

Polish American Cultural Center

Eve Curie Labouisse, Daughter and Biographer of Marie Curie



Eve Curie Labouisse, born on December 6, 1904, a journalist and humanitarian best known for the biography of her mother, the prize winning scientist Marie Curie, died October 22 at her home on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. She was 102.

Published in 1937, "Madame Curie" chronicled the life of Marie Curie, who earned the Nobel

Prize twice, first in physics in 1903 (the award was shared with her husband, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel) and again in chemistry in 1911.

Labouisse's admiring portrait followed her mother, born Marya Sklodowska, from her birth and girlhood in Poland through her education in France and her discovery with her husband, of the radioactive elements radium and polonium. The book quickly became a best seller and in 1943 was made into a Hollywood film, starring Greer Garson as Marie and Walter Pidgeon as Pierre.

In demand as a lecturer after "Madame Curie" was published, Labouisse also was known for her staunch public advocacy of the Free French cause after the Nazis occupied France in 1940. After the war she was a publisher of the French newspaper Paris-Press and in the early 1950's was a special advisor to the Secretary General of NATO.

Her other books include "Journey Among Warriors," published in 1943, a best-selling account of her 40,000-mile trip across a series of wartime fronts: North Africa, Iraq, Iran, Russia, India, Burma and China.

The sister of award-winning chemist, Irene Joliot-Curie, Labouisse once joked about her highly-accomplished family. She remarked in an interview in 1972, "You are not mixing me up with my sister by chance? You see, I am the only one of the family not to have won a Nobel Prize." Her sister and her husband, Frederic Joliot, had won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1935.

But Labouisse had abundant talents of her own. Originally trained as a concert pianist, she performed throughout France and Belgium as a young woman and later wrote music criticism for several French periodicals.

In 1954, Eve married Henry Richardson Labouisse, who served as U.S. ambassador to Greece and executive director of UNICEF, and it was he who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize when it was awarded to UNICEF in 1965. She used her many skills to promote peace and economic development. While her husband headed UNICEF, she played a very active role in the organization, traveling with him to advocate for children and to provide support and encouragement to UNICEF staff in remote and difficult locations.

Labouisse is survived by her step-daughter, Anne L. Peretz, four step-grandchildren and 11 step-great-grandchildren.

Christmas Holiday Customs Highlighted at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum



Celebrating Polish Christmas with Sw. Mikolaj (St. Nicholas)

Polish Christmas Open House at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia, was held on Saturday, December 8th. Between 11 A.M. and 2 P.M., hundreds of visitors enjoyed snacks and refreshments, compliments of the Museum volunteers, a Holiday Magic Show, a visit by Sw. Mikolaj and children from St. Adalbert Polish Language School presented a concert of Koledy. Children were thrilled when Sw. Mikolaj had pictures taken with them and presented every child with a traditional Polish treat of gingerbread cookies and a candy cane, just as he has done in Poland for hundreds of years.

The board, staff, and volunteers of the Museum thank all who attended this year's Polish Christmas Open House and invite you to visit the Museum Exhibit Hall, 308 Walnut Street, the next time you're in historic Philadelphia. The Museum is presently on its winter schedule, open admission free, Monday to Friday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. If you would like additional information call (215) 922-1700 during regular business hours.



Children enjoy a visit from Sw. Mikolaj at the Polish Christmas Open House.



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