

Aquila Polonica from 4

War II," she recalled. Inspired by stories of bravery and fearlessness, Tegnazian went from would-be novelist to publisher of books about Poland's "amazingly heroic and tragic story."

"One of the least known aspects of World War II in the English-speaking world is the story of Poland, which was the first Western Ally to challenge Hitler," she said.

Aquila Polonica co-founder Stefan Mucha, an accomplished graphic designer, draws his interest in Polish history from his late father, who was born in Warsaw and served as a soldier of the Second Polish Corps in Italy after being liberated from a German forced labor camp in 1945. His father's family were victims of the Nazi regime in occupied Poland—their final fate remains unknown to this day.

Mucha and Tegnazian met through the Internet while both were researching Poland in World War II.

During the first three years of Aquila Polonica's existence, Tegnazian made several trips to Warsaw acquiring rights to more than 30 books. And now, despite being a relative newcomer to the publishing world, Aquila Polonica is establishing a reputation for quality.

"The Mermaid" was chosen as a selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the History Book Club and the Military Book Club, and has attracted praise from Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski and bestselling author Alan Furst.

Aquila Polonica's second book, the gripping first-person tale, "The Ice Road: An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom," by Stefan Waydenfeld, carries a foreword by well-known historian and author Norman Davies, was endorsed by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anne Applebaum, and has been chosen as a selection of the History Book Club and the Military Book Club. Its author, Dr. Waydenfeld, was recently invited to blog on the Huffington Post.

"Siege," the 1940 Academy Award-nominated documentary short that was integrated into the performance at LMU is Aquila Polonica's first foray into films.

The gut-wrenching black-and-white footage of the 1939 German attack on Warsaw, shot by American photojournalist Julien Bryan, has been beautifully repackaged with supplemental materials and is available with purchase of "The Mermaid" or on its own this summer. Bryan had to smuggle the film out of Europe in the chemical container of a gas mask. The stunning result was worth the risk.

Aquila Polonica's next two books couldn't be more different. In late August 2010, readers can look for "303 Squadron: The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron," by Arkady Fiedler in a new translation by Jarek Garliński. This is the thrilling story of the celebrated squadron of Polish fighter pilots whose superb skill in the air helped save England during its most desperate hours in World War II's Battle of Britain. Its release coincides with the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

In November 2010, Aquila Polonica releases its first work of fiction. "Maps and Shadows" is Krysia Jopek's lyrical story of a Polish family's deportation to Siberia told in separate threads through the eyes of a son, daughter, mother and father. Throughout the book, evocative passages of poetry speak to the life-shattering experience of exile.

The founders of Aquila Polonica hope to offer fresh insight into World War II, one of the most transformative events in modern history. And people are responding. Earlier this month Tegnazian took "War Through a Woman's Eyes" on the road to the Polish Consulate in Montreal and the Polish Embassy in Ottawa, where the performance completely sold out. Glowing media

coverage by the Ottawa Citizen and the Montreal Gazette no doubt helped.

"I think there's a real hunger for these lost stories of Poland in World War II," said Theresa Dudzick, president of the Polish University Club of Los Angeles. "The heroism, the resiliency and the resourcefulness of the people in Aquila Polonica's books provide lessons for all of us about what it's like to face adversity today. I'm grateful to this young company for bringing these stories to the public."

So are we. The books are available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other fine bookstores and online retailers. For more information, email:

info@aquilapolonica.com
or call 310-470-0770. □

Polish Club from 4

60-70 members and sponsors.

All Laguna Woods Village residents and guests are welcome to join the Club and participate in its activities. All meetings and programs are in English and many meals include traditional Polish food. The Club meets monthly except June, July and August. Annual membership dues are \$15 for Regular, \$25 for Patron. The Polish Club activities are open to guests at a nominal fee. For information on joining the Club or participating in its activities, please call (949)206-9122

Throughout the year the Polish Club entertained members and guests through our various programs. Some examples are: the Polish Club Anniversary; Traditional Polish Easter ; and Traditional Family Christmas Celebration.. Members and guests bring their children, grandchildren, and friends to show them very old, very often forgotten Polish holiday traditions. Every year these programs were very popular in our community.

