



POLISH AMERICAN News

January 2025



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January 2025

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General Thaddeus Kosciuszko 1746 - 1817 Hero of America and Poland

Thaddeus Kosciuszko was born in Poland on February 4, 1746, son of Ludwik and Tekla Kosciuszko. He attended school in Lubieszow and then the Cadet Academy in Warsaw before continuing his engineering studies in Paris, France. By the time Kosciuszko arrived in America from Poland in 1776, he was a skilled engineer who came to offer his services to the American colonies in their struggle for independence. On October 18, 1776, Kosciuszko was commissioned as Colonel of Engineers by the Continental Congress and began his outstanding service of fortifying battle sites, many of which became turning points in America's fight for independence against the British.

Shortly after arriving in Philadelphia in 1776, Kosciuszko read the Declaration of Independence and was moved to tears because he discovered in this single, concise document everything in which he truly believed. When he discovered that Thomas Jefferson was responsible for drafting the Declaration, he felt compelled to meet him. A few months later, while moving south with the Continental Army, Kosciuszko stopped in Virginia to meet with Jefferson. After a very warm reception, the two men spent the day comparing philosophies and eventually became the best of friends.

In the early days of the war, Kosciuszko helped to fortify the Philadelphia waterfront at Fort Mercer. Shortly after, he was transferred to New York, where he helped with fortifications along the Hudson and planned the defense for Saratoga. The Battle of Saratoga became known as one of military history's most famous struggles for independence and proved to be a turning point in the war.

In 1778, Kosciuszko was made chief engineer of West Point, New York. This fortification became known as the American Gibraltar because it was unable to be penetrated by the British Army. Eventually West Point became a military academy.

In 1783, Kosciuszko was appointed Brigadier General and was awarded the Cincinnati Order Medal by General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Washington also presented Kosciuszko with two pistols and a sword as gifts for his outstanding service to America.

After the colonies won their independence, Kosciuszko returned to Poland in 1784 to help his own country win independence from the surrounding European powers. Kosciuszko was the national hero of the 1794 Insurrection. After the successful battle of Racławice on April 4, 1794, first Warsaw and then Wilno were liberated from enemy occupation. Kosciuszko was wounded in the failed revolt and taken prisoner by the Russians. Upon his release from prison, he returned to America on August 18, 1797, which he considered his "second home." He received a hero's welcome when he reached the Philadelphia waterfront along the Delaware River. Afterward, he secured a residence at 3rd and Pine Streets, which is now the Kosciuszko House, a national memorial to this hero of the American Revolution.

Kosciuszko was admired by general and foot soldier alike, both for his technical knowledge and for his sympathetic understanding and generosity. Jefferson wrote of Kosciuszko, "He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known." Tragically, Kosciuszko, a devoted champion of the poor and oppressed, never witnessed the arrival of freedom in his homeland, Poland.

Kosciuszko was a firm believer of equality and requested, before leaving the United States for the second time, that the money from his estate be used to buy freedom for slaves, help to educate them and provide them with enough land to support themselves.

Kosciuszko spent the last years of his life in Switzerland, where on October 15, 1817 he died at the age of 72. He is buried in Wawel Castle, in Krakow, Poland, among the tombs of the Polish Kings.

In 1828, a Corps of Cadets erected a monument to Kosciuszko at West Point, where his work was of vital importance to America in the Revolution.

You can learn more about General Thaddeus Kosciuszko when you visit the Kosciuszko House, Third and Pine Streets, or the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, both in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Polish American Cultural Center Museum

308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia



General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Hero of both America and Poland 2025 Tribute Program

Throughout the year, General Kosciuszko is featured in the Museum Exhibit Hall. This year the life and accomplishments of General Kosciuszko will be highlighted during radio broadcasts on the **Polish American Radio Program** on 860 AM.

Saturday, February 1st, 11 A.M. to 12 Noon - with Michael Blichasz
Sunday, February 2nd - 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. - with Barbara Ilnicka

More details will be listed on PolishAmericanCenter.com and on Facebook at [Facebook.com/PolishAmericanCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PolishAmericanCenter) at the end of January, 2025.

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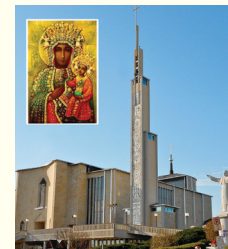


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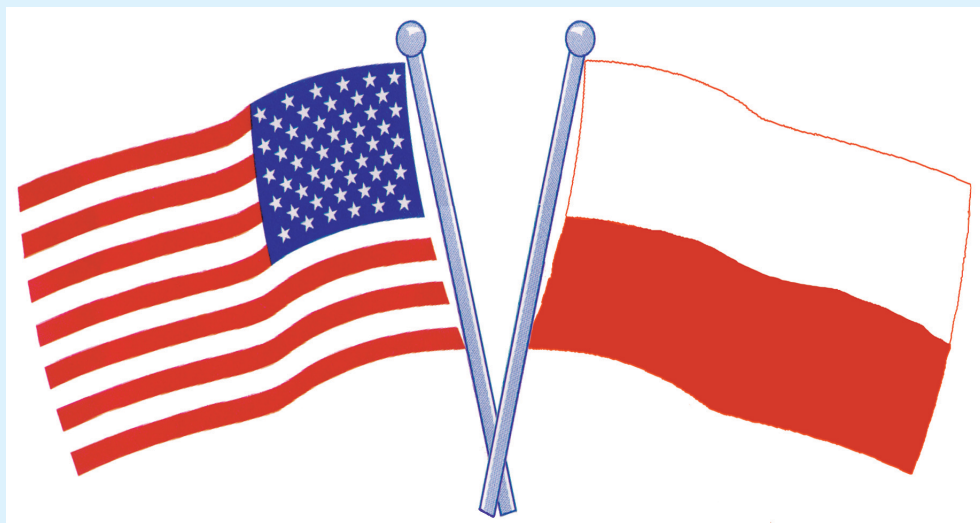
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Polish People in America for Over 416 Years

