



# POLISH AMERICAN **n**ews



**September 2026**

During 2026 Polish Americans Proudly Celebrate the  
**250th Anniversary of**  
**America's Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776,**  
**and the**  
**418th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First Polish Settlers**  
**in America at Jamestown, Virginia on October 1, 1608**



Download and print archived editions of the  
***Polish American News*** from the Internet at: **PolishAmericanNews.com**

**Greetings to Polonia**  
from the



For information and a  
list of our locations,  
visit us on the  
Internet at:  
**www.PSFCU.com**



## POLISH AMERICAN **n**ews

presented by the  
**Polish American Cultural Center**

Telephone: (215) 922-1700  
PolishAmericanNews.com

**September 2026**

Read the Polish American News Online at:  
**PolishAmericanNews.com**

EVERYONE IS  
INVITED TO ATTEND!



**POLISH 2026  
AMERICAN  
FAMILY FESTIVAL & COUNTRY FAIR**

September 5, 6, 7 (Labor Day Weekend) & September 12-13, 2026 ♦ 12:00 Noon - 8:00 PM



*Celebrating 60 Years of Sharing Our Polish Heritage, Customs and Traditions!*



**Festival Admission**  
**\$15.00** *Per Person*

**Admission Includes:**  
**Unlimited Rides - All Day!**  
Rides operated by: Tons of Fun Shows  
(Extreme Rides at an additional cost)

All Entertainment Shows, including Dance Ensembles, Bands & Major Performing Artists.  
Special Events, Exhibits & the Polish Village.

**Family Fun for All Ages!**

Polish Folk Dance Ensembles from near & far!  
Polka Lessons with Gerry & Regina  
The Little Circus  
Polish Tatra Sheepdogs  
Polish Living History Camp  
Vodka Tasting Experience  
(2:00-6:00pm - additional cost)



*Enjoy the shade in our Polish Beer Garden!*

*Music • Dancing • Food • Crafters • Vendors • Basket Raffles*  
*Scavenger Hunt for Kids - Find the Polish Dwarves!*



**FESTIVAL SWEEPSTAKES**  
**GRAND PRIZE**  
**\$10,000.**  
*Cash Prize*



2nd Prize - \$2500.  
3rd Prize - \$1000.  
4th Prize - \$500.  
5th Prize - \$250.



Tickets \$5.00 each  
or 6 tickets for \$25.00.

Tickets available at the Shrine,  
on the Festival Grounds & online at  
[www.polishamericanfestival.org/sweepstakes](http://www.polishamericanfestival.org/sweepstakes)

Drawing Sunday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 PM.  
You need not be present to win.



*See the  
entertainment  
schedule  
on the back page!*



*Fun for all ages at the Festival!*

FREE PARKING • BUSES WELCOME • ADVANCE GROUP RATES • Call for more info! 215-345-0600

**The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa**  
654 Ferry Road - Doylestown, PA 18901 - Tel: (215) 345-0600 - [www.polishamericanfestival.org](http://www.polishamericanfestival.org)



**On the Menu**  
Pierogi, Potato Placki,  
Kielbasa, Golabki, Chicken,  
Polish Ice, Funnel Cake &  
more...  
**NEW MENU ITEMS!**  
**Zapiekanki**  
**Gofry (Polish Waffles)**  
**Fried Pierogi Bites**

Plus a variety of  
**POLISH BEERS**

Check out the  
**POLISH PLATTER**  
(a little bit of everything)



# Entertainment Schedule

| Day 1: Saturday, September 5, 2026                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pavilion Stage</b><br>Heroes<br>featuring Eddie Biegaj<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Dennis Polisky<br>& The Maestro's Men<br>4:00PM-8:00PM | <b>Village Stage</b><br>Polish Musical Artist<br>Adam Chrola<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>DJ Grzegorz<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                |
| Day 2: Sunday, September 6, 2026                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pavilion Stage</b><br>DynaBrass<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Eddie Forman Orchestra<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                                       | <b>Village Stage</b><br>DJ Grzegorz<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>John Gora & Gorale<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                                  |
| Day 3: Monday, September 7, 2026                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pavilion Stage</b><br>T.K.O.<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Polka Family<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                                                    | <b>Village Stage</b><br>John Gora & Gorale<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Blue Sky featuring<br>Nick & The City Slicks<br>4:00PM-8:00PM |
| Day 4: Saturday, September 12, 2026                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pavilion Stage</b><br>MonValley Push<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Rick Anton's<br>Jersey Polka Company<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                    | <b>Village Stage</b><br>Zespol "Top Dance"<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Windstar<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                                     |
| Day 5: Sunday, September 13, 2026                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pavilion Stage</b><br>Polish American<br>String Band<br>12:45PM-2:30PM<br>Robbie Lawrence<br>& The Steelworkers<br>4:00PM-8:00PM      | <b>Village Stage</b><br>Windstar<br>12:00 Noon-4:00PM<br>Blue Sky<br>4:00PM-8:00PM                                               |

## Additional Entertainment by:

Jelski Family Ensemble  
The Little Circus

## Polish Folk Dance Groups:



PKM (Philadelphia, PA)  
Janosik (Philadelphia, PA)  
Galopka (Passaic, NJ)  
Wislanie (Baltimore, MD)

Performers & schedule subject to change without prior notice.

♥ Thank you to all ♥  
♥ our Festival Sponsors! ♥

We invite you to visit...  
the Shrine Church &  
Chapels, Exhibition Halls,  
Cafeteria, Religious  
Articles Center & outdoor  
prayer areas...



**Open during the Festival**  
**Religious Articles Center**  
**9am-4:30pm\***  
**Cafeteria/Deli 12pm-4:30pm\***  
Except Sundays - Open regular hours  
Cafeteria: 10am-3:30pm  
Deli: 9am-3:30pm  
**\* Times subject to change**

## Festival Mass Schedule

**Saturday - Sept. 5 & 12**  
7:30, 8:00, 9:00 AM\* & 11:30  
AM, 5:00 PM Vigil

**Sunday - Sept. 6 & 13**  
8:00, 9:30\*, 11:00 AM, 12:30  
PM\*, 2:30 PM & 5:00 PM

**Monday - Sept. 7 (Labor Day)**  
7:30, 8:00, 9:00 AM\* & 11:30  
AM

**\* Masses in Polish**  
**All other Masses in English**

Facebook.com  
/polishamericanfestival



**Video Taping &/or recording of Performers & Performances is Strictly PROHIBITED!**  
**For the Safety of All - No Personal Food, Drinks or Pets Permitted on Shrine Grounds**

## National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

**"America's Czestochowa"**  
**Pauline Fathers and Brothers**

654 Ferry Road, Doylestown, PA 18901

Telephone: 215-345-0600

Internet: PolishShrine.com



2026 Pulaski Day Parade Schedule



You're Invited to View the 93rd Annual Pulaski Day Parade Sunday, October 4, 2026, on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City Philadelphia.

