

Happy Birthday America from 1

include the signatures of the president of the republic, national and regional officials, religious authorities, members of social organizations, and faculty and students of the major universities, as well as millions of Polish schoolchildren.

The inspiration for the gift was the custom, popular among Polish schoolchildren, of presenting a classmate or teacher with an album inscribed by each child with good wishes, drawings, a favorite poem, or merely a signature in commemoration of some special occasion. As organized by Polish American leaders, and executed in part by leading contemporary Polish artists, this *Księga Pamiątkowa* (book of memories) became a multi-volume compendium of signatures, original artwork, fine calligraphy, official seals, photographs, and decorative bindings.

Collecting signatures from one-sixth of the national population was a prodigious undertaking. Celebrations to mark the anniversary of American independence were held throughout Poland on July 4, 1926. Many signatures were collected at these events. Other people signed sheets that were distributed through various social, political, educational, and professional institutions with which they were affiliated. The whole process took eight months to complete.

The separate sheets were then collected and hand-bound into volumes arranged as follows: signatures of national, municipal, societal, and religious leaders (volume 1); regional officials, the faculty and students at the major institutions of higher learning (volume 2); faculty and students at Jagiellonian University □

Justyna Ball from 2

developing. No matter how fertile the soil is, nothing will grow if you don't take care of it. Poland has to find ways to keep those talents within its borders. In the 90s, a big boom in disciplines like tennis and swimming produced many young stars. After Marta Domachowska, Agnieszka Radwańska is the best example. Her younger sister, Urszula follows, and so does swimmer, Otylia Jędrzejczak. Skier Adam Małysz is already meeting his successors. As Poland's investment in tennis courts and pools turned out fruitful, now it's time for other sports (hockey rinks and soccer playgrounds for kids all over the country).

Ex-NHL's Mariusz Czerkawski, is doing a wonderful job popularizing ice hockey, but sponsors are still badly needed.

16-year-old Karol Basz is next in line to replace Kubica, and he already faces some of Kubica's problems. There is nothing for him to do as there are no facilities for training for drivers in his age group. The weakening of the still sleeping dragon continues.

As jungen Podolski was without a doubt the best player of the Deutschland's team, Roger Guerreiro was probably the top player on the ... Polish team. Guerreiro, Brazilian born, sang the Polish anthem just like everybody else and proved to be a shining star in two games so far. And that's truly ironic. For a Brazilian, it's a chance to play in the European Championship (Poles are used to cheering Emanuel Olisadebe, a Nigerian on the Polish national team.).

His Brazilian point of view, after those two games, is that Poles do not attack enough. Boruc, the goalie does his job, but the offense is where Poles are weak. The previous (Polish) coach believed that Poland's team could never win with any of those fancy teams, so they played defensively not strengthening their offense. It was always a "We cannot lose" mentality, but why not have a "We can win this game" mentality? The new Polish coach, Dutch-born Leo Beenhakker changed that, and helped to get them into the Euro 2008, but the belief in yourself that you can beat the German or any other team needs more... consulting.

Luck plays some role, of course.

Beenhakker, after watching the tape 35 times, swears that the penalty call wasn't fair, but now Lewandowski will surely remember for the rest of his life not to pull anybody's shirt when the game is almost

over and your team is winning.

A funny thing happened on the way to the Championship.

In the pre battle "commercial war," Germans produced an ad where a van full of Germans stops and the men, while singing, do on the side of the road, what in some cultures is observed as "nature's call." Several are wearing German national colors. When finished, they notice their van gone, and a sign appears on the screen: "Game match Germany-Poland, Euro 2008." There were two options for the Polish response. Paint your faces grim, dig out your hatchet and go into the war (with all the fanfare) or... laugh at it.

The Polish tabloids decided to pick a fight and responded by printing a picture-collage of Leo Beenhakker holding, in one hand, the head of the German's team captain Ballack and German coach Joachim Löw's head in another. Both chopped heads were still dripping with blood. Poles nationwide disapproved such an act, and coach Beenhakker responded by apologizing for such "gutter level journalism."

Even the tabloids' editors are expected to present some sort of common sense.

