



# POLISH AMERICAN News

December 2008 / January 2009



From the Desk of  
**Michael Blichasz, President**  
Polish American Cultural Center Museum  
308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia  
and  
**Polish American Congress**  
Eastern Pennsylvania District  
**PolishAmericanCenter.com**

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

During 2008, the Polish American community marked a key event in its history, the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the First Polish Settlers in America on October 1, 1608, at Jamestown, Virginia. In addition to the celebration sponsored by the National Polish American Congress at Jamestown, there were commemorations held in Polish American communities across the United States. Poles in Philadelphia joined our Tri-State Polonia groups for special commemorations during October. Reports on these activities, including the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, which marked its 75th Anniversary this year, the Polish Harvest Festival "Dozynki," and events marking October as Polish American Heritage Month, are featured throughout this publication. I want to compliment everyone involved, including organizations, churches, youth groups and individuals, for taking the time and making such impressive efforts to promote 400 years of Poles in America. The pictorial highlights in this newspaper are only a brief demonstration of the efforts made by so many to highlight the history, culture and pride of Polonia (Polish Americans), the sixth largest ethnic group forming the Great Mosaic of America.

(continued next column)

As I say so often, "It's important for us to go out of our way to support the efforts of the Polish American community". Only by the good example of proud Poles has Polonia thrived. Every organization needs your continued support. One important way for you to help the cause is by spreading the word! We live in an electronic society, so email information about Polonia to family and friends. Let them know about the Polish customs outlined on the front page of the Museum's Internet site at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**. Place your name in the Email Guest Book and receive updates on Polish American activities. You can also help by emailing this newspaper to others from **PolishAmericanNews.com**.

As we come to the end of another historic year for Polonia, I thank you for supporting Polonia and join with the Officers and Directors of the Polish American Cultural Center Museum and the Polish American Congress in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Wesołych Swiat!*

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## 400th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers in America • 1608-2008



### Outstanding Float Award Presented by the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District Pulaski Day Parade Committee

On Sunday, October 5, 2008, the 75th Annual Pulaski Day Parade, sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, in Center City Philadelphia featured over 100 marching units and floats provided by Polish American organizations, parishes, schools, and musical groups. Many of the floats highlighted the parade theme, the 400th Anniversary of the first Polish settlers in America. This colorful display alerted parade and television viewers of all nationalities that Polish Americans were marking a historic milestone.

The Polish National Alliance Lodge #3106 from Cumberland County, NJ, received special recognition for its float which offered a tribute to the accomplishments of the first Polish settlers in 1608, who built the first glass house and factory in America. The float featured enactors, members of PNA Lodge 3106 dressed in period costumes, manufacturing glass products and singing "Ojczyzna Ma" (my fatherland). The Polish American Congress extends congratulations to the Polish National Alliance, Group 3106, for a memorable tribute to the first Poles in America during the 75th Annual Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia on Sunday, October 5, 2008.

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## Newsletter

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