The parade **steps off at 12 Noon from 20th and the Parkway** in center city Philadelphia and **will be televised live on WPVI TV-6 ABC from 12:30 to 2 P.M.**

The 2026 parade theme is *“As America Marks the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Polish Americans Proudly Mark the 418th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers at Jamestown, VA in 1608.”*

The parade marches down the Parkway to 16th Street, turns and marches up the Parkway to the reviewing area at 19th Street, Logan Circle where TV 6 will televise the parade.

The Parade will also mark the 45th Anniversary of Polish American Heritage Month during October, and the 418th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers in America, at Jamestown, Virginia in October, 1608.

Additional information will be listed in the next edition of the *Polish American News*, announced during the daily **Polish American Radio Program** and listed on **PulaskiDayParade.com**.

Kindly invite your family and friends to mark their calendars and plan to participate in the **2026 Pulaski Day Parade on Sunday, October 4, 2026**.

For more information about Philadelphia area activities, contact the Polish American Cultural Center, Monday through Friday between 11 A.M. and 4 P.M. at (215) 922-1700 or email [info@PulaskiDayParade.com](mailto:info@PulaskiDayParade.com).

Download the 6ABC Mobile App for Android or iOS to watch the parade on your smartphone or tablet from 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 4, 2026.





Tune in to the

**Saturday Variety Program**

24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week

Listen Anytime at: [PolishAmericanRadio.com](http://PolishAmericanRadio.com)

With your host **Michael Blichasz**

Featuring a variety of music including: Polkas, Obereks, Waltzes, etc.

Listen to a re-broadcast of Saturday's Program from anywhere in the world!

On the Internet Right Now! 24 hours a day - 7 days a week

[PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com) or [PolishAmericanRadioProgram.com](http://PolishAmericanRadioProgram.com)

Greetings to Polonia as we mark the

1,060th Anniversary of

Documented Polish History

from

**Richard L. Krzyzanowski, Esq.**

Krzyzanowski Foundation



General Casimir Pulaski

American Revolutionary War Hero

Father of the American Cavalry

Join us as we celebrate

**“Polish American Heritage Month”**

at the 93rd Annual

**Pulaski Day Parade**

**Sunday, October 4, 2026**

Parade begins at **12:00 Noon** • 19th & the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City, Philadelphia, PA • Reviewing Stands at Logan Circle

Sponsored by the: **Polish American Congress**, Eastern Pennsylvania District in cooperation with the **Polish American Cultural Center**

For more information visit: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com)

**Live television coverage - 12:30 to 2:00 P.M.**

**WPVI-TV 6 ABC**

This page of the *Polish American News* is sponsored by **Richard J. Gastowich**

# Plan Now for a Successful 45th Anniversary Celebration of October "Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride!

Polish American Heritage Month Committee - Michael Blichasz, National Chairman

Phone: 215-922-1700 - [Join Our Email List](#)

Internet: [PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](#) • [Michael@PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](#)

[Polish American Heritage Month Press Packet](#)

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During October We Salute Our  
Friends and Neighbors Celebrating

**Polish American  
Heritage Month**



A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture, and Pride  
in Cooperation with Polonia Across America

For more information visit: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](#)

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CULTURAL CENTER**  
*Museum Online*

Saturday Variety Program

Rebroadcasts on

[SaturdayVarietyProgram.com](#)  
on the INTERNET

24 hours a day 7 days a week!

  
[PolishAmericanRadioProgram.com](#)



[Brief Outline of Polish and Polish  
American History \(Key Dates\)](#)



[1.060th Anniversary of the  
Documented History of Poland \(Poster\)](#)



[Key Dates in Polish History](#)



[Heritage Month Poster 8.5 X 11](#)



[Heritage Month Poster 8.5 X 14](#)



[Chairman's Message](#)



[Heritage Month 2026 Update](#)



[2026 Press Release](#)



[The First Polish Settlers in America](#)



[Tracing Your Heritage Worksheet](#)



[Pride in Our Heritage Article](#)



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[Maps \(Poland and Europe\)](#)

**During October We Salute Our  
Friends and Neighbors Celebrating  
Polish American  
Heritage Month**



**A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture, and Pride  
in Cooperation with Polonia Across America**

For more information visit: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](#)

**Polish Americans Proudly Mark the  
50th Anniversary (1976-2026)  
of the**



We thank them for their outstanding national community services.  
Visit **PSFCU.com** and see all of the banking services they offer to all who are  
part of the **Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union.**



Michael Blichasz  
President  
Polish American  
Cultural Center

**I join with the Organizations in the Philadelphia and Tri-State area  
in Extending Congratulations and Best Wishes to the  
Board and Members of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union  
as You Mark Your 50th Anniversary (1976-2026). Sto Lat!**

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**Saturday Variety Program**  
[SaturdayVarietyProgram.com](http://SaturdayVarietyProgram.com)



**Polish American Congress**

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**October “Polish American Heritage Month” Committee**  
[PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](http://PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com)

**Polish American Cultural Center  
MUSEUM ONLINE**

**Visit 24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week at: [PolishAmericanMuseumOnline.com](http://PolishAmericanMuseumOnline.com)**

**Museum was Founded in Pennsylvania in 1988. In the Year 2000, it Expanded its Internet Museum Online  
Outreach to Highlight Polish and Polish American History, Culture and Pride with People Around the World  
Internet: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com) - Email: [Mail@PolishAmericanCenter.com](mailto:Mail@PolishAmericanCenter.com)**

*Congratulations to the*  
**POLISH  
& SLAVIC<sup>®</sup>**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**On Your  
50th  
Anniversary!**

The history of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is inextricably linked to New York’s Greenpoint area. Prior to the establishment of our Credit Union, it was a neighborhood that was neglected and placed under informal restrictions by commercial banks, which were reluctant to issue loans for the purchase or renovation of homes in the area. This was especially true for immigrants from communist Poland with no credit history, who therefore faced rejection from banks when they wanted to buy and renovate homes, build creditworthiness for themselves or even access traditional financial services. In this situation, the emergence of a fully Polish-controlled financial institution could fill this gap.

In the fall of 1976, a group of eight determined leaders of the Polish-American community met in Greenpoint with a shared vision of creating a Polish financial institution. They were: the founder and then director of the Polish & Slavic Center, Rev. Longin Tolczyk, Rev. Emil Altmajer, Marek Luniewski, Jan Raczkowski, Jerzy Wolinski, Halina Zolnierowicz, Wladyslaw Fraczak and Jozef Waltos. They chose the formula of a federal credit union, i.e. a financial cooperative in which members are co-owners, the board of directors is democratically elected, and member deposits are guaranteed by the federal government. On September 30, 1976, they signed the organization certificate of the institution, which was to provide assistance to immigrants from Poland, under the name „Industrial and Commercial Federal Credit Union.” On December 27, 1976, the certificate was registered by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

PSFCU officially began its operations in March 1977, with very modest means at its disposal. The first office was located at 940 Manhattan Avenue in the cafeteria of the Polish & Slavic Center and was equipped with only one desk, a safe and a simple calculating machine. The spirit, however, was ambitious. The founders believed in collaborative and community-based financing: immigrants pooling their resources to help each other. As early as May 1978, „Polish Daily News” wrote that the credit union had collected its first \$1 million in deposits.

