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First Lady Maria Kaczyńska awarded *Polonia Restituta to Danuta and Andrzej Niżyński. Górale traveled from Arizona to meet the First Lady*

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(Cultural Consul), and Mr. Henry (Hy) Blythe III of Paso Robles (the owner of the former Paderewski Estate and the initiator of the Paderewski Monument project in Paso Robles), made plans for a special commemoration of Paderewski on the USC campus and discussed ways of erecting the Paderewski Monument in Los Angeles. She is now serving as President of Society for Polish Music and completing an edited a book of studies, including her Paderewski research, for the Polish Institute of Arts and Culture, entitled "A Romantic Century in Polish Music."

Marek Żebrowski, Director of the PMC since 2004, is continuing the Paderewski lecture series. In 2005, the lecturer was Marta Ptaszyńska, and in 2006 it was Joseph Herter. In association with the Consulate, PAC, and PAHA, Mr. Żebrowski had worked on the Paderewski Monument Project, organizing a high-level Honorary Committee to help promote this worthy undertaking.

During the lecture presentation at Loyola Marymount University honoring Madame Maria Kaczyńska, Mr. Żebrowski told of the progress being made in fund-raising and announced that First Lady Maria Kaczyńska will be the Honorary Committee chairwoman of the project which is composed of several prominent civic and political leaders from around the world. The First Lady will attend the unveiling of the Monument on October 4, 2007 and Composer Krzysztof Meyer, will be the speaker of the Sixth Annual Paderewski Lecture Series.

As a pianist, Paderewski was one of the greatest virtuosos in the history of music. But his spectacular achievements were not limited only to the area of piano performance. Paderewski was one of Poland's greatest patriots - a man who devoted a considerable amount of his life and resources to Polish causes. Paderewski and writer Henryk Sienkiewicz started the "Polish Victims' Relief Fund" in 1915 and for three years toured the United States, speaking on Poland's behalf and donating proceeds from his concerts to numerous Polish causes. Paderewski's tireless advocacy for Poland secured President Wilson's support for the establishment of an independent Poland. For three years after the war - between 1918 and 1921 - Paderewski completely abandoned his very lucrative performing career in order to serve his country. He was the first Premier of independent Poland and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, unifying different factions and political parties within the newly-reborn Polish state. Paderewski's extensive personal contacts with the crowned heads of Europe, heads of state, and other influential individuals all over the world made him a perfect representative for Poland during the Versailles Conference and a life-long ambassador of his native land.

When World War II broke out Paderewski was seventy nine years old and living in Switzerland. In spite of his age, he once again extended his helping hand to Poland, serving the Polish government in-exile. After the Nazi invasion of France, he traveled to the United States, making speeches, meeting with politicians and civic leaders, and pleading once again for help for his beloved country. His last speech, on June 22, 1941, was given in Oak Ridge, New Jersey. Paderewski's impassioned oratory reached the hearts of his audience, a several thousand strong crowd of Polish-Americans and Veterans of World War I. Speaking of the international tyranny that once again was trying to deny the Polish nation the right to exist, Paderewski said: "This is no ordinary war... It is a question of our future, of the future of the whole world." He concluded by articulating an astonishingly correct vision of Poland's future: "... I believe that this historic tragedy will give birth to Poland. I don't know if my fate will allow me to see this Poland, but I deeply believe that for you and for your children the country will be a source of pride and joy." Exactly one week later. Paderewski died in New York City

allow me to see this Poland, but I deeply believe that for you and for your children the country will be a source of pride and joy." Exactly one week later, Paderewski died in New York City and was buried at the Arlington National Cemetery. It was only after the independent Poland emerged from the ruins of the Communist regime in 1989 that Paderewski's remains were returned for burial in Warsaw.

To have the Paderewski Monument stand at one of the most prestigious universities in America is undoubtedly a magnificent tribute to the achievements of one of Poland's greatest sons. The University of Southern California already has recognized Paderewski's immense and noble deeds with the greatest honor it could bestow upon him. Today, the initiative to preserve that legacy must come from Polish-Americans. Financial contributions for the Monument from all over the United States would indeed be a proper expression of gratitude to the memory of this extraordinary artist and patriot to whom all of us owe so much. As of April 1, 2007, we have raised 25% of the total funds needed for construction costs of the Monument. Please consider sending your donation in recognition of Paderewski's achievements on Poland's behalf to the Paderewski Monument Fund Drive that is coordinated by Polish-American Historical Association, California Chapter. Your checks should be made out to "PAHA, California Chapter" (with the note "for Paderewski Fund") and sent to: POLAM Federal Credit Union

589 North Larchmont Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90004.

The Paderewski Fund Drive is a 501 C3 registered not-for-profit organization, and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowable by state and federal laws. Please share this appeal with all your relatives and friends. Each and every one of us can feel proud to support this unique and magnificent project. On behalf of all the organizers of this effort - the Polish Music Center at USC, the Consulate-General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles, the Polish-American Congress, and the Polish-American Historical Association - a heartfelt thank you for your understanding and generosity.

Information provided by PAC and PNA, PMC-Maja Trochimczyk and PMC-Marek Żebrowski □

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Embassy Adoption Program



Al Konvoski

Adults in the photo: L - Dr. Monika Król, Hanna Bondarewski, Ambassador Janusz Reiter and Mrs. Hanna Reiter.

The Embassy of Poland and the American Center of Polish Culture finalized their participation of the Embassy School Adoption Program on Tuesday, May 29th. At 1 PM the 6th grade children of Anne Beers Elementary School in Washington DC, all thirty of them, were whisked away on Lot Airlines on their imaginary trip to Poland and its capitol of Warsaw.

The children were tutored by Dr. Monika Krol, executive Director of the American Center of Polish Culture, (National Polish Center) in Washington DC in the history of Poland, which they performed flawlessly. The children danced in authentic Polish Krakowiak costumes that were sewn specifically for them by the Arlen Textile Group in Poland. One of their teachers, Mr. Rhone M. Jones put it all into perspective when he said, "this is why we teach".

The children of this Afro American Inner School were fantastic students. For several weeks Ms. Hanna Bondarewska went to the school, on an almost daily basis, to help the children practice during their free time. Mrs. Hanna Reiter, wife of Ambassador of Poland Janusz Reiter, was the driving force in this effort at the school. The children gave a second performance at the Embassy of Poland in the evening, which ended with a standing ovation for the children and their teachers, coordinators and Mrs. Reiter.

Participating in the program at the Embassy were Carol Bogash of the Washington Performing Arts Society, Principal Gwendolyn Payton of Anne Beers Elementary School and Ambassador of Poland Janusz Reiter.

If you would like to know more about the program contact Dr. Monika Krol at the National Polish Center by calling 202-785-2320 or email director@polishcenterdc.org

Kościuszko Park Rededication



The City of Stamford Connecticut and Stamford's Polish American Community rededicated Kosciuszko Park in Stamford's South End. The park was first dedicated in May 1977 and was closed for 3 years while undergoing a 4 Million-Dollar renovation. The park is located on a peninsula on Stamford's waterfront, and is the jewel of the city's park system. Mr. Koproski mentioned that Kosciuszko is an American hero and that we must promote our Polish American culture and rich heritage.

Stamford's Polish American Community attended the 11:30 AM Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church and after mass they walked to the park, a half mile away, with a police escort. Pictured are Jerzy Karwowski - Polonian Leader, Mayor Daniel Malloy, Al Koproski - Chairman, and Rev. Stanley Staniszewski - Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church, who blessed the park.

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