



News of Polonia

Serving the Polish Community since 1995

Wiadomości Polonijne

Volume 15, No. 2

June 2009

Free or Home Delivery

The Constitutions of Poland and the United States

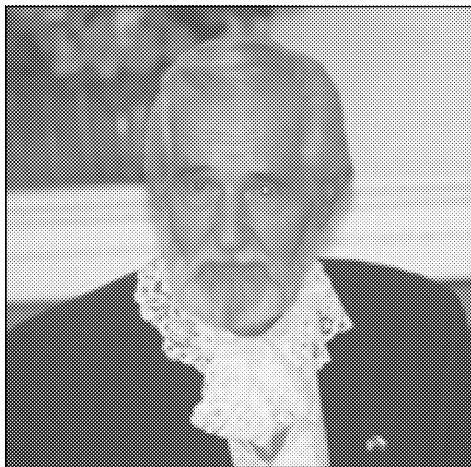
By: *Evan Inglis*

A constitution is a law or contract defining a government. The US Constitution of 1787 was the first constitution in the world, but the Bill of Rights was not added until December 1791. Poland's Constitution of 3 May 1791 was the second in the world; following the US, and the first in Europe. There are many similarities and differences between the US and Polish Constitutions. In both countries, the Constitution was a contract used as the foundation of government, a government based on law rather than based on monarch or an independent governing group. Both were consistent with the idea of popular sovereignty; the concept that government rules by authority of the people governed. Both set up three separate branches of government with checks and balances of power. They both had a legislative branch with two houses. For the lower house, the US had a House of Representatives and Poland had a House of Delegates (Posels). For both countries, laws were first proposed in the lower house. The second, or higher house, was the Senate. It was to be more thoughtful and deliberate to protect from any impulsive laws passed by the lower house. In the US, the Senate was made up of equal representation from each state, so that even small states had equal power in the Senate. In Poland, the Senate was comprised of bishops, province chiefs, and ministers; all presided over by the king. The executive branch was to make sure that the laws were followed through. In Poland, the executive branch was headed by a monarch by birth line of Stanisław Antoni Poniatowski, renamed Stanisław II August. His powers were limited by the Constitution but he was

Inglis - Constitution to page 16

The Poland Forever Celebration & Ball

By: *Julia Wąchala*



Andrzej Poznański a.k.a. Andrew Ettinger

Five of Poland's most illustrious personalities were on hand to welcome dinner guests at the Polish American Congress major event of the year on May 30th, at the Pasadena Elks Lodge.

The Poland Forever Celebration & Ball was a time to honor Poland's glorious past and its great Constitution of May 3, 1791....and to enjoy dinner, dancing and camaraderie that was very much in the here and now of 2009.

The Preamble to the Constitution was read by Kasztelan Edward Sentowski, who then introduced Andrew Ettinger, the Moderator of the "virtual reality" presentation and meeting. Frederic Chopin opened the discussion with comments on his early years in Poland, his career in music and the romanticism that is so much a part of his incomparable music. But he noted that though his love life and many years in Paris have been widely reported, his greatest love affair was with Poland.

Mr. Ettinger next introduced General Władysław Sikorski, Poland's brilliant military strategist of WWII, and a major political leader, and former Prime Minister, General Sikorski talked about his battlefield experiences as a soldier and officer, and his personal dealings with such figures as Churchill and Stalin. He was quite blunt and direct in his comments on some little-known truths about the wartime leaders, especially the evil core of Stalin.

Irena Sendler was the next speaker, and told of her work as a Polish Catholic social worker famed for saving more than 2500 Jewish children from the Nazis during their brutalization of families in the Warsaw Ghetto of the early 1940s. Irena was finally caught, tortured and sentenced to death, but was rescued and lived to age 98 (2008), Mr. Ettinger described her as "a Polish angel, if not yet a saint."

Father Maximilian Kolbe was then introduced. He was declared a Saint of the Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II in 1982. Father Kolbe was a prisoner in Auschwitz in 1941. He volunteered to take the place of a younger condemned inmate, sentenced to die. He gave his life for a stranger ... a man who, amazingly lived to see Kolbe achieve sainthood in 1982, in Rome. Kolbe spoke of the power of love and the need for compassion among all men. His message still resonates, not only through his words, but by his example of selfless courage and love for his neighbor, as Christ preached.

Poland Forever to page 9

Poznań '56 Paving the way for a Free Poland

By: *Rob Strybel*

News of Polonia Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW--It is widely believed that the election of a Polish pope in 1978 and the emergence of Lech Wałęsa's "Solidarność" less than two years later directly contributed to the collapse of communism in Poland and across Europe. But the Polish stretch of the "iron curtain" came down all the easier since it had already been punctured and weakened by a series of worker revolts. The seeds of rebellion had been planted 24 years earlier.

It was exactly 53 years ago that the workers of the Stalin Works of Poznań (formerly the H. Cegielski Company) joined forces and mounted the Soviet bloc's first major worker's revolt. Earlier there had been instances of unrest in East Berlin and Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, but these had been quickly snuffed out by communist security troops. By contrast, nothing to match the far-reaching implications of the Poznań "Bread and Freedom Riots" of June 1956 had ever occurred on the eastern side of the "iron curtain".