On July 31, 1979, the credit union’s former name was changed to Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, approved by the NCUA on October 23 of the same year. The new name not only brought our Credit Union closer to its only sponsoring organization at the time, but also reflected a broader cultural mission - to serve not only Polish members, but also Slavic communities more broadly, although in practice its core remained rooted in the Polish community.

In 1981, another milestone in the history of our institution took place when PSFCU purchased its first headquarters: a building at 140 Greenpoint Avenue in Brooklyn. Along with the increasing immigration of Poles, especially to the Greenpoint area, PSFCU’s growth was supported by a community that was looking to obtain real estate, loans and banking services in a language and environment they trusted. In 1987, PSFCU crossed New York City’s borders for the first time, opening a branch in Union, New Jersey - the first branch outside of New York State. The move signaled a growing ambition: to serve Polish communities outside the state, wherever it was needed.

Throughout the 1990s and into the early 2000s, the credit union steadily expanded its membership, product offerings and branch network. Branches were opened on Kent Street in Greenpoint (1992), Boro Park in southern Brooklyn (1996), Clifton, New Jersey (1996), Ridgewood in the borough of Queens (2001), Linden, New Jersey (2003), and Copiague on Long Island (2004), among others. In 2005, another landmark moment in PSFCU’s history took place. Our Credit Union’s headquarters was moved to a newly renovated building at 100 McGuinness Blvd in Greenpoint. In the same year, PSFCU opened its operations center in Fairfield, New Jersey, housing all of its technical and operational facilities.

As PSFCU grew, its product offerings expanded as well. It has moved from basic savings and loan services to auto loans, credit cards, student loans, real estate loans and online banking. By the start of the new millennium, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union had established itself as a permanent fixture on the Polish-American financial landscape.

The year 2010 saw another huge breakthrough in the history of our Credit Union. PSFCU expanded its footprint into Illinois, opening its first two branches in the Chicago suburbs of Norridge and Mt. Prospect on January 30. The Chicago area, with its significant Polish-American population, was a natural next step for the growing credit union. In 2011, a third branch in the Midwest region of the US was established in Bridgeview, which was soon followed by others. Today, PSFCU already has eight thriving branches in the Chicago area.



Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union: First office, located at 940 Manhattan Avenue in the Cafeteria of the Polish and Slavic Center.



Polonia Commemorates the 86th Anniversary of  
World War II Reflecting on the  
1939 Invasion of Poland and the Struggles  
and Accomplishments of the Polish People  
during World War II



This historic photo pictures Hitler’s Nazi German troops demolishing the Polish Customs Station as they entered Poland for the initial attack on September 1, 1939.



Hitler’s German Nazi Troops attack Poland on September 1, 1939. Cities are bombed in air attacks, seaports are blockaded and hundreds of thousands of Nazi troops invade cities throughout Poland.



Hitler instructs his troops as they leave for the invasion of Poland with the following words:

“Be hard, be ruthless. Act more quickly and brutally than others... This is the most humanitarian method of warfare because it frightens people... And now forward - against the enemy!”

- 1939  
POLAND  
INVADED  
POLAND  
FIRST TO FIGHT  
"Poland is not yet perished as long as we are alive".

1) On September 1, 1939 . . . Hitler’s Nazi German troops invaded Poland marking the beginning of World War II. Poland was the first country to resist Nazi expansion in Europe.

2) On September 17, 1939 . . . Soviet Russian troops attacked Poland on its east border. This was a shock to the Polish Nation, since Poles never expected the Russians to unite with Nazi forces in violation of their non-aggression pact.

3) Throughout the invasion of Poland, the people fought courageously against the Nazi Germans and the Russian army, but their armed forces were not equipped to withstand the combined might of their invaders.

4) On September 28, 1939 . . . Warsaw fell to Nazi German forces after long and hard fought battles. This marked the beginning of the Polish underground resistance which was active throughout the war.

5) During the invasion of Poland, 200,000 men were killed or wounded in battle. More than 600,000 Polish soldiers became prisoners of war held by Russian and German troops.

6) Intending to reduce Poland to a nation of slaves, Hitler planned to eradicate any existence of Polish heritage and culture. After the occupation of Poland, Nazi German soldiers slaughtered thousands of Poland’s intellectuals and clergy, trying to void the country of its leaders.

7) Following the opening months of World War II, Poland’s western territories were annexed to Nazi Germany and the eastern territories annexed to Soviet Russia.

8) Soviet authorities deported 1.7 million Poles to Russian labor camps where over one million people died from starvation and overwork.

- 9) Tens of thousands of Polish soldiers escaped and formed fighting units to continue the struggle for Poland’s independence and participated extensively in France, the Battle of Britain, Monte Cassino and Normandy.

10) Poland was home for the majority of Europe’s Jews for over 800 years. Hitler’s plan was to exterminate the Jews as well as work the Polish people to death.

11) Because Poland was the home to the majority of Europe’s Jews, the Nazis constructed their concentration camps in occupied Poland where they hoped to conceal from the world the atrocities they were committing.

12) In the Spring of 1940, Soviet authorities murdered 21,768 Polish officers and intellectuals, 4,000 found in Russia’s Katyn Forest, and the gravesites of others still unknown.

13) During World War II, six million Polish citizens were slaughtered in camps; 3 million Polish Christians and 3 million Polish Jews.

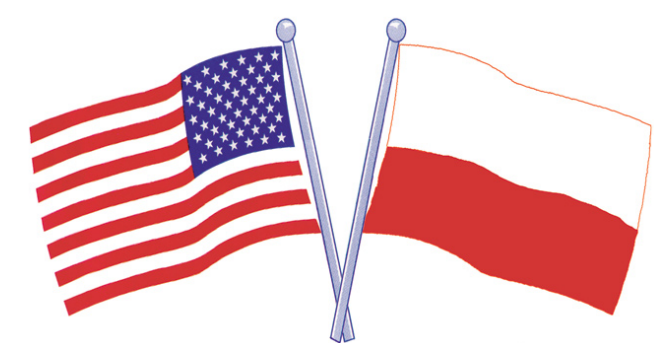
14) Poland suffered the greatest loss of life of all Nazi occupied countries during World War II.

15) General Wladyslaw Sikorski headed the Polish government-in exile from headquarters in France, allowing Poland to remain recognized as a nation during the Nazi occupation.

16) Throughout the war, extensive underground activities by the Polish people, including the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, hindered Nazi efforts to exterminate the Polish nation and its culture, while also helping to save hundreds of thousands of Poland’s Jews.

