

Social Studies Conference from 1

chemists, poets, composers and other brilliant Polonians who made their mark in history. We brought 300 copies of the CD to the conference for free distribution to the visitors to our booth. A rich supply of various other resource materials was made available at our booth – many books, historical posters ready to display in classrooms, brochures about Brigadier Gen. Casimir Pułaski, bookmarks celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Poles at Jamestown, and World War II history books such as “A Question of Honor” by Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud, and the novel “Night of Flames, for which the author Douglas W. Jacobson generously provided free copies and a poster, among many others about notable historical facts – thanks to the generosity of Polonian organizations and individuals who clearly understand the role of this vital mission.

We had many visitors to our booth and the reflections are priceless. We talked with teachers, administrators, curriculum makers and young student teachers. Their keen interest in our ‘Polish Perspectives’ motivates us to not only continue our mission, but to make it bigger and better next year! The group of young student teachers, in particular, was most receptive and enthusiastic when we shared our resource materials and answered their lively questions.

We are very fortunate and grateful that the ACPC and many other Polish organizations as well as generous individuals support our efforts in this event. The information and resources that we provided will furnish pupils with truthful accountings of Poland and its peoples, overcoming false and biased stories they may have encountered. Hopefully, the teachers’ use of our materials will help them cultivate students’ curiosity and set them on a journey of discovery, connect them with the past and spark their interest to explore further the history of Poland and the rich contributions Poles have made to society.

The Polish Embassy provided brochures about Poland, its people, history and culture, including “Solidarity” pamphlets. The American Institute for Polish Culture in Miami donated cartons of books, among them the Madame Skłodowska-Curie story, which was rather special because we were celebrating her 140th birthday in 2007. The Kopernik Observatory of Vestal, NY sent informational brochures about its exciting programs for youths. Dr. Julian Kulski provided his book and award winning DVD published by National History Day “Legacy of the White Eagle”. 2nd VP Peter Obst donated books about Ralph Modjeski, America’s outstanding bridge builder and graciously provided photographs and materials for the exhibit poster. Robert Maycan was instrumental in making arrangements with the Polish American Congress Charitable Organization, which donated 250 copies of books on Jamestown, and with the Polish National Alliance that donated 250 brochures on Gen. Casimir Pułaski. Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk, Pres. Polish Cultural Fdn. of Boston donated 100 colorful bookmarkers depicting the 400th anniversary of the first Poles at Jamestown, VA (we purchased an additional 200). Lady Blanka Rosenstiel donated 50 copies of DVDs on the 1944 Warsaw uprising. Mary Heslin shared World War II historical posters with us that were exhibited in Connecticut. Additionally, we purchased copies of the “Zegota” documentary for \$300 to distribute to teachers at the conference. Adam Bak of Adamba Imports sent us a very generous amount of Polish candies, which we offered to the guests visiting our booth. We are also grateful to Andrzej Zmurkiewicz, who resides in San Diego, for storing 28 boxes of books, posters, and other materials that were sent to his office by us and directly by some of our donors in preparation for the booth. At the suggestion of ACPC’s Video Promotions Committee Chair Mary Flanagan, Henrietta Nowakowski filmed the ACPC role at the Conference for documentary purposes.”

Lemecha’s report also reveals that participation in the NCSS conference is a costly undertaking. Space rental at the Conference for non-profit organizations was

\$1,720 and the rental of 3 tables and a chair plus the union labor fees to move the materials from the car to the booth was \$874, not to mention all the other considerable costs for shipping, printing, copying, filming, purchasing resource materials, etc.

The fundraising campaign led by Lemecha and Nowakowski covered all of the expenses thanks to the generosity of organizations and many individuals who share our firm resolve in this very valuable project. Sponsoring organizations were: The American Council for Polish Culture, The American Institute of Polish Culture of Miami, Polish Arts Club of Chicago, The Friends of Polish Art – Detroit, Polish American Art Association of DC and The Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Other supporting organizations were: Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, and Polish Falcons Alliance of America. It is important to note that Lemecha, Nowakowski and the two other ACPC members, Deborah Majka and Robert Maycan who helped manage the booth, covered their own air travel expenses, lodging and all other personal costs.

We are all indebted to Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski for the very striking displays at the conference booth, and their untiring efforts gathering fully adequate supplies of resource materials to distribute to teachers and administrators while responding graciously and knowledgeably to their inquiries. Thanks are also due to Debbie Majka and Robert Maycan for their devotion of time and effort in helping to man the “Polish Perspectives” booth throughout the Conference as well as to Diana Odenwalder of San Diego who helped out on Saturday.

This year the NCSS Conference will take place in Houston, TX, Nov. 14-16, 2008 with a general theme that aims at helping students “Embrace The Future.” Of special interest to our NCSS Team is a proposed working theme, “Global Awareness” or how can we best help students develop a deep knowledge and understanding of other nations, cultures, and people?

All organizations and individuals are invited to embrace this worthwhile project with a financial commitment and help us “Keep Our Heritage Alive” through our presence and efforts at these NCSS events. If we reach even a handful of teachers with essential information, we will have reached a higher multiple of students and hopefully launched them on an exciting voyage of historical and cultural discovery. Please consider supporting this worthwhile project with financial contributions and/or material resources. Checks should be made payable to ACPC with the notation “For NCSS” and mailed to:

Henrietta Nowakowski,
NCSS Committee Co-Chair
23354 Longview
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
Tel. (313) 565-7625
Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Thank you! □

Poles from the Gulags from 5

Omsk didn’t want to help us, explaining that they knew nothing about any Polish army, and instead proposed that we find work near Omsk.” A NKVD officer gave Herling a list of places where he could get a residence permit, but denied all knowledge of a Polish army. Following rumors, the released Polish prisoners hitchhiked and rode trains around the Soviet Union, looking for the Polish army.

