Manhattan) teaching Polish folk and patriotic songs to children.

Halina was named Citizen of the Year in 1983 by the "Polish American World" and led St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish of Greenpoint as their marshal in the 1984 Pulaski Day Parade.

Her connection with the Polish



Three generations of Halina Kalitka's family attended the Ball.

Singers Alliance goes back many years. Halina was piano soloist and accompanist at their national convention in New York City in 1964 under the baton of Professor Antoni Kazmierczak. She accompanied the Oginski Choir at various concerts and participated as accompanist and soprano soloist at the Christmas Concerts that the "Hejnal" choir sponsored under the direction of Janusz Sporek.

In April of 2000, Halina played the organ accompaniment for the combined choruses of the Polish Singers Alliance at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City at the special Mass celebrating the 80th birthday of Pope John Paul II. That year she was also honored by the Pulaski Business and Professional Men as one of the "Women of the Millennium". In January of 2001, she was soprano soloist at a concert of Polish Contemporary Music at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center.

Halina is also well known for her rendition of the Polish and American anthems at many Polish American functions and, most recently, for Controller William Thompson's Polish Heritage Celebration at City Hall and the opening of the Pulaski Day parade on Fifth Avenue. In October 2007 she was honored by the Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz during Polish Heritage month.

Presently Halina is employed by the Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America, the largest Polish fraternal benefit society that serves 38 states through its benevolence and volunteerism.

She is also the proud mother of three children, Robert, Roxanne, a former Kosciuszko Foundation debutante, and Adrian, and grandmother of Taylor and Peter.



Halina Kalitka, at right, with her 84 year-old mother, Antonina, enjoying the festivities on the dance floor.

Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kosciuszko Foundation Debutante Balls and various other places along the East coast, from Buffalo to Miami. Halina is also involved with the children's Polish folk

And They Beamed...

2008 Debutante Patroness



From left to right: 2008 Debutante Patroness Dawn Polewac, Lindsey Kathleen Kopacz, Laura Anne Dabrowski, Katherine J. Gundeck, Kimberly Ann Sanguinedo, Paige Marie Carina Raia, and 2008 Ball Chairperson Halina Kalitka.



Dawn Polewac's

fifteen years of service as the Chairperson of The Kosciuszko Foundation's Debutante Council has focused on encouraging and empowering young women to add value to their social position by becoming a Kosciuszko Foundation Debutante.

Within this realm of exclusivity, Dawn has designed and personalized La Grande Luncheon and the Debutante Cotillion, as an experience of prominence and impor-

ance. Today, as in the past, the culture of the Foundation has been an important part of Dawn and her family's social life. Dawn continues to serve as member of the National Advisory Council, and in the early life of the Pro Arte League served as secretary and participated in a significant number of Pro Arte League functions (fashion shows, book signings, and concerts).

Dawn's family role in the Kosciuszko Foundation has spanned four generations. Her grandparents, in various thoughtful gestures donated services through their New York printing firm, the former Polish American Press, at the very beginnings of the Kosciuszko Foundation. In the following decades her grandmother, mother, sister, brother as well as Dawn's daughters became part of the Foundation culture. Presently



her mother Wanda Senko serves as a Vice Chairman and her sister, Cynthia Rosicki, Esq., serves as Trustee. Her daughter Samantha was presented to society at the 68th Annual Kosciuszko Foundation Ball in 2003, and her daughter Natasha is planning her debut in the very near future.

With degrees in Accounting, Hospital Administration and Paralegal Studies from Hofstra University, St. Joseph's College and Adelphi University, Dawn has continued to optimize her passion for community service by investing her time and support in the Polish Gift of Life, Polish Children's Heartline, The Polish Club at Hofstra Uni-

versity, 4-H Clubs, Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County, The Heart Fund, Reach to Recovery and, more recently, spearheading the Steering Committee for the Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates 4th Annual Gala in Support of Hunter's

Hope Foundation.

Dawn continues to demonstrate her leadership qualities as Business Manager of Rosicki,

Rosicki & Associates, capablely managing the law firm's partnerships and staff.

Dawn was presented as Patroness by her father,

Chairman of the Nassau County Civil Service Commission, the Honorable John Senko.



The 2008 Debutantes



Miss Laura Anne Dabrowski, of Huntington, New York is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Florence Dabrowski. She is a senior at Huntington High School, where she has been on the Principal's List for academic excellence and is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including awards in science, social studies, and mathematics. For three years she placed first in the school's National History Day competition.

She is a member of many school clubs and activities, including Habitat for Humanity, Model U.N. the National Honor Society, Student Government, orchestra, JV Field Hockey and Softball, to name just a few. Laura has studied dance for many years at Posey's School of Dance and has been a member of the Children's Dance Company and the Posey Repertory Company. Currently, Laura is a member of the Polish American Folk Dance Company. Laura is busy with numerous volunteer activities, including working with the Huntington Historical Society, the dance companies as well as Project Nicaragua and Habitat for Humanity. Laura's mother and father are former members of the Matusz Polish Dance Circle and are active in many Polonian organizations, including the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish National Alliance.



Miss Katherine J. Gundeck, of Ridgewood, New Jersey, is the daughter of Kosciuszko Foundation trustee Caroline Nyklewicz Gundeck and Mr. Richard Gundeck. Katie is a student at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida in preparation for a career in international business relations. She is a member of the Young Republicans Club and a volunteer at the Christina Health Care Center. She serves as public relations manager for the Tennis 4 Fun Club.

Katie's mother, Caroline, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation last November. She is National Sales head of Business Development, Global Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley. Her family has a long association with the Foundation and her grandmother Teresa Sondej Nyklewicz was a debutante at an earlier Ball. Katie's maternal grandfather, Edwin J. Nyklewicz, was the first Polish American judge appointed to the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey. Katie's father, Richard, is a Senior Executive at Merrill Lynch and is an avid exotic animal collector.



Miss Lindsey Kathleen Kopacz, is the daughter of Mr. Robert Kopacz of Summit, New Jersey and Ms. Kathi Leuther Kopacz of Frederick, Maryland. Lindsey is a student at the University of Maryland in College Park, preparing for a career in journalism or public relations. Lindsey's volunteer activities have included volunteering at the local hospital, in her school's color guard team which competed regionally. In 2003 and 2004 she participated, through her church, in a

project called Group Workcamp which helped families in need with home repairs. Next year at college she will serve as a Resident Assistant. Lindsey's father, Robert, is the Director of Communications at the Kosciuszko Foundation. Her mother, Kathi, is a licensed social worker in the District of Columbia and in Maryland. Her paternal grandparents, Eugene and Anna Kopacz have a long association with the Kosciuszko Foundation.



Miss Paige Marie Carina Raia, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond and Camille Raia of Merrick, New York and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Paige Marie is a junior at the Sanford H. Calhoun High School where she is on the Honor Roll. Paige Marie has been a member of the New York State Student Music Association for the past six years, achieving the Superior rating in voice. She is a member of the performance show choir Crescendo of the Bell-

more-Merrick School District and she has performed at Epcot, Walt Disney World and Busch Gardens. At school, Paige Marie is a member of the High School Key Club, the Girls' Varsity Softball team and is the VP of Public Relations of the school's history-based Yorker Club. She is active in many community service activities. She is Senior Alter Server at Cure' of Ars Parish in Merrick, volunteers at the local Bide-a-Wee animal shelter on Long Island and has been a member of the Polish Children's Heartline form many years. Paige Marie is a member of the Girl Scouts of America where she is the proud recipient of the Girl Scout Bronze Award, currently working toward her Gold Award. She is a former VP of Programming for Venture Crew Troop #577, a group pf scouts who embark on outdoor travels to many National Parks and historical sites in the U.S. Paige Marie's parents own Real Estate Property Management Corporations. Paige Marie is very proud of her Slavic heritage.



Miss Kimberly Ann Sanguinedo, is the daughter of Mrs. Dorothy Sanguinedo and the late Mr. Frank Sanguinedo of Staten Island, New York. She is the niece of Mr. Walter Stojanowski, also of Staten Island, who presented her at the Ball. Kimberly is a student at St. Joseph's By the Sea High School and in college hopes to pursue studies in the field of medicine or veterinary medicine. Kimberly is involved in a number of organizations and extracurricular

activities, including Project Hospitality, the Surf Club, Ladies of Charity, the Stitchery Club, and Therapy Dog International for which she does training. She is a cheerleader for the football team. Kimberly enjoys crocheting, reading, boating and skiing. With her family, Kimberly has participated in a number of Polish cultural events, including the Pulaski Day Parade.

With our Thanks...