Over the past ten years, the Polish Club organized more than 100 meetings with programs designed to educate and inform members and friends about Polish history, culture, and traditions through lectures, films and other activities.

We are very grateful for the honorary speakers who were very impressive, and knowledgeable on the subjects related to Polish history, culture and its many heroes. Some of past speakers include Krystyna Tokarska-Biernacik, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles, Consul Sylvester Kozak, and Consul Roman Czarny; Consul General Paulina Kapuścińska of the General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles. Other speakers included Dr. Zbysław Petryka, Linda Płochocki, Dr. Stanisław Burzyński, Miłosz I-lalouzka, Zofia Adamowicz, Barry Klazura, Artur Zygmunt, Krystyna Mazingo, and Jadwiga Narębska.

An annual Free Luncheon-Meeting was planned each fall as a thank you to all members and sponsors. The Polish Club celebrated Polish and America national holidays. For example, the Club celebrated the 25th anniversary of the National Polish-American Heritage Month with a special program. The City of Laguna Wood presented a Proclamation of Polish American Heritage Month--October to the Club's President Irena Głowacka-Lawyer recognizing the vital contribution of the Polish people to America.

Entertainment was presented through Films, Concerts, and Travel

A variety of entertainment programs featured such films as the four parts of the Kieślowski film "Decalogue;" Polish movies such as "Pan Tadeusz", "Desire for Love," Life and Music of Frederic Chopin, and the film Mazowsze, - recorded live at the Polish National Opera House in Warsaw, Poland.

Concerts included The Polish Folk Dance Ensemble "Krakusy," performed twice in the Laguna Woods theatre, and

two concerts of "Tribute to the Life and Music of Ignacy J. Paderewski." In addition several programs combined music and films such as the "Program Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Beginning of World War II"; and the "Famous Polish Composer Concert" organized by the Polish Music Center USC in Los Angeles.

The Polish Club organized numerous trips through the years such as two tours through six countries in Europe including Poland; and two tours to Scandinavian countries and Russia. Four local trips were made to the museum of Helena Modjeska including a visit to President Nixon's Library. Two travels were made to Santa Barbara to Lotusland, the Gardens of Polish opera singer Ganna Walska. Other local trips were made to Glendale to visit the biggest painting in the world, painted by Polish artist Jan Styka and the observation of the Polish May 3rd Constitution Day at the International Cottages at Balboa Park in San Diego.

The Polish Club supported the charities:
- Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation. This foundation supports the dream of the late Polish artist Korczak Ziolkowski who began carving a majestic sculpture, still on-going, of the famous Lakota Chief Crazy Horse in the Black Hills of South Dakota

- Committee for Poles in Soviet Union
President concluded her speech "I thank you from bottom of my Polish heart for coming, help, dedication and friendship. Proud to be Polish, proud to be American. God bless you!" □

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Mówimy po Polsku

Przystawa - Polish tragedy from 6

victims and for their Homeland. Everybody talks about the immediate consequences of this terrible happening.

The Speaker of Sejm, Bronisław Komorowski already took over the duties of the President of Poland and moved into the Presidential Palace. The Palace and the Presidential Chancellery have been emptied by the tragedy and Komorowski will meet no opposition. Bronisław Komorowski is from the ruling party, Platforma Obywatelska (PO), he was no friend of Lech Kaczyński and in fact his chief competitor in the forthcoming presidential campaign. Now, according to the Constitution, the presidential election has to take place before the coming Summer, the whole political calendar of the year has to be changed. The election had been scheduled for October this year. Who will be his chief opponent? So far we thought that it will be the incumbent Lech Kaczyński but now? Will Jarosław Kaczyński take over for his brother and run for the presidential contest? It is very likely and perhaps unavoidable as his party, Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, can hardly find another candidate in such a short time. According to opinion polls Komorowski might have had an easy victory over Lech Kaczyński but now, after the tragedy, the mood of the population may change, we usually like to sympathize with the victims. For the time being, Platforma Obywatelska seems to be on the winning side: both branches of the state executive power, the Government and the President are in their hands, the opposition party, linked with the late President, has lost most of its elite in the air crash. But it shall not be an easy victory: the gigantic throngs of mourners, assembled to pray in Warsaw and other cities all over Poland may be a sign of an unexpected tipping of the political scale. □

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