

ACPC in Elmira from 5

aspects of the life and accomplishments of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Born in Pennsylvania's coal mining districts, Dr. Frank Kozłowski attended Catholic grade and high schools. He quit his college studies to join the Marine reserves, 1969-72 and remained in military services for four years. Returning to the university, he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History. After teaching for several years, he returned to the university and obtained a PhD in History. Dr. Kozłowski has a strong fondness and admiration for Ignacy Paderewski. His presentation at the Board meeting of Paderewski's career as a pianist and influential political personality was fascinating. When Paderewski gave a concert in London in 1891, critics named him "one of the greatest pianists ever" and he became the wealthiest pianist in the world at that time. Paderewski toured the U.S. as well as the Orient. While performing in the U.S. he became acquainted with Pres. Woodrow Wilson and influenced the president to support Poland's independence, as a result Poland won its free nation status. Paderewski became the first Prime Minister of Poland. He ran into problems as Poles criticized him for the limited Eastern Border of Poland as well as his residence in Switzerland and called him an ex-patriot. Paderewski resigned as Prime Minister ten months after taking office. He died in 1941. Dr. Kozłowski portrayed Paderewski's genius as a pianist as well as his genius in using his influence with Pres. Wilson to establish the Free Polish territory. Thus, the audience was influenced to appreciate and honor once again Ignacy Paderewski's genius and remarkable achievements.

To celebrate Chopin's 200th Anniversary of his birth, Pres. Winnicka and her committee planned a concert honoring Chopin's creative genius. The youthful performers at the concert obviously enjoyed this singular opportunity to display their talents on the day honoring Chopin. Sara, Rebecca and Kate spent many hours preparing for this piano performance. Sarah Burn's Prelude opus 28, no. 4; Rebecca Burn's Waltz and Kate Nicole Hoffman's Nocturnal were played with precision and zest. The smiling faces of their parents reflected their pride in the performances of their children, which made all the hours of practice worthwhile.

Concert pianist Frances Orr McLaren began piano studies at an early age, received Masters of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon Univ. She taught Prep School at the University. She was accompanist for the Elmira Symphony Orchestra for four years and currently serves as accompanist for Elmira's Common-Time Choral group. Ms. McLaren presented six Chopin compositions. She conveyed the emotional content of Chopin's music by reflecting it in her technical proficiency, her fingers playing various moods from exalted Polanaise rhythms to intense reveries. The explosive pace of her performance that ranged from quiet lyrical movements to ecstatic eruptions was applauded with enthusiasm by the admiring audience.

Soloist Scott Frye, a graduate of Ohio State University, has participated in 35 operas and has given recitals in Elmira. This evening, he sang Chopin compositions, "My Darling" (Moja Pieszczota) and "Reverie" (Marzenie). The audience appreciated the romantic Polish versions of these beautiful Chopin melodies. Mr. Frye received warm applause as he smilingly and graciously acknowledged the audience.

During the reception, which followed the concert, ACPC members felt honored by the presence of Elmira College President Thomas Meier and his wife Mila. We learned from Richard Kozacko,

a personal friend of the Meiers that Dr. Meier is the 12 President of the college and has held that honor since 1987. He holds a PhD in English literature from Columbia University. Dr. Meier received a Medal of Merit from the Elmira College Alumni Association and was named Administrator of the Year by the Elmira student body. Elmira College holds an important place in history being the first college in the world to offer college education and degrees to women.

Members and officers of the ACPC were somewhat overwhelmed by their feelings of comradeship and joy after attending the Fall Board Meeting hosted by President Dr. Maria B. Winnicka and the Polish Arts Club of Elmira. The very detailed summary of Ignacy Paderewski's life presented by Dr. Frank Kozłowski was an inspiration, strengthening our admiration of the genius of Paderewski, his superb musical talents and his involvement in Poland's political development, restoring Poland's independence by influencing President Woodrow Wilson's support. The piano concert and vocal presentation of Chopin's music was a classic cultural event, which mesmerized the audience by the efficiency and most of all the harmonious beauty. It will linger in everyone's hearts as superior performances that measured to high cultural standards. The membership expressed its gratitude for the outstanding planning by Dr. Winnicka and her committees.

Mr. Richard Wiermański announced that the next ACPC Board Meeting will be held in April 2011 in Chicago, IL, hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, Dr. Vivian Walkosz, Pres. □

Strybel - Floods from 6

holding back tears as they told reporters about their losses.