Polish Americans have been a vibrant part of America's history and culture for over 416 years, ever since the First Polish Settlers arrived in America at Jamestown, Virginia, on October 1, 1608. As one of the larger ethnic groups in the United States, with millions who share full or partial Polish heritage, Polish Americans continue to contribute to



every part of the fabric of America, the "Great Mosaic of America." Listed below are just a few of the ways Polish Americans enhance the United States of America.

1. Polish Americans are competent workers, business owners and taxpayers. The taxes they pay represent a substantial portion of the annual revenue used to support government services and community programs.

2. Polish Americans pride themselves in property ownership and in proper building maintenance, which in turn promotes real estate values in city neighborhoods and suburban communities.

3. Polish Americans regularly sponsor public events of an ethnic or patriotic nature, highlighting their ethnic richness. These events promote positive publicity and goodwill for the Polish American community and local communities.

4. Polish Americans believe in education, both public and private. They often choose the private and parochial systems, increasing their own financial commitments, while reducing the financial burden on local and state education budgets.

5. Polish Americans support youth, cultural and community service organizations, church groups, and civic and patriotic activities. Their community efforts maintain Polish and Polish American history, culture and pride.

When Polish American community representatives seek financial assistance or services from state government, they are simply seeking a portion of the services and appropriations which are being financially made possible from a portion of their own tax dollars.

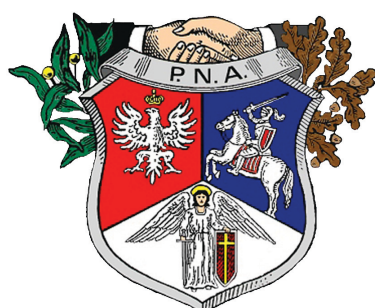
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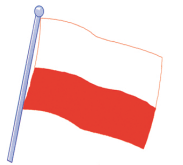
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2025 Membership Appeal

January, 2025

Dear Supporters,

First, we thank all supporters of the Polish American Cultural Center Museum which has been promoting Polish history, culture and pride to a large and diverse audience of visitors touring Historic Philadelphia for over 36 years. The Museum's Exhibit Hall remains the only institution in America located within a Historic District, and is listed on Historic Philadelphia street signs, at the Visitor Center and on visitor maps. One of the goals of the museum is to remain a welcoming public relations point in Historic Philadelphia.

The Museum and other cultural institutions continue to depend on memberships and donations to maintain their ongoing services. As you know, there are many monthly costs associated with maintaining the Museum Exhibit Hall. We need your help to meet our financial obligations.

Kindly return the renewal form along with your remittance payable to the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, as soon as possible. We will acknowledge your membership renewal with a thank you letter.

All efforts of the Museum Exhibit Hall will continue to be promoted on our Internet site: PolishAmericanCenter.com, in the electronic edition of the Polish American News, on social media and during the Polish American Radio Program.

We wish you and yours the very best and thank you for Helping to Promote Polish Heritage. For more information visit the Center's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.com.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
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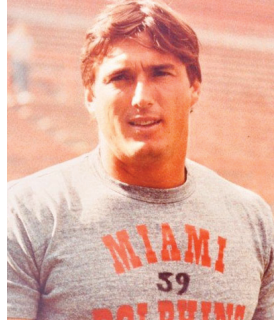
Museum's Historic Reflections Project January

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia presents Historic Reflections from Polish and Polish American history on the Polish American Radio Program. The reflections are organized in a daily format. Some of the dates may be the birthday or death date of a prominent person. Other dates may celebrate a milestone in a prominent person's life such as a career promotion, invention date, or some accomplishment that contributed to science, medicine, sports, or entertainment history. Other dates may be an anniversary of a historical event in Polonia or Poland's history.

For your information, we have listed a selection of historic reflections for the month of January.

January 1, 1955 - Robert Brudzinski (born)

Robert Louis Brudzinski is a former American football linebacker who played 13 seasons in the National Football League. In 1979 Brudzinski had his best year to date making all 16 starts for the Rams as the RLB and being named 2nd-team All-pro. "Bru" as his teammates called him, amassed 127 tackles, 7 of those for a loss, plus 5 sacks; he intercepted a pass, forced a fumble, recovered one and broke up 14 passes, either at the line of scrimmage or in coverage.



January 2, 1957 - Joanna Pacula (born)

Joanna Pacula, Polish actress, often played the role of the exotic beauty and has played major roles in such films as Gorky Park, The Haunted Sea and Virus, as well as TV series such as The Colony on ABC. She was nominated for a Golden Globe Award.

January 3, 1897 - Barbara Apolonia Chalupec (born)

Barbara Apolonia Chalupec, better known by her stage name Pola Negri, had a long career in theatre and silent films in Poland, Germany, England and the United States. She died as a U.S. Citizen and has a star in Hollywood's Walk of Fame.



