

## ODC Chief Prusiński Retires

U.S. Ambassador to Poland Victor Ashe hosted a retirement ceremony and farewell reception for Colonel Stanley J. Prusiński, Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation, who will be departing the U.S. Embassy, Warsaw, and retiring from the U.S. Army after over 32 years in uniform. Ambassador Ashe highlighted aspects of Colonel Prusiński's career as an Air Defense, Military Intelligence and, now, a Foreign Area Officer and underscored the great impact that Colonel Prusiński has made on the transformation and modernization of Poland's Armed Forces. "Colonel Prusiński has been a tremendous asset to the Embassy and has done tremendous work to expand the U.S.-Polish relationship. He will be sorely missed in the Embassy. We wish him great success in his future endeavors," said Ambassador Ashe.

During his five-year tour in the U.S. Embassy, Colonel Prusiński took the lead in the successful implementation of a \$3.8 billion multi-role F-16 fighter program for the Polish Air Force. He laid the groundwork for the C-130 program, and supported Polish deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. During the ceremony, Ambassador Ashe awarded Colonel Prusiński with the Defense Superior Service Medal. The Honorable Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz, Undersecretary of State for Armaments and Modernization also spoke and awarded Colonel Prusiński with Polish Gold Medal of the Armed Forces. Also in attendance were Lieutenant General Skrzypczak, Commander, Polish Land Forces; Lieutenant General Bieniek, Special Advisor to the Minister of National Defense, and many beloved Polish veterans of WWII, including Mrs. Maria "Kama" Stypułowska-Chojecka and Mr. Jerzy "Magic" Bartnik.

Mrs. Susan Prusiński, Colonel Prusiński's spouse, received special thanks from the U.S. Government for her support of the performance of Colonel Prusiński's duties during the past 25 years.

Everyone in the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Poland wishes Colonel Prusiński and his Family all the best as he enters civilian life and assumes private employment in Warsaw, Poland. □

## Ambassador Ashe and Pomorskie Voivodeship Officials Open American Corner in Gdańsk

U.S. Ambassador to Poland Victor Ashe and Pomorskie Voivodeship Vice-marshal Wiesław Byczkowski cut the ribbon to officially open the new American Corner in Gdańsk's Joseph Conrad Provincial and City Library.

Invited guests included officials from the voivodeship and the Tri-Cities governments

## Jamestown Ceremonies

**On Wednesday, October 1, 2008 there will be a 400th Anniversary Celebration of the arrival of Polish craftsmen in Jamestown, Virginia.**

The ceremony will begin at 5:00 PM with the laying of wreaths at the glass house and at the plaque, followed by a program of speakers, music, and a reception.

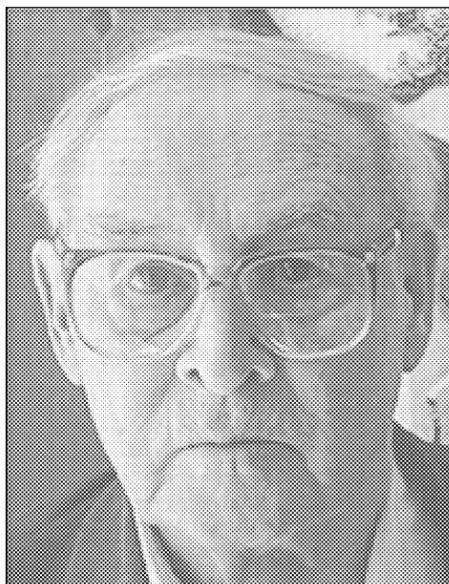
A large crowd is expected, if you plan to attend, your reservations need to be made as soon as possible.

and representatives of local academic, cultural, and other institutions, as well as local media. In his comments, Ambassador Ashe stressed the importance of establishing an American Corner in a city that, as the birth place of Solidarity, symbolizes our shared values of freedom and democracy.

American Corners could be thought of as small libraries located inside larger libraries, but they truly are much more than that. They are partnerships between the Public Affairs sections of U.S. Embassies and host institutions. There are over 300 American Corners all over the world. They provide access to current and reliable information about the U.S. via book collections, the Internet, and through a variety of events such as public readings, films, speaker programs, workshops, meetings, and exhibits. An American Corner serves as an information outpost similar to a public library reference service. The multi-media, book and periodical collections are open and accessible. Associated reading or meeting rooms are made available to host program events and activities. In Poland there are now three American Corners located in Łódź, Gdańsk, and Wrocław.

The American Corner in Gdańsk currently consists of two rooms with computers, and a collection of books, videos, and music. When remodeling is completed on the library's ground floor, a larger third room will be added to the corner, which will serve as a reading room, screening room for films, and hall for lectures, workshops, and other gatherings. Like the American Corners in Łódź and Wrocław, the American Corner in Gdańsk also hosts a small Young Learners Resource Center, offering books and resources such as a die cut machine for English Teachers to prepare materials and lesson plans. □

## Józef Szajna, 86, Writer of Quiet Protest in Poland, Dies



Józef Szajna, a Polish playwright, set designer and theater director who through often nearly wordless productions evoked the beastliness of humanity, the suffocation of individuality and the oppressiveness of dictatorship - gaining acclaim even during the Communist era - died in Warsaw. He was 86.

