

## Congratulations Frank Spula Person of the Year

On Saturday, January 31, 2015, Frank Spula, President of the Polish National Alliance, was honored with a Person of the Year Award during the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance inaugural ball, held at The Elmcrest Banquets in Elmwood Park, IL. More than 200 people attended the black tie affair.

The Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance was founded to promote the welfare of its members and the community, as well as advancing economic and cultural factors.

The alliance assists and provides leadership to additional organizations and humanitarian efforts, as well as offers life insurance and other services to its members.

Members of the Polish National Alliance, Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia, along with the entire Polonia, extend congratulations, best wishes and much success in the future to Frank Spula. Sto Lat!



### From the Desk of **Mary Ann Zerkowski, President**

Berks County Polish American  
Board of Education  
[mazredwing@aol.com](mailto:mazredwing@aol.com)

#### \$27,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

During 2015, the Polish American Board of Education of Berks County is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. The organization was founded in May 1945, by a concerned group of Polish American citizens after a survey was conducted with the cooperation of the guidance counselors of all Berks County high schools. The survey indicated that less than 2% of all high school graduates of Polish descent in Berks County enrolled in a college or university to further their education. The group decided to establish a Polish American Board of Education that would provide financial aid to worthy students of Polish American descent to assist them with their tuition payments. Since its inception, PABEBC has awarded 267 scholarships totaling more than \$800,000.

On April 12, 2015, the Polish American Board of Education of Berks County will be awarding thirteen college scholarships totaling \$27,000 to Berks County high school seniors of Polish American descent. Applicants for the scholarships can obtain application forms and guidelines in the office of the guidance counselor in all Berks County high schools and they can be downloaded from the PABEBC website at [www.pabeberks.org](http://www.pabeberks.org). Completed application forms are due no later than Saturday, March 7, 2015, to the PABEBC Scholarship Secretary, Ronald Savitski, 159 Texter Mountain Road, Wernersville, PA., 19565-9442. Tel. 610.693.9792.

The scholarships will be awarded at the PABEBC annual banquet to be held at the Reading Country Club on Sunday, April 12. For more information and reservations please contact Helen Nowotarski at 610.777.4598.

### The Kosciuszko Room

Visit "The Kosciuszko Room" During February, the month Kosciuszko was born, or anytime throughout the year, visit the Kosciuszko Room in Ansonia, CT.

The Kosciuszko Room, established in 1980 by Joseph Wardzala, who devoted more than 50 years of his life studying the life and accomplishments of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and sponsored by the Kosciuszko Historical Society of Ansonia, Derby, Shelton and Seymour, is located on the second floor in the historic home of General David Humphreys House, 37 Elm Street, Ansonia, CT.

While in the United States, Kosciuszko befriended and spent much time in the home of General Humphreys.

The Kosciuszko Room displays many artifacts honoring General Kosciuszko, including photographs, books, portraits, dolls dressed in traditional Polish dress, and a letter written by Humphreys to Kosciuszko in 1791. It is open, admission free, Monday through Friday, from 1 to 4 p.m., or by appointment by calling Joseph Wardzala at 203-732-5886.

### Polish Museum of America

#### America's First Ethnic Museum

984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

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Founded in 1935, the Polish Museum of America is one of the country's first and largest ethnic museums. Polish and Polish American history is promoted through music, artworks, and historical and cultural displays.

### From the Desk of Dr. Janusz Romanski, President, Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy

As president of Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy (PUL), I am looking for interesting topics and potential speakers, who could present lectures in Polski Dom. During my last trip to Poland, I was invited by several educational institutions: Gdansk University of Technology, Polonia Academy, The World Association of the Polish Heritage, Cracow University of Technology, and the Jagiellonian University. I made 4 presentations about Polonia and her achievements in America. I met a number of interesting people, professionals, including one of the most known people in the world, Lech Walesa, former President of Poland.



Left: Dr. Janusz Romanski; Right: Lech Walesa

In brief summary I can state that Poland is very much interested in cooperating with Polonia in the U.S. On October 4, 2014, the Polonia Council met in the Polish Consulate in New York City. Representatives of the Polish Foreign Ministry presented a cooperation program with U.S. Polonia organizations. Every organization can present a project and after acceptance, the group will receive funds. It is a new initiative provided by the Polish government for the purpose of engaging Poles who live abroad, especially aimed toward the young generation. The promotion package points out the importance of Polish language, culture and traditions in education of the young Polonia generation in the U.S. Poland wants to bring together the young Polonia.

I want to address another event which was held in Gdansk. I attended a seminar on "Globalization and Continentalization and its Consequences for the World", presented by Lech Walesa. The former President of Poland gave a very informative and interesting speech. Trade and investments should be a priority for Polonia and be part of education in his view.

The next topic is related to commercial cooperation with Poland. The new Council is created which organizes a number of meetings for professional groups in the U.S. In November 2014, technical meetings were conducted on innovation, science and technology transfer between the U.S. and Poland. Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education instituted a program "**Top 500 Innovators**" for young Polish scholars to undergo professional development at leading U.S. academic institutions. A group of the top 200 professionals is expected to arrive at Stanford University, CA.

Polish People University lectures will address these topics. PUL is working to change the traditional image of Polonia to a professional one. We will cooperate with organizations at Polski Dom to reach out to the young Polonia generation and build a bridge between the country of our heritage, Poland, and Polonia. PUL will continue its mission to promote the Polish language, heritage and history to Polonia. Everybody is invited to PUL lectures, which are free and open to the public.

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### Christmas Holiday Raffle Winner

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, during the Polish American Cultural Center Museum's Christmas Open House, the \$500 Christmas Holiday Raffle drawing took place. The lucky winner was Caroline Ciesielka, ticket #3835.

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum board, staff, and volunteers wish to thank everyone who purchased the Christmas Holiday Raffle tickets, which benefit the Museum Exhibit Hall, as well as help to sponsor the annual Polish Christmas Open House and youth program.