January 4, 1977 - Sarah Mlynowski (born)

Sarah Mlynowski is a Canadian writer of middle-grade fiction, young adult novels, and adult fiction. She used her romance publishing experiences to fuel her first novel Milkrun, which has since been published in 16 countries, selling over 600,000 copies around the globe. She is best known for her New York Times best-selling series Whatever After.

January 5, 1968 - Andrzej Golata (born)

Andrzej Golata also known as Andrew Golata was a professional boxer from Poland and became famous in the United States during fights with Mike Tyson, Terrence Lewis, Chris Byrd and Lamon Brewster. Although he never won the heavyweight championship, his records stands at 41 wins, 8 losses, 1 no contest and 1 draw with 31 knockouts.



January 6 - Feast of Three Kings (event)

The Feast of the Three Kings is a time treasured tradition in which the initials K+M+B and the calendar year are written in chalk above the doorway. The initials are for the three wise men, Kasper, Melchior and Baltazar and this gesture is to provide protection and good luck for all those within the household.



January 7, 1882 - Ignacy Lukasiewicz (died)

Ignacy Lukasiewicz invented the kerosene lamp and is also credited with drilling the first oil well in Southern Poland in the mid 1800's.

January 8, 1918, Woodrow Wilson 14 Points Plan (event)

Polish Americans rallied behind President Woodrow Wilson, who presented to the United States Congress his 14 points plan for the creation of an Independent Poland.



January 9, 1797 Jan Dabrowski (event)

Jan Dabrowski, founder of the Polish Legions, was honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.

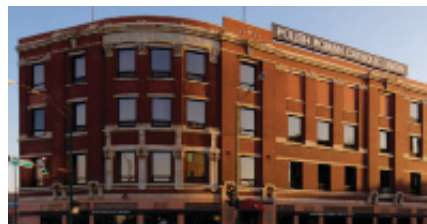


January 10, 1000, Boleslaw Chrobry (event)

On January 10th in the year 1000, Boleslaw Chrobry was crowned the first king of Poland.

January 11, 1935 - Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich (died)

Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich, renowned Metropolitan Opera Singer, taught at the Juilliard School in New York and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.



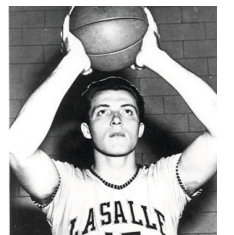
January 12, 1937 - Polish Museum of America Opening (event)

The Polish Museum of America opened on January 12, 1937. The Polish Museum of America is located at 984 North Milwaukee Avenue

in Chicago, Illinois and is one of America's first and largest ethnic museums.

January 13, 1933 - Tom Gola (born)

Tom Gola was a four time American Basketball player who distinguished himself with the Philadelphia Warriors Basketball team between 1955 and 1962.

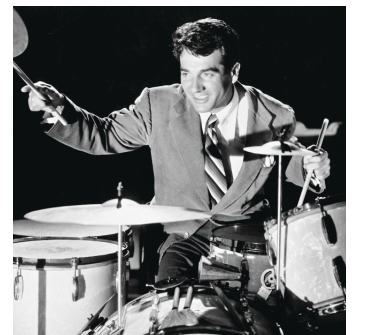


January 14, 1770 - Adam Czarzoryski (born)

Adam Jerzy Czarzoryski served as the first unofficial head of Poland's government during the Polish Insurrection of 1831. Upon the failure of the insurrection, he was exiled to France, where he established the "Hotel Lambert", which became a center of Polish cultural, educational, patriotic and political activities.

January 15, 1909 - Eugene Krupa (born)

Gene Krupa was an American jazz drummer, bandleader and composer known for his energetic style and showmanship. In December 1934, he joined Benny Goodman's band, where his drum work made him a national celebrity. Krupa is considered "the founding father of the modern drumset" by Modern Drummer magazine.



January 16, 2002 - Father Michael Zembrzuski (died)

Father Michael Zembrzuski was the founder of America's Czestochowa, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Father Zembrzuski was a member of the Pauline Order, a congregation of priests and brothers headquartered in Poland. He came to Philadelphia from Poland in 1951 with a mission to establish the Pauline Order in the United States.

January 17, 1944 - Wladyslaw Szpilman (event)

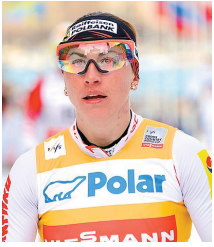
Wladyslaw Szpilman was liberated on January 17, 1944, by the Soviet and Berling's Polish Army. Since that time he was living as a «Warsaw Robinson» in the debris of Warsaw, since the total destruction which followed the Warsaw Uprising in August of 1944.



January 18, 1908 - Jacob Bronowski (born)

Jacob Bronowski was a Polish-born British mathematician, born in Łódź Voivodeship, Poland. Bronowski was also a poet, mathematician, historian, television presenter, and philosopher.

Historic Reflections January (Continued)



January 19, 1983 - Justyna Kowalczyk (born)

Justyna Kowalczyk is Polish cross-country skier born in Limanowa, Poland. She is a double Olympic Champion and a double World Champion. She is also the only skier to win the Tour de Ski four times in a row and one of two female skiers to win the FIS Cross-Country World Cup three times in a row.

January 20, 1320 - Wladyslaw Lokietek (event)

Wladyslaw Lokietek, known as Ladislaus the Short, was crowned King of Poland in 1320.