(Ulrich Wilhelm, the German government spokesperson stated that such publishing in the Polish press has no impact on friendly Polish-German relations.)

But several guys from the popular TV program, "Szkło kontaktowe" (Contact lens) had a different idea for a response.

They produced a sequel to the German ad. In it, viewers see Grzegorz Mięćugów and Tomasz Sianecki driving along the road and seeing a rowdy bunch of German soccer fans "nature calling" on the side of the road. The fans' van is parked nearby. They stop the car, and Mięćugów gets into the van and drives off. In the next scene, you see the same Mięćugów talking to a "Austrian policeman," played by Tomasz Jachimek and in heavy accented German, Mięćugów says "Herr officer, there is a group of drunken Germans, would you like to take care of them and their car?" "But of course," the „officer" responds accepting the car keys. "Polish sense of humor – you've got to love 'em for it!"

Ok, so our Polish team lost to Croatia, no miracle happened, but so what... Poland is already in EURO 2012, as the host country along with Ukraine. Remember? □

ACPC from 4

progress made by her Video Promotion Committee for the ACPC's 60th Anniversary that will preserve an audio/visual documentation of the ACPC's history.

Anna-Mae Maglaty, Membership Chair, reported that since our last board meeting the Council acquired 25 new individual members from 15 states and DC. The board members were also delighted to learn that the Polish American Center, John Paul II of Cleveland, OH, Ben Stefański, Pres., had switched the Center's association with the Council from Supporting Organization to Affiliate. A hearty welcome was extended to the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Victoria Leshinskie, President, which accepted our invitation to join ACPC as a Supporting Organization.

Marion Winters, Pułaski Scholarships Chair, advised that the Committee had received a total of 16 applications from students in advanced studies from nine states and DC. The committee worked extensively to pick just five winners for the \$5,000 awards from the list of highly qualified students and selected the following finalists:

Katarzyna Bugaj, PhD candidate Music Education, Indiana University

Mark Dojs, MA Fine Arts candidate, University of North Texas

Michał Uchymiak, PhD candidate Chemical & Biomolecular Engr., UCLA

Iga Węgorzewska, MD/PhD candidate, Washington University, St. Louis MO

Maciek Wojdakowski, MA candidate Intl. Studies & Intl. Relations & Economics, Johns Hopkins University, DC

The full story of the superior academic records and remarkable volunteer efforts of these Polish American students will be submitted to the press shortly so that all of Polonia can take pride in their

achievements.

Camille Kopielski, ACPC Scholarship Chair, was very pleased to report that competition for the \$2,000 Summer Studies in Poland Scholarship was very keen. Nonetheless, **Walter J. Wójcik** of Bensalem, PA was the unanimous choice of the committee. Walter has an outstanding academic record, exhibits strong leadership abilities on and off campus, and his musical talents may be remembered when he entertained ACPC with the "Mummers" band in Philadelphia. May Walter's first visit to Poland be all that he anticipates!

Mrs. Florence Beane, Past Pres. Polish American Cultural Network of Torrance, CA (PACN) presented the PACN's \$3,000 check to Camille Kopielski, Chairlady for ACPC's Summer Studies in Poland Scholarship program. This generous gift is deeply appreciated as it helps continue a program that gives young Polish American students the opportunity to attend a university of their choice in Poland for the summer.

A glowing report on the highly successful ACPC booth at the annual National Conference for the Social Studies in San Diego this past winter was provided by Barbara Lemecha. She and Co-Chair Henrietta Nowakowski had spent months in planning, soliciting funding and resource materials, creating posters and a resource CD. The team flew to California, set up the booth "Polish Perspectives" and manned it for 3 days with the able assistance of Debbie Majka and Robert Maycan.

Presentations to the countless teachers visiting the ACPC booth included references to the 400th Anniversary of Poles at Jamestown and the vital roles the Poles played at the settlement. Some public questioning of the authenticity of those roles has motivated Nowakowski to undertake very intensive research in an attempt to corroborate the vital services of the Poles at Jamestown. With Lemecha's assistance she intends to continue pursuing the research vigorously, traveling to museums and libraries where resource materials may be found.