Stefan Waydenfeld’s family, exiled to northern Russia, were not told of the existence of the Polish army at all, nor offered any means of transport whatsoever: they were simply told they could go. In order to get away from their remote exile village, they built a raft, and floated down their local river toward “civilization”--a town which had a railway station. Months later, they were finally rescued from their wanderings when, in a cafe in the town of Chimkent, southern Kazakhstan, Stefan recognized a classmate from his school in Poland. She told them, finally, where to find the Polish army...

Employees of the Polish Embassy, deployed around the country, were still subject to unexplained arrest. Fearing the situation might worsen, General Anders changed his plan in March 1942. Instead of marching his army west, toward the front line, he won permission to evacuate his troops out of the Soviet Union altogether. It was a vast operation: 74,000 Polish troops, and another 41,000 civilians, including many children, were put on trains and sent to Iran.

In his haste to leave, General Anders left thousands more Poles behind, along with their Jewish, Ukrainian, and Belorussian former fellow citizens. Some eventually joined the Kosciuszko division, a Polish division of the Red Army. Others had to wait for the war to end to be repatriated. Still others never left at all. To this day, some of their descendants still live in ethnic Polish communities in Kazakhstan and northern Russia.

Those who left kept fighting. After recovering in Iran, Anders’s army did manage to join the Allied forces in Europe. Traveling via Palestine--and in some cases via South Africa--they later fought for the liberation of Italy at the Battle of Monte Casino. While the war continued, the Polish civilians were parceled out to various parts of the British Empire. Polish children wound up in orphanages in India, Palestine, even east Africa. Most would never return to Soviet-occupied, postwar Poland. The Polish clubs, Polish historical societies, and Polish restaurants still found in West London are testimony to their postwar exile.

After they had left the USSR, the departed Poles performed an invaluable service for their less fortunate ex-fellow inmates. In Iran and Palestine, the army and the Polish government-in-exile conducted several surveys of the soldiers and their families in order to determine exactly what had happened to the Poles deported to the Soviet Union. Because the Anders evacuation was the only large group of prisoners ever allowed to leave the USSR, the material produced by these questionnaires and somewhat rushed historical inquiries remained the only substantial evidence of

the Gulag’s existence for half a century. And, within limits, it was surprisingly accurate: although they had no real understanding of the Gulag’s history, the Polish prisoners did manage to convey the camp system’s staggering size, its geographical extent--all they had to do was list the wide variety of places they had been sent--and its horrific wartime living conditions.

After the war, the Poles’ descriptions of their experiences formed the basis for reports on Soviet forced-labor camps produced by the Library of Congress and the American Federation of Labor. Their straightforward accounts of the Soviet slave-labor system came as a shock to many Americans, whose awareness of the camps had dimmed since the days of the Soviet timber boycotts in the 1920s. These reports circulated widely, and in 1949, in an attempt to persuade the United Nations to investigate the practice of forced labor in its member states, the AFL presented the UN with a thick body of evidence of its existence in the Soviet Union.... The Cold War had begun.

SOURCE: *Gulag: A History*, by Anne Applebaum (Anchor Books, 2003), pp. 451-454. □

**Joseph L. Drociak,
Attorney****Over 44 years experience**

*Personal Injury, Wrongful Death,
Workers Compensation, Medical
Malpractice, Wrongful Termination,
Sexual Harassment, Nursing Home abuse*
7627 S. Western Ave. (323) 971-3981
12400 Wilshire Blvd. (213) 384-7900

Los Angeles**Plumbers going home from 6**

seemed to be available to work. “While the number of Poles entering the UK remains strong there is talk of a growing trend for workers to head back east, where countries like Poland are experiencing a boom.”

Sebastian Ksiazek, 32, came to England eight years ago speaking almost no English. He began work as a builder but is now a successful shipping clerk in London. “I couldn’t even say ‘hello’ when I came here,” he said. “The beginning was tough. I started with a cleaning job, working in kitchens. Three years ago I was working as a barman when a customer asked me to work for him. He offered me a job because I would never let him buy on credit. He liked that about me.”

Despite his success, Mr Ksiazek is leaving. “My wife and I will go back. Opportunities are getting better in our country. Plenty of my friends have gone back and they’re doing very well. I like London, but it’s not my home.”

Cost of living
743,000 Eastern Europeans applied to register for British jobs between 2004 and 2007

468,000 Poles successfully applied, 66 per cent of the applications

1 million Poles estimated to have migrated to Britain

£1 equals 7.23 Polish zloty (2004)

£1 equals 4.83 Polish zloty (2008)

8% of Poles left the country in the past three years, fleeing 16 per cent unemployment

£800 Polish monthly average wage (2003)

£1,967 English monthly average wage (2003)

Source: Home Office and Poland’s statistic office □

Joanna Brost
Financial Advisor
101 W. Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
toll free 800 473 1331
tel 619 236 1331
fax 619 235 9313

Morgan Stanley

Investments and services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC. 2004 Morgan Stanley (ANN-05) 10/04

Retirement planning
College savings plans
Asset allocation strategies
Comprehensive financial planning

**Please support the
businesses that advertise
in the
News of Polonia**