January 21, 1941 - Józef Bednarski (born)

Józef Bednarski is a Polish former professional wrestler and bodybuilder, best known by the ring name Ivan Putski. He was given the nicknames "The Polish Hammer" and "Polish Power". Putski is a former WWF World Tag Team Champion with Tito Santana.

January 22, 1941 - Jaan Kaplinski (born)

Jaan Kaplinski was an Estonian poet, philosopher, and culture critic, known for his focus on global issues and support for left-wing/liberal thinking. He was influenced by Eastern philosophical schools (Taoism and especially Buddhism).



January 23, 1873 - Karol Irzykowski (born)

Karol Irzykowski was a Polish writer, literary critic, and film theoretician. Between 1933–1939 in the Second Polish Republic he was a member of the prestigious Polish Academy of Literature, founded by the decree of the Council of Ministers. In his highly complex and avantgarde work, he anticipated many innovations made by modern European experimentalists such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner and André Gide.

January 24, 1934 - Stanislaw Antoni Grochowiak (born)

Stanislaw Antoni Grochowiak, pen-name "Kain" (24 January 1934 – 2 September 1976) was a Polish poet and dramatist. He is often classified as a representative of turpism (Polish: turpizm, because of his interest in the physical, ugly and brutal, but he also exhibits strong tendencies toward formal, rhymed poetry, reaching on many occasions the ornamental grace of a baroque style.

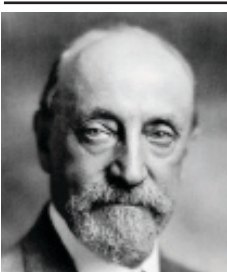


January 25, 1913 - Witold Lutoslawski (born)

Witold Lutoslawski, pianist and composer born in Warsaw Poland and studied at the Warsaw Conservatory was a frequent visitor to the United States. He introduced the "Concerto for Orchestra" in Cleveland, Ohio.

January 26, 1961 - Wayne Gretzky (born)

Former Canadian professional ice hockey player, and former head coach, Wayne Douglas Gretzky, played 20 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL), for four teams from 1979 to 1999. Nicknamed "the Great One", he has been called the greatest hockey player ever by many sportswriters, players, the NHL itself, based on extensive surveys of hockey writers, ex-players, general managers and coaches. Gretzky is the leading goal scorer, assist producer and point scorer in NHL history, and has more assists in his career than any other player scored total points. He is the only NHL player to total over 200 points in one season, a feat he accomplished four times.



January 27, 1861 - Ralph Modjeski (born)

Ralph Modjeski, famous bridgebuilder, was the son of famous actress Helena Modjeska. Ralph Modjeski built the Benjamin Franklin and Tacony Palmyra Bridges on the Delaware River in Philadelphia and designed and built 30 other bridges across America.

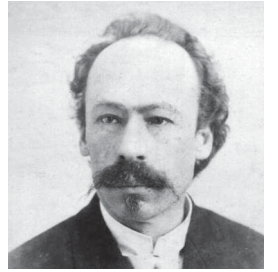


January 28, 1611 - Jan Haveliusz (born)

Jan Haveliusz, a Polish Astronomer, was the founder of lunar topography. Johannes Hevelius (in German also known as Hevel; Polish: Jan Heweliusz was a councillor and mayor of Danzig (Gdansk), Kingdom of Poland. As an astronomer, he gained a reputation as "the founder of lunar topography", and described ten new constellations, seven of which are still used by astronomers.

January 29, 1846 - Karol Stanislaw Olszewski (born)

Karol Stanislaw Olszewski was a Polish chemist, mathematician and physicist. Olszewski and Zygmunt Wroblewski were the first to liquify the gases oxygen and nitrogen.



January 30, 1947 - Malgorzata Braunek (born)

Actress Malgorzata Braunek was born in Szamotuly, Wielkopolskie, Poland. She was an actress, known for Tulips (2004), Lalka (1978) and Wniebowstapienie (1969). She was married to Andrzej Krajewski, Andrzej Zulawski and Janusz Guttner. She died on June 23, 2014 in Warsaw, Mazowieckie, Poland.

January 31, 1930 - Arthur Michalik (born)

Arthur Michalik was an American professional football player who was a linebacker and guard in the National Football League (NFL). He played from 1953 to 1956 for the San Francisco 49ers and Pittsburgh Steelers. As a professional wrestler in the 1960s, he won the Pacific Northwest Wrestling Tag Team Championship three times with The Destroyer.



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Polish Americans Well Represented in the 2025 Mummers Day Parade in Philadelphia



On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, the Mummers Parade took place on Broad Street in Center City Philadelphia. The Mummers Parade which officially began on January 1, 1901, is a very festive way to start off the New Year.

Compliments to ALL the mummer divisions which are grouped into five divisions: the comic division, fancy brigades, fancy division, string bands, and the wench brigade division.

The Polish American community would like to congratulate the Polish American String Band on their 2025 theme "Hoedown In Whoot'n Holler". Out of 14 String Bands, Polish American placed 6th on New Years Day. We would also like to take a minute and note the unsung HEROES, the men, women, and children of the Polish American String Band who help behind the scenes to make the theme possible. From moving props, and doing make-up, to making food for the members, Congratulations and Thank you to all the MARSHALLS and families who work tirelessly to make the magic of their theme possible.

Many people do not realize the amount of time, hard work, and late nights the men and their families put in for many months to create and perform a 4 minute and 30 second Broadway spectacle right here in Philadelphia. They sacrifice their time, energy, and time with their families for many months to provide an entertaining musical and artistic performance for the judges, the thousands of people gathered along the parade route and tens-of-thousands of people who tuned in on METV2, streamed on WFMZ.com and on social media.

