

**Kościuszko Foundation from 7**

talk about his visit to the Katyń forest. Videos of the speeches at this historic conference can be watched on the web at: [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org)

The Kościuszko Foundation launched a new web site this year that allows us to reach members, the media, and scholarship applicants in a way that had not been possible before. In addition to viewing the videos from the Katyn Conference and the Waldorf Astoria Debutante Ball, our web site can be used to sign up new members, for donors to leave bequests, for students to apply for scholarships online, and to track our events and programs. The site also promotes the books of various Kościuszko Foundation scholars and honorees.

For Polonia to stake its proper place in American society, it must learn to use the internet to promote Polish culture, raising money for scholarships and to keep younger Polish Americans interested in their heritage. The internet has surpassed television, radio and newspapers in occupying people's time in work and pleasure, and the foundation is promoting and preserving our culture for younger generations in the medium that they use. These days, competing with video games, cable TV and the internet makes it harder to keep Polish culture alive. But so far, more than 1,250 young people have signed on as fans of the Kościuszko Foundation's Facebook page, which will help the next generation of Polonia's leaders keep in touch.

Of course we will continue to support Polish-American newspapers, with articles such as this one, to keep you informed about events at the Kościuszko Foundation.

In addition to the Washington and Internet developments, the Kościuszko Foundation headquarters at 15 East 65th Street continues to be the center of cultural activity in New York. This being the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth, we presented a concert by Edward Auer, a leading interpreter of the works of Chopin who held a special benefit concert supporting the Kościuszko Foundation cultural Fund. Auer's stunning performance included Four Ballades, Polonaise Fantasy, Mazurkas and a few special surprises. Another concert was performed by Beata Rybotycka a renowned Polish actress and singer who is a star at the legendary theaters in Krakow. She was joined by Konrad Mastyló, an accomplished musician and actor from Krakow. He has performed music for movies by directors such as Krzysztof Kieslowski and Agnieszka Holland, who also recently visited the foundation for a luncheon with our members.

Violinists Ania and Piotr Filochowski gave a recital accompanied by Charity Wicks on the piano, in a program of works by Chopin, Brahms, Paganini and Wieniawski. And the Soprano Lauren Skuce performed at the KF, accompanied on the piano by Marija Stroke, while a separate concert featured Bela Horvath on violin, and Tatiana Goncharova on piano, in a program of music of Bach, Tartini, and Tchaikovsky.

These were but a few of the concerts at the Kościuszko Foundation this year. We also screened several movies and hosted theatrical performances and art openings.

In July we unveiled the world premier of "Messenger from Hell," a 10-minute animated short film about Jan Karski, the man who tried to stop the Holocaust. Produced by Dr. Rafael Medoff in collaboration with ABC News and the Disney Corporation, the film is aimed at explaining Jan Karski's valiant mission to students in American schools. The Foundation also held the New York premier of "Karski" a play by Marc P. Smith, with six actors performing a spectacle about like in Poland during World War II. Jan Karski is a hero that all Poles, Jews and Americans should be

proud of so we are trying to make him a household name in the United States.

Speaking of heroes, the Kościuszko Foundation helped Rita Cosby to promote her book by hosting her launch party for "Quite Hero: Secrets From My Father's Past," giving our members the first look at the story of her father's secret life as a member of the AK, Poland's home army. Cosby, an Emmy award-winning journalist, TV host, and New York Times bestselling author has become a good friend of the foundation and is a regular at our events.

Another special author's evening at the KF was held by Tomek Bogacki, who read excerpts from his children's book, "The Champion of Children," which tells the sad story of Janusz Korczak who ran an orphanage for Jewish children in Warsaw, Poland.

A new crop of Polish-American filmmakers is also emerging, and Piotr Uzarowicz presented a special screening of his new film, "The Officer's Wife," to a packed house at the foundation. The film was produced by Academy Award winner Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, and follows a son who makes a startling discovery. After the death of his father, a forgotten safe deposit box reveals his grandmother's autobiography, old photos of an army officer and a mysterious postcard that all link to a concealed crime: the Katyn Forest massacre. Weaving dramatic interviews with bold animation, "The Officer's Wife" probes the collision of truth, justice and memory in a shrouded family tragedy.

The Kościuszko Foundation was the only place in New York when you could have seen the fascinating documentary, "Copernicus Revealed: New Discoveries." In 1543, Nicolaus Copernicus, the world's greatest astronomer, was buried in an unmarked grave in Frombork, Poland. The exact location of his grave remained a mystery until recently, when a joint Polish/Swedish team of scientists announced that they had matched DNA from bones unearthed in Frombork with DNA from hair discovered in a book once owned by Copernicus. Dr. Wiesław Bogdanowicz gave a presentation about his groundbreaking research and the documentary by Michal Juszczakiewicz told the story of this scientific mystery.

Copernicus was but one of the Polish heroes chosen by master sculptor Tracy H. Sugg whose exhibit "The Spirit of Polonia" has been on display at our headquarters for the past year. Sugg, who has created several monuments in Mississippi, at West Point and numerous sculptures in private collections, unveiled a series of life-size portrait busts of notable Polish heroes and heroines such as Pope John Paul II, Chopin, Adam Mickiewicz, Madame Curie, Casimir Pułaski, Thaddeus Kościuszko, Emily Plater, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, King Jan Sobieski and others.

