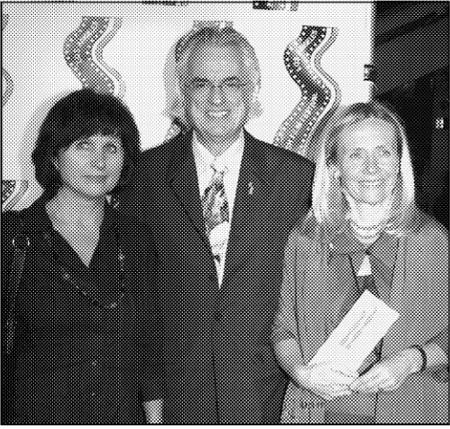


Dear Friends of the Polish Film Festival Los Angeles (PFFLA).



L. - Ewa Balcerowicz, Wlodek Juszkiewicz, Honorable Joanna Kozińska-Frybes - Consul General of the Republic of Poland.

We hope that you enjoyed the films at our 11th and ½ Festival in October as we transition to a new date for the PFFLA from now on. We have already begun the process of planning the 12th Polish Film Festival, October 12 – 20th, 2011. Toward that end, we are applying for funding from various foundations, the LA County Arts Commission and the LA City Cultural Affairs Department. We would very much appreciate it if you would complete a brief survey. See the web link below. It will only take less than five minutes. The basic information will assist us in applying for these grants that enable us to continue and expand the film festival programming. □

Polish Americans: Who Are They? Piast Institute Lecture Gives Profile of an American Ethnic Group

Hamtramck, MI – Is there something distinct about Polish Americans? How did their American experience and Polish heritage shape the 10 million strong Polish American community in America? These and other related questions will be the focus of the 8th annual Dekaban Lecture “Polish Americans Today” by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski. The lecture, co-sponsored by the Piast Institute and the History Department of Michigan State University, will be held on Wednesday, December 1 at the Michigan State University Detroit Extension at 3408 Woodward Avenue, located next to the Bonstelle Theater. Secure parking is available at Erskine and Woodward adjacent to the lecture site. Light refreshments will be served, and the venue is wheelchair accessible. Admission is complimentary, but an RSVP is advised.

The lecture is based on a study of 1,400 Polish American leaders and activists done by Dr. Radzilowski and Dominik Stecula of the Piast Institute. The study was published in September by the Piast Institute and will be available for purchase at the lecture.

To make a reservation or for further information, please call Valerie Tuzek at 313.733.4535 or email tuzek@piastinstitute.org. □

CDL drivers needed

We are looking for CDL drivers to work locally and in the LA area. Interested - please call 773-447-5402 Good Pay!

Polish Independence Day Celebration in NYC

By: *John Czop*

Approximately two hundred celebrated Polish Independence Day on November 11, 2010 in the evening at the elegant De Lamar Mansion, home of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York City.

Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka delivered a brief speech which underlined the importance of President Woodrow Wilson's public declaration of support, which Wilson made toward the end of World War I, for the re-establishment of an independent Polish State with free access to the Baltic Sea. She then spoke about the continuity of friendly relations between the United States and Poland from Polish Independence Day on 11 November 1918, which led to the establishment of the Second Polish Republic (1918-1939), until our times when the Third Polish Republic and the United States are not only friends, but NATO allies too.

Next the Consul General announced the presentation of awards to two distinguished men.

Professor Hilary Koprowski, a scientist who is famous throughout the world for his research on polio vaccine, received the Distinguished Pole award from the Foundation for the Promotion of Polish State Emblems. A letter praising Koprowski for his achievements written by the President of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski, was read at the event. The gist of the President's letter was that Koprowski's "dedicated work greatly contributed to creating an image of Poland as a nation of people who are ambitious, innovative, and successful in a variety of fields such as science, art, and economics."

To date, only 100 distinguished individuals have received the Chopin Passport, an award which recognizes exceptional achievements that enrich Polish arts and culture. Mr. Zygmunt Rolat, a philanthropist who was born in Częstochowa and who is a Polish Jew, recently financed concerts in Częstochowa and Warsaw where the American virtuoso Joshua Bell performed. Mr. Waldemar Dąbrowski, Chairman of the Chopin Committee, Commemoration 2010 observed that Mr. Rolat well merits the Chopin Passport for showing how Jewish culture has shaped Polish music.

The event was marked by a spirit of conviviality and the buffet was delicious. □



Orange County News

By: *Lila Ciecek* (714) 544-2458
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How the time flies! End of the year and holidays are almost here. However, before happy holiday time, there is the solemnity and sadness of the month of November, which according to our Christian tradition, is dedicated to the memory of members of our families and community, who have preceded us to the eternal life. At the John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda they were remembered during the celebration of All Saints and All Souls Day Masses. Knights of Columbus of the Center, with the families of the deceased members, made their annual visit to the local cemetery to decorate graves of all the deceased Knights and to remember their souls with prayers. A nice tradition.

