



# News of Polonia

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## Wiadomości Polonijne

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### 9th Annual Polish Films Festival Los Angeles

By: *Jadwiga Inglis*



*Jacek Nowaczyński*

L. - Festival director **Wladek Juskiewicz**, CG **Paulina Kapuścińska**, and Los Angeles Councilmember **Tom LaBonge**

The Ninth Annual Polish Film Festival Los Angeles provided screenings of documentaries, feature and short films, television theatre, Student's etudes and animations. Spectators saw 67 films. The Festival was attended by many from Poland and the USA: Attending the Festival were actors and actresses Danuta Szaflarska, Danuta Stenka, Artur Żmijewski, Agnieszka Grochowska, Anna Gzyra, Krzysztof Pieczyński, Tomasz Kot, Tomasz Kammel, Marek Probosz, Joshua Leonard, Michael Dunn, Irina Bjorklund, Julie Erickson, Sydney Barrosse and Robert Forster, directors Jacek Bromski, Łukasz Karwowski, Dorota Kędzierzawska, Tomasz Konecki, Łukasz Palkowski, Wiesław Saniewski, Piotr Szczepański, Romy Stepniewska, Filip Rymza, Mariusz Kotowski, Varda Hardy, Krystoff Przykucki and cinematographers Janusz Kamiński, Arthur Reinhart, and Witold Sobociński.

*Film Festival to page 7*

### PAC Board of Directors Meeting

By: *Betsy Cepielik*



On May 7 – 9 the Polish American Board of Directors meeting was held at the beautiful Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Directors from the Midwest and east coast were delighted with the 95 degree temperature in Phoenix. (The hot weather will come in the summer.)

Pam Komorowska coordinated the registration and many other administrative duties necessary for the running of the meeting. Pam reported there are 161 National Directors were 69 directors in attendance – the most in several years. The meeting was all business with no banquets. Directors met with each other for dinner and discussions. On Thursday May 7, President Spula presided over an early meeting combined with breakfast for all Division Presidents. There was also a National Directors meeting geared for discussions.

Southern California was represented by SoCal President Marty Cepielik, and delegates Frank Kosowicz, Michael Dutkowski, and Andrew Prokopczuk. Rick Kobzi was a delegate-at-large. The Northern California delegation consisted of NoCal President Zdzisław Zakrzewski, Edmund Lewandowski, and Krzysztof Wisiński.

**May 7**

Professor Anthony Bajdek gave his **American Agenda** report. Mr. Bajdek stressed the importance of being in close contact with state legislators, as 54 percent of the present U.S. Congress have come out of state governments. Due to the activism of Bajdek and his group, Massachusetts passed a Visa Waiver for Poland in May 2004, established a Polish caucus in the legislature in February 2007, and proclaimed a Polish American Congress Day in April 2008. The PAC is the fifth largest ethnic organization in the U.S. He urged all to go to their state legislature and voice their opinions (concisely.)

Seventeen states have PAC divisions, but more are needed. Illinois and Arizona have passed visa waiver resolutions, and he is working on Alaska. In Michigan and New York work is being done on the Matt Urban stamp. Jerry Surowiec is the Michigan Polish representative. In New York, Teresa Bunk, Joe Macielog, and Frank Milewski are hard at work for Polish legislation. He urged California to work on the visa waiver. (California's Northern delegation promised to work on it.)

Bajdek feels that there is "too much Polonaise and not enough politics."

In Pennsylvania, presidential candidate Barack Obama spoke to a Polish group in Pittsburgh.

**Media and Public Relations** – Jerzy Rożański – Detroit, Michigan

A very brief report was given by VP of Public Relations, Jerzy Rożański, who is attempting to work together with the mainstream media and the PolAm media.

*PAC Directors Meeting to page 16*

### Cover Up for Those Who Carried Out Mass Murder

By: *Herbert Romerstein*

(Published in the daily newspaper "Polska" in Poland on March 8, 2008.)

*In the years between 1945 and 1991, the KGB carried on numerous disinformation campaigns to conceal the guilt of the Soviet Union for the murders.*

When the Nazis announced on April 12, 1943 that they had found the bodies of thousands of Polish officers who had been murdered by the Soviets in Katyn forest, most Americans did not believe them. The Nazis were known to commit mass murder and the extensive propaganda campaign in the United States in support of the Soviet Union had affected the thinking of most Americans.

But the Poles knew the truth. They had been asking the Soviets about the missing men for almost two years. And some Americans knew the truth because they understood the Soviet Union and its history. But, it took some time before these voices of truth could be heard.