The Polish heroes who fought in The Warsaw Uprising and World War II were also honored in a special three day tribute last September. First, we unveiled the photo exhibit, "Warsaw, Paris of the North," an exhibition of photographs of prewar Warsaw, which was loaned to us from the collection of the Warsaw Uprising Museum in Poland. The second day we introduced an exhibit called "63 Days," a display of photographs taken by underground insurrectionists during the Warsaw Uprising against the Nazis, from the collection of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America. On the third day we held a Literature and Music evening, with a dramatic reading of poems and excerpts of prose about the Uprising accompanied by a slide show of scenes of the Uprising from the collection of the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Part of this presentation included one of the last dramatic appearances by the renowned and beloved Polish actress Elżbieta Czyżewska, who passed away this year. Mezzo soprano Marta Wryk had the

audience in tears with her breathtaking performance of patriot songs that inspired the Poles to stand up to the Germans and Russians who occupied Poland from 1939-1945. The evening also included a presentation of \$3,500 in awards to the winners of the historical essay contest on the worldwide significance of the 1939 invasion of Poland.

As Poland has historically been a multi-cultural country that included Catholics, Jews, Muslims and other religions and races, the foundation also screened "Shades of Poland," a film about the centuries of connections between Poland, Africa and their Diasporas.

After the Smolensk tragedy that killed President Lech Kaczyński, First Lady Maria Kaczyńska and 96 of Poland's military, political and historical figures, the Kościuszko Foundation beamed in a live satellite feed so that members of the Polish community could pay their respects and watch the funeral broadcast live at our headquarters on 65th Street.

The foundation has always been a bridge between Poland and the United States. During the Cold War, it hosted people such as Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, Czesław Miłosz, and Jan Karski. In recent years, Władysław Bartoszewski, Andrzej Wajda, Norman Davies, First Lady Maria Kaczyńska and many others have come to visit our townhouse at 15 East 65th Street, the headquarters for Polonia's artists and intelligentsia.

Starting in September, we'll be hosting new events exclusively for our members, such as a private screening with Newt Gingrich and his wife Callista of their film about Pope John Paul, "Nine Days that Changed the World." We will also have a special screening of a new film about Irena Sendler, a documentary about the actress Helena Modjeska, and several other surprises. Some of these special events will only be open to active Kościuszko Foundation members, so it makes sense to join now.

If you are already a member, thank you for your continued support of the Kościuszko Foundation. We are working on many projects to promote and revitalize the Foundation as it approaches its centenary in just 15 years and I look forward to the opportunity of sharing them with you. The Kościuszko Foundation is Polonia's most prestigious organization and has made me proud of my Polish heritage. I'm sure that you, too, are proud of your Polish roots.

By becoming a member and donating to the Kościuszko Foundation, you are not only helping to promote Polish culture, but you are helping to create the next generation of Polish leaders.

Over the years, the foundation has given scholarships to hundreds of Poles and Polish Americans who have made major contributions to Americans and Polish society. One of our scholarship recipients is Leszek Balcerowicz, Architect of Poland's "Shock Therapy" that transformed Poland's communist economy to capitalism. Balcerowicz is a former President of the National Bank of Poland, Finance Minister Treasury Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister and currently Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics.

Another scholarship winner was Prof. Joseph Jastak, a brilliant clinical psychologist and patented psychological tests that are still used today. When he died, his wife married Leslie Burgess, who became the Chairman of the Kościuszko Foundation. Dr. Jastak also established scholarship funds with his own money.

Gen. Równy was awarded a Kościuszko Foundation Scholarship in 1936 to study at the Jagiellonian University. When he attended the 1936 Berlin Olympics, he was struck by the fervor of the Nazis. Convinced that war was imminent, he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1937 and fought in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars. He

reached the rank in the U.S. Army of lieutenant general and was a chief negotiator in the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks and an advisor to several presidents.

Other winners include: Filmmaker Juliusz Machulski who directed movies such as Vabank, Kiler and Seksmisja; TV journalist Jolanta Fajkowska; the poet Krzysztof Koehler; Radosław Markowski, head of the Electoral Research Section, Institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences; Polish video artist Katarzyna Kozyra; Attorney Filip Wejman, a graduate of Jagiellonian University and Harvard, and head of the School of American Law at the University of Bielefeld; the writer Agata Tuszyńska; Agata Waclawik-Wejman, a Harvard Educated Attorney and counsel at the Constitutional Court of Poland in Krakow; Paul Sosnowski, the General Counsel for the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union; Dr. Tomasz Rogula who conducts ground breaking research in the digestive system at the renowned Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Bogna Patelska, a distinguished ophthalmologist; Andrew Nagorski, former Senior Editor at Newsweek, author, and vice president and director of public policy at the East West Institute; Poland's Chief Rabbi, Michael Schudrich; editor-in-Chief of the Nowy Dziennik, Jan Latus; world famous poster artist Franciszek Starowiejski; and Vice Marshal of the Senate Marek Ziółkowski. And thanks to the Kościuszko Foundation Scholarship which allowed me to attend the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, I was hired to write and edit at various newspapers, such as the New York Sun and the New York Daily News where I was on the editorial board that won the Pulitzer Prize and several other prestigious awards. This also inspired me to write a biography of Kościuszko, The Peasant Prince, which won five book awards.

The Kościuszko Foundation has changed the lives of many people, and we can all be proud of that. To learn more about upcoming events, or how you can contribute to the Kościuszko Foundation's mission of promoting Polish Culture and Scholarship, call (212) 734 2130, or visit our web site <http://www.thekf.org> So get on our e-mail list, join our Facebook page, and become active in Polonia's most prestigious organization. □

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