

**Why you should join
Polonia's most prestigious
organization: The
Kościuszko Foundation**

By: *Alex Storożyński*

For the past year and a half, I have had the honor of being President of The Kościuszko Foundation, which has provided scholarships and promoted Polish Culture in the United States for 85 years. It was not easy taking the helm after the stock market crash of 2008, but with the help of our Board of Trustees and members, we are weathering the storm, and have achieved much in this short time period. We have held many events that have helped to empower Polonia and enlighten Americans about Polish culture and the role that Poland has played in world history.

One challenge we faced this year was the dissolution of the National Polish Center. When the NPC Board disbanded, it asked the Kościuszko Foundation to breathe new life into the center at 2025 on O Street. It's a huge responsibility, but we decided to meet this task and partner with other organizations to promote Polish culture in our nation's capital. With our friends at the Polish Library in Washington, D.C., we have been screening movies at 2025 O Street such as Katyn and Rewers to expose Americans to Polish Cinema. The O Street building also played a starring role in April's conference to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Witkacy's Birth. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth, the Kościuszko Foundation sponsored a concert by Regina Romanowska, who wowed the audience at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall playing Chopin mazurkas, waltzes and etudes.

The foundation also hosted an author's evening at O Street for Julian Padowicz, whose gripping memoir, A Ship in the Harbor, describes his dramatic flight from Poland. And in August Julian Kulski commemorated the 66th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising by showing the film and signing copies of his book, Legacy of the White Eagle detailing his inspiring story of heroism from World War II.

In June, the Kościuszko Foundation opened the doors on O Street to the American Council for Polish Culture, ACPC, which held several events as part of its laudable Youth Leadership Conference to educate and inspire young Polish Americans interested in learning more about the political process.

We have introduced Polish language classes at O Street, and we are trying to raise the funds necessary to begin classical music lessons, and cosponsor other events with Polish-American organizations there as well. A fundraising dinner to help us reach this goal is being planned for Oct. 16 at the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C.

Perhaps the most talked about event that the Kościuszko Foundation held in

Washington was the Katyn conference in April at the Library of Congress. As this year is the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, the Foundation began working in February to find a way to honor the 22,000 officers and members of Poland's intelligentsia that were murdered in the forests of Russia by the NKVD, Stalin's secret police.

With the help of Pennsylvania Congressman Paul Kanjorski, we secured the Coolidge Auditorium at the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress for a panel discussion on the Katyn massacre, and partnered with the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C, and historian Andrzej Przewoźnik to show the exhibition he prepared for The Council to Preserve the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom. Because the cost of printing and mounting the exhibit was quite expensive, we applied for help from the Foundation for Polish Science to give this fascinating exhibit the proper exposure that it deserves.

And then on April 10, tragedy struck. The plane crash that killed Polish President Lech Kaczyński and nearly 100 of Poland's elite hit home. Andrzej Przewoźnik was on that flight, as was First Lady Maria Kaczyńska, who several months earlier had visited the Kościuszko Foundation's headquarters in New York to view our art gallery. The President of the National Bank of Poland, Sławomir Skrzypek had also visited the Kościuszko Foundation as our guest for a networking session with Polish American bankers on Wall Street. That meeting inspired the idea to raise money for scholarships to help Poles earn Masters of Business Administration degrees, MBAs, at top American universities. Several other passengers on that flight were also friends and guests of the Kościuszko Foundation.

This terrible tragedy thrust the story of Katyn onto the front pages of newspapers around the world, spurring interest in this massacre that had been covered up for decades. It also increased interest in the Katyn conference that we had been working on. Sen. Barbara Mikulski was able to convince the powers that be in the U.S. Senate to allow us to display the exhibit of photos and archival material about the Katyn Massacre in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building, ensuring that United States Senators had to walk past it on their way to work.

The conference was a huge success with help from the U.S. Helsinki Commission, The Cold War Studies Program at Harvard University and The Memorial Human Rights Protection Center in Moscow. The speakers included Senators Mikulski, Ben Cardin, Richard Lugar, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, President Bush's Ambassador to Poland Victor Ashe, Poland's Ambassador to the U.S. Robert Kupiecki, and several other distinguished dignitaries. Dr. Zbigniew Brzeziński stole the show with a fantastic

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**Our Lady
of the Bright Mount
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Los Angeles, CA 90018

Schedule of Masses

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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

714-996-8161 office

www.polishcenter.org

office@polishcenter.org

Your help is needed

Get involved in Polonia!

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Polish Organization

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e-mail: mailing.list@consulplla.org

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Consul General

Ambassador Joanna Kozińska - Frybes

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POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

of the United States of North America

**Largest Ethnic Fraternal Benefit Society
in the United States**

The PNA supports ethnic, cultural, educational and community events across the United States. Over the years we have provided millions of dollars to institutions, groups and a variety of organizations, encouraging the preservation of Polish traditions and customs.



By becoming a PNA member, your insurance assessments enable us to continue our work on behalf of Polonia.

We invite you to join with us today.

Together we can make it happen!

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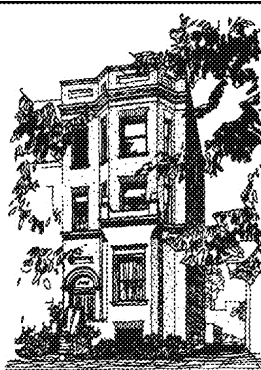
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What's Your Legacy



Many people talk about leaving their will to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relative, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relative, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collection or insurance to continue the Polish - American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you're gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The Kościuszko Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.**

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