

Historic Reflections from the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia, PA • February / March



February 22, 1852 - Samuel Goldflam (Born)

Samuel Wulfowicz Goldflam was a Polish neurologist best known for his brilliant 1893 analysis of myasthenia gravis (Erb-Goldflam syndrome).



March 4, 1932 - Ryszard Kapuscinski (Born)

Ryszard Kapuscinski was an internationally renowned Polish journalist, author, publicist and poet. Ryszard Kapuscinski documented world events from the fall of the Shah of Iran to the fall of the Soviet Empire. His books have been translated into thirty languages.

February 23, 1891 - Fr. Leopold Moczygemba (Died)

Fr. Leopold Moczygemba was a patriarch of America's Polonia. Fr. Moczygemba organized the first Polish settlement in the United States at Panna Maria, Texas in 1854. He was one of the founders and also served as a president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, which was founded in Chicago in 1873. He also established the first Polish College in America at Orchard Lake, Michigan.



March 5, 1901 - Julian Przybos (Born)

Julian Przybos was a Polish poet, essayist and translator, one of the most important poets of Kraków Avantgarde.



February 24, 1986 - Wojciech Wolski (Born)

Wojciech "Wojtek" Wolski (pronounced: VOY-tek VOL-skee; born February 24, 1986 in Zabrze, Poland) is a Canadian professional ice hockey left winger of Polish descent, who played for the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League (NHL). He also played for the Colorado Avalanche and the Phoenix Coyotes.



March 6, 1926 - Andrzej Wajda (Born)

Andrzej Wajda was a film and theater director, script writer and set designer, and world renowned cinematographer. He produced numerous award winning films in Poland and then spread his talents to other European countries and the world. He has received awards for excellence from dozens of countries and received an honorary Oscar Award for his lifetime achievements.

February 25, 1885 - Jozef Kostrzewski (Born)

Jozef Kostrzewski was a Polish archeologist and professor at Poznan University. He was highly regarded for conducting the excavation of the Iron Age settlement of Biskupin after World War I.



March 7, 1911 - Stefan Kisielewski (Born)

Stefan Kisielewski, pseudonyms Kisiel, Julia Holynska, Teodor Klon, Tomasz Stalinski, was a Polish writer, publicist, composer and politician, and one of the members of Znak, one of the founders of the UPR, the Polish libertarian and conservative political party.



February 26, 1901 - Lucyna Cwierzakiewiczowa (Died)

Lucyna Cwierzakiewiczowa was a Polish writer, journalist and author of the first Polish cook book. In 1860 she published her famous 365 meals for less than 5 zlotys. Her cook book was reprinted more than 23 times. Lucyna Cwierzakiewiczowa also published an annual calendar for women filled with cooking recipes, woman's suffrage information and poems.



March 8, 1822- Jan Lukasiewicz (Born)

Jan Józef Ignacy Lukasiewicz was a Polish pharmacist and petroleum industry pioneer who in 1856 built the first oil refinery in the world. Among his other achievements were the discovery of how to distill kerosene from seep oil, the invention of the modern kerosene lamp (1853), the introduction of the first modern street lamp in Europe (1853), and the construction of the first oil well in Poland (1854).

February 27, 1929 - Stefan Kudelski (Born)

Stefan Kudelski was a Polish engineer who created the Nagra series of professional audio recorders. In 1957, he built the transistorized tape recorder with electronic speed controls. Stefan Kudelski received Academy Award Oscars for sound technology in 1965, 1977, 1978 and in 1990 and won two Emmy Awards.



March 9, 1852 - Hieronim Derdowski (Born)

Hieronim Derdowski was a Polish immigrant who played an important part in his community in Winona, Minnesota. Hieronim Derdowski edited the weekly newspaper, Wiarus, where he advocated for sustaining Polish culture and traditions and carried stories about Polish communities in the United States and Europe. He was a Kaszubian, from the Baltic coast of Poland, and maintained the Kaszubian dialect, traditions and folkways.



February 28, 1994 - Wieslaw Wisniewski (Died)

Wieslaw Wisniewski was an astronomy professor at the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory in Tucson, Arizona. He published over 120 scholarly works in the field of astronomy and has asteroid number 2256 named in his honor.



March 10, 1936 - Wojciech Lukaszewski (Born)

Wojciech Lukaszewski was a composer and music teacher from Czestochowa, Poland. Lukaszewski's music continues to be performed throughout Poland and by orchestras and choral groups throughout the world. Lukaszewski received numerous awards for his musical presentations written in the 1950's, 60's and 70's.

March 1, 1819 - Wladyslaw Taczanowski (Born)

Wladyslaw Taczanowski was a Polish zoologist who is considered one of the most important European zoologists of the 19th Century. Taczanowski is known for two significant studies, Birds of Poland, written in 1882 and Ornithology of Peru in 1884. Two animal species are named after him.



March 11, 2000 - Kazimierz Brandys (Died)

Kazimierz Brandys was a Polish writer who lectured in the United States and lived his last days in Paris. Brandys took part in establishing the democratic opposition movement in Poland. He is known for his moving account of Stalinist terror in his book Matka Krolow.



March 2, 1973 - Paul Popowich (Born)

Paul Popowich is an actor who has performed in many television series (such as Beverly Hills, 90210). Paul is best known for his portrayal of Mr. Smith in Season 2 of Twice in a Lifetime, where he played an angel who had to help people change their past for a better future.

March 3, 1996 - John Cardinal Krol (Died)

John Cardinal Krol was a Polish American Cardinal and the Archbishop of Philadelphia from 1961 to 1988. John Cardinal Krol participated in the Second Vatican Council, served as President of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and was advisor to Pope John Paul II.



March 12, 1999 - Poland Joins NATO (Event)

The foreign ministers of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary put an end to a decade of tough political negotiations as they handed over the NATO Accession Protocols to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on March 12, 1999 in Independence, Missouri, in the United States.

March 13, 1995 - Franciszek Gajowniczek (Died)

Franciszek Gajowniczek, whose life was spared at the Auschwitz death camp when Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, now Saint Maximilian Kolbe, asked to be executed in Gajowniczek's place in 1941. In return, Fr. Kolbe was sentenced to a slow death by starvation and Franciszek Gajowniczek was eventually reunited with his family.



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