To understand the importance of what had occurred, the events of the preceding decade must be taken into account. Poland, together with the other countries of East-Central Europe, was "liberated" by Stalin's Red Army which installed communist puppets to do their bidding. The new regime nationalized industry and gained control of all institutions, organizations and fields of endeavor.

Mainly, it enforced obedience through black-mail. Since it and it alone distributed jobs, housing, scholarships, pensions and access to hard-to-get goods and services, the communist authorities could make life pretty miserable for those who refused to play ball. Through its secret police, all-pervasive propaganda, censorship, wire-tapping and network of informers, the regime was able to keep most people in line. The new regime referred to itself as "people's rule". To oppose or even criticize the government meant striking a blow at the nation and was thus severely punished.

The Polish people had been told to work hard and sacrifice to build a better tomorrow for their children. The country had to be rebuilt from its war-time destruction, but some day, through the dedicated toil of the working class and the wise guidance of its Polish United Worker's Party (as the communists called themselves), Poland would become a worker's paradise just like the "great and heroic Land of the Soviets".

More people might have believed such propaganda, had they not seen that its disseminators did not exactly practice what they preached. The ruling communist elite lived in elegant villas and were driven around in limousines. They attended fancy balls and banquets, vacationed at their own resort on the Black Sea, and could shop for Western luxury goods unavailable to ordinary Poles in their specially assigned "yellow-curtain shops". "Under communism, all people are equal", was the popular anecdote of the day, "but some are more equal than others".

Things may have continued at their own
Strybel - Poznań '56 to page 15

Tenth Proud To Be Polish Festival Held in Yorba Linda

By: *Betsy Cepielik*



Tadeusz Murawski

Viola Turek and Michael Dutkowski Welcomed the guests

On June 14 the Tenth Proud to Be Polish Festival was held at the Pope John Paul II Center in Yorba Linda, California. The founder and driving force of the Festival is Michael Dutkowski, President of the Orange County Chapter of the Polish American Congress. The festival is gaining momentum every year.

The event started with a Mass at 10:30 AM. There was delicious Polish food served by Teresa Turek. The numerous exhibits in the church hall included: Jadwiga Inglis' display of her newspaper articles (from the News of Polonia, Post Eagle, White Eagle, The Voice, and Głos), paintings by Janina Pozdan, sculptures by Alicia Bobrowska, tapestries by Monika Lehman and Barbara Michnicka, paintings by Mariola Painsi, exhibits on Solidarity (by Michael Dutkowski), 25 years of the Pope John Paul Center, Polanie dancers, the Polish School in Yorba Linda, the Pope, and the Black Madonna. Outside of the main hall, there were representatives from the PNA, PAC, PolAm, St. Catherines Military Academy (who tried to recruit our 5 and 7 year old grandsons), Dr. Joseph Goetz (computers), Jaselka, and a sale of jewelry and various crafts by Natalia Kamińska for the Polish Children's Rainbow Fund (who have donated \$37,350 to orphanages in Poland.)

A Standing Room Only crowd gathered in the Parish Hall to see the 3:30 program. MC Michael Dutkowski and Viola Turek of the Polanie Folk Dancers welcomed the guests and introduced Pastor Henry Noga. After the American and Polish national anthems were sung, Cultural Consul Ma'gozata Cup informed the audience of interesting news updates from Poland.

Consul Cup then presented certificate awards to members of Polonia for their efforts in working for Polonia.

The ever-generous MC presented bottles of his personalized Zinfandel wine to the people who received the certificates. Polish National Alliance Commissioner Greg Chilecki thanked Michael and Father Noga for their hard work.

The program continued with skits and choral arrangements by children from the Helena Modrzejewka Polish School, a poetry reading about Pope John Paul II by Lila Cieccek, excellent piano numbers by Daniel and Antoni Gutkowski, and a poem by Barbara Bronowicka. The audience was treated to wonderful dance performances by the Polanie dancers of Orange County, Polonez dancers from

Proud to be Polish Fest to page 8

Wiadomości Polonijne

Brzezinski, Zbigniew	17
Fieldorf Córka—Uczcijmy Żydów	19
Ks. Kamiński - Refleksje Część I	20
Ks. Kamiński - Uczcijmy Żydów	17
Kerosky - Nowa Ustwa	18
Kosowicz - Polacy na Wchodzie	17
List Otwarty - „Antychryst”	21
Prof. Pogonowski - Krzywda Polska	17
Prof. Pogonowski - Film BBC	19
Polak -In Vino Juventus	19
Prof. Przystawa - Proporcjonalnie	17
Ron Paul - USA	18
Staniczkis - Brak pieniędzy	18
Wielka Brytania	19

ACPC - Pulaski Scholarship	5
ACPC Constitution Day Catalog	7
Ball, Justyna - Cold War (part 1)	2
Book Review—Peasant Prince	10
Calendar of SoCal	2
Census 2010	4
Elections in Poland	4
Enemy Within	2
EPP Closes Congress in Warsaw	4
Executive Director of Polish Center	4
Investments - Retirement Savings	3
Jan Grudxrki finds his family	5
Kokosa Honored	10
Legal - AgJobs Bill	3
Music News -Chopin Anniversary	3
Northern California News	12
Orange County news -	8
PAC News	6 & 7
Polish American Day	13
Polish WWII Vets honored	10
St. John's Eve	13
Soviet Invasion of Poland	11
Taxes - COBRA Subsidy	3