THE WHISPERERS

You may still come across vestiges of ancient folk practices that cling desperately to the past in Podlasie, a bucolic province of mystical beauty located in the north-east corner of Poland. September 29 through October 1, 2016, the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning exhibited a number of fascinating photographs of village faith healers from the region, who still practice an age-old spiritual art that presumes to cure people of their ailments. The photos are the work of photojournalist Kuba Kaminski. Mr. Kaminski holds a degree in photography from the Łódź Film School and he is employed as a staff photographer at Polish Press Agency and European Photopress Agency.

The exhibit was sponsored by The Novak Family Chair in Polish Studies at the Quinnipiac University Central European Institute. The Novak Family Polish Chair was established by Pete and Kasia Novak in support of the establishment of the Institute’s Polish American Business Leader Scholars Program. The Program provides annual scholarships for Polish students pursuing their MBA at Quinnipiac and gain corporate experience at American companies before returning to Poland.

“The Whisperers” was the first of many successful future events and projects we hope to engage in jointly with Quinnipiac’s Central European Institute. A photo (numbered 2/30) was donated to the Polish Center by Mr. Eugene Kirejczyk. It may be viewed in the Folk Art Gallery at the Polish Center. It was a distinct honor for the Polish Center to host the premiere of this photographic exhibit, which went on to be shown in Connecticut and New York City.

S. Radosz

SYLVIA ZAREMBA COLLECTION

The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning received a collection of memorabilia from the niece of renowned pianist Sylvia Zaremba. Former board member Mr. Robert Perlak contacted the niece, who lives in Connecticut, and suggested that the Polish Center was an appropriate place to preserve this material. Ms. Zaremba’s obituary in the New York Times begins: “The House of Steinway & Sons notes with great sorrow the passing of American pianist on June 3 in Columbus, Ohio at the age of 74. A native of Chicopee, Massachusetts, Sylvia Zaremba was a valued member of our Steinway artist family for 61 years”.

Ms. Zaremba began her concert career as a pianist at the age of five, when she performed with the Symphony Orchestra in Boston. At the age of ten, she performed with the Cleveland Orchestra under Arthur Rodzinski and gave her New York City recital debut at the Town Hall in the same year. She was represented by the Sol Hurok Talent Agency in New York. The Polish Center received a large collection of letters in which she was given directions as to where she would be performing, as well as travel and housing arrangements. Ms. Zaremba played with major symphony orchestras, where she worked with Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, and Leopold Stokowski. She also performed at the White House for President Harry Truman.

Ms. Zaremba began her training with her mother, but soon after enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Later, she became a teacher herself and became Chairman of the Keyboard Department at the Ohio State University School of Music.

Among the items we received were three dresses which she wore while performing, one of which she wore when she was five years old. These items and dozens of others are a spectacular addition to our collection. We hope to have some on display in the near future.

Ron Lech

2017 SOCCER EVENTS!

Come join us! Watch the broadcast of the Polish National Team’s participation in the Euro 2018 competition. Polish Center board member Robert Lepecki will host the Poland National Team Soccer events at the Pulaski Hall, located at 13 Norman Street in Chicopee, MA on Sunday March 26, Saturday June 10, and Friday September 1, 2017. Free parking.

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT...

was presented to Stas Radosz by the Polish American Congress of Western Massachusetts on occasion of its October 2, 2016 Polish American Heritage Banquet, at Pilсудski Park in Holyoke, MA. Stas was especially appreciative of the kind sentiments expressed on the award: “With profound appreciation for the Dignity Given Polish History and Our Polish Heritage, The Polish American Congress of Western Massachusetts, Inc. Presents This Recognition of Achievement to Stanislaw “Staś” Radosz Teacher of Polish History, Language and Culture, Executive Director and Founder Polish Center of Discovery and Learning”.

S. Radosz
ARTUR SZYK IMAGES IN OUR GALLERIES

Among the many thought provoking images that can be viewed in the galleries of the Polish Center are those of Artur Szyk, an especially fascinating illustrator who excelled in depicting historical, literary, and religious subjects that could be political, inspirational, dramatic, as well as disturbing. His Polish-Jewish heritage in addition to the turbulent events prior to and during WWII provided him with a wealth of inspirational material to draw from.