In many areas, the floods were so swift and sudden that people barely managed to flee to high ground, leaving everything behind. The lucky ones sought refuge on the upper floors of their homes, but as the flood stage rose and there was nowhere to flee, some were evacuated by boats, amphibians and helicopters. The relentlessly rising waters inundated and even swept away parked cars, and on farms livestock drowned in closed barns. Chickens perched on tree branches, quivering cats floating by on doors, confused dogs on rooftops and pigs in their barnyards desperately swimming in circles in hope of finding a foothold were not uncommon sights.

The main flood-fighters were State Fire Brigade rescuers, assisted by the army, police, Boy Scouts, assorted volunteers and local residents trying to save their property. Sandbags were used to reinforce existing earthen flood dikes, but these soon became waterlogged. In some places they were additionally weakened by burrowing beavers. The greatest devastation occurred when flood waters burst through a dike, violently swamping supposedly protected areas.

Bridges got swept away, landslides pulled down homes and croplands were destroyed. Evacuees were taken to school gyms and other high-ground premises where they received food, clothing medical aid and a dry place to sleep on cots and air mattresses. But many people stranded on balconies and in attics refused to be evacuated for fear of looters. During previous floods, thieves in motorboats would enter flooded homes through upstairs windows and make off with computers, appliances and anything else of value that could be carried away.

Tarnów, Tarnobrzeg and Jas'o in the southeast corner of Poland, Lanckorona south of Kraków, K'odne in the Tatra Mountain area, Wilków in the Lublin region and Œwiniary near the central city of P'ock were among the hardest hit localities. The entire right-bank area of the southern city of Sandomierz was under water, and residents desperately built sandbag barriers to save a glassworks, the area's major employer providing thousands with a livelihood.

When the flood waters began subsiding, homeowners couldn't wait to return and begin the daunting clean-up and renovation. The government promised every flood-stricken family 6,000 zlotys (about \$1,700) for emergency expenses and many times more for those who would have to rebuild. Warsaw has appealed to the European Union for flood-relief funds. Across Poland, people donated money, clothing, personal-hygiene products and food to flood victims.

But no amount of money could easily undo the shock and trauma of seeing the accumulated wealth of several generations

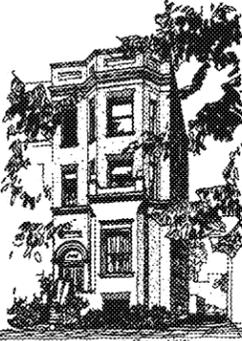
mired in mud and filth. Since the killer flood of 1997, local flooding has occurred every few years. Anyone who has never experienced a flood cannot possibly envision what that actually entails. Toxic flood waters seep into every crack and crevice, coating every surface with foul-smelling slime.

The foamy brown turbulence carries with it the contents of sewers, garbage cans, septic tanks and in some cases even low-laying cemeteries. As a result, flood-soaked upholstered furniture must be discarded, floorboards ripped up, walls rebuilt and appliances and non-upholstered furniture taken apart, scrubbed and disinfected. Pools of stagnant water become hatching grounds for swarms of mosquitoes plaguing rescuers and renovators alike. But, sad to say, our story does not have a happy ending. Before flood victims could get down to the giant clean-up and even begin thinking of starting all over, violent June cloudbursts unleashed a second wave of floods. Many previously hit areas were re-inundated, while localities that had remained high and dry in May were now engulfed by flood waters. Even those areas which did not directly suffer will have to pay. It is ultimately the Polish taxpayer who will foot the bill for the reconstruction of roads, railways, bridges, public buildings and other infrastructure. And the devastation of croplands, orchards and livestock means higher food prices to every consumer this year. Already following the first flood wave, strawberries were selling in Warsaw for more than double the price of 1969. □

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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 Kosciuszko Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.**

**Kosciuszko Foundation, Washington Office
The American Center of Polish Culture
2025 "O" Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-785-2320 • Fax: 202-785-2159 • www.thekf.org**

Mark Prochowski
Attorney At Law
*Immigration Law
Business Law
Formation, Buying and Selling of
Businesses
Contracts
Corporate and Partnership Law*
30011 Ivy Glenn Drive, Suite 203
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(949) 481-7581
www.prochowskilaw.com
E-mail: mark@prochowskilaw.com
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