

Janek's Corner - Beauty from 4

commercial. Then, you write a story. This particular story is rather simple yet very meaningful. Here, Marek Konrad, pretending to be a current President of Poland, makes a public speech to the nation. He explains what a great impact Poland has had on Europe and how much life in Poland has changed since the beginning of our membership. He imitates the way the current President speaks exceptionally well and his body language matches the President's body language perfectly. He even makes similar breaks while enunciating entire sentences. At the end, he states that Poles should get richer and, therefore, they should find the bank in question very helpful. There are no special effects, no rock music, no motion, just a man speaking to the nation, and miraculously the commercial itself becomes very straightforward.

(If you have not yet seen this commercial, I am quite sure you can find it on YouTube, for instance.)

Even though the artistic level of this commercial is really high, it has been criticized for its direct connotation with the President.

As long as commercials play an important role in TV broadcasting time, it is inevitable to witness rapid changes in advertisement-making industry. If the modern art of Poland, including the production of commercials, is going to be developing so drastically so quickly, we will be for sure facing fascinating results in the near future. □

Chodakiewicz - Shield from 1

foster unity among them, prompt them to counterbalance the Russophile part of the European Union, and encourage them to seek a closer relationship with the United States. Next, Russia's extremism could even restore unity among the NATO allies, in fact re-vitalizing the alliance under US leadership. Further, it could necessitate for Washington to provide comprehensive security commitments to the nations as yet unaffected by Moscow's aggression, the way America saved Western Europeans faced with Stalin's revolutionary imperialism in the wake of the Second World War. Last but not least, the Kremlin's bellicosity could influence the outcome of US presidential campaign to the detriment of Russia, which usually prefers to deal with those who are more prone to distance themselves from any such broad security commitments. And nothing mobilizes the American electorate better than supporting an underdog, including a victim of aggression. The candidates will surely pay attention.

Moscow's ambitions will be hard to ignore, whoever ultimately wins the presidential race. It will also be hard to forget that the Georgian crisis was a serious litmus test which has shown that Poland's reflexive affinities lie with the United States and that at least some of "Old Europe's" choices can be inimical to security and freedom of "New Europe." A viability of a political union is tested best under extreme circumstances. The EU has failed, as it did in the Balkans in the 1990s, to pass the test. America may have to step in once again, sooner rather than later, to provide security for the Old Continent and prevent regional aggression and global destabilization. □

ACPC Convention from 10

A large throng of the members of the three national organizations as well as many onlookers had gathered to witness the moving ceremony. Presidents Mirecki and Szymański addressed the crowd, reciting the rich historic contributions the Poles made here and their amazing exploits, e.g., organizing the first industry (making/blowing glass products) on American soil; producing soap and tar; building the first lumber mill; digging the first fresh water wells, and initiating and winning the first labor strike in America for civil rights. The latter victory won for the Poles the privilege of voting equally with the British settlers according to a document sent by the British government, which added that "...some young men shall be put unto them to learn their skill and knowledge therein for the benefit of the country hereafter." Thus the Poles were officially recognized as our first teachers in trades and perhaps we can even rightfully refer to them as the "Fathers of American Industry."

Following this moving event, the participants were free to tour and explore Jamestown, from the quaint shops down the main street to a large museum, an Indian Village and the waterfront to visit a replica of the ship which brought the first settlers to these shores. It was an enjoyable and great learning experience for everyone.

The Board was privileged to enjoy a luncheon presentation after a business session by Ms. Meg Huebeck, Deputy Director, Youth Leadership Initiatives, University of Virginia Center for Politics.

A concert, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Marcella Kochańska Sembrich, featured mezzo-soprano Justyna Di Biaggio, who won ACPC's Sembrich Vocal Competition last year, accompanied by ACPC's Music Chairman Jarosław Gołombowski. What a spellbinding concert! Ms. Di Biaggio's singing enthralled the audience with varied and delightful presentations from the works of Chopin, Mozart, Moniuszko and G. Bizet. Among the favorites was Bizet's *Sequidilla* from Carmen as Justyna's eloquently vibrant voice and her flirtatious presentation beguiled the rapt listeners, firing their imaginations to seeing Justyna at a full production of the Carmen opera itself. In contrast, her presentations of Moniuszko's tranquil *Kotek* and *Pieśń Wieczorna* were conveyed in lilting and softly caressing tones.