The Kosciuszko Foundation would like to thank all those corporate and table sponsors who helped make this year's Annual Dinner and Ball the exquisite night of merriment and pagentry

TABLE HOSTS

Sponsoring a Table of 10 or More Guests

Dr. and Mrs. Andrew and Janina Boral

Bruno/Moores Family and Guests

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Florence Dabrowski (2 tables)
Honoring Laura Anne Dabrowski, Debutante

Mrs. Sophie Gajewski

Atty. and Mrs. Joseph E. and Eugenia Gore

Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Caroline Gundeck (3 tables)
Honoring Katherine J. Gundeck, Debutante

Home of the Alliance, Inc. (2 tables)
Honoring Ms. Halina Kalitka, Ball Chairperson

Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Monika Olszer Jasinski

Mrs. Kazimiera Klimczak

Mr. Robert Kopacz *Honoring Lindsey Kopacz, Debutante*

Marian Kornilowicz, Esq.

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Mr. Edward T. Mohylowski

Mr. and Mrs. William J. and Nancy Nareski II

Mark Peszko, Esq.

Ms. Dawn Polewac (2 tables)
2008 Debutante Patroness

Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union (2 tables)

Polish American Teachers Association

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond and Camille Raia, Honoring Paige Marie Carina Raia, Debutante

Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates Cynthia & Thomas Rosicki, Esqs. (3 tables)

Comm. and Mrs. John and Wanda Senko

Mr. Walter Stojanowski (2 tables)
Honoring Kimberly Ann Sanguinedo, Debutante

Adrianna Wos-Mysliwiec, Esq. and Mrs. Olenka Wos Kimball

Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Teresa Wroblewski (2 tables)

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Stanislaw A. Milewski, M.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Witold S. Suliminski

Mr. Philip W. Cadieux, in Support of the evening's floral decorations

Mr. Len Wynbeek, Jr., Action Graphics, Inc., for underwriting the printing of the 73rd Ball "Save the Date" cards



From the President and Executive Director



Joseph E. Gore, Esq.

A Peek at the Future

The season has finally come to an end. With the 73rd Annual Dinner and Ball now behind us, and such glorious events as the Chamber Music Series having performed its last concert of the season, it is time to look to the future and see what that future will bring.

In the 1960s scientists studied the small Italian American community of Roseto, Pennsylvania, to determine why certain age groups in that community defied certain U.S. health statistics. Heart disease, stroke, diabetes and other debilitating diseases which our society faced then were practically nonexistent in Roseto. They found that their sense of community above all other factors was an important determinant in not only maintaining psychological well being, but also physical well being. The story of Roseto only underscores the importance of a sense of belonging to a community in every aspect of our well being.

Our Vice-Chairman Professor Ted Gromada wrote in a recent newsletter about how Polish Americans no longer live in closely knit neighborhoods. As Professor Gromada rightly noted, the importance of organizations like the Kosciuszko Foundation in maintaining a sense of community has become vital to maintaining a sense of cultural identity. But the question becomes, with that geographical dispersion, how can the Foundation maintain that sense of community amongst friends and members?

On the backdrop of the reality of that challenge, we are presented with a gift of brand new technologies that revolutionize the way we can reach out and unify our broader community of Polish Americans. Although the internet has been practically available to the average consumer for over ten years now, new audio, video, and "interactive" technologies allow us not only to reach out to the community of Kosciuszko Foundation friends, members and supporters, but also for them to respond back.

Let me give you a taste of what the future has in store for us.

The Future. The rapid advances of media technologies since the Millennium have revolutionized the ways one can listen to music, watch a movie, or even read a magazine. Mobile "smart" phones, free high speed wireless internet access, digital music and streaming video now dominate our times, giving the general public many more ways of reading the news, listening to music or an audio program, or watching a video.

Not only are these technologies more available to the listening, reading, and viewing public, but the cost of producing and distributing the media programs has itself dropped drastically, permitting us to use these technologies to communicate our message to our audience in new formats.

Starting in 2008, the Kosciuszko Foundation will begin introducing new ways to communicate with its membership as well as the public at large.

Blogs. In the Spring of 2008, the Kosciuszko Foundation launched a blog. The media attention given to blogs and blogging has generated many misconceptions about them. A blog is nothing more than a page on a website, the content of which can be easily modified by its owner. With a standard website, one has to either use special software or otherwise be familiar with the programming language in which the website page is written. Most organizations rely on a specialist to do it for them. But with blog technology, adding text, pictures, or even videos to a website is as easy as writing an email.

In addition to the traditional printed newsletters, the KF E-news, and other traditional mailings that you may receive from time to time as a Kosciuszko Foundation member, news and information on Foundation news and events will also be posted on the Kosciuszko Foundation blog.

Podcasting. These days, recording and editing audio in digital format is easy. Easier still are the many ways to share that audio recording. The invention of the highly compact digital MP3 format for audio recordings has revolutionized the ability to record and share anything from a

symphony orchestra concert to an interview produced in a radio-type format. What has become the bane of the music industry has become a boom for organizations like the Kosciuszko Foundation, which can now utilize this technology to expand ways to reach its audience. In the future watch for informative audio programs on Polish culture which can be listened to on the website, or downloaded for listening on a portable "MP3 player" while commuting to and from work.

Digital Video. As with digital audio, digital video has also undergone something of a revolution in the past five years. Although a bit more involved than digital audio, innovations in technology have driven the price of both video production and distribution down dramatically. Now, organizations like the Kosciuszko Foundation can produce and distribute documentary films on Polish culture. Starting in 2008, our friends and members will be able to watch Kosciuszko Foundation-produced videos, either at Foundation gatherings, on the internet as a streaming video, or by downloading it to their own personal mobile device.

Social Media. Many have heard of Facebook and MySpace, referred to in news reports as "social media", where young people can essentially open their own mini-websites and establish a list of topics which interest them. They can then develop lists of "online friends" with similar interests.

Similar social media websites exist for professional people. The LinkedIn website www.linkedin.com, allows business people, professionals, and academics, to establish their own sites with their resumes and interests, search for friends and other professionals with similar interests, and network with them. One feature offered by LinkedIn is LinkedIn Groups, an ability of an organization to create a space just for members of that organization.

Starting in 2008, the Kosciuszko Foundation will establish a LinkedIn Group for recipients of Kosciuszko Foundation scholarships, grants and fellowships, and another such group for Foundation members, creating an interesting new incentive to membership in the Kosciuszko Foundation.

We look forward to the rich and exciting new way to share the world of the Kosciuszko Foundation with our members, friends and supporters. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in New York, at a local chapter event, or "online" soon!

Board of Trustees

Elects New Trustees

The Kosciuszko Foundation Board of Trustees voted three new members into its ranks at the semi annual meeting on November 16, 2008, and a fourth new member at its April 25, 2008 semi-annual meeting.



Ronald J. Hagadus, M.D. is the attending Ophthalmologist-Glaucoma at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and at the Westchester Medical Center. He is an Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, New York Medical College. He has Board Certification from the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. Hagadus is the recipient of the "President's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Dedicated Service" from the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary. Also, he has Honorary Membership in The Society of Ophthalmology of Poland Gdansk for outstanding contributions to the Advancement of Polish Children with Glaucoma. Dr. Hagadus and his wife Trustee Emeritus, Maria J. Hagadus donated \$100,000 to the Foundation to establish the "Dr. James Hagadus Memorial Cultural Endowment Fund" in memory of their son. Dr. Hagadus has Board Certification from the American Board of Ophthalmology. He resides with his wife, Maria, an artist, in Bedford Hills, New York.

Caroline Nyklewicz-Gundeck is the Diversity Officer for the Global Wealth Management Group of Morgan Stanley. Ms. Gundeck heads the Office of Diversity that focuses on continuing and advancing diversity efforts throughout the business. Previously Ms. Gundeck was a Financial Advisor for 20 years with Merrill Lynch earning the title of First Vice President-Investments. While at Merrill Lynch she was Director of Women's Marketing and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Marketing for Merrill Lynch, Global Private Client. During her career as a Financial Advisor, Ms. Gundeck managed in excess of \$2 billion dollars in assets annually. She is a member of a number of professional groups including the Advisory Board, Women's Leadership Exchange. Her philanthropic associations include being Director, Save Ellis Island Foundation and served on the Board of Trustees of the YWCA of Bergen County. She received her Bachelor of Science in Economics from Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. She has her Series 7 and 63 securities licenses as well as her Life Insurance License in the states of New Jersey and Florida. She was born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey and now resides in Ridgewood, New Jersey with her husband and four children. She raises llamas and Tibetan yaks in Upstate New York.



Marian A. Kornilowicz is a partner of Cohen, Seglia, Pallas, Greenhall & Furman, P.C., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the Chair of the Firm's Business Practice Group. Mr. Kornilowicz received his J.D. degree from the Suffolk University Law School and his LL.M. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In addition, he has a B.S. in Engineering Science and a B.S. in Political Science



and History from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 1974 he received a Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship to do course work at the Jagiellonian University in political science, philosophy and Polish and Russian languages. He is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia which is involved in the preservation and appreciation of Philadelphia's architectural heritage and historic fabric. Mr. Kornilowicz is the Vice-President and Director of the Jagiellonian Law Society. He is a member of the bars of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and corresponding Federal Courts as well as national and local bar associations.