The Polish Center has a February 27, 1943 issue of Collier’s Weekly, which is representative of his many dramatic political anti-Axis caricatures. The Center also has on display 20 of the 1938 postcard reproductions of his paintings from his Polish-American Fraternity Series. The original paintings were commissioned for the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 World’s Fair in New York City and intended to depict the rich historical bonds between the United States and Poland.

The collection of postcards effectively complement the other exhibits we have on display from the 1939 World’s Fair Polish Pavilion in the same gallery. On occasion, the World’s Fair material receives comments from visitors to the Polish Center who recall attending the Fair many decades ago.

THE PAINTINGS DEPICT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS AND INDIVIDUALS IN POLISH AMERICAN HISTORY:

1. The death of Michael Grabowski who fought in the ranks of the French Relief Volunteer Army and was killed in action during the Revolutionary War.
2. Polish Jamestown Colony Pioneers in Virginia 1609.
3. Felix Miklaszewicz, Polish Lithuanian Revolutionary War Privateer.
4. George Washington and Kazimierz Pulaski (Father of the American Cavalry) after the battle near the Brandywine River.
5. Union Army Brigadier General Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski at the Battle of Cross Keys.
7. Fur Trade in New Amsterdam. One of the first Polish settlers in New Amsterdam and Kentuck, Pioneer Olbracht Zaborowski (Zabriskie).
10. Kosciuszko constructing the fortifications of Saratoga.

11. Ignacy Paderewski. Pianist, composer, Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and representative of the Polish National Committee in the United States.
15. Jan of Kolno, a navigator said to have reached North America in 1476.
17. Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski.
20. Polish Silesians with Fr. Leopold Moczygomba, OFM Conv. 1854 and the first successful permanent Polish American settlement, Panna Maria, Texas, 1854.

Karolina Szocik
S. Radosz
2017 POLISH HERITAGE TOUR
JULY 23 – AUGUST 7, 2017

For many years now, we have sponsored heritage tours of Poland to benefit our very special museum and educational center. The goal of these tours has been to be both entertaining as well as instructive. Tours focus on specific regions of the country and differ from most commercial programs. This year, we have selected a fascinating part of Poland that once played a vital economic, political and cultural role in the nation’s early development and that exhibits vestiges of pronounced historical influences from its neighbors to the west and to the south.

The program for 2017 has participants arriving in Warsaw. The Polish Center tours never omit a visit to the Polish Military Museum. This museum, with its extraordinary exhibits, is a gem of Polish history which no one should miss seeing. Its collection provides participants with a deep and especially intimate introduction to the history of Polish people.

This year, we have included a visit to Czocha Castle. If the castle evokes images from the Harry Potter books, there is good reason. It is no less mysterious and imposing than the images of Hogwarts and the School of Wizardry that Harry Potter fans may have envisioned. Role playing enthusiasts—and certainly participants who wish to one day return for additional adventures in Poland—will be pleased to learn that a four-day wizard school and events (with magical creatures and a banquet) are offered throughout the year at Czocha. On the way to Czocha, participants will journey west to Kliczkow Castle, where they will stay the night, and lunch at Tłokina Palace. They will go on to Bolesławiec (home of the Polish pottery, which is sold all over the world), then go on to Swidnica, Książ Palace in the town of Walbrzych, Wrocław and Wisła. They will continue to the Beskid Mountains (so very different from the high Carpathians) and the Beskid Folk Festival, among other attractions.

The tour will take them to Żywiec near the Czech border and continue to the famous Żywiec brewery and its museum. From there, on to the Royal city of Kraków, the gem of all Polish cities. The tour goes on to Zakopane in the high Carpathians and ends in Rzeszów, the region from which so very many Polish American come.

To learn more about this 15-day (14 nights) Polish Center benefit tour or to receive a precise itinerary with details, please contact Staś at the Polish Center or PAT TOURS Tel: 413-747-7702; E-mail: info@pattours.com.