Mr. Szajna was a Roman Catholic who survived five years in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.

"Today I have a name; then I was a number," he once said.

In 1976, a production of Mr. Szajna's play "Replika" was staged at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. As the curtain rose, a smoldering mass appeared: garbage, tattered shoes, human limbs. It stirred. A begrimed hand reached out, touched a remnant of bread and dragged it below. Soon after, a crawling figure lunged at a mangled mannequin, crying out, "Mama, mama."

Those were among the few words uttered by the four survivors, later joined by an aggressor, as they grunted and groaned through the heap of remnants of a once-flourishing civilization.

"It is a protest against war; it says, 'Look at what we make of ourselves,'" Mr. Szajna told The New York Times, adding: "All the kings and queens, presidents and premiers should see 'Replika.' All of them at the United Nations. Maybe even your politicians before one becomes president."

In Poland, Mr. Szajna circumvented Communist censors by presenting his work as abstract expressions of opposition to fascism and to passivity in the face of repression: his productions were eloquent in their near-silence by speaking wordlessly.

Among his other plays are "Rejoinder," "Reminiscence" and "Dante," the latter based on the journey through the realms of the dead in the 14th-century "Divine Comedy" but laced with Mr. Szajna's depictions of 20th-century hellishness.

"The primary accent in this type of theater falls on visual expression," Malgorzata Kitowska-Lysiak, a professor of art history at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, wrote in a 2003 profile of Mr. Szajna.

Pointing out that Mr. Szajna never disregarded the actor "with his individual gestures, or the word," Ms. Kitowska-Lysiak said, "Nevertheless, the most important role in his theater is allotted to visual signs and imagery: expansive scenery and often grotesquely oversized props."

**Mr. Szajna called his work, with its harrowing frozen moments, "visual narration."**

Off stage, Mr. Szajna spoke out through individual artworks: sculptures, paintings, prints and collages, many of which incorporated objects like worn strips of leather, chunks of rubber, fragments of fabric, body parts from dolls, lists of concentration camp survivors and barbed wire.

Mr. Szajna was born in the southeastern Polish city of Rzeszów on March 13, 1922. At 16, he won a national diving championship. At 18, while fighting with the Polish resistance, he was arrested by the Nazis. After a foiled attempt to escape from Auschwitz, he was sent to Buchenwald.

## Apologies!

**Regarding the obituary of Chevalier Leonard Suligowski**

In the June issue of the News of Polonia we printed the following paragraph...

*Services were held at Rago Evergreen Funeral Home and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, respectively, both in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.*

Per the request of Mr. Suligowski's son Rik Suligowski Fox, he would like the paragraph to read...

*Services will be held at Rago Evergreen Funeral Home (718-383-8600; ask for Leslie Rago) and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, respectively, both in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, at a date soon to be determined. If you are interested in attending either service in Brooklyn, or one to be held in Los Angeles, at Our Lady of Bright Mount Church on Adams Street, please email us below and let us know so we can advise you on the details.*

wngdhussr@yahoo.com

## Our Lady of the Bright Mount Roman Catholic Church

3424 W. Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

### Schedule of Masses

**Saturday 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday 8:30 & 10:00am, noon**  
**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**

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"Waiting for execution brought me closer to the problems of eternity," he later wrote. "All that we believed in - races, classes, political views - were not important anymore." His death sentence was commuted by a new commander at Buchenwald, and he spent the rest of the war as a slave laborer.

He then turned to art. Mr. Szajna graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, with a degree in graphics, in 1952. A year later, he earned a degree in stage design at the academy. For the next nine years, he taught there. At the same time, he designed scenery for many productions in Poland, particularly as one of the founders, managing director and artistic director of Teatr Ludowy (the People's Theater) in Nowa Huta.

In 1971, Mr. Szajna was chosen to open a new venue in Warsaw, the Teatr Studio, housed within the Palace of Culture, a huge Stalinist-era building that was originally supposed to be headquarters for Soviet intelligence agencies.

"Our theater," Mr. Szajna told The Times in 1981, "speaks against terror, against threats to man's humanity, against the loss of individualism and independence."

Though he was not Jewish, Mr. Szajna was cited by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota as "the most important theater director and artist in Poland whose work deals with the memory of the Nazi period and the Holocaust."

The number on Mr. Szajna's arm was 18729. □

## Polish American Congress Of Southern California

Invites you to attend our monthly meeting

**Sunday, September 14 - 12:30 P.M.**

(Nominations for Polonia Awards which will be presented in December)

**Pope John Paul Polish Center**  
**3939 Rose Drive - Yorba Linda**

**Non-members of the Polish American Congress are welcome to attend our meetings to see the many projects we have achieved and are working on for Polonia.**

**Information: (626) 577-9797**