Peter S. Novak (elected on April 25, 2008) is the principal of Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co. of Springfield Massachusetts, an insurance brokerage and financial services agency serving several states in the New England area through 175 agents. The agency has won the prestigious MassMutual Chairman's Trophy Competition for each of the past nine years. The firm currently has in excess of \$2.75 billion under management.

Mr. Novak holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology



Continued on Page 26



Polish Government Honors

CHRISTINE KUSKOWSKI

Christine B. Kuskowski, volunteer Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland Program (TEIP), was recently awarded The Medal of the Commission of National Education of the Republic of Poland by Ryszard Legutko, Minister of Education, at a ceremony held at the Polish Ministry of National Education in Warsaw. A special reception was held afterwards at the Warsaw office of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO in Warsaw nominated Ms. Kuskowski for the award in recognition for her "considerable accomplishments to promote educational and cultural relations between the United States and Poland and for her personal contribution and devotion to the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland Program." Ms. Kuskowski, a retired educator, has been affiliated with the TEIP Program since 1992. The Medal of the Commission of National Education is the

Continued on Page 26

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

Children's Programs



So That **THE KIDS KNOW**

The Kosciuszko Foundation's Program on Polish Culture, History and Traditions concluded its season with a flourish on April 12th

The Kosciuszko Foundation's children's series entitled "Polish Culture, History and Traditions" rounded up a wonderful season on April 12th, leaving the youngsters who participated with a rich and memorable experience, not to mention lots of reasons to feel pride in their Polish roots. The series was presented in association with the Polish American Teachers Association.



The program series commenced on October 20th with "The Seeds of Freedom," a fact-filled theatrical presentation instructing children on the significant role played by Tadeusz Kosciuszko in helping the Colonial Army win the American Revolutionary War. This

was followed by "A Traditional Polish Christmas," on December 1st, a workshop led by Dorothy Wieczerek where the children designed their own Christmas ornaments, one for the Kosciuszko Foundation House Christmas tree, and one to take home for their own tree.

With Spring just around the corner, the Foundation hosted the next program, "Polish Folklore, Fables, and Storytelling Competition," on March 15th, an event organized by the Polish American Teachers Association and held at the Foundation House, featuring students from Polish supplementary schools in the New York metropolitan area competing for the best storyteller. At "Traditional Polish Folk Dancing," on April 12th children attending learned the basics of traditional Polish folk dancing with the help of the Polish American Folk Dance Company, led by artistic director Ryszard Sudol.

Christmas workshop photos: Piotr Krzaczkowski
Dance workshop photos: Artur Marnik

Monika Olszer Jasinska, Director of Development, declared the program a success, not only in terms of the number of children attending, but also in their enthusiasm.



The most recent event, April 12th's dance workshop, was in the words of Ms. Olszer Jasinska, "Fantastic."

"The instructor was amazed by the discipline and focus of the young dancers," noted Ms. Olszer Jasinska. "He said that sometimes he works with a group of children for a year and doesn't get this kind of result."



Food and gifts for many of the events was donated — in October by the Garden in Greenpoint, in December by Eli's Catering and in April by Grace's Marketplace.

The events brought the children into contact with some of Polonia's great supporters in the New York metropolitan area, such as Halina Kalitka, Chairperson of this year's Ball (see related article) who led the children in Christmas Carols during the December Christmas workshop, and Dorothy Wieczerek, a longtime member of the Polish American Teachers' Association, who has a unique talent for teaching children about Polish culture.

"It's been a great year," noted Ms. Jasinska.



Frank Piasecki, 1919 – 2008

Legendary helicopter pioneer and longtime Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee passes away.

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of not only a legend in the history of aeronautics, but also longtime Kosciuszko



Photo courtesy of Piasecki Aircraft Corporation

Foundation Trustee and supporter Frank Piasecki, who died at his home in Haverford, Pennsylvania on February 11, 2008 at the age of 88.

Born on October 25, 1919 to Polish immigrants, Mr. Piasecki became internationally known as one of the pioneers in helicopter aviation. He was the second American to build and fly a helicopter, in 1943. He also designed the first tandem (twin propeller) helicopter, dubbed the “flying banana” due to its shape, which is still in use today and expected to be in service for the U.S. Army

through the year 2030.

Mr. Piasecki joined the board of the Kosciuszko Foundation in 1953, and served until 1998, afterward serving as Trustee Emeritus. Throughout his life, he used his fame and connections to promote Polish culture and heritage in whatever way possible, both through his service as a Trustee and through other organizations. He was a generous contributor to the Kosciuszko Foundation, including the initial donation to start-up the Foundation’s Philadelphia chapter in 1994.



Photo courtesy of Piasecki Aircraft Corporation

Despite physical infirmities from recent strokes, he remained mentally strong, and was still designing new inventions up until his death, serving as Chief Executive of Piasecki Aircraft Corporation, which he founded in 1955.

Mr. Piasecki was clearly one of the old school entrepreneurs, driven hard to prove the worth of his inventions, with the entrepreneurial war stories to prove it. The New York Times in its obituary for Mr. Piasecki, reported that he towed his first helicopter the PV-2, by its tail, tied to the back of his Studebaker, to Washington D.C. to demonstrate it to War Department officials. The wheels on the copter had no ball bearings, so he had to stop every 10 to 15 minutes to cool them off with water. One time along the journey, he had to hop a fence to get some water and was chased by a bull.

He was also a man of broad interests that extended beyond aircraft engineering. He was an accomplished violinist and a gifted amateur photographer.

Major newspapers throughout the country reported his passing, eulogizing him in writing for his contributions to aeronautics and helicopter innovation. We at the Kosciuszko Foundation extend our deep condolences to his family and our warm thanks for all he has done for the Kosciuszko Foundation and for Polonia.

Mr. Piasecki is survived by his wife Vivian and their children Nicole, Frederick, John, Lynn Piasecki Cunningham, Frank, Michael and Gregory.



Kosciuszko Foundation Welcomes **ITS YOUNGEST MEMBER**

As with all new members, Julia Emily Marnik received a warm welcome to the family of the Kosciuszko Foundation from President and Executive Director Joseph E. Gore, Esq., but he forgave Julia for not acknowledging the welcome, since she isn’t old enough to speak yet.

Julia was born on September 14, 2007 to Foundation staff member Katarzyna Marnik, assistant in the development and accounting departments, and her husband Artur. On December 6, 2007 she became the youngest member of the Kosciuszko Foundation with a Junior membership. Julia’s mother decided to get her off to a good start on staying in touch with her heritage. As members young and old know, the Kosciuszko Foundation is a great place to stay in touch with Polish culture and traditions.

Please join us in welcoming young Julia to the membership rolls!

For more information about membership, contact the Development Department at the Kosciuszko Foundation, 212-734-2130.



Simply **the Best**

The Kosciuszko Foundation recently qualified for the Independent Charities of America’s “Best in America” Seal of Excellence.

The ICA’s Seal of Excellence is awarded to members of ICA and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost

effectiveness. These standards include those required by the US Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the one million charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.

Congratulations to the Trustees, Officers and Staff of the Foundation on a job well done!



l. to r.: Director of Cultural Affairs Tom Pniewski, Scholarship and Grant Officer for Americans Addy Tymczyszyn, President and Executive Director Joseph, E. Gore, Esq., Eliza Subotowicz, Jeffery Chudy, Katarzyna Sakowicz, Izabela Rodzen, Marta Ksepka, Jaimee Kamnik, Joanna Fertala, Anna Rocki, Krystyna Banka, Anna Fin, Mark Kochanowicz, Catherine Czacki, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Witold Sulimirski.

Huge Turnout for 2007 Awards Day

Foundation president heralds a new era of multimedia technology for the 21st Century

Scholars and their families attended the Kosciuszko Foundation's 2007 Awards Day ceremonies held for an afternoon that honored the Foundation's 2007 grantees.

It was a record turnout, the "best in years," noted Director of Cultural Affairs Tom Pniewski, who acted as master of ceremonies for the annual event, which took place in the Gallery of Polish Masters at the Foundation House at 15 E. 65th Street on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Mr. Witold Sulimirski, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, welcomed the grantees and their guests, introducing President and Executive Director Joseph E. Gore, Esq., who underscored the work of the grantees and their enthusiasm for their chosen field of study, noting that "each year, we still receive more applications for scholarships and for support study and research than we can possibly fund," in a world grow-

ing increasingly preoccupied with material comforts. In that context he emphasized that "[o]ur students and grantees are and will be agents for change and good. They make our lives richer, and make the world a better place."

He also announced to the guests present a new era of multimedia for the Kosciuszko Foundation, noting that the cost of the new media technologies has "fallen like a rock," and asking them to keep an eye out for new website features, including audio and even video productions that will further the reach of the Kosciuszko Foundation's message to America and the world.

