

Historic Reflections from the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia, PA • April / May

May 10, 1955 - John Radecki (Died)

John Radecki (also known as Jan Radecki) (1865 - 1955) was a master stained glass artist working in Australia, considered to be the finest such artist of his time. Radecki was born on August 2, 1865 at Łódź, Poland to Pavel Radecki and his wife, Victoria.



May 21, 1674 - Jan Sobieski (Coronation)

Jan Sobieski became King of Poland on May 21, 1674. It was Sobieski who defeated the Turkish Armies during the battle of Vienna in 1683, which in turn saved Europe and Western civilization. He has been honored for centuries as the "Defender of Christendom."

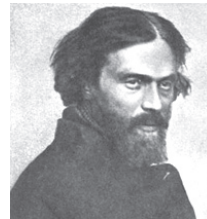


May 11, 1935 - Jozef Pilsudski

Jozef Pilsudski was a Polish revolutionary, statesman, Field Marshal, and Polish Chief of State. He is considered largely responsible for Poland having regained her independence in 1918. Many Polish and Polish American organizations, schools

May 22, 1993 - Mieczyslaw Horszowski (Died)

Pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski was an internationally acclaimed pianist and music teacher whose performances were widely recorded. Mieczyslaw Horszowski was also a teacher at the Curtis Institute and continued to teach and perform until shortly before his death in Philadelphia in 1993 at the age of 100.



May 23, 1883 - Cyprian Norwid (Died)

Cyprian Norwid was a nationally esteemed Polish poet, as well as a prominent sculptor, dramatist and painter. His work was not appreciated during his lifetime. Cyprian Norwid is now considered one of the four most influential poets of Poland.

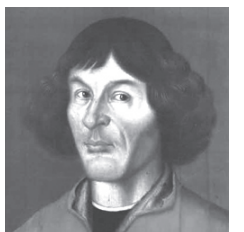
May 12, 1970 - General Wladyslaw Anders (Died)

General Wladyslaw Anders was a Polish freedom fighter and military leader during World War II. In addition to leading Poland's cavalry units during Poland's invasion in 1939, General Wladyslaw Anders is known for creating Anders Army. Anders was also the leader of several successful battles which freed Monte Cassino, Italy, from Nazi occupation.



May 24, 1543 - Mikolaj Kopernik (Died)

Polish astronomer Mikolaj Kopernik, known by his Latin name "Nicholas Copernicus", was born in the city of Torun, Poland. Copernicus is the Father of Modern Astronomy, known as the man who moved the earth and stopped the sun.



May 13, 1984 - Stanislaw Marcin Ulam (Died)

Stanislaw Marcin Ulam was a Polish mathematician who participated in the Manhattan Project and proposed the Teller-Ulam design of thermonuclear weapons. He also invented nuclear pulse propulsion and developed a number of mathematical tools in number theory, set theory, ergodic theory, and algebraic topology.

May 14, 1948 - Walter Olkewicz (Born)

Walter Olkewicz is an actor who played Marko in Wizards and Warriors. He also guest starred in many TV shows including Night Court, Seinfeld, ER, and Who's The Boss. He also played Jacques Renault on Twin Peaks.



May 25, 992 - Mieszko I (Coronation)

Mieszko I was a Duke of Poland and the first historical ruler of Poland. Member of the Piast dynasty, he was son of the legendary Siemomysl, grandchild of Lestek and father to Boleslaw Chrobry, the first crowned prince of Poland, and Swietoslawa-Sygyryda, a Nordic queen.



May 15, 1951 - Dr. Frank Wilczek (Born)

Dr. Frank Wilczek received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of asymptotic freedom. Dr. Wilczek is a professor of physics at the prestigious MIT University and is considered one of the world's most eminent theoretical physicists.

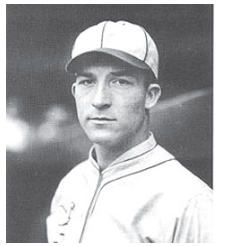
May 16, 1902 - Jan Kiepura (Born)

We remember Jan Kiepura, known as the greatest Polish tenor. Jan Kiepura made his American debut with the Chicago Opera Company in 1931. His performances won him title roles in major operas and he made several recordings during his career.



May 26, 1956 - Aloysius Szymanski (Died)

Aloysius Szymanski, professionally known as Al Simmons, was a player in Major League Baseball for over three decades. Al Simmons was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953. He is on the list of the 100 Greatest Baseball Players in Major League Baseball.



May 17, 1941 - Grace Zabriskie (Born)

Grace Zabriskie is an American actress. She has appeared in many popular American films and television series. Zabriskie may best be remembered in her role as Mrs. Ross, a recurring character on the sitcom, Seinfeld. She played the mother of another doomed daughter, Susan Ross - George Costanza's fiancée.

May 18, 1920 - Karol Wojtyla (Born)

Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope on October 16, 1978 and died on April 2, 2005. He is known as Pope John Paul The Great.

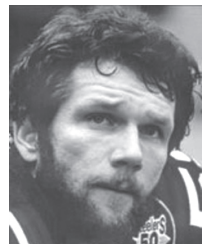
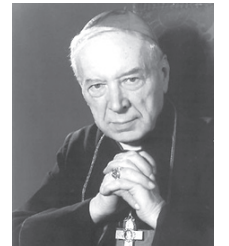


May 27, 1887 - Kazimierz Fajans (Born)

Kazimierz Fajans, a Polish American physical chemist, was the co-author of a work entitled, "The Science of Radioactivity" and helped to formulate the law of radioactive moves. Kazimierz Fajans served as a university professor and researcher in Germany, England and the United States.

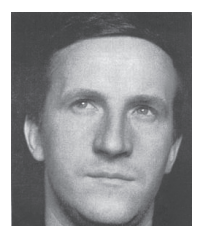
May 28, 1981 - Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski (Died)

Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski was the leader of Poland's Catholic Church during the dark days of Soviet Communist rule in Poland. Cardinal Wyszynski was the chief church official, the Primate of Poland, from 1948 until his death on May 28th in 1981.



May 29, 1987 - Jack Ham (Hall of Fame Induction)

Jack Ham was inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame on May 29, 1987. He played for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1970's and is considered one of the greatest outside linebackers in the history of the NFL.



May 19, 1939 - Tomasz Sikorski (Born)

Pianist Tomasz Sikorski was born in Warsaw in 1939. During his life he wrote chamber, orchestral, solo and choral music. In 1975, he was awarded a senior Fulbright scholarship from the United States government which allowed him to work at the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center in New York. Tomasz Sikorski's work is frequently performed at contemporary Music Festivals throughout the world.

May 20, 1881 - General Wladyslaw Sikorski (Born)

General Wladyslaw Sikorski was a Polish military and political leader. During World War II, General Sikorski became Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces.



May 31, 1957 - Leopold Staff (Died)

Leopold Staff was one of the most recognized Polish poets in the first half of the 20th century. Staff was also an editor, dramatist and prolific translator. He was associated with the Young Poland Movement.



May 30, 2005 - Tomasz Pacynski (Died)

Tomasz Pacynski was a Polish fantasy and science fiction writer. He was one of the creators, and since 2004, the chief editor of Fahrenheit, the first Polish Internet science fiction fanzine. He published short stories in such magazines as Science Fiction, SFera, and Fantasy, and in Internet fanzines such as Fahrenheit, Esensja, Fantazin and Srebrny Glob. He also wrote articles published in SFera and Science Fiction.