17) During the Nazi occupation of Poland, it was a major crime punishable by death to help anyone, especially Jews, being pursued by the Nazi forces. Despite those rules the Polish people helped hundreds of thousands of their fellow countrymen escape death and the terror of Nazi forces.

This page of the Polish American News  
is sponsored by Laura Andres



Polish Americans Mark the 25th Anniversary of  
September 11, 2001

*We remember the 2,977 people that were killed in the  
deadest tourist attack on American history.*

On September 11, 2001, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four  
commercial airliners in a coordinated suicide attack against the  
United States, resulting in 2,977 fatalities.

Brief outline:

- **American Airlines Flight 11:** Hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City at 8:46 a.m.
- **United Airlines Flight 175:** Hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City at 9:03 a.m.
- **American Airlines Flight 77:** Hit the western side of the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, at 9:37 a.m.
- **United Airlines Flight 93:** Crashed into an empty field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 a.m. after passengers fought back against the hijackers. It was believed to be targeting the U.S. Capitol or the White House.

As we mark this date in American history we honor the 911 responders and families who suffered and died, along with all the people who assisted America in recovering from this tragic event.

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**Manayunk, Roxborough & Surrounding Areas Group**

In cooperation with Polish American Cultural Center  
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For information about our upcoming meeting, contact:  
**Helen Cyzio (215) 482-3040**



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**Best Wishes to All As We Celebrate  
the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**

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Marian & Danuta Bielawiec  
Michael Blichasz & Family  
Joseph & Dorothea Bobrowski  
James Cackowski  
Edward Chabalowski  
Caroline Ciesielka  
Helen Cyzio  
Dennis Daniel  
Maryanne Daniel  
Honorable Bernice Soban DeAngelis  
Karen DeBellis  
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Honorable Richard Poremski  
Honorary Consul, Baltimore, Maryland  
Marianna Prusik  
Kenneth & Linda Romanowski  
Theresa B. Romanowski  
In Loving Memory of Rev. John A. Sitko  
Dennis E. Stasko  
Marianne Stone  
Edward Szkudlapski  
Victoria & Timothy Wadas  
Danelle Wisniewski  
Joanne Zajac  
Robert & Patricia Zogorski

**Polish American Heritage Association “PAHA”**  
Camden County, New Jersey, Community Contact  
**Pat Kwoka – 856-310-1783**  
**Email: [pkwoka@comcast.net](mailto:pkwoka@comcast.net)**

**Kindly Email a Copy of This  
Newsletter to Family & Friends.  
Thanks for Spreading the Word!**

**Best Wishes from the  
Polish American Citizens’ Club  
of Camden County, NJ**

Organized in the City of Camden, NJ  
on June 8, 1914

**[www.PACC1914.org](http://www.PACC1914.org)**



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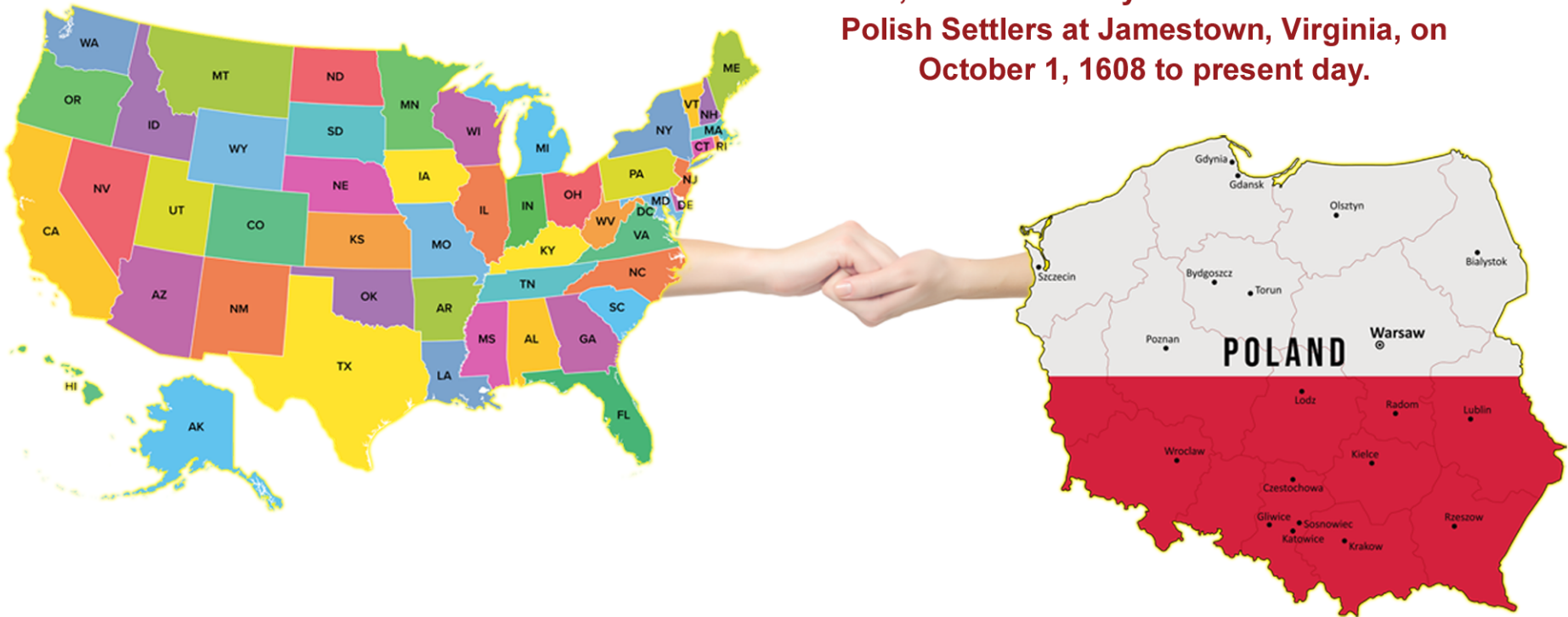
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-  [Historic Reflections](#)
-  [Featured Men & Women of Polish Descent](#)
-  [Polish Customs and Traditions](#)
-  [Tracing Your Heritage Worksheet](#)
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-  [Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791](#)
-  [History of the Polish Flag and Emblem](#)
-  [Polish Tourist Map](#)
-  [Sto Lat - Words & Music](#)
-  [October - National Polish American Heritage Month](#)
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Polish American Cultural Center  
Historic Reflections Project - September

The Polish American Cultural Center 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 September.

PACC Historic Reflections Project Part 1



**September 1, 1939 - Invasion**  
The brutal invasion of Poland by Hitler’s Nazi Forces took place on September 1, 1939. The invasion of Poland marked the beginning of World War II. From the first day of the invasion, Polish soldiers valiantly fought to stop the Nazi invaders. Their resistance is well remembered through the statement “Poland, the first country to fight back Nazi forces.” Throughout World War II, Polish soldiers in exile helped other countries fight against Hitler’s Nazi soldiers.



