

25th Anniversary of the Founding of the Polish American Cultural Center 1981-2006

The Polish American Cultural Center was founded in February, 1981, by leaders of the Polish American Social Services who felt that, in addition to addressing the human service needs of the community, it would also be beneficial to organize a separate entity not to compete with other organizations, but to promote public awareness and appreciation of Polish history and culture to the community at large through the establishment of a permanent cultural exhibit.

From 1981 to 1986, the Center was located at 24th and Brown Streets, in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. During that time it became evident that a larger, more centrally located facility would be necessary to meet the long-range mission and goals of the cultural center. In 1986, the search began for a building that would allow an exhibit hall and its related activities to function under one roof.

In 1987, the Cultural Center acquired 308 Walnut Street in the heart of historic Philadelphia and opened a permanent Museum Exhibit Hall. Since that time the Exhibit Hall has been open to the general public 300 days each year and has become a focal point of Polish American activities.

Mission

The mission of the Polish American Cultural Center is to capture and memorialize the spirit of an ethnic culture and to promote public awareness and appreciation of Polish history and cultural heritage to the broadest audience possible. The objective of the Museum Exhibit Hall, a major project of the Cultural Center, is to provide programs and exhibits open to the general public featuring the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans to U. S. and world history and culture in such areas as scientific, artistic, musical, political, religious and military achievement.

Personal pride and self-esteem are largely rooted in an understanding and appreciation of one's historical and ethnic past. Unquestionably, awareness of one's ethnic and cultural heritage uplifts and enriches the human spirit. America represents the world's unique, most extensive experiment in ethnic and racial co-existence. As Americans, we can certainly strive to be one and proud, yet we should also acknowledge the varying ethnic heritages of which we can also be proud.

The Board, Staff and Volunteers of the Polish American Cultural Center welcome all to visit the Center and its Museum Exhibit Hall.

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Polish American String Band Presents "Viva L'Italia" at the Mummers Parade



On Sunday, January 1, 2006, the 105th Philadelphia New Year's Day Mummers strutted down Broad Street, the traditional site of the Mummers Parade, to the finish at 15th and Market Streets.

The 2006 theme of the Polish American String Band, the pride of Port Richmond, was "Viva L'Italia". In a competition with 16 other string bands, they earned a score of 88.500 and a ranking of 5th place. Since the Polish American String Band was founded in 1933, they have won First Prize 11 times and Second Prize 14 times. The Polish American String Band is headquartered at the Columbia Social Club, 3500 block of Almond Street in Port Richmond, where the band gathers each Monday evening for rehearsal.

The Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, and the entire Polonia congratulate the Polish American String Band for a job well done and wish them and their Captain, Mark Danielewicz, much success in their future endeavors. Sto Lat!

www.PolishAmericanStringBand.com

The Show of Shows

You're invited to enjoy New Years Day all over again by attending the 2006 Show of Shows, which will feature the Polish American String Band and all of the string bands that appeared in the Mummers Day Parade.

The Show of Shows will take place on Saturday, February 18th at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey. There will be two performances, at 12 Noon and at 5 P.M.

For tickets or more information, call Ticketmaster at 1-800-736-1420, or visit them on the Internet at: Ticketmaster.com.

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