ENDORSING THE WORK OF THE POLISH CENTER

The Polish Center has come a long way since the first recommendations for its inception were penned on paper at Elms College in 1998. Today, it boasts a remarkable collection of Polish and Polish American memorabilia in an impressive exhibition space. Its success is due to the enthusiasm and dedication of countless volunteers, as well as charitable and caring individuals, associations, and businesses who have supported the Center through annual memberships, memorial tributes, employer matching gifts, sponsorships, grants, special gifts, and much more. The following are but a few of many noteworthy examples.

For a number of years now, for instance, the Polish Junior League of Massachusetts has adopted the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning as its charity of choice. The Polish Center has received special annual gifts in addition to other donations, including memorial gifts in honor of members who have passed away as well as individuals in their families.

The Polish National Alliance (PNA) has been an especially steadfast and valuable supporter of the Polish Center for a good number of years. The PNA Chicago, PNA lodges and their individual members (especially those of District 1) have been particularly generous from the beginning. The chief promoter of our efforts has been one very dedicated individual, Teresa Strzuki Sherman, a life-long active member of the PNA, former board member of the Polish Center and friend.

Aside from matching gifts from companies such as MassMutual Life Insurance and VOYA Financial, memorial donations have played an important role in support of our mission. The Polish Center often received gifts through wills and requests that memorial donations be directed to the Center in lieu of flowers. Recently, for example, multiple contributions were received in memory of Irene Alston, Edmund Babski, Czeslaw Cholewa, Edward Cynarski, Maria Gadecki, Anne Jendrysik, Sally Kempisty, Sophie Kielbasa, Sophie Krzys, Konstanty Maciaszek, John Midura, Genowefa Ozga-Leszkowicz, Stanley Socha, Stanley Soja, Meczyslaw Szlachta and Mieczyslaw and Leokadia Wrega. For many years now, Lorraine and John Kieras, of Kieras Oil, Inc. have remembered friends, relatives, and clients with special gifts to the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning.
SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN THE PAST TO MAKING THE POLISH CENTER OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION.

OUR GOAL IS TO BECOME A VALUABLE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS VERY SPECIAL CENTER depends on a continued strong expression of interest and support by the College and people like you — the friends of Polish culture! We invite you to become a supporting member (or renew your membership) of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College. Please encourage others — friends and family—to support the Polish Center.

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My Name ________________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________________
City, State and Zip ___________________________________________________ Phone______________
I would like to receive newsletters and other messages from the Polish Center by e-mail ____Yes ____No
My e-mail address is __________________________

A special gift of $ __________ in honor or memory of __________________________

Please ask about memorial opportunities
Choose to name an area of the Polish Center after your family or someone especially important to you, a fraternal organization, or enterprise.

The Polish Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

Polskie Centrum Naukowe jest organizacją niezależną i niedochodową.

Please ask about special gift giving (check the box). In addition to special gift giving, families and businesses have an opportunity for commemorative sponsorship of rooms and galleries in our new home.

Please return to:
Polish Center
33 South Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
EMBRACE YOUR HERITAGE

CELE
POLSKIEGO CENTRUM NAUKOWEGO

Zbieranie i przechowywanie przedmiotów o tematyce historyczno-kulturalnej polskiej ludności w Stanach Zjednoczonych i w Polsce.

Po zrealizowaniu celów, pragniemy stać się żywym pomnikiem czczącym pamięć polskich emigrantów i ich potomków jako współuczestników życia kultury, nauki i ekonomii tego kraju.

Organizowanie wystaw, warsztatów naukowych, wykładów i seminariów

Udzielanie pomocy osobom szukającym informacji i materiałów pomocniczych o Polsce i Polakach w Stanach Zjednoczonych.

Udzielanie wsparcia osobom dążącym do wprowadzenia polskich tematów do programów nauczania i utworzenie baz danych informacji dotyczących Polski i Polonii.

Some village household tools and utensils from the Polish Cottage recently constructed at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning

POLISH CENTER HOURS
1 TO 5 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY EXCEPT FOR MAJOR HOLIDAYS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER.
Special arrangements may be made for other hours and days by calling in advance.
Phone 413-592-0001.