With that, the scholarship awards were handed out by Addy Tymczyszyn, The Kosciuszko Foundation's Scholarship and Grants Officer for Americans, assisted by Mr. Pniewski, as about 75 family, friends, and well wishers looked on.

Immediately prior to the award distributions, the audience enjoyed a wonderful performance by 2007 Wieniawski competition winner Regi Papa, accompanied by pianist Ming Kyung Cho. Mr. Papa performed two pieces, "Tzigane" by Ravel, and "La Sautille" by Wieniawski.

Those present also had the opportunity to hear the 2007 Chopin competition runner up, Ms. Zhenni Li, play Chopin's demanding "Sonata No. 3 in B Minor" from memory, an absorbing performance that kept listeners on the edge of their seats.

Afterwards, all attendees were invited to a reception in the main dining room of the Foundation House on the ground floor level for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

More information about the Kosciuszko Foundation can be found on its website, www.thekf.org. For information on the types of research and studies for which the Kosciuszko Foundation provides grants, download the Kosciuszko Foundation 2007 Annual Report at www.thekf.org/Newsletter.



Inset: Regi Papa. Below: Zhenni Li captivating the audience with Chopin's "Sonata No. 3 in B Minor."



Kosciuszko Squadron Exhibit

Dedicated at Central Connecticut State University

With the support of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Central Connecticut State University dedicated a new permanent Commemorative Exhibit to the famed Kosciuszko Squadron on November 10th, welcoming a large group of dignitaries to participate in the opening ceremonies, giving this unique military unit a new outlet for people to learn about its remarkable history and record of achievement.

Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Stanislaw A. Milewski, M.D. spoke at the dedication ceremonies, which were presided over by Waldemar S. Kostrzewa, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies. M. B. Biskupski, PhD, the current Chairholder, gave the keynote address. Mary M. Heslin, a Connecticut resident of Polish origin, who had served as a Commissioner in Connecticut, led the drive to fund the Exhibition locally.

The Kosciuszko Squadron, like the Kosciuszko Foundation itself, was one of a series of initiatives by Americans of the time to help Poland in its newly independent status. Lacking many of the institutions of longstanding nations thanks to over one hundred years of partition, Poland no sooner emerged as a sovereign nation than to face attack by the newly established Bolshevik state, bent on bringing its communist revolution to Western Europe.

The Squadron was initiated by an American, Merian Cooper, an American World War I pilot, who accompanied Herbert Hoover to Eastern Europe in 1920 as part of the Herbert Hoover American Relief Administration Mission. Cooper was impressed with the spirit and bravery of the inhabitants of the Polish city of Lwow, which refused to give in to a siege by Bolshevik forces despite severe deprivation. He offered his services to Marshal Pilsudski, to help in the air campaign in their battle against the Bolsheviks in what is now known as the Polish-Russian War of 1920.

After a good deal of discussions and networking, Cooper persuaded sixteen American pilots from World War I, as well as one Canadian pilot to join him. The entire squadron eventually included four Poles as well.

The air battles, not well documented in military history, were often bitter, but helped Poland beat back the Bolsheviks at the banks of the Vistula River, in what is now known as "The Miracle on the Vistula." It has been described by British statesmen Lord D'Abernon as "The eighteenth most decisive battle of the world," foiling the Bolsheviks plans of pan-European revolution. Nine American pilots from the squadron, including Cooper, received the Virtuti Militari, Poland's highest Medal of Honor; three American pilots were killed, and are buried in Lwow.

The Squadron remained in operation and was called to action again when the Nazis invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. The Polish Air Force shot down 285 Nazi planes, damaged 279 additional aircraft, and inflicted 539 fatal casualties on the Nazi Air Force, with the Kosciuszko Squadron shooting down seven Nazi aircraft. Evacuated to Britain via France, the squadron fought bravely in the battle of Britain, scoring 126 kills, but registering just eight losses, astounding the British public.

The Exhibition features videos, captioned photographs, and plaques relating the history and adventures of the squadron's members. For more information, contact The New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, Connecticut at 860-623-3305.



Summer Study Sessions **Announced** **for 2008**

The Kosciuszko Foundation announced its Summer Studies Program for 2008. The Program offers students seeking college credit interested in Polish language, history and culture and presents a highly affordable opportunity to gain new insights to Poland, a country whose story is a remarkable tale of resilience, perseverance and endurance.

The Program is organized into different sessions of three, four and six week classes at the historical Jagiellonian University in Krakow and two, three, four and five week classes at the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Poland. They include Polish language courses at various levels, and also offer a rich selection of coursework on Polish history, art, literature, culture and traditions, delivered in the English language.

The Polish cities of Krakow and Lublin are longtime university cities which attract students from all over the world. Both cities feature old towns dating from the Renaissance and have robust cultural and social lives catering to students.

The Summer Studies Programs were first offered during the years between the two World Wars and restarted in 1970 after a long break due to World War II and the cold war that followed. They have played a key role in the Foundation's mission to inform Americans of the richness of Polish culture and its significant role in the development of both the United States and Europe.

The prestige of the Summer Studies Program has attracted a long-line of Polish celebrities to deliver the Program's opening lecture at the traditional inaugural ceremonies. Known for their contributions to the arts, sciences and politics, they have included such famous persons as the poet and Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz, world renowned film directors Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi, Polish scholar Norman Davies and the former president of the National Bank of Poland, Leszek Balcerowicz.

Program fees range from \$1,925 to \$3,250 at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and \$980 to \$3,110 at the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, depending on program duration and course selection. The application deadlines for both universities are May 9, 2008. For more information, visit the Kosciuszko Foundation website at www.thekf.org/EDSummer_study.html, or call the Kosciuszko Foundation at 212-734-2130.

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

Cultural Events

By Tom Pniewski, Director of Cultural Affairs

Soprano Jacqueline Noparstak Wins 2008 Kosciuszko Foundation Sembrich Competition

Jacqueline Noparstak, soprano, won First Prize in the 2008 Sembrich Voice Scholarship Competition organized by the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City. A native of Eugene, Oregon, Ms. Noparstak studied at Columbia University and now resides in New York City. She has appeared throughout the United States and won numerous competitions, most recently in the 2007 Liederkrantz Foundation in New York. Ms.



Noparstak received a \$2,000 cash scholarship prize.

Second Prize was won by bass Miroslaw Witkowski, a graduate of the Lodz Conservatory currently pursuing a Performer's Diploma at Indiana University; he will receive a prize of \$1,250. A Third Prize cash scholarship of \$750 was awarded to baritone John Brancy, a first-year student at The Juilliard School, where he studies with Cynthia Hoffmann. The judges also presented a Special Mention to baritone Diego Matamoros, a graduate of the Yale School of Music.



Marcella Sembrich

Prizes were generously provided by the Marcella Sembrich Memorial Association, which also maintains the Sembrich Museum in Bolton Landing, New York (www.operamuseum.org); and Ms. Ann Coxe Zagoreos, herself a singer and supporter of the arts, who is associated with the Sembrich Museum.

Jurors included Alfred Hubay, a long-time manager and administrator at the Metropolitan Opera, who also judges for the George London Foundation; Nedda Casei, of the Metropolitan Opera; and Elaine Malbin, of New York City Opera and San Francisco Opera. Contestants were required to prepare a representative repertoire including songs and arias, selections by Moniuszko and contemporary American and Polish works.



Auditions were held at Hunter College on Saturday, March 8.

The Competition honors Marcella Sembrich, the great Polish soprano who won an international reputation and established the voice faculties at both the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute. Sembrich was not only a great artist but also a deeply loved teacher. Previous winners include Barbara Hendricks and Jan Opalach.

Held every two years, the next Sembrich Voice Competition will take place in Spring 2010.

BALTIC PIANO TRIO IN KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION DEBUT

Henryk Melcer, Alicia Jonas, Panufnik and Faure on Program

The BALTIC PIANO TRIO made its New York debut on Sunday, April 13 at 3 PM at the Kosciuszko Foundation House. Their program featured the lush late Romantic Trio in G Minor, Op. 37, of Henryk Melcer (1869-1928); the bold Trio No. 1 (1934) of Andrzej Panufnik; the Piano Trio of Alicia Jonas, a Polish-born composer currently living and teaching New York; and closed with the Trio in D Minor of Gabriel Faure.



The concert was recorded for broadcast over WQXR-FM 96.3 on Sunday, April 20 at 6 PM. Members of the Baltic Trio are all on the faculty of the Moniuszko Conservatory of Music in Gdansk, Poland.

Maciej Sobczak, violinist, has appeared as soloist, orchestral and chamber musician in Europe, Asia, and South America. He currently serves as Dean of the Department of Instrumental Music at the Conservatory.

