



N.Y. Polish Catholics join Jews to mark International Holocaust Day

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Polish American Congress

L: John Gmerek, Chairman of the Holocaust Studies Committee of the Kościuszko Foundation; Rabbi Birnbaum; Michael Preisler; Frank Milewski, President of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress and Chet Szarejko, who heads the Political Activities Committee of the Congress

Kew Gardens, N.Y. ... Michael Preisler, a Polish Catholic who spent more than three years as a prisoner in Auschwitz, joined with the congregation of the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills in Queens, N.Y. to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Auschwitz death camp's liberation on January 27, 1945.

The United Nations chose the anniversary to be known each year as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Simultaneous observances of this event took place throughout the world, with the main observance held at the actual site of the former camp in Oswiecim, Poland. Auschwitz survivors and official government representatives from Israel and Poland were the main participants there.

Rabbi Moses A. Birnbaum, Spiritual Leader of the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills invited the Polish American Congress and Mr. Preisler to join his congregation in remembering the tragedy both peoples shared.

Jews were the largest group murdered in Auschwitz. Poles were the second largest.

Mr. Preisler was a member of the Polish Underground Resistance when the Gestapo arrested him and sent him to Auschwitz in 1941. He was able to stay alive there to the very end until the Russian Army began closing in.

He is also a survivor of the infamous "Death March" out of Auschwitz when the Germans began to evacuate the prisoners a week before the Russians got there. It took place in the middle of a brutally cold European winter in sub-zero temperatures.

Preisler recalls that cruel event as the "Days of the Red Snow." The snow the prisoners marched through began changing to red from the blood of any prisoner who faltered or fell from pain or exhaustion and was shot dead on the spot by the German guards.

Preisler said he was grateful to Rabbi Birnbaum for reaching out to New York's Polish American community to have Jews and Poles remember together. Rabbi Birnbaum has been a driving force behind the efforts to promote a better understanding between the two groups. □

PAC calls on Belarusan government to protect Polish ethnic minority now under siege in former Soviet republic

Washington, DC Feb. 17, 2010 -- The Polish American Congress (PAC), the umbrella organization of Polish Americans in the United States, on Wednesday called on the government of Belarus to ensure that Polish minority group rights, currently under siege in that country, are respected.

PAC President Frank Spula noted that in recent weeks Belarusan militia has repeatedly harassed members of the Polish minority living in the former Soviet republic.

More than a week ago, he recalled, Belarusan authorities seized the headquarters home of the Union of Poles in Belarus, a 400,000-member organization that represents ethnic Poles and that is not officially recognized by authorities.

On Monday, paramilitary police in that country arrested some 40 Union of Poles members who sought to attend court proceedings regarding the fate of the group's Polish House in Iyvenets.

"Militia aggression must stop, ethnic harassment must end, or the world community will feel obliged to vigorously and meaningfully censure the government of Belarus," Spula said.

"The president there, Aleksandr Lukashenko, needs to know that he and his regime are under the glare of international vigilance, paying very careful attention to the issue of human rights violations, including how ethnic minorities in Belarus, such as Poles, are treated."

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**Polish American Congress
Southern California Division**

Invites you to attend our monthly meeting
Sunday, - February 21 - 1:30

**Our Lady of the Bright Mount Church Rectory
(Lower Level - door by the Grotto)
3424 W. Adams Blvd. - Los Angeles**

Non-members are welcome to attend our meetings.

You can observe the projects we are working on for Polonia. Some projects include: Catholic Archdiocese Exhibit in Anaheim, Poland Forever presentation, Year of Chopin events, Pope Beatification plans.

The Polish American Congress has Divisions in 28 states.

If you would want to help achieve what is in the best interests of Polonia, Please come and visit us at our next meeting.

Get involved in Polonia...

To get a PAC Mission Statement please call:

Information: (323) 240-8525 OR (626) 577-9797

**Pre-Training
Questionnaire 2010 U.S.
Summer Holocaust
Teacher Training
Program U.S. Embassy
Warsaw, Poland**

1. **Name and Surname:**
2. **School Contact Information:**
School Name and Address:
Telephone and Fax:
E-mail:
Website:
3. **Home Contact Information:**
Address:
Telephone:
Cell phone:
E-mail:
4. **What is your current position. How many years have you been working in your current position?**
5. **If you are a classroom teacher, what subjects do you teach and what grade levels do you teach? How many students do you teach in each class?**
6. **During which classes do you teach about the Holocaust? How do you teach about the Holocaust in your classroom?**
7. **How does the leadership in your school support the incorporation of Holocaust education into your curriculum?**
8. **Have you had any formal training on the subject of the Holocaust? What kind of training have you had, when, and where? If not, do you have experience in teaching subject matters such as tolerance, human rights, or conflict resolution?**
9. **Are there any specific issues that you would like to learn about in the teacher-training course?**
10. **Please write a brief statement of why you would like to participate in this program.**
11. **Please attach your resume in English and in Polish.**

**Our Lady
of the Bright Mount
Roman Catholic Church**
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Los Angeles, CA 90018
Schedule of Masses
Sunday 9:00, noon & 18:30
Mon, Tue, Th, Sat - 8:00 am,
Wed, Fri - 7:30 pm
(All Masses are in Polish)
Ks. Marek Ciesielski, Proboszcz
Ks. Antoni Bury, Rezydent
(323) 734-5249

**Pope John Paul II
Polish Center**

3999 Rose Drive,
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4:00 PM ENG
Sunday 7:00 AM Tridentine
9:00 AM ENG 10:30 AM POL
First Friday of the month
8:30 AM Eng 7:30 PM. POL
First Saturday of month
8:30 a.m. ENG

Director: Rev. Henry Noga, SVD
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