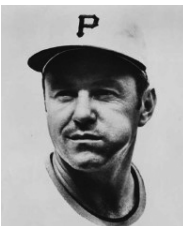
**September 2, 1969 - Chris Kuzneski (Born)**  
Chris Kuzneski is a New York Times bestselling American author. Born in Indiana, PA, he currently lives in Tampa, FL. Kuzneski played football at the University of Pittsburgh where he received his undergraduate degree in writing and his master’s degree in teaching. So far, his books have been translated into more than 15 languages.

**September 3, 1951 - Edward Krzyzowski (Died)**  
Captain Edward Krzyzowski of the U.S. Army’s 2nd Infantry Regiment was killed in action on this date in 1951 during the Korean War. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for providing cover that allowed his unit to escape Communist encirclement.



**September 4, 1809 - Juliusz Slowacki (Born)**  
Juliusz Slowacki was a poet and playwright who wrote “The Trilogy of Polish History.” Pope John Paul II quoted Juliusz Slowacki’s works on more than one occasion. Slowacki had an influence over other great Polish poets such as Krasinski, Norwid, and Ujejski. His ashes were laid to rest in the Royal Crypt in Wawel Castle.

**September 5, 1936 - Bill Mazerowski (Born)**  
Bill Mazerowski played with the Pittsburgh Pirates and was an outstanding defensive second baseman. He won the Gold Glove Award eight times. His lead-off homer in the bottom of the 9th inning of the 7th game of the World Series in 1960 ranks as one of baseball’s greatest moments. Mazerowski’s homer gave the Pirates a 10-9 win over the Yankees for the World Series Championship.



**September 6, 1908 - Korczak Ziolkowski (Born)**  
Korczak Ziolkowski’s master work of a monument to Chief Crazy Horse is continued by his family after his death in the Black Hills of South Dakota. When completed, Ziolkowski’s monument to Chief Crazy Horse will be 563 feet high by 641 feet long, making it the largest sculpture in the world.

**September 7, 1939 - Brave Soldiers (Surrendered)**  
The brave Polish soldiers under Major Sucharski were forced to surrender at the Polish Naval Depot in Westerplatte after seven days of desperate defense and inflicting heavy casualties on the invading Nazi German army. Poland continued to fight its invaders throughout World War II.



**September 8, 1230 - Erasmus Vitello (Born)**  
Erasmus Ciolek Vitello was a Polish Friar, theologian and scientist. Vitello is known for his work in psychology and especially optics. The Vitello Crater on the earth’s moon is named after this early scientist.

For more information about Historic Reflectoins visit:  
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PACC Historic Reflections Project Part 2

September 9, 2004 - Rose Gacioch (Died)

Rose Gacioch was a pioneer in women’s professional baseball and one of the inspirations for ‘A League of Their Own,’ the all American professional women’s baseball league started during World War II.



September 10, 1957 - Pawel Huelle (Born)

Pawel Huelle, of Gdansk, Poland, is a famous prose writer. He graduated from Gdansk University. He worked for the press service of the Solidarity trade union, was a teacher of philosophy and history, and served as director of Polish Television in Gdansk from 1994 to 1999. Pawel Huelle’s famous work is Weiser Dawidek which was made into a film.



September 11, 1975 - Markus Klepaski (Born)

Markus James Klepaski is the former bass guitar player for Breaking Benjamin. He is also the founder of the clothing line Ke’Kuhn. He currently lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and two children.



September 12, 1925 - Stan Lopata (Born)

Stan Lopata was a professional baseball player who was on the Philadelphia Phillies and Milwaukee Braves teams. He was a catcher and two-time all star player.



September 13, 1964 - Rafal Ziemkiewicz (Born)

Rafal Ziemkiewicz is known as a social science fiction author whose works deal with future governments and the political climate in Europe. He also formerly wrote for the Polish edition of Newsweek.



September 14, 1561 - Jan Tarnowski (Died)

Jan Amor Tarnowski (1488–1561) was a Polish-Lithuanian aristocrat. He was Grand Crown Hetman from 1527 and was the founder of the city of Ternopil, where he built the Ternopil Castle and the Ternopil Lake.



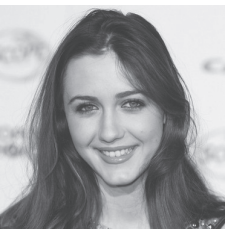
September 15, 1941 - Mirosław Hermaszewski (Born)

Mirosław Hermaszewski is Poland’s first cosmonaut. In 1978, Hermaszewski spent eight days in the Salyut space station and won an award for his participation in the mission. He eventually made it to the rank of General in the Polish Air Force. Mirosław Hermaszewski is currently retired.



September 16, 1985 - Madeline Zima (Born)

Madeline Rose Zima is an American actress, known for her six years as Grace Sheffield on the TV Series The Nanny or as Mia Cross on the Showtime dramedy Californication.



September 17, 1968 - Jerzy Dabrowski (Died)

Jerzy Dabrowski was an aeronautical engineer and designer of the famed PZL.37 Los medium bomber. Jerzy Dabrowski’s airplanes were used during World War II and were of superb flying quality. At the end of his career, he worked for Boeing Aircraft Corporation in Washington State.



September 18, 1944 - Walter Shimshock (Shot Down and died in the Aircraft “I’ll be Seeing You”)

Walter Shimshock was a 19 year old tail gunner on a B-17 Bomber that had been airlifting supplies to the people of Warsaw. During this mission, the “I’ll Be Seeing You” was hit by German flak and crashed. Two of the ten crew members on board survived and were captured by the Germans and sent to a Nazi POW camp.



September 19, 1905 - Leon Jaworski (Born)

Leon Jaworski was the famous Polish American lawyer and prosecutor in the Watergate Case. Leon Jaworski also served as a WWII war crimes prosecutor.



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Sto Lat! - May You Live a Hundred Years!

Often sung at birthdays and name days in Poland, much like “Happy Birthday” in the United States, “Sto Lat” is more versatile as it can be also heard at special events such as anniversaries, patriotic events and award ceremonies. Below is a Polish and English version for you to enjoy.

Sto Lat

Sto lat, sto lat niech zy- je, zy- je nam sto lat, sto lat  
Good luck, good cheer may you live one hundred years good luck, good cheer

niech zy- je, zy- je nam jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz niech zy- je, zy- je nam  
may you live one hundred years good luck, good cheer may you live one hundred years

niech zy- je, nam  
one hun- dred years

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PACC Historic Reflections Project Part 3

**September 20, 1960 - James Pawelczyk (Born)**

James Pawelczyk is a NASA Astronaut and Associate Professor of Physiology. Dr. Pawelczyk served as a Payload Specialist in Space Shuttle Columbia from April 17th to May 3rd, 1998.





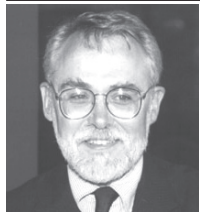
**September 21, 1869 - Henryk Melcer-Szczawinski (Born)**

Henryk Melcer-Szczawinski was a Polish composer, pianist, conductor, and teacher. His works include two piano concertos, one in E minor (1892-1894) and one in C minor (1898); a violin sonata (1907), and a piano trio in G minor (probably written 1892-1894).