Jerzy Wujtecicz, cello, studied at conservatories in Kiev and Moscow, and has been on the Moniuszko Conservatory faculty since 1988. Bogumila Weretka-Bajdor, piano, studied at the same Moniuszko Conservatory, and has toured through Europe and the US.

Now in its 18th year, the Chamber Music Series of the Kosciuszko Foundation highlights Polish music and musicians, as part of the Foundation's mission of promoting appreciation and understanding of Polish culture in the United States.

Camerata New York FEATURED IN MAY

Polish-French Program

The Camerata New York, a chamber orchestra celebrating eight years of highly-praised concerts in the New York area, performed at the Foundation on Sunday, May 18. Music Director Richard Owen compiled a program of Polish and French masterworks illustrating the interrelationships of the two national styles. He introduced and conducted the concert, including works of Rameau and Leclair alongside music of Chopin, Kilar, and Gorecki, in what proved to be an exceptional finale to the season.

Gala at Carnegie Hall CONCERT MARKS SZYMANOWSKI ANNIVERSARY

Karol Szymanowski, the "Father of Modern Polish Music," was born 125 years ago, in 1882. The significance of his career was summed up by Marek Jurek, Speaker of the Polish Sejm (Parliament) in proclaiming 2007–2008 the "Year of Szymanowski."

After a period of stagnation in Polish music following Chopin's death, it was Karol Szymanowski (1882 – 1937) who provided it with an invigorating impulse for further development. Today he is recognized as the spiritual father of 20th-century Polish music. He developed his own musical style, introducing elements of folk music, which became a guiding star for generations of Polish composers. Without his output, which has been seeing a huge renaissance over recent decades, Polish music culture would not have achieved a standard that gives it a prominent place in the world.

Szymanowski was Poland's most significant composer of the first half of the 20th

century, and the founder of her modern music tradition. Trained in Poland, he traveled extensively, including American, North Africa, and Sicily, and had a distinguished career as a composer and pianist. He took in the dominant musical styles of his day, including late Romanticism and Impressionism, but went on to combine them with elements of Poland's unique folk traditions to create a personal yet national style. His late works, including the piano Mazurkas, the opera King Roger, the folk ballet Harnasie, and the monumental oratorio Stabat Mater earn him a place alongside Bartok and Stravinsky in the European nationalist tradition. His achievements link the Romanticism of Chopin and modern masters such as Lutoslawski, Gorecki, and Penderecki. For many reasons, including Poland's difficult political situation after World War II, his music is not as well known as it deserves to be. Recent years have seen a great growth of interest, including performances and recordings, and the Foundation's concert, marking the 125th anniversary of his birth, was a response to that interest.

The Kosciuszko Foundation mounted a gala concert of outstanding Polish musicians performing music of Szymanowski in



Karol Szymanowski

Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on Saturday, October 13, to celebrate Szymanowski's anniversary. Performers included the Penderecki String Quartet, who played both of his quartets; pianist Anna Kijanowska, in a group of Mazurkas; mezzo-soprano Edyta Kulczak, accompanied by Steven Eldredge, in a selection of songs; violinist Hanna Lachert, and pianist Helene Jeanney, with his Violin Sonata. A capacity audience filled the hall, and responded enthusiastically. Music from the program was broadcast on WQXR-FM 96.3.

The concert and broadcast were generously supported by the Foundation's Cierpik Szymanowski Fund. Support also came from the Cultural Endowment Fund in Memory of Dr. James Hagadus, and the Mary Koons Charitable Trust, both of which help support the Foundation's many cultural programs.

The following members and Officers of the Foundation also contributed to the concert: Drs. Fryderyk and Halina Dammont; Anna Czekaj Farber; KF Trustee Joseph E. Gore, Esq., and Eugenia Gore; KF Vice-Chairman Christine J. McMullan; Paul Novak; KF Vice-Chairman Wanda Senko and John Senko; Mildred H. Tyszkla and KF Trustee Helen Mary M. Tyszkla; KF Trustee Henry C. Walentowicz, Esq., and Karina Walentowicz.

The Kosciuszko Foundation greatly appreciates their support.

2007–2008

Chamber Music Series

The Foundation's Chamber Music Series continued its highly acclaimed concerts and radio broadcasts, now in their 18th year. Initiated in 1990, the series has brought Polish music and musicians to hundreds of thousands of listeners through live concerts at the Foundation's acoustically superb Gallery, lined with paintings by Polish masters, and broadcasts over WQXR-FM, the radio station of the New York Times.

November brought the Foundation debut of the Apollo Trio, a New York-based piano trio made up of violinist Curtis Macomber, cellist Michael Kannen, and pianist Marija Stroke. Their program included the dramatic but rarely-heard Piano Trio, Op. 1, of contemporary Polish composer Andrzej Panufnik, as well as the beloved F Minor Trio of Dvorak and Haydn's Trio in B-flat.

The Long Island Baroque Ensemble returned to the Foundation on December 16 after a break of several years, for a special holiday concert highlighting Baroque music of Poland and her neighbors. The ensemble of oboe, two violins, harpsichord, and cello offered works of Stanislaw Szarzynski and Martin Mileczewski will be framed by more familiar composers such as Telemann and Quantz. The Ensemble's Director is Sonia Grib, herself of Polish background.

Musicians from Caramoor" were featured in the January 20 concert, which welcomed back to the Foundation pianist Andrew Armstrong, Laureate of our 1992 Chopin Piano Competition who went on to the 1996 Van Cliburn Competition and a most successful career as soloist and chamber musician. He was joined by violinist Timothy Fain and cellist Edward Arron in an all-Polish program of works by Chopin and Szymanowski. The highlight was the virtuosic but rarely-heard Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 8, of Chopin.



February 3 brought the first performance at the Foundation by the Fountain Chamber Music Society. Their program featured the first performance in the Series of Krzysztof Penderecki's Clarinet Quartet, as well as chamber music Jean Francaix, Paul Hindemith, and Kurt Weill.

This season, Chamber Music Series concerts and broadcasts are being supported by Jack Radgowski, Founder and CEO of Central Semiconductor Corp., Hauppauge, Long Island; Ms. Ann Coxie Zagoreos; The Kosciuszko Foundation's Cierpik Szymanowski Fund; the Mary F. Koons Charitable Trust; and Cynthia and Thomas Rosicki, Esqs., of Rosicki, Rosicki and Associates. Their generous contributions have made possible the continuation of this long-standing series, a landmark on the New York musical scene.

"Mazowsze" Paintings by Beata Drozd Exhibition in April



From late April through May, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted "Mazowsze", an exhibition and sale of art by Polish artist Beata Drozd. Trained in London and Paris, Ms. Drozd attended performances of Poland's world-famous folk dance company Mazowsze during their American tour last December. She was able to photograph their dazzling costumes and prepare paintings and sketches for exhibitions in Poland to mark the ensemble's 60th anniversary. The show at the Kosciuszko

Foundation, through May 18, is a "preview" of the Polish shows, scheduled for the National Theatre and the Palace of Culture in Warsaw

Nina Polan as Helena Modjeska in "Helena, The Emigrant Queen" at Kosciuszko Foundation

"HELENA, THE EMIGRANT QUEEN," Kazimierz Braun's one-woman play about famed Polish actress Helena Modjeska (Modzejewska) was performed by Nina Polan on Thursday, April 10, at the Kosciuszko Foundation.

"Helena" is set in Anaheim, California, as Modjeska (1840-1909) looks back over her life as a famed interpreter of Schiller and Ibsen, among others, and the greatest female Shakespearean of her day. It is a retrospective featuring her triumphs and defeats, and her private life, in an extraordinary tour-de-force which deals simultaneously with Polish history of the times. Since she died four years later, one might say this was her final farewell.

Born in Poland, Nina Polan was trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. After several seasons in West End and regional British and European productions, she came to America and played numerous Shakespearean and contemporary roles. Since 1984 she has been Executive and Artistic Director of the Polish Theatre Institute. This is the fourth time that she has portrayed the great Polish actress.

Artistic Director Stuart Vaughan was Founding Artistic Director of the New York Shakespeare Festival, has directed over forty New York productions, and has served as guest director for regional theatres from coast to coast. Mr. Vaughan began in the theatre as an actor, and since joining Actor's Equity in 1946, has appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in stock, and in regional theatre.

This production is partially funded by the New York State Council on the Arts.



Nina Polan



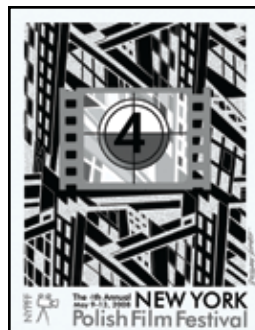
Kosciuszko Foundation Alumnus Screens Film at New York Polish Film Festival

Polish documentary film maker and former Kosciuszko Foundation grant recipient Anna Ferens screened her latest film, "Where do the Wild Strawberries Grow?", at the Fourth Annual New York Polish Film Festival, held from May 9 to May 13, 2008, itself co-sponsored by the Foundation (see related article below).