Sunday, November 7th was the day at the Polish Center for the observance of the Veterans Day. A short program commemorating 92nd anniversary of Poland's Independence was followed by the "Soldiers Lunch". There was also a special commemoration of all deceased veterans and members of the local Polonia – a list compiled by Michael Dutkowski

A very solemn celebration, the Enthronement of Christ as the King of Poland, took place at the Center on Sunday, November 21st. During the week special devotions preceded this great event.

Sponsored by the PNA Lodge "Piastr", very popular "Andrzejki" Dinner Dance on November 20th, was enjoyed by all the attendees. It was an evening of traditional surprises, dancing to the music of Zbigniew Galazka, gourmet dinner and lots of fun. Among many plans and preparations for the fast approaching holiday season, the annual Jaselka and Christmas Wigilia Dinner is planned for December 12 - sponsored by the Helena Modrzejewska Polish School.

At their monthly meeting, Ladies Guild hosted a speaker from the Catholic Worker in Santa Ana. Members had an opportunity to learn about charitable work and services Catholic Worker provides for the very needy people in the community. Ladies of the Guild enjoyed a trip to one of the Casinos, and are presently planning Christmas Brunch in early December

Happy Thanksgiving! As we celebrate this beautiful Holiday, let us acknowledge and be grateful to God for countless blessings in our lives, and also grateful to our families and friends for their love, goodness and presence. □

November: Exploring Extremism

By: *Joanne Winetzki*

Grandma Józefa always declared, "Listopad to zupełnie szalony" ("November is totally crazy"). She disliked the unpredictable weather that prevented her from hanging freshly washed sheets to dry outside in the fresh air. Suspicious of the automatic dryer, she always let out a disheartened bieda mi! ("poor me!") when her son complained about a missing sock. Grandma couldn't understand why a Polish-American family would prefer turkey to pork roast and homemade kluski ("noodles") on Thanksgiving. She was convinced that the month of November is "completely through itself," meaning nothing made sense about it.

Perhaps that explains why political elections are held in November. How does one make sense of The Tea Party on one hand and a candidate blatantly using her personal fortune to attempt to buy her way into office? Political parties are supposed to have sensible platforms and a vision for a better future for all of us. We citizens are supposed to elect our representatives, not go to the polls like sheep led astray by costly and deceptive campaign ads. Extremism has become the buzzword in commercial advertising. Do we really need extreme pizza or yoga? One of the definitions of extremism in Webster's II New College Dictionary is: "n. 4. A drastic or immoderate expedient." Under expedient we find: "b. Based on or marked by a concern for policy rather than principle." Disregard of principles just might be a major reason why our governments are so "through themselves," to use Grandma's incisive expression.

Polonians aren't the only ones dealing with extremism. In the homeland, our sisters and brothers are confronted with a bunch of religious extremists who have no sense of appropriateness. Grandma and Grandpa were devoted to their religion, but for them it was a deeply personal, private matter. They would heartily agree with Justyna Ball's observation, "I always thought that 'True worship takes place within the heart.'" Because of their strong ethics and principles, my

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Two flood waves inundate Poland

Spring 2010: water, mud and toxic slime

By *Robert Strybel*,

Our Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW—This year's spring floods have caused widespread destruction, grief and terror across Poland – a country still recuperating from the shock of April's air tragedy in which the Presidential Couple and 94 others perished. It was the worst deluge since the 1997 flood of the century which claimed 55 lives and devastated many parts of the country. Some of the 1997 victims had barely managed to rebuild their homes and their lives, when this year's floods again submerged or swept away everything they owned.

It began in mid-May with days of exceptionally heavy downpours which unleashed flash floods in the southwest, including Kłodzko Valley, among the hardest hit 13 years ago. The rains continued and surging rivers across Poland began overflowing their banks and occasionally breaking through flood dikes. Initially lower-lying areas of major southern cities including as Wrocław, Kraków, Opole and Sandomierz were affected, as were countless smaller towns and villages in between.

But the swollen rivers Vistula (Wisła), Odra, Warta, San, Bug and Narew, fed by raging tributaries, soon spread death and destruction as the flood waters plowed northward towards the Baltic Sea, inundating one locality after another along the way. To a greater or lesser extent, all of Poland's 16 voivodships (provinces) were affected by the flooding but, as always, it was the country's southland that suffered the most.

Day after day television news broadcast little more than flood reports, showing rescue teams reinforcing flood dikes with sandbags and army amphibians evacuating people and livestock. And everywhere were the flooded fields, farms and cities, the relentlessly surging flood waters carrying drowned cows, old fences, broken furniture and every manner of debris. Flood victims had a hard time

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