**September 22, 1964 - Bonnie Hunt (Born)**

Bonnie Lynn Hunt is an American actress, comedienne, writer, director, television producer and daytime television host. Hunt, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, is the daughter of Alice Hunt, a homemaker of Polish descent, and Bob Hunt, an electrician of Irish descent.



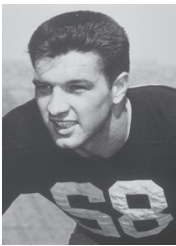


**September 23, 2001 - Dr. Stanislaw Blejwas (Died)**

Dr. Stanislaw Blejwas was a history professor and the chairman of Polish Studies at Connecticut University and the President of the Polish American Historical Association. Dr. Blejwas was a respected expert in the field of Polish American Studies.

**September 24, 2002 - Leon Hart (Died)**

Leon Hart was a great football player who won the Heisman Trophy and Maxwell Award while at Notre Dame and went on to a great career with the Detroit Lions. He was inducted into the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.



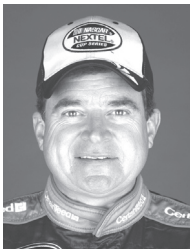


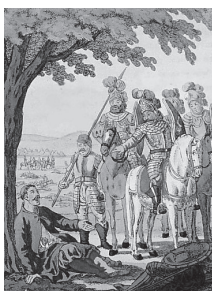
**September 25, 1888 - Stefan Mazurkiewicz (Born)**

Stefan Mazurkiewicz was a Polish mathematician who developed the Hahn-Mazurkiewicz theorem that deals with curves and space of curves. He also helped crack the Russian cipher code as a cryptologist for the Polish General Staff during the Battle of Warsaw.

**September 26, 1963 - Joe Nemechek (Born)**

Joseph Frank Nemechek III is a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver and founder of NEMCO Motorsports. He won the 1992 Busch Series championship. He is nicknamed “Front Row Joe” for his tendency to qualify near the front of the field, a term given by former teammate Wally Dallenbach.





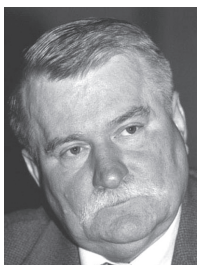
**September 27, 1331 - Battle of Płowce (Event)**

On September 27, 1331, one-third of the Teutonic Order’s Force of Knights under Dietrich von Altenburg left the blockaded peasant town of Płowce. The Poles, under Wladyslaw Lokietek and his son Casimir, immediately attacked in a frontal assault. A few seconds later, Polish detachments hiding to the left of the city in a forest also attacked. In three hours the Teutonic Knights had been defeated and their leader captured. The Polish forces, victorious in this phase of the battle, took prisoner 56 knights, and freed many Polish captives.

**September 28, 1973 - Brian Rafalski (Born)**

Brian Rafalski (born in Dearborn, MI) is an American professional ice hockey player who played defense for the Detroit Red Wings in the National Hockey League. Prior to joining the Red Wings, Rafalski played seven seasons with the New Jersey Devils. After struggling to enter the NHL, Rafalski has won three Stanley Cups and become an effective defenseman in the league. In his nine seasons in the league, he has played in five Stanley Cup finals (2000, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2009).





**September 29, 1943 - Lech Walesa (Born)**

Lech Walesa was President of the Republic of Poland from 1990 to 1995. Walesa was a trade union and human rights activist who is recognized throughout the world for his participation in Poland’s Solidarity Trade Movement which helped end communism in Europe.

**September 30, 1954 - Barbara Trzetrzelewska (Born)**

Barbara Trzetrzelewska, is known by her stage name, “Basia”, for her successful music career as a jazz-pop singer in the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan. Basia has two platinum albums to her credit and is noted for possessing a wide vocal range.



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

**AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com**

**Your Shopping List Makes a Difference!**

Most people make a list of the things they need when they go shopping and I always encourage people to look at labels before they make a purchase. People who support the Buy American Made Challenge often tell me that it's been an eye opening experience because it's hard to find American made products and they want that to change.

Due to decades of outsourcing manufacturing to foreign countries, many jobs have left the United States permanently. In many cases, those businesses have now been sold to foreign investors so they have no desire to return to the United States, which means Americans will be consumers of those foreign made products, but not manufacturers.

There are a few simple ideas that would help restore jobs in America and it will require American Investors and America's National Elected Leaders to do the following:

- 1. National leaders must approve long term Tax Incentives for businesses to encourage them to expand or return to the United States. It's important to Make America the BEST PLACE TO DO BUSINESS now and in the future.**
- 2. Offer incentives for America's businesses to invent new products with new brand names and MAKE THOSE PRODUCTS IN THE UNITED STATES.**
- 3. Expand and restore Trade and Technology programs in America's schools so there are always individuals graduating with the skills needed by America's businesses.**
- 4. Mandate that businesses and government work together on a regular basis for the well-being of our fellow Americans.**

When we look back at America's industrial history, we see that America was a major inventor and producer of products for over a 100 YEARS. After 35 years of allowing outsourcing Manufacturing and Jobs, it's time for us to UNITE to reverse the trend of the past and ensure that COMPETITIVE PRODUCTION of all products we use, from electronics and clothing, to every every-day household items, are made in America again. If everyone works together, positive changes will happen in our lifetime. Your participation is very important.

**Why did America's National Leaders Allow This to Happen?**

During 2026, America marked the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In 1976, when America celebrated its 201st Anniversary of Independence, the national debt was \$450 billion dollars, or what equaled to \$200 dollars per American. In 2026, 50 years later, America's national debt is \$40 trillion dollars, or what equals to \$120 thousand dollars per American to clear America's national debt. These statistics are from the Federal Budget Office and demonstrates how America's national elected leaders did not look out for the American people FIRST. They took loans to cover annual national expenses, which Americans are now obligated to pay back.

If any of us go into debt for our personal needs that's our own decision. However, **government leaders should not be able to put WE the American people in debt, unless the voters approve an emergency loan on an election ballot.** Putting the American people in endless DEBT is not what elected officials pledged to do when they were sworn into office.

**In 2026, America's leaders will borrow over 43 cents for every federal dollar spent to pay America's operational expenses and honor foreign aid commitments.** A major concern is that a large portion of the money America borrows is being borrowed from foreign countries. The American voters should be the only people to approve any rise in America's debts. Such a request should be approved by the voters on Election Day. **Americans also feel that it's time for an annual National Balance Budget amendment in Washington so that our national budget is the same as it is in states across America, BALANCED.**

**They Should Be Made in America!**

**As of the year 2025, over 300 million Americans have a cell phone and use it daily.** Although the first cell phone was made in the United States, foreign countries quickly came forward to offer the mass production of the cell phone at a lower cost and **now 90% of all cell phones sold in America are made in foreign countries.** America's manufacturers should have immediately focused on making cell phones in America since the cell phone was invented and first made in the United States.