Ms. Di Biaggio's performance was enriched by the performance of Mr. Gołombowski at the piano. There was truly a dynamic interaction of the vocal and piano renditions, with many in the audience expressing the view that this concert was among the very best in our Sembrich series. Additionally, Mr. Gołombowski offered piano presentations of his compositions, *Zdrowaś Mario Op.61*, *Eight O'clock*, *Nine O'clock*, and *Menuet at Ten O'clock from Op 113*. His masterful performance seized the audience's rapt attention and won energetic and prolonged applause to demonstrate the listener's appreciation for his enormous talents. The stirring concert closed as the audience rose simultaneously rendering thunderous applause for an outstanding performance by both artists.

During the course of the convention business sessions, 2nd V.P. Peter Obst reported the following on a program that he and Director Paul Bosse have been developing: "For the second half of 2009, Iwona Stefaniak, head of the Pułaski Museum in Warka, Poland, is organizing an exhibit entitled 'Polish Churches in the United States.' To make an informative display she is looking for photographs, programs, postcards, jubilee books, church bulletins and other items from Polish parishes in the U.S. Thanks to several generous donors, including Past Pres. Debbie Majka and Al Koproski,

Pres. of our Affiliate Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford CT, she has already received some very interesting and valuable items. At the same time, Poland's Ministry of Culture & National Heritage is compiling an information database of Polish parishes abroad. The Museum has agreed to share the materials with the Ministry, but these will remain stored in the Museum's archives, forming part of its Polonia collection. All donors will be acknowledged in a program that will be published for the exhibit. Paul Bosse is heading up the collection effort. He may be reached at 20 South Edgewater Ave., Yardley PA 19067; tele: 215-493-4169; or e-mail to DarBoski@aol.com. Our sincere thanks to all the people who have helped this effort already."

Jacqueline Droleski submitted the names of the nominees for election and they were all accepted by acclamation: Auditor – Marie Hejnosz, Philadelphia; Directors – Sharon Brzostowski, DC; Jacqueline Droleski, Elmira NY; Alicia Dutka, Chicago; Alice Lech-Laning, DC; Robert Maycan, Chicago; Mary Pearlman, DC. Nominating Committee – Florence Beane, DC; Ed Pawłowski, DC. Credentials & Grievances Committee – Matthew Meleski, Detroit; Irene Musman, Philadelphia; Ann Oleasz, Hartford CT.

Following the elections, Dr. Charles F. Merbs, Professor Emeritus at Arizona State University, with a doctorate in anthropology and medical genetics, presented an audio/visual program describing in detail his extensive study of the remains of Gen. Casimir Pułaski. That scientific work led to the conclusion that the remains discovered in Savannah GA were, indeed, those of Pułaski despite a lack of DNA evidence.

Awards Banquet & Ball: A full account of the annual awards and the recipients will be submitted to the Polonia press in a separate article.

Convention 2009: "The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford has the honor to host the 61st Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture at the Hartford Hilton Hotel in Hartford, Connecticut, from August 4 – August 9, 2009. To emphasize the theme of the convention, "The Soaring Polish Spirit; Welcome to the Constitution State", speakers, programs and festivities are being planned to provide the participants and guests with a memorable experience and much enjoyment. Of special interest will be to celebrate the kinship between Connecticut, the first state to have a constitution in 1639, and Poland, which was the first country in Europe to have a constitution in 1791. The three chairwomen, Anna Oleasz, Frances Pudlo and Anna-Mae Maglaty extend a gracious and sincere "Zapraszamy" to all for Convention 2009."

Polonia Booth – Co-Chairs Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski reported that the theme for the National Conference for Social Studies to be held in Houston TX, Nov. 14-16, 2008 is

"Embrace the Future." Anyone interested in helping to provide historical/cultural materials, vital to the success of this program, for distribution to teachers from across the USA, or financial support, please contact Mrs. Nowakowski, 23354 Longview, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127, tele. 313-565-7625.

The four days spent in Williamsburg left the delegates and guests filled with deeply appreciative thoughts. Attendance at the wreath laying ceremony in Jamestown honoring the first Polish settlers with enlightening comments by Presidents Ted Mirecki of ACPC and George Szymański of NAS/NMDA awakened the audience's spirits with pride in their Polish heritage, inspired by the intelligence, hard work ethic and unselfish motivation that prevailed in the hearts of those first Polish settlers. Those noble characteristics are embedded in the hearts and minds of the Polish immigrants and their prodigy that followed in the USA as exemplified today by the fervent and dedicated efforts of Polish American families, individuals, communities and organizations like the American Council for Polish Culture.

The American Council for Polish Culture invites readers to join its national organization and help promote the appreciation of our great Polish culture and heritage throughout the USA. For full information about the benefits and privileges of membership, please visit our website www.polishcultureacpc.org or contact Membership Chair Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, tele. 860-521-7621. □

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

Polish Women's Alliance Out of state members

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National Director

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Your Help is Needed
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Whats 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 American Center of Polish Culture, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.**

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