Ms. Ferens was the recipient of a \$7,650 grant during 2006 to visit the United States and research the story of Polish-born film score composer Bronislaw Kaper in preparation of a documentary film about Mr. Kaper, about whom little is known in Poland. Mr. Kaper was the first native born Pole to win an Academy Award, for the score to the film *Lili*, in 1953. Her research on Kaper was profiled on page nine of the Kosciuszko Foundation 2006 Annual Report.

Her current film deals with the painful but often overlooked subject of Poles murdered by the Soviets during World War II in the Kiev region of the Ukraine. In 2006, Polish archeologists were granted permission to dig in the region of a mass grave in a forest near Kiev, where the remains of 30,000 people, including several thousand Poles are buried. The murders took place between 1937 and 1941. Ms. Ferens's film follows the work of the archaeologists and examines the views of local residents about the mass graves. It also tells the story of Krystyna and Jan, two Poles who were hoping that the archaeological dig could turn up clues about the disappearances of their respective fathers at the beginning of World War II.

The film won an award for best documentary film at the Festival. For more information, visit the Festival website at www.nypff.com



The Kosciuszko Foundation was a proud sponsor of the **Fourth Annual New York Polish Film Festival**, held from May 9 – 13, 2008 at the Anthology Film Archives in downtown Manhattan. The Festival was declared a huge success by organizer Hanna Hartowicz. The Festival included a sold out screening of Andrzej Wajda's Academy Award nominated film *Katyn* at the Museum of Modern Art.

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION CHAPTERS

Congratulations to **Marian Kornilowicz!**

The Philadelphia Chapter warmly congratulates Chapter member Marian A. Kornilowicz, Esq. on his recent election to the Kosciuszko Foundation Board of Trustees. Mr. Kornilowicz regularly provides a location for the Chapter's monthly meetings at the law office in Philadelphia where he is a partner.

Philadelphia **Christmas Celebra-** **tions**

The much-loved annual Polish Christmas Celebration of the Philadelphia Chapter took place on Sunday, December 16, 2007 at the Villanova Conference Center in Radnor, PA. Guests enjoyed a spirited performance of Polish and American Christmas carols in jazz style by New York City-based trumpeter Marek Skwarczynski and his Jazz Vision Band. A delectable meal featuring Polish cuisine was followed by the joyful sounds of Christmas caroling. The guest of honor at this year's Polish Christmas Celebration was Mrs. Grazyna Kostecka Langenfeld, a member of the Polish Home Army and participant in the Warsaw Uprising.



Sister Olga Noetzel of Holy Family University, Mrs. Grazyna Kostecka Langenfeld, Chapter President Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik, and Mrs. Langenfeld's daughter Wiesia.



PHILADELPHIA PULASKI DAY PARADE: The Kosciuszko Foundation's Philadelphia Chapter marched in Philadelphia's Pulaski Day Parade with pride back in October.

Herbert Hoover **Exhibition**

Beginning in October and proceeding through March 15, the Arch Street Friends (Quaker) Meeting House hosted the exhibition of "American Friendship: Herbert Hoover and Poland." The Philadelphia Chapter was pleased to be a co-sponsor of this important educational exhibit, which featured numerous photographs and other primary documents from the Archives of the Hoover Institute and the Polish National Archives. The exhibit tells the often untold story of Herbert Hoover's commitment to Poland as a private citizen, statesman, President, and above all, dedicated humanitarian.



Officers and members of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Philadelphia Chapter at the Hoover Exhibit. (l to r): Pawel Latos, Wiesia Langenfeld, Peter Obst, Joseph Strzalka, Stephanie Harzewski, Teresa G. Wojcik, Charles Pydych

Polish **Poetry Reading**

On November 2, 2007, the Philadelphia Chapter sponsored the annual Polish Poetry Reading of the Overbrook Poets Society at the Polish American Cultural Center. Organized by Chapter member Katarzyna Newcomer, the evening of Polish poetry featured the works of Jan Kochanowski, renowned Polish poet of the Renaissance. A highlight of the evening was the reading of an excerpt from Kochanowski's Dismissal of the Greek Envoys, a play first performed in 1578 at a wedding in the court of King Stefan Batory.



Officers of the Philadelphia Chapter at the February Chapter meeting. seated in front, (l to r): Teresa G. Wojcik, Jolanta Roman. Standing (l. to r. Ewa Fabiszewska, Andre Zlotnicki, Ursula Klimowicz, Marie Hejnosz, Bozena Klimowicz, Stephanie Harzewski, Jerzy Michniewski, Regina Gorzkowska-Rossi. Back row (l to r): Joseph Strzalka, Pawel Latos, Alfred J. Wolanin, III, Marian Kornilowicz

Chicago Chapter Screens Pulaski Documentary

The Foundation's Chicago Chapter co-sponsored a showing of the documentary film *Casimir Pulaski: A Polish and American Hero*, on March 3rd, at the Northeastern Illinois University Library.

The film, directed by Polish documentary film maker Jolanta Kessler-Chojecka, who also attended the NEIU screening, has had screenings both here and in Poland, most notably at Zamek Ujazdowski for which the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw was a co-sponsor, as well as at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in New York City, in October, 2007. It has also been broadcast on Polish public television.

The film's production was financed from several sources, including Poland's Ministry of Defense, the Polish Film Institute, Polish Public Television, the American Council for Polish Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and private Polish sponsors.

In addition to Ms. Kessler-Chojecka, Colonel Tadeusz Krzastek, a Polish Military Advisor appeared at the screening, as well as Czeslawa Kolak of NEIU's Department of Foreign Languages & Literature, who provided an introduction to the film.



Attendees at the screening of Casimir Pulaski - A Polish and American Hero.

Witold Sulmirski Honored by Chicago Chapter

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Witold Sulmirski, in town as Guest of Honor for the Polish American Medical Society Physicians' Ball on February 2nd, 2008, was also honored by the Chicago Chapter at a special Chapter meeting at the Polonia Bookstore on that same day. Chapter representatives awarded Mr. Sulmirski with a plaque of recognition for his service to the Kosciuszko Foundation.



Witold and Teresa Sulmirski (at center), with the officers and members of the Chicago Chapter.

A Slice Of Vocal History

The Kosciuszko Foundation's Chicago Chapter co-sponsored a concert entitled "An Evening of Old Slavic Folk and Ritual Song" on February 25, 2008 at Northeastern Illinois University's Recital Hall, giving the audience a bit of vocal folk history.

The concert featured two Polish performers from the Brama Theatre in Srebrna Gora, Poland who are heavily involved in the preservation of local regional folk songs, many of which are at risk of being forgotten entirely due to the globalization of music and media. Mariusz Tarnozek and Daniel Jacewicz have closely associated with the Brama Theatre for years. Mr. Tarnozek has been with the theatre for 11 years; Mr. Jacewicz is its founder. They have both been recognized for their contributions to preserving local heritage as expressed in song, dance, and folk stories.

The two performed a range of songs from Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Lithuania, most of which date back centuries, and which were only known in their local regions before the advent of recorded sound. Some of the songs are Polish songs which were popular in the Vilnius area, such as *Nie smuc sie dziewczyno* (Don't Cry, Girl), or *Smutku, smutku*, (Oh, Sorrow, Sorrow) known primarily in the region of Kalisz, Poland. The songs were reminiscent of a time when towns in Poland just fifty miles apart had very distinctive local cultures and traditions.

The concert was also sponsored by the Northeastern Illinois University and the Council of Educators in Polonia.



Attendees at the February 25, 2008 concert.

Chicago Chapter to Celebrate 25 Years

The Foundation's Chicago Chapter will hold a gala celebrating its 25th anniversary on November 22, 2008.



Chapter officials are seeking out past Foundation scholarship recipients, participants in Chopin Piano Competitions organized by the Chapter, individuals who remember the period of the Chapter formation, and all those who can contribute to completing the history of the Chapter. They are also looking for members, who would like to be involved in gala preparation. Finally,

they are seeking donations to the Chapter to assist in anniversary preparations. If you would like to help, please Contact the Chicago Chapter directly.



FIRST OFFICERS OF THE OHIO CHAPTER: (l. to r.): Amy Lennon, Mary Kay Pieski, Maria Szonert-Binienda, and Sylwia Thorne.

Welcome **Ohio Chapter!**

On August 25, 2007, the organizational meeting of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation took place in Akron, Ohio at the home of Maria Szonert-Binienda and Wieslaw Binienda. Over forty members and friends attended. Joseph E. Gore, Esq., the Kosciuszko Foundation president and executive director, was the guest of honor. Mr. Gore expressed his support and encouragement for the formation of the Northeast Ohio Chapter.