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS to the Polish American String Band on your AMAZING performance on New Years Day. YOU MAKE US PROUD!



The Mummers Parade on January 1, 2025, was broadcast on ME TV 2, with hosts (right) Larry Mendte and (center) Dawn Stensland. Co-host for the String Band Divisions was (left) David Grzybowski.

The parade was seen on ME TV 2 and was also streamed on WFMZ.com. Below is the presentation by the Polish American String Band "Hoedown in Whoot'n Holler"



A Look at the Christmas Holiday Customs Highlighted at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum

The Polish Christmas display at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, in historic Philadelphia, welcomed hundreds of visitors of all ages. Thanks to all the visitors to the Historic Philadelphia District that stopped in to recognize Polish culture at this special time of year.



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**Bus Groups Welcome at the
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Philadelphia welcomes many bus groups and tour groups visiting the Historic District every day. If you are planning a group tour to Philadelphia, be sure to visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut Street and the Kosciuszko House at 3rd and Pine Streets.

When you make your plans, call the Museum in advance so that a representative can greet your group and give them a tour.

Call the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, Monday through Friday, between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. and let them know when your group is planning to visit. Call 215-922-1700. For more info, visit: PolishAmericanCenter.com/busgroups.html

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Many people have been asking how they can help Ukrainian Refugees in Poland.

On the front page of PolishAmericanCenter.com, you will find a list of organizations worthy of your donation.

From that link you can click on the pages which provide details about each organization and how to make your donation.

All donations are appreciated.

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Polish American Social Services "PASS"

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Polish American Social Services "PASS" United Social Services Outreach Program

Main Office:

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106
Open Monday to Friday • 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Outreach Services in and around the Philadelphia area

If you, a family member, or friend have a question concerning social services, call PASS and discuss your needs with a representative. All calls are CONFIDENTIAL, and PASS will either give you the information you need, handle your service directly, or refer you to the proper agency that can assist you.

Clients wishing to visit the main office at 308 Walnut Street, or one of the outreach sites, are asked to call in advance so that a Social Service Representative can tell you what documentation you will need to bring with you to process your request.

You can view an outline of several programs available to senior citizens and individuals of all ages on the PASS Internet site at PolishAmericanSocialServices.com.

For additional information, call PASS, Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at (215) 923-1900.

Attention Employers!

People seeking employment often contact PASS. The staff will be pleased to alert job seekers of **Job Openings** that have been reported.

If your place of employment is about to or has posted a position, kindly let "PASS" know about that opening. Call Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. (215) 923-1900, or send the job opening information to:

**Attn: Employment Information
Polish American Social Services
308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

Kindly include qualifications needed, starting salary and where to go for an application and interview.

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Internet: PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

Do You Have A Resume?

PASS encourages job-seeking clients to prepare an outline of their work experience, or a resume, before they apply for any type of employment. A written resume helps job seekers present their job qualifications to a prospective employer. A PASS staff associate can review your current resume, update it, or develop a new one with you to prepare you for your job interview.

This service is available at the office of Polish American Social Services, 308 Walnut Street in Center City Philadelphia. Call to make an appointment for this free service at (215) 923-1900.

What If I Am Satisfied With My Current Resume?

If you are already satisfied with your resume, live in the State of Pennsylvania and want to share your availability with potential employers, mail your resume to PASS and your resume will be shared with prospective employers. Mail your resume to:

**Polish American Social Services
Employment Outreach**
308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Fax to: (215) 922-1518
Email to: Staff@PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

For more information call PASS, Monday through Friday between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at: (215) 923-1900.



"PASS" works closely with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging to provide information and assistance to the elderly. For information regarding services available in Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania, call

PCA's helpline number at (215) 765-9040 or PASS (215) 923-1900.

www.PCACares.org

Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is being administered now. New applications are available. Homeowners and renters can get back as much as \$1000 on last year's real estate taxes or rent. The income limit is \$45,000 annually for homeowners and for renters to qualify. It is important to know that only half of your Social Security or SSI counts toward the income guideline. Age requirements are 65 or older, living with a spouse that is 65 or older, widow or widower between the ages of 50 to 64 or permanently disabled between the ages of 18 and 64. For more information call PASS at (215) 923-1900.



City of Philadelphia Property Tax Freeze

If you are a senior citizen living in the city of Philadelphia and are interested in applying for the **City of Philadelphia Property Tax Freeze Program**, call "PASS" Polish American Social Services, also known as United Social Services.

To qualify for the **City of Philadelphia Property Tax Freeze Program**, you or your spouse must be 65 years of age or older. For a **single person, your total income must be \$33,500 or less and for a married couple, your total income must be \$41,500 or less.**

Those who qualify will receive a freeze on their City of Philadelphia property taxes.

Program Deadline: 1/31/25

For an application or additional information, call PASS's United Social Services Outreach Program, Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at **215-923-1900**.

LIHEAP Fuel Rebate Program



As in previous years, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), also known as the Fuel Rebate Program, began on November 4, 2024. The deadline to apply is April 4, 2025. Those who have applied in previous years should be receiving applications in the mail.

For those who are not familiar with the program, there is no age restriction to apply.