According to Director Marion Winters, Dr. Michael Wnuk, Exec. Dir. of our Affiliate, American Assoc. for Advancement of Polish Culture, is heavily involved with major cultural and educational projects in Poland at this time. Winters promised that full details of these vital programs will be presented at our Convention in Williamsburg VA.

Mr. Winters also displayed a copy of a beautiful "Photographic Exhibit Catalogue of the Polish Constitution of May 3rd, 1791" that has been drafted by Dr. Andrzej Prończuk, Pres. Polish Cultural Foundation., Boston, with support from The Kościuszko Foundation, The Polish Cultural Foundation and the American Council for Polish Culture. Copies of the final publication will be available to all interested parties shortly.

Mr. Winters gave a brief report on the current status of the steady income from the Combined Federal Campaign – United Way for which he has been responsible for the past several years. Because the application process is a very demanding job, he provided the Executive Committee with a full copy of the current application and a detailed description of the application process to assist any future grants chairman.

A precise accounting of the ACPC's financial status was provided by Gregory Biestek, Treasurer. Robert Maycan who chairs the Investment Committee followed with a detailed report of the Council's major investments positions. He then introduced Mr. Paul Brahim, Executive VP of BPU Investment Management, Inc. Mr. Brahim gave a comprehensive overall analysis of the ACPC investment portfolio. He advised what is happening in the market now and the outlook for the future.

Past President Debbie Majka who is co-chairing the Council's 60th Annual Convention with Past President Richard Wiermański reported on the exciting plans for the Convention at Colonial Williamsburg, VA, Aug. 6-9, 2008 where we will be commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the First Polish Craftsmen, 1608 -Jamestown Virginia - 2008. For details, please visit our website, www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Lt. Col. Matt Urban from 1

school and high school, was among the monument's supporters. He remembered Urban who participated in the Turkey Trot and cross country events. "He was always on the go, helping me and the others," said Dembik.

"I think this event will serve as a reminder to the young people of today that freedom is not free," said Erie County Director of Veterans Affairs Patrick Welch. "It should remind them that they too have a responsibility to be good citizens and to serve our country in one way or another in order to keep us free. I also think it will be an inspiration for our veterans who will be grateful that one of us is being honored. I think all of them will walk a little taller today because we've finally done the right thing and unveiled this statue in honor of Lt. Col. Matt Urban."

Emceed by Joe Macielag, a National Director of the Polish American Congress, the program featured a proclamation from U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer as well as statements of support from NY State Governor David Paterson, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and Erie County Executive Chris Collins who made June 14 Matt Urban Day in Erie County.

After being introduced by Joe Macielag as "the man who made it all happen," Skulski thanked others, including Rick Rhodes and public figures who helped such as former County Legislator Ray Dusza, Legislator Dan Kozub and State Senators Bill Stachowski and Dale Volker.

It was Dusza who introduced the original legislation (which appropriated the \$10,000 needed to build the statue back then) with Legislator Mark Schroeder in 2003 and Kozub who reintroduced it recently.

NY State Senator Mary Lou Rath presented a proclamation which called on the WNY Congressional delegation to pursue honoring Lt. Col. Urban on a U.S. postage stamp. Other dignitaries who attended included Buffalo Common Council President Dave Franczyk, and NY State Assemblyman Jack Quinn Jr.

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Beginning Polish Language Study Group

Meet at Hastings Library
3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA, 91107

Beginning Saturday September 20th
from 1.00 PM to 4.30PM.

For info: Ronald Small 818-785-4094.

E-Mail dazyron@earthlink.net
Richard Lis 626-799-7930

Zakład Pogrzebowy (323) 681-0776 - (626) 793-7159

Oferujemy pełen zakres usług związanych ze zgonem. Przygotowanie pogrzebu, możliwość kremacji zwłok. Msza pogrzebowa w języku polskim, pogrzeb na polskim cmentarzu, stypa. Zawiadom nas, a my zajmiemy się przygotowaniem i formalnościami.

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ACPC Board members expressed their gratitude for the gracious hospitality extended to them by the Trenton Club and were delighted for the opportunity to meet the charming and astute president, Donna Chmara. Members are also grateful to ACPC Director Paul Bosse, past president of the Polish Arts Club of Trenton, for his role in initiating this memorable occasion. □