The Northeast Chapter will seek to fulfill the Foundation's mission in the Cleveland metropolitan area by helping the local Polonia community to connect with the special history of the Kosciuszko Foundation as both an educational and cultural foundation, and its traditions of teaching Americans about the richness of Polish culture and history. They expect to work in cooperation with many of the other longstanding Polonia organizations in the Cleveland metropolitan area. There are over 200,000 residents in the area who claim Polish roots.

Mr. Gore swore in the Chapter's first officers at the meeting: Mary Kay Pieski — President, Maria Szonert-Binienda — Vice President, Sylwia Thorne — Treasurer and Amy Lennon — Secretary.

Northeast Ohio Chapter **Sponsors Cleveland Poster Exhibition**

The Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation presented a Polish Poster Exhibition at the John Paul II Cultural Center in Cleveland. The posters were borrowed from the collections of Mr. Peter Obst of Philadelphia and Mr. Robert Rybka of Cleveland. The opening reception was held at the John Paul II Cultural Center on Friday, February 22 at 7:30 P.M. The posters were on exhibit through the end of March 2008.

Northeast Ohio Chapter **Holds First Fundraising Banquet**

Over 100 participants attended the Northeast Ohio Chapter's First Annual Awards Banquet and Fundraiser on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the John Paul II Cultural Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The Banquet honored the Teachers and Teaching Assistants who volunteered in the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching English in Po-

land Program (TEIP) over the past 17 years. Special recognition was given to Mrs. Christine B. Kuskowski of New York, Director of the Teaching English in Poland Program and Professor Jerzy Maciuszko from Cleveland.

Ms. Zosia Prochoroff of Shaker Heights was awarded with a framed certificate, book and a check for \$350 by Mrs. Ewa Antonczyk, member of the scholarship committee, for her winning essay on the topic of the Katyn massacre. She attends Shaker Heights school and studies violin at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Dr. Maciuszko, the intellectual leader of Cleveland Polonia was introduced by Robert Rybka, Esq. and presented with a Mayor's Proclamation from Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and a City Council Resolution from Ward 12 in recognition of his work in the community.

Mary Kay Pieski, The Northeast Ohio Chapter President introduced the TEIP and the second Honoree of the evening, Mrs. Christine B. Kuskowski, National Director of the TEIP since 1992, who came from New York to attend the banquet.

The Teaching English in Poland Program, sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation in conjunction with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the Polish Ministry of National Education provides hundreds of Polish students (upper elementary through high school) with instruction and practice in conversational English within an American cultural context. It also enables American teachers and students who volunteer their service to become acquainted with the people, history, language and culture of Poland.

Mrs. Kuskowski awarded participation certificates to the teachers and teaching assistants from Ohio who served in Poland. Since 1995 over 40 Ohioans served in the program.

The evening concluded with a concert of works by Polish Composers by guitarist, Mr. George Bachmann, faculty member at Kent State University.

Northeast Ohio Chapter **Sponsors Grotowski Event**

"He was a man" An Introduction to the Life and Work of Polish Pioneer of Experimental Theater of Jerzy Grotowski (1933-1999) took place on Saturday, October 27, at 7 PM in the Sandefur Theatre in Guzzetta Hall, University of Akron. James Slowiak, Professor of Theatre Arts and Jairo Cuesta, an acclaimed Colombian actor, both former associates of Grotowski presented a video of Grotowski's landmark stage production of the Polish classic play *Akropolis* by Wyspianski and led a discussion on the legacy of Grotowski and his pioneering works. Slowiak and Cuesta are co-authors of a book *Jerzy Grotowski* that has been published recently by Routledge, a prestigious United Kingdom-based publishing house. A reception and book signing concluded the program.



Jairo Cuesta (Left) and Professor James Slowiak.

New England Chapter Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Tenth Anniversary Gala features Chopin Competition winner Claire Huangci; Chapter President Carolyn Topor presented with Poland's Member Cross.

The New England Chapter celebrated its 10th Anniversary in the land of the Foundation's founder, Professor Stephen P. Mizwa on April 26, 2008 with a gala that not only honored local area Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship Recipients, but also chapter president Carolyn Topor with a unique and rare award. It provided an evening of entertainment and festivities that only the Kosciuszko Foundation can provide.



New England Chapter President Carolyn Topor, obviously moved as she receives the Member Cross of the Order of Merit from Poland's Consul General Krzysztof Kasprzyk (at right).

The program for the evening, attended by over 200 Kosciuszko Foundation members and supporters, started with a dinner and awards presentation at the Hotel Marriott in Springfield, MA, during which the Honorable Krzysztof Kasprzyk, the New York Consul General for the Republic of Poland, presented chapter president Carolyn Topor with the Member Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski awarded Ms. Topor with the Member Cross to acknowledge her many years of service to both Poland and the community of Polish Americans, raising funds for worthy causes or otherwise promoting greater awareness of

Poland and Polish contributions to history, the sciences, literature, and the arts. The presentation of the award was well covered in the local area newspapers.

The Gala was also an opportunity to honor the 19 Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship recipients and their families, with Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Dr. Stanislaw Milewski presenting the certificates.

The highlight of the musical program at the Springfield Symphony following the dinner and awards presentation for the evening was provided by none other than Claire Huangci, the winner of the Kosciuszko Foundation's 57th annual Chopin Competition, performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in f minor, Opus 21. Ms. Huangci received a standing ovation and delighted the guests with an encore.

The concert also featured the Springfield Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Kevin Rhodes, which presented Orchestral Romance to round out the evening.

The evening was also a fundraising success. A total of \$1,500 in donations was received by the Kosciuszko Foundation in honor



(l. to r.) Vice Consul Urszula Slazak, Consul General Krzysztof Kasprzyk, New England Chapter President Carolyn Topor, Honorary Consul-Boston Marek Lesniewski -Laas, and Joseph Topor.

of Carolyn Topor as recipient of the Member Cross. In addition, the Chapter contributed \$2,500 toward 50 new one-year memberships in the Kosciuszko Foundation. Well done!



Mr. Stas Radosh and Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Dr. Stanislaw Milewski (behind the podium at center) presided over presentation of scholarships to the many local area Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship recipients in attendance at the New England Chapter's 10th Anniversary Gala.

Pittsburgh Chapter

HONORS ANATOL RYCHALSKI

The Kosciuszko Foundation's Pittsburgh Chapter honored Anatol "Tony" Rychalski as Polishman of the Year at its 24th annual Outstanding Polishman luncheon held at the Main Ballroom of the University of Pittsburgh - Student Union on Saturday, May 17, 2008. The award was presented to Anatol "Tony" Rychalski for his services to Polonia and for his distinguished and diverse career in military service, architecture and engineering. He is an active member of The Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish Cultural Council, Polish National Alliance, Polish American Congress, Polish American Institute of Arts and Science, Jozef Pilsudski Institute, and a supporter of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

Born of Polish heritage in part of the Soviet Union that is now part of Ukraine (pre-revolutionary Poland), he lived through a lot of recent history. After escaping from Russia, he became part of the British-Polish occupation forces in Germany. After demobilization he studied architecture in Germany. After entering the U.S.A., Rychalski served in the American Army during The Korean War.



Anatol Rychalski standing in front of the 50-foot sculpture "Picasso Chicago," a replica of an original 41-inch tall Picasso sculpture. Mr. Rychalski supervised the design and construction of the giant replica.

Later as a citizen, he earned a degree in civil-construction engineering and joined the U.S. Steel Corporation in Chicago and later transferred to Pittsburgh.

When in Chicago, he was in charge of the design and construction of the Chicago Picasso, a 50-foot-tall steel structure that the legendary Spanish artist fashioned for the plaza outside the civic center in 1967. While he was general manager of Design, Planning and Marketing for U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh, Rychalski undertook the transformation of a 420-acre slag and industrial waste dump into development of Century III Mall, one of

the largest malls in western Pennsylvania.

Mr. John Bartus, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter opened the program with an invocation and introduced several honored guests: Mr. Rychalski's wife of five decades, Janine; Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, Honorary Council of Poland in Pennsylvania; Mr. Glenn Willard, U.S. Steel Vice President retired; Betty and Senator Albert Belan; Dr. Thaddeus Massalski, Professor at

Carnegie Mellon University and Mr. Caleen Jabbour, Allegheny County Councilman.

Dr. Donald Mushalko introduced pianist Kimberly Kong, award winner of the 2007 Kosciuszko Chopin Piano Competition. She has appeared in Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York City, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh. She performed two musical selections: Etude Fantasy by Corigliano and Scherzo, C-Sharp Minor by Chopin, concluding with an encore, Campanella by Franz Liszt.