For more information on filing requirements or to get an application, call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

Annual Household Income Limits (before taxes):

Household size	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,882.50	\$22,590
2	\$2,555.00	\$30,660
3	\$3,227.50	\$38,730
4	\$3,900.00	\$46,800
5	\$4,572.50	\$54,870
6	\$5,245.00	\$62,940

For more information on filing requirements or to receive an application, call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

City of Philadelphia Property Tax Freeze

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For an application or additional information, call PASS's United Social Services Outreach Program, Monday through Friday, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at **215-923-1900**.

Polish American Social Services "PASS" United Social Services

Attention - United Way Donor Choice Supporters

Throughout the year, PASS welcomes support from its contributors. The staff works hard to help its constituents maintain their dignity and self-sufficiency by providing up-to-date information, referrals and direct assistance regarding low-income, age-related difficulties, bilingual needs, and unemployment.

The Board, staff and clients are grateful to all who share their resources with PASS. Direct donations to the agency and donations through United Way Donor Choice or corporate matching grants are very important to our community outreach programs in Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

Listed below are a few ways you can help PASS:

1. Direct your United Way Donor Choice contributions to United Polish American Social Services, (the official name of the agency), by calling (215) 665-2598 or Email Donorservices@UnitedforImpact.org and request a Donor Choice form. When you receive the form use **PASS Code: 1869** to direct your contribution to United Polish American Social Services.

United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey includes: Southeastern Pennsylvania, Camden, Cumberland and Burlington Counties

Workplace campaign contributions to PASS are honored in many regions across the country. It is important to ask your campaign management about this, no matter where you live.

2. Let your co-workers know about PASS and invite them to support the agency.

3. Make sure that family members and friends know that they can support PASS through the Donor Choice option at their workplace or offer direct donations to the agency.

4. If you work for a company that matches employee gifts, double your gift by filling out the appropriate form. Many companies who would otherwise not support agencies like PASS do provide support through this vital program.

5. If you are not a part of the United Way Donor Choice Program and you would like to support our efforts, you can send your Tax-Deductible Donation to the address below.

Important information you'll need to fill out your form:

Polish American Social Services **PASS Code: 1869**

Official Name "United Polish American Social Services"

308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Internet: PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

Email: Staff@PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

or: Staff@UnitedSocialServices.com

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Sunday 12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. - 860 AM
Polish Language Variety Program with hostess Barbara Ilnicka

Sunday 1:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. - 860 AM
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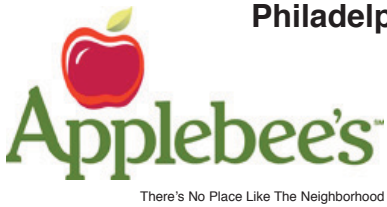


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Polish American Cultural Center Museum

308 Walnut Street – Philadelphia, PA 19106 – (215) 922-1700
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Memorial Gifts Are Appreciated

Memorial gifts in honor of relatives and friends continue to help maintain the Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia. The Museum promotes public awareness of Polish history and heritage and welcomes tourists from across the United States and around the world who visit the Exhibit Hall during their tour of Historic Philadelphia. **There is a Memorial Gift Donation Form located on the front page of PolishAmericaCenter.com (memorial donations link)**

Memorial Gift Obituary Notice

We would appreciate our members and supporters having the Polish American Cultural Center listed as a suggested charity in obituary notices. Kindly list the following text in the obituary notice - Memorial donations in the name of the deceased can be made to the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. For additional information, contact the Museum, Monday through Friday, between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., (215) 922-1700.

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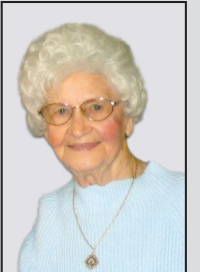
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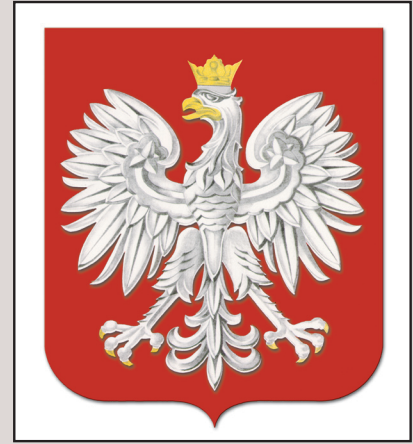
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Important Information Regarding Social Security



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Dear Colleague,

In our ongoing commitment to serve the public more efficiently, we are expanding appointment-based services at our [local Social Security offices](#). By scheduling appointments, we will aim to reduce wait times, streamline service delivery, and improve the overall customer experience. Nearly 400 field offices have already moved to appointment-based service this year. These offices have seen significant improvements in wait times due to more efficient and helpful visitor experiences and increases in the number of customers able to complete their business online.

We are implementing appointment-based services nationwide in two phases. The first phase is a transition period now through January 5, 2025. The purpose of this transition period is to educate our customers about needing to schedule an appointment for SSA services. As a reminder, many of our services can be provided via phone with an appointment and do not require a customer to walk into an office for service.

Effective January 6, 2025, we will require customers to schedule an appointment for service in our field offices, including requests for Social Security cards. We encourage customers to become accustomed to our:

- [online services](#), where many transactions can be completed conveniently and securely, and
- [automated services](#) available on our National 800# at 1-800-772-1213.

Customers who are not able to handle their business online or with the automated options, may call their [local Social Security office](#) or our National 800# to schedule an appointment.