**30 years ago, they stated the cell phone industry would employ millions of American workers as production grew. During the last 30 years, Americans were mainly employed installing cell phone towers and operating stores for people to come in and purchase cell phone services.** Today, the research and development of new products and services are done by foreign employees, while **Americans are customers of cell phones and other products first invented and made in America.**

At first it was thought only a small portion of the cell phones would be made overseas with the majority being made in America. However, **we now see how this one product has caused a major loss of jobs for American workers and a major loss to America's economy.** The key to this message is the American people need to help American workers by focusing more of their buying power on products made and serviced by American workers.

**One important way our supporters have been helping the American made cause is by looking for and asking for American-made products, and by making their concerns known to the managers and store personnel where we shop.** The goal of the **Buy American Made Campaign** is NOT TO LOSE the production of ANY MORE PRODUCTS presently made in the United States to foreign manufacturers who continue to look for every ways possible to keep their people employed.

### American Workers Radio

Broadcasting over the Internet  
From Anywhere in the World Anytime at:  
**AmericanWorkersRadio.com**

Michael Blichasz  
Founder  
American Workers  
Need You  
Program Host  
September 2026 - 10:00

Bruce Brown Powell  
State Advocate

A National Network Promoting American Businesses  
and American Made Products

Listen to American Workers Radio on your iPhone or Android smartphone

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Visit: **NationalSmallBusinessWeekend.com** for more information.

Polish American Social Services “PASS”

PolishAmericanSocialServices.com • UnitedSocialServices.com

Polish American Social Services “PASS”

United Social Services Outreach Program

Serving Philadelphia and Surrounding Counties

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 are asked to call so that a Social Service Representative can tell you what documentation you will need 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.

The Importance of our Mission:

An Update On “PASS” Polish American Social Services, United Social Services

Serving Philadelphia & Southeastern Pennsylvania

Effective and Efficient Agency

PASS has earned a reputation as a highly effective and efficient component of the social services delivery system in the Philadelphia area due to its comprehensive benefits counseling, information/referral, and advocacy services to constituents. Its unique contribution to social services is that it addresses the needs of a largely under-served community with language and cultural barriers that block access to programs and services that build constituents’ self-sufficiency, self-esteem, and overall physical and mental well being.

A Community Resource For Thousands

PASS, also known as United Social Services, is a multi-service agency with a thorough knowledge of numerous resources and the flexibility to meet varied and complex constituent needs. In addition to assisting constituents from the Polish/Slavic community in Southeastern Pennsylvania, PASS is a referral point for six additional ethnic groups and receives referrals from over 70 organizations. The efficient sharing of comprehensive resources and services with people of all ages saves time and money and provides a reliable point of contact for those in need.

Who Benefits From “PASS”

United Social Services?

Each year, thousands of Philadelphia-area residents benefit from income-enhancing programs, such as rent/property tax rebates, PACE, utility discounts, and many other programs. PASS’s services help individuals to add as much as one full month’s worth of income each year, allowing them to weather occasional financial crises and live healthier lives. The end result is fewer trips to the doctor and less stress over the rising cost of maintaining their homes.

Ongoing PASS Program Objectives Include:

1. To enable constituents to make better use of available income through timely and well-informed income management and benefits counseling including low and moderate income programs such as: PA Property Tax/Rent Rebates, LIHEAP, PACE, and services offered by other agencies which promote self-sufficiency and a reasonable quality of life.
2. To remove obstacles and solve problems which prevent self-sufficiency and a reasonable quality of life.
3. To establish and coordinate linkages between social service programs to assure service delivery to constituents.
4. Maintain a telephone helpline, which is particularly beneficial to individuals for whom travel is difficult.
5. Promote employment opportunities through Job Fairs, job training programs, employment-unemployment services, and resume preparation.

PASS Helps Save Money

PASS works with thousands of constituents annually, saving government and agencies millions of dollars in the long run. Through the efforts of PASS’s staff, individual constituents could receive up to \$1,000 in benefits from various income enhancing programs. These rebate programs allow them to stretch their annual budget, add to the economy and help them remain more self-sufficient. Approximately 90% of PASS’s constituents manage to remain self-sufficient and in their own homes.

A Strong Bond With Constituents

Although PASS has established a strong bond with thousands of Philadelphia-area constituents, the current economic crisis requires a dramatic expansion of the agency’s outreach to constituents who have not needed the agency’s services until now. As residents approach retirement age, or as current retirees experience both rapidly diminishing financial resources and failing health, they find themselves in unexpectedly dire circumstances, not knowing where to turn for help. Even neighbors and relatives who have assumed a caretaker role are ignorant of available services and resources. Often they are suspicious of government bureaucracy or reluctant to “go on welfare related programs” and seek help from PASS.

PASS Has A Well Established Outreach Network

Because of PASS’s positive reputation in the community and its access to multiple media outlets, including radio, neighborhood churches and organizations, local newspapers, the Polish American News, and a website, PASS is the ideal one-stop point of contact. PASS staff is pleased to provide direct assistance to constituents and referrals to other services, as needed, to help them retain their self-sufficiency during these difficult times.

For more information call:

PASS - United Social Services

Monday to Friday - 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Internet: UnitedSocialServices.com or PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

State of Pennsylvania

Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program

To help with the rising costs of living, you can apply for the Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

PROGRAM EXTENDED UNTIL  
DECEMBER 31st.

READ THIS ARTICLE CAREFULLY  
TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A  
REBATE!



This rebate program is a “look back” program. This means that to calculate a rebate, you calculate the property taxes or rent the household paid and the income you received during the last calendar year.

Who is eligible for a rebate?

There are many different individuals that may qualify for a rebate. They must fall into one of the categories below and meet certain income guidelines.

1. A person or their spouse that is 65 years of age or older, or
2. Widows or widowers 50 years of age or older, or
3. Permanently DISABLED individuals 18 years of age or older.
4. The income cap for both homeowners or renters is \$48,110 annually.

What are the income guidelines and how much of a rebate is expected?

For Homeowners or Renters:

| Income Range        | Rebate Amount |
|---------------------|---------------|
| \$0 - \$8,550       | \$1,000       |
| \$8,551 - \$16,040  | \$770         |
| \$16,041 - \$19,240 | \$460         |
| \$19,241 - \$48,110 | \$380         |

Note: Applicants can exclude one-half of all social security income.

For more information, to get an application or to get help completing the application call Polish American Social Services at (215) 923-1900.

Ukrainian American Festival a Great Success

The Ukrainian American Festival on Sunday, August 23, 2026, took place at the UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SPORT CENTER, also known as Tryzub, located at County Line & Lower State Roads in Horsham, PA.