The Soviets broke relations with the Polish Government in exile in London because the Poles had asked for an International Red Cross investigation. The Soviets claimed to have been insulted. And they used that as an excuse for recognizing a puppet Polish government that the Soviets set up in Lublin.

The American communists joined in the Soviet propaganda campaign. Corliss Lamont, a millionaire communist propagandist, wrote "Soviet Russia's severance of relations with the Polish Government-in-Exile, over the Nazi-inspired charge that the Russians murdered 10,000 Polish army officers, shows clearly the danger to the United Nations of the splitting tactics engineered by Hitler and definitely helped along by the general campaign of anti-Soviet propaganda carried on during recent months in Britain and America. According to the London Bureau of the New York Herald Tribune, 'It is a safe assumption that the Poles would not have taken so tough an attitude toward the Soviet Government if it had not been for the widespread support Americans have been giving them in the cases of Henry Ehrlich and Victor Alter.'"

The reference was to the widespread protests by Jewish and trade union organizations when the Soviets admitted that they had executed Ehrlich and Alter who were leaders of the "Bund", the Jewish trade union organization. According to the communist Lamont, "The shameful anti-Soviet agitation around the Alter-Ehrlich case was followed by the collaboration with Goebbels' propaganda around the German mass murders of Poles." The Polish government had protested to the Soviets about Ehrlich and Alter.

Lamont also quoted from "Professor Lange at the University of Chicago" in support of the communist line. We now know that Oscar Lange had been recruited as an agent of the NKVD by Boleslaw Gebert.

Gebert himself wrote communist propaganda in support of the Soviet Union's false story. In one of his pamphlets, he attacked the commander of the Polish forces fighting in Italy against the Nazis, General Marjan Kukiel. According to Gebert, who was sitting safely in the United States, General Kukiel, who was leading troops in combat against the Nazis, was "Siding with

*Mass Murder cover up to page 15*

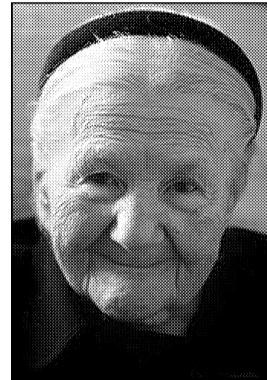
### Sendler risked her life to save 2,500 Jewish children

*Long-unsung*

*Polish heroine dead at 98*

By: *Robert Strybel*,

Our Warsaw Correspondent



WARSAW - Irena Krzyżanowska-Sendler, one of Poland's greatest long-unsung heroines of World War II, died last Monday morning (May 12th) at a Warsaw hospital at the age of 98. A social worker instrumental in saving some 2,500

Jewish babies and youngsters from the Holocaust, she was hospitalized in April with pneumonia, never to return to the Catholic nursing home where she had lived for the past four years.

During the Nazi occupation, she conspired with a group of other, mostly female social workers to smuggle Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and conceal them until the war was over. At great personal peril, she used every available ruse to outfox Poland's hated Nazi oppressors. Capitalizing on the Germans' fear of typhoid epidemics, she posed as an infection-control nurse and was able to freely move about inside the walled-in ghetto. She talked Jewish parents into giving up their babies who were sedated and smuggled out in crates, sacks and coffins. Older kids left the ghetto through the sewers and secret crevices in the wall.

Once outside the walls, the Jewish children were given new identities and placed in convents, orphanages, parishes and with Polish families. Sendler provided them with forged documents and even managed to divert some German occupation funds for the support of the youngsters in hiding. But she did not want to rob the kids of their true identities, so she wrote their true names and their aliases in thin strips of tissue paper which were buried in sealed glass jars in the garden of one of her fellow-conspirators. After the war was over, she hoped they could be reunited with their surviving relatives.

In 1942 she joined Żegota, the London-based Polish Government-in-Exile's organization set up for the express purpose of saving Polish Jews. It was the only such government-run organization in Nazi-occupied Europe. But the following year, Irena Sendler was finally found out, arrested, tortured by the Gestapo at Pawiak Prison and sentenced to death. Under torture by the Gestapo, a woman laundry owner blew the whistle on her. In the nick of time, Żegota contacts managed to bribe a Nazi guard who turned a blind eye to her escape.

Irena Sendler, who had sympathized with the socialist movement's anti-communist wing, did not have an easy time of it after post-war Poland's communist take-over. She worked in the social-welfare department with fallen and troubled women and continued to help some of the youngsters she had saved. But the recognition she so richly deserved was conspicuously withheld. It wasn't until two decades after the war that Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Institute awarded Sendler a medal as a "Righteous Gentile" who risked her life to save Jews.

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