We want to make clear that we will not turn people away for service who are unable to make an appointment or do not want to make an appointment. For example, members of vulnerable populations, military personnel, people with terminal illnesses, and individuals with other situations requiring immediate or specialized attention may still walk in for service at our field offices. Some of our offices also have minimal to no wait times, and they will still serve customers who walk in.

We appreciate your partnership in sharing this information and helping our customers through this transition. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to improve service accessibility and responsiveness.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bystry
Associate Commissioner

Office of Strategic and Digital Communications

OEA.Net.Post@ssa.gov

The Polish American Heritage Association of Manayunk / Roxborough Wigilia Dinner

Sunday, December 15, 2024 • 2:00 P.M. • St. John's Church Hall

On Sunday, December 15th, The Polish American Heritage Association from Manayunk and Roxborough known as PAHA, held a Wigilia Dinner in St. John's Church Hall, in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia. More than 300 people attended.

Compliments to Helen Cyzio, Joe Deskiewicz the community contacts for PAHA, and thanks to Rev. Kenneth Cavara, Pastor of St. John the Baptist parish and St. Josaphat Church, and the entire committee, for helping make the Wigilia celebration a great success. Michael Blichasz, President of the Polish American Cultural Center in Historic Philadelphia, assisted with the Wigilia program and lead the singing of Koledy.

Everyone enjoyed delicious Polish food, sang Polish Christmas Carols "Koledy", and Santa came to visit the Wigilia and speak with all the children. It was a great event to promote the Polish Style family celebration of Wigilia which is held on Christmas eve.

Thanks for Everyone's Help! Looking for another great celebration in December, 2025.



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**January 12, 2025
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PNA Council 21 Baltimore Celebrates Christmas

By Michael Carnahan

December 7, 2024 – Baltimore, Maryland

Getting an early start on holiday celebrations, Polish National Alliance (PNA) Council 21 in Baltimore held its annual Children's Christmas Party and its Adult Members' Christmas Party on the first Saturday in December. With lots of cheer and joy, Christmas music, great holiday food, and even a visit from Santa himself, those gathered had a tremendous time sharing in the Christmas spirit.

Each year PNA opens its doors to the community, welcoming children of all ages and backgrounds to come together to celebrate the magic of Christmas. During the event, attendees are treated to food, Polish crafts, carols, and storytelling by PNA librarian Adam Mazurek. To cap the event off, PNA makes special arrangements with Santa for him to make a brief appearance, to hear the Christmas wishes of the children, and to share with each of them a holiday bag filled with gifts and treats. After visiting with Santa, the children are invited to a special table of toys where they can choose an extra gift. The entire event is free and open to the public, and it is made possible through donations and partnerships with organizations such as Santa Claus Anonymous.

After the party has ended, the PNA elves prepare for the second party of the day – the annual party for adult members and guests. Attendees enjoy great company, terrific food, and both warm and cold refreshments, with Christmas music playing all the while. Attendees bring dishes to share, including appetizers, mains, and desserts, and after dinner they engage in a special gift exchange with twists and turns.

In true PNA tradition, each guest also receives the next year's PNA calendar, filled with photos of the organization's activities and community outreach from throughout the year, and highlighting all of the important Polish and American dates, including future PNA events.

Overall, this special day is always a terrific beginning to the holiday season.



Michael Carnahan
Cultural Center
Outreach Representative



Photos by: Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland for Maryland, Richard Poremski.

54 Years of East Baltimore Christmas

By Michael Carnahan
December 23, 2024 – Baltimore, Maryland

Polish Christmas traditions are alive and well in Baltimore, and the recent celebration of the 54th annual East Baltimore Christmas is evidence of just that. Every December 23rd, the Baltimore Polish Community looks forward to gathering and walking through the streets of Fells Point, singing Christmas carols in both Polish and English, and bringing joy to everyone around.

Each year, anywhere from several hundred to over a thousand carolers gather at Polish Home Club on Broadway where they enjoy some pre-caroling refreshments and camaraderie before beginning the uplifting trek throughout the local communities.

Under the leadership of Polish Home president Lewis Hubbard, the crowd gets underway in the early evening, singing carols while walking, and also while stopping at businesses, senior living communities, and the two Polish churches -- Holy Rosary Catholic Church and Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church.

Residents and businesses alike provide refreshments and treats along the route while the carolers share their incredible love of the Christmas season. The singing is led by members of Ojczyzna Polish Dancers with music provided by Charm City Sound.

After about an hour and a half to two hours, the crowd completes the journey, returning to Polish Home Club to continue the fun in both the main floor lounge and the upper-level grand hall, with music provided once again by Charm City Sound. Those gathered enjoy pierogi, Polish beer, and other treats, while dancing to Polka music and other great sounds.

And as things wind down for the evening, the carolers share with each other warm wishes and holiday cheer, knowing that in just 12 short months they'll be gathering again to start the annual celebration known as East Baltimore Christmas.

For more information, and to view photos and videos of this event, visit the Polish Home Club Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/PolishHomeClub, or visit the East Baltimore Christmas Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/EastBaltimoreChristmas.

Wishing you and yours a Happy New Year from the Baltimore Polish Community.



Michael Carnahan
Cultural Center
Outreach Representative



Photos by: Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland for Maryland, Richard Poremski.