A portion of the funds benefited the Ukrainian Refugees fleeing to Poland and surrounding countries as a result of Putin’s War on Ukraine. The event began at 12 noon and continued until 8 P.M. It featured an Outdoor Festival Concert, performances by the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Singers, Live Orchestra, Folk Arts and Crafts Vendors and lots of Ukrainian Food and Refreshments. President of the Ukrainian Community, Eugene Luciw, hosted the program and thanked everyone for attending what he called a historic turnout.

Eugene thanked everyone for their outstanding support for UKRAINE during these extremely difficult times. The event was supported by many organizations, thousands of people, the news media and special guests, including Michael Blichasz, President of the Polish American Cultural Center and Host of the Saturday Variety Program.



Polish Americans Stand United  
With Our Ukrainian Brothers &  
Sisters & All Who Stand For  
Freedom, Peace, Independence,  
& Prosperity.



U.S.A.



Poland



Ukraine

Campaign to Aid Ukrainian Refugees

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

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.

Log on to: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**.

**Congratulations  
Pride of Polonia Award Recipient “2026”  
Jadwiga Kopala**



Jagwiga Kopala

to serving Catholics of Polish origin. Reverend Dariusz Gościński, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in New Britain, Connecticut, serves as chairman of the Polish Apostolate.

**Jadwiga Kopala**



From left to right: Bishop Witold Mroziński, Jadwiga Kopala, Recipient of the Pride of Polonia Award, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, and Rev. Krzysztof Wieliczko, OSPPE Provincial of the Pauline Fathers, Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA.

where she served on the Parent Teacher Association, assisted in computer classes and volunteered at the library. Her Polish American community involvement included direction of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Polish Supplementary School at Sacred Heart Church in Irvington, NJ, selection as Marshal of the Irvington Division of the Pulaski Day Parade and service as a volunteer accountant at St. Stanislaus Parish, Newark, NJ, Senior Auditor for the Archdiocese of Newark Chancery Office and on both the Pulaski Day Parade Committee in Irvington and Linden, NJ, and the New York Memorial Pulaski Day Parade Committee. In recognition of her extraordinary dedication to the Polish American community, she was named Grand Marshal of the 2020/2021 Pulaski Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York.

For many years, she helped organize the Polish Heritage Festival and in 2012 became Chair of the festival and later President of the Polish American Heritage League (PAHL). Jadwiga has been active in the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, NJ, serves as the Treasurer of the Polish American Congress of New Jersey and is also an active member of the Polish Falcons of America, Nest 17.

Jadwiga received a proclamation from the City of Jersey City on behalf of the Katyn Memorial Defense Committee and was honored by the Polish-language newspaper Nowy Dziennik for her work on its 50th anniversary celebration. She has also received the Gold Badge from Polonia Technica and the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, presented by the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda.

While now a U.S. citizen, Jadwiga remains extremely proud of her Polish heritage. When asked how she manages to balance all of her activities, she answers: “It’s not me—God does everything through my hands.”

The National Polish Apostolate Committee, along with the entire Polonia, extend congratulations and Sto Lat to Jadwiga Kopala.

On Sunday, August 23, 2026, the National Polish Apostolate Committee in the United States conferred its distinguished Pride of Polonia Award on Mrs. Jadwiga Kopala during a ceremony at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. The Pride of Polonia Award is presented annually to recognize an individual who has made exemplary contributions to the life of the Polish diaspora and community in the United States.

The Polish Apostolate Committee, affiliated with the Bishops Committee on Migration of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, is dedicated



Michael Pajak

Director, State Department for U.S. Citizens outside the U.S., was the keynote speaker.

**Congratulations  
Fidelity to the Legacy of  
St. John Paul II  
Recipient Award 2026  
Michael Pajak**

On Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 6 P.M., the chapters of the John Paul II Foundation gathered for a banquet during which they presented the “Fidelity to the Legacy of St. John Paul II Award” to Mr. Michael Pajak, a long time dedicated leader in Polonia having served as President of the New York Society of the John Paul II Foundation for 27 years. His generosity and dedication have greatly advanced the organization’s mission. During the banquet Mr. John Grondelski, Deputy

**Michael Pajak**

“Mieczyslaw” Michael Pajak came to the United States as a teenager in 1960 with his family. At the age of 22, he joined the United States Military and served during the Vietnam War. Professionally Mr. Pajak achieved great success as the Owner and President of Polstar Publishing Corporation.

Throughout his life, Michael has devoted himself to serving God, the Church, and Polonia. He has been a passionate advocate of preserving Polish culture and strengthening the Polish American community. Among his many honors, Michael was named “Pułaskian of the Year” by the NY Pułaski Police Association in 1994 and “Man of the Year” by the Children’s Smile Foundation (Fundacja Uśmiech Dziecka) in 2023.



Archbishop Thomas Wenski presented the Fidelity to the Legacy of St. John Paul II Award to Michael Pajak.

In 1997, Michael’s efforts led to the establishment of the New York Chapter of the John Paul II Foundation. For more than 27 years, he has faithfully served as its President. Michael also holds a special devotion to Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko. Recognizing the importance of preserving the memory of this heroic priest and martyr, Michael

chaired the committee responsible for building the monument to Fr. Popiełuszko in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

In 2019, Pope Francis awarded Michael the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal, given by the Vatican to lay Catholics for exceptional service to the Church. Together, with his loving wife, Regina, Michael raised two children and is a devoted grandfather of six grandchildren. His friend, Janusz Grabinski reflected: “Michael’s story reminds us the greatness is not measured by titles or awards, but by the lives we touch, the faith we live, and the legacy we leave behind.” The Chapters of the John Paul II Foundation, along with the entire Polonia, wish Michael Pajak good health and a happy long life in continuing to promote the legacy of St. John Paul II.



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Join us as we travel north to the Pocono mountains taking in the Fall foliage as we head to East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg where you can shop at a Polish deli or an old-fashion country store (Country Kettle), visit a museum or an art gallery or just explore. We leave from the Lowe's parking lot in Exeter at 10:00am on **Sunday, October 11, 2026**. We arrive in East Stroudsburg at Noon and Stroudsburg at approximately 2:45pm. We will depart Stroudsburg at 7:00pm and arrive back in Reading at 8:55pm.

MEMBER PRICE: \$55.00                      NON-MEMBER: \$60.00  
(includes driver's gratuity)

*Payment required with reservation. Bus seating based on receipt of reservation.*

NO REFUNDS UNLESS TRIP IS CANCELLED.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

For more info or questions, call Marilyn Wlaszewski at 610-779-5523.

Please return this portion along with your payment. Check should be made payable to PAHABC and mail to: Marilyn Wlazewski, 804 Gibraltar Road, Reading, PA 19606 or use the QR Code below and be sure to enter the name(s) and contact number.

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NON-MEMBER NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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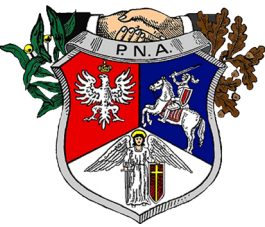
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