Mr. Joseph Gore Esq., President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, New York spoke about the programs that build international understanding through fellowships, grants, and scholarships that facilitate the interchange of students and scholars, knowledge and skills. Such programs include tuition scholarships for college credit, exchange programs between Poland and the United States, and summer scholarships for language and cultural studies in Poland and Rome. He noted that more information is available on-line at www.kosciuszkofoundation.org

Dr. Mushalko introduced the honoree who in his own words was "not accustomed to praise" and noted as one of Rychalski's last-



(l. to r.) Anatol Rychalski, Janine (Lepszy) Rychalski, Pittsburgh Chapter Secretary Dr. Donald Mushalko, KF President and Executive Director Joseph, E. Gore, Esq., Pittsburgh Chapter President John Bartus, and Chopin Competition Winner Kimberly Kong.

ing accomplishments the promotion of Polish culture and traditions both in western Pennsylvania and nationally. Dr. Mushalko also mentioned Mr. Rychalski's credentials and philosophy and noted that the honoree never forgot his Polish background.

The honoree was presented with proclamations from the State of Pennsylvania, County of Allegheny and Municipality of West Mifflin proclaiming "Anatol Rychalski Day". The program concluded with the presentation of gifts by the Kosciuszko Foundation, friends and other organizations.

Do you have an email address?

Update Your Membership Record!

The Kosciuszko Foundation is making more and more information, photos, and even audio/video productions available to its membership on the internet. If you would like to receive regular updates on Kosciuszko Foundation news and upcoming events, please send an email to development@thekf.org with your name as it appears on your membership, and we will update your record.

Western New York Chapter

Honors Justice Ann Mikoll at Anniversary Celebration

The Kosciuszko Foundation's Western New York Chapter honored one of its founders, retired State Appellate Court Justice Ann



Retired New York State Appellate Court Justice and former Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Ann T. Mikoll.

Mikoll at its 20th anniversary gala this past May 2, 2008.

Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Mark Peszko, Esq. opened the ceremonies, saluting many of the luminaries from the Buffalo area who were amongst the over 200 guests in attendance at the event, and then handed the program to Mr. William Nowakowski, the current Western New York Chapter president.

Justice Mikoll, a longtime supporter and trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation, and founder of the Western New York Chapter, was honored with a surprise "This is your Life" type presentation, prepared by Eileen Koterak Elibol of local Buffalo TV station WNED-TV. The

presentation, done as a slide show, featured photographs from Justice Mikoll's rich and varied life. The presentation appeared without warning during a slide show presented by Mr. Nowakowski on the Western New York Chapter's several accomplishments throughout its 20 year history.

Born to Polish immigrants, Justice Mikoll ended up breaking down several barriers, being the first woman elected to the New York State Supreme court (that state's highest trial court), and then, in 1977, making history as the first woman appointed to serve in the Appellate Court of New York State by then governor Hugh Carey.

Alongside her rich career as an attorney and jurist, Justice Mikoll's life has devoted much of her life to developing and supporting Polish culture in the United States. She and her husband have led the Chopin Singing Society, a Buffalo-based choir group,

which toured internationally. She has been involved in countless initiatives in the Western New York area, such as the staging of Szymanowski's "King Roger" and the local opera company's presentation of Moniuszko's Straszny Dwor. She became Trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation in 1989, retiring from the Board of Trustees in 2004. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for both her service as justice and to the local community.

Since its inception, the Western New York Chapter has been instrumental several local accomplishments on behalf of Polonia in the Buffalo area, including providing seed money for the docu-



(l. to r.): Janina Brutt Griffler, Polish Studies Director, University of Buffalo, Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Mark Peszko, Esq., Justice Ann T. Mikoll, Western New York Chapter President William Nowakowski, Eileen Koterak Elibol of WNED-TV, and Slawomir Jozefowicz, KF visiting scholar at University of Buffalo.

mentary "Polonia", which became a hit for its genre within WNED programming.

In her remarks to the audience commenting on the founding of The Kosciuszko Foundation Western New York chapter, Justice Mikoll noted that she was a recipient of a Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship while attending law school. She referred to the Kosciuszko Foundation as "a jewel," encouraging all out there to support its worthy causes.

For her years of leadership and support, the Western New York chapter presented Justice Mikoll with a stunning amber necklace as a gesture of appreciation for her years of tireless support.

The Best of Intentions....

The Kosciuszko Foundation enjoys the support of thousands of members and donors who have helped us achieve our mission over the years. Despite the increasing sophistication of the computers and software which permits us to track who has generously provided how much over the years, some times we inexplicably fail to acknowledge someone's generosity.

Henryka Laskowski has been a consistent supporter of the Kosciuszko Foundation since the 1940s. Unfortunately, that generosity was not acknowledged in either the 2006 or the 2007 Annual Reports. Her husband Matthew was a longtime Trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation. We apologize to Henryka for the oversight, and thank her for her annual support of \$250.

Likewise, the **New England Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation**, led by our dear friend **Carolyn Topor**, was omitted from the list of ad journal sponsors for our 2007 Annual Dinner and Ball. We thank the New England Chapter for their generous donation of \$500 during fiscal year 2007.

Donations Above and Beyond Membership

Support for the Kosciuszko Foundation doesn't need to stop at membership. Many members make generous unrestricted donations to the Foundation over and above their membership dues.

These donations perform as important a role as membership dues, helping us maintain our New York Foundation House, and also sponsor concerts, art exhibits, and literary events in New York and in regions served by our eight chapters. Cautious management by our staff assures that every cent donated is well spent. Help us help America learn more about Polish culture and traditions. **Donate today!**

New Trustees

continued from page 12

from American International College, and a Master of Science Degree in Psychology from Catholic University. Before entering the financial services world, he coached college basketball for seven years, and worked as a social worker in his hometown of New Haven, Connecticut. Mr. Novak has a long history of involvement with Polonia and Polish culture. While a student, he attended the Kosciuszko Foundation Summer Study Program. He has participated in many organizations supporting Polish culture in his hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, and currently serves on the Board of the St. Stanislaus Parish Society

Christine Kuskowski

continued from page 12

highest award that the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Poland can bestow on an individual for outstanding merit in the field of education.

In addition to her commitment to the TEIP Program, Christine is a member of the Polish American Teachers Association, the Kosciuszko Foundation's Holocaust Studies Committee, the Marie Skłodowska Curie Professional Women's Association, the Pro Arte League of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the National Polish American – Jewish American Council and the National Advisory Council of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

TEIP is a four-week summer educational-cultural exchange program organized annually by the Kosciuszko Foundation in cooperation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the Polish Ministry of National Education. The primary goals of the program are to immerse Polish students in the English language and in American cultural experiences and to give American educators and students the opportunity to absorb Polish history, language, and culture.

At the conclusion of its this summer (the program's 18th year), the Foundation's TEIP Program will have organized a total of 100 English Language KF-UNESCO Camps served by more than 1,600 American volunteers for the benefit of approximately 10,000 Polish students.

The Foundation is currently recruiting American volunteers nationwide to staff four locations in Poland for the 2008 program. Information and an application for Americans are available on the website of the Kosciuszko Foundation: www.thekf.org.



Like what you see? Then why not
JOIN UP?

The Kosciuszko Foundation is a great way to learn about your Polish roots, as well as meet and mix with people who share your Polish heritage and interests. A Kosciuszko Foundation membership also makes a great gift for students, friends and family.

To learn more, contact the Development Department at 212-734-2130, or visit our website at www.thekf.org.

CONTRIBUTORS — *Thank You*

Making gifts to the Kosciuszko Foundation in memory of friends and relatives is a wonderful way to truly honor them and to turn warm thoughts into vital support for the Foundation's educational and cultural programs. The following memorial contributions were received by the Foundation between October 1, 2007 and May 31, 2008. Sincere thanks to these thoughtful donors!

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A Kosciuszko Foundation Video Channel?

The Kosciuszko Foundation now has an online video channel on the popular website YouTube (www.youtube.com). Visit our new channel at www.youtube.com/thekftv, for announcements of upcoming events as well as reports on past events. The videos can be viewed for anyone who has a fast, "broadband" connection to the internet, as well as a computer capable of playing videos onscreen (which most recently purchased computers have the ability to do). The videos will also appear on a special page on our website, and selected videos may be seen on the Kosciuszko Foundation Blog. Enjoy!



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5 PULASKI DAY PARADE
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9 RAFAL OLBINSKI
Opening of Exhibit and Evening with the Artist

23 FRIENDS OF LIBERTY
Book Evening with Graham Hodges, Biographer of Kosciuszko, Jefferson, and Agrippa Hull

26 DORIAN WIND QUINTET
Chamber Music Series

NOVEMBER

9 PRO ARTE LEAGUE
*Annual Fund-Raising Luncheon
3 West Club, New York, NY*

13-14 ZBIGNIEW HERBERT
CONFERENCE
Marking the 10th Anniversary of the Polish Poet's Death

16 PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET
Chamber Music Series

DECEMBER

14 GREGG SMITH SINGERS
Chamber Music Series

All events Subject to change; please call office to confirm schedule and ticket information.

All events take place at the Foundation House unless otherwise noted.

Visit the Kosciuszko Foundation Website at www.thekf.org.

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