Baltimore Polonia Supports Santa Claus Anonymous

By Michael Carnahan
December 12, 2024 – Baltimore, Maryland

Celebrating its 90th year of charitable works, Santa Claus Anonymous – a Baltimore-based nonprofit – continues its mission to “Give a child a Christmas.” Engaging in a variety of activities throughout the year to raise money to support its mission, one of the favorite events of supporters is the annual Wine and Beer Tasting, with its Christmas-themed environment, incredible selection of wines, beers, and other beverages, delicious food, and tremendous camaraderie. The event also features a DJ with warm holiday music, a silent auction, a raffle table, and 50-50 laydown boards.

Knowing the important mission of the organization, Baltimore Polonia is always ready to help. Polish National Alliance (PNA) Council 21 sponsors tables of guests, while those guests also sponsor wine tasting tables and other activities. Members of Ojczyzna Polish Dancers help out by walking around during the event and selling out the 50-50 laydown boards to raise even more money for this fantastic cause.

PNA president, and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland for Maryland, Richard Poremski said, “of all the events we support each year, this is one that truly hits home.” He continued, “growing up in Baltimore, times were tough, and it means a great deal to be able to help Santa Claus Anonymous fulfill its annual mission to give each child a Christmas.”

Artistic director of Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, and vice president of PNA, Council 21, Malgorzata Bondyra, shared that “it’s a special time of year, and when we can come together to help support the children and families of our communities, that’s when we are making a difference.” Asked what her favorite parts of the event were, she commented that “it’s the Christmas spirit, being with people who truly care and want to help, and the joy of giving on the faces of everyone present.”

For more information, and to find out how you can help “Give a child a Christmas,” please visit www.santaclausanonymous.org/.



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Polish Dinner at St. Ephrem's

On Saturday, January 4, 2025, it was a special day to celebrate Polish and Polish American Heritage during the Polish Dinner that took place at St. Ephrem's Parish, 5400 Hulmeville Road in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. The event was organized by the Teresa Wojcik Family and friends which featured a large selection of traditional Polish food and desserts, the singing Polish Christmas carols "Koledy", dancing the Polonaise, live music by the Dance Hall Detour Band and lots of fun and fellowship for the large crowd of people that attended.

St. Ephrem's Pastor, Fr. Mike Speziale, said it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and thanked everyone that attended and complemented the event organizers for helping to continue the Polish Dinner at St. Ephrem's.





From the Desk of
Michael Blichasz
American Workers Advocate

Host of Saturday Variety Program at 11 A.M.
 & American Workers Radio, Wednesdays at 11 A.M.
 860 AM Radio, WWDB • Philadelphia, PA

I welcome you to review the information from my recent weekly commentaries and ask that you share this information with others.

AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com

Be Proud of OUR EFFORTS!



Supporters of the Buy American Made Campaign and American Workers Radio can look with pride at our UNITED efforts during the last 25 years. Together we have generated the support of millions of Americans and **I'm encouraging everyone to help us make 2025 an even better year** as we support American workers and the businesses that employ them.

Our supporters understand that as America's consumers our **ACTIONS ALWAYS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!** We have seen that by using our spending power to support the work and skills of American workers FIRST, we are seeing more American made items for sale at a growing number of stores across America.

Because of our grass-roots efforts, radio, Internet and newspaper commentaries, and a growing number of media outlets, millions of Americans are seeing and hearing our message and spreading the word as positive changes continue to happen.

From what we all see our efforts have been more effective than all of America's national elected leaders combined. **We continue to urge American business leaders, investors, and America's workforce to UNITE** for the well-being of America and its future. National, state and local elected leaders should take the **Buy American Made Campaign and American Workers Radio** message and make it part of their goal to expand and restore jobs and job skills throughout America.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Everyone is urged to promote the efforts of the **Buy American Made Campaign and American Workers Radio** so we have even more success in 2025.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. E-mail them to: Michael@AmericanWorkersRadio.com.

Thanks for your participation.



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Our Actions Always Speak Louder Than Words!

Supporters of the **Buy American Made Campaign** can look with pride at what our message has accomplished to unite our fellow Americans over the years. It demonstrates what can be done when people work together to make positive change become a reality. With so many people now promoting our message we have been able to generate the support of tens-of-millions of Americans, and working together **our message will continue to grow in 2025.**



Our supporters understand that as America's consumers we cannot sit back and do nothing and expect things to change on their own. By using

our spending power to support the skills of **American workers FIRST**, local and national business owners and investors see the importance of expanding and restoring manufacturing in the United States. It has not been an easy task because so many industries were invited to move out of the United States and make their products in foreign countries.

After watching what happened over the last 35 years, **it is urgent that America's business owners and elected leaders make positive efforts to expand and bring back industries and jobs to the United States.**

I suggest that America's national, state, local and business leaders follow our example and support American made products first and the services provided by **American workers first.**

To get more young people ready for the modern workforce, local school boards across America must take on the challenge to restore trade and technology programs in junior and senior high schools across the United States. We need this to happen so America's businesses always have qualified people to make their businesses successful in the United States as we compete with an ever growing global economy.

Happy New Year to you and yours and thanks for spreading the word to your family and friends.

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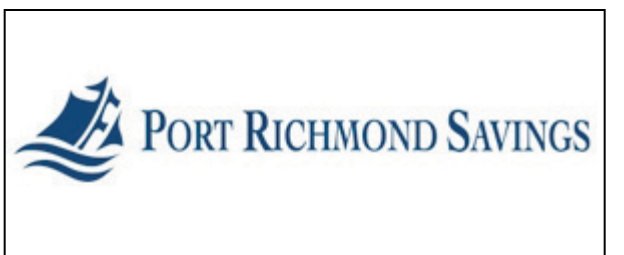
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