In May 1943, on the 400th anniversary of the death of Nicolaus Copernicus, the Kosciuszko Foundation held a series of lectures and commemorative programs, including one at Carnegie Hall, at which Albert Einstein was the principal speaker. (L-R) KF President Henry N. MacCracken, Professor Albert Einstein, Dr. Harlow Shapley.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Members Appreciation Month 1
Message from The President 2
Join the KF Today 3
Discover Your Roots 4
2023 Dinner & Ball 6
The Importance of KF Awards 10
The KF’s Support of Polish Studies in the U.S. 12
A Beacon of Support in the Ukraine Crisis 14
Beyond Borders Academy 18
The Euro-Atlantic Community in the Face of Today’s Challenges 20
Young Heros 22
Bridging Linguistic Boundaries 24
Bridging Borders and Hearts 26
KF President Tracks Down Artwork Stolen by Nazi Germany 28
A Historic Naval Ensign 30
New England Chapter Report 32
Chicago Chapter Report 34
Philadelphia Chapter Report 36
KF Stories 40
My Passion for Polish Folk Dancing 42
Danuta Mostwin’s Legacy 44
Proton Entropy and Quantum Entanglement 46
KF Exchange to the US Award Ceremony 48
Exchange Program to the U.S. 50
Re-mapping Memory, (Dissonant) Heritage, and Belonging 60
Summer Studies at the Jagielonian University 62
Exchange Program to Poland 64
Tuition Scholarships 2023/2024 66
KF New York Cultural Events 2022/23 76
KF New York Upcoming Events 80
My 10 Years at the KF Washington DC 82
Traditions and/or Innovations 84
67th Chopin Piano Competition 85
Last Year and the Year Ahead 86
KF DC Galas 2013-2023 88
KF DC Fundraising Gala Diner 2022 90
Washington DC Fundraising Gala 2023 92
The Power of Komasa Brothers 94
The Wave of Polish Cinema in DC 100
In Memoriam 102
Legacy Giving 104

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THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND ITS THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS:

Ella Paritsky
Justin Allemann

We really could not have succeeded without your support!
We are thrilled to announce another edition of the Kosciuszko Foundation Member Appreciation Month, a special time dedicated to expressing our gratitude to our incredible family of supporters.

Your unwavering contribution has been the cornerstone of our mission, and we want to show our appreciation in a meaningful way.

With this initiative, all individuals who have the status of an active member by November 30, 2023 will automatically enter our lottery with a chance to win fantastic prizes, including an iPad 10.9”, Amazon Kindle, Apple AirTag, and a selection of captivating books and albums related to Polish history and culture.

The lottery will take place at the end of December, so there’s no better time to join or renew your Kosciuszko Foundation membership. Not only will you have the opportunity to win these valuable prizes, but you’ll also continue to support our vital educational and cultural initiatives. Together, we can make a lasting impact on Polish American relations and education.

Join us in celebrating Kosciuszko Foundation Member Appreciation Month by becoming a member or renewing your membership!

MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH IS BACK THIS NOVEMBER!

1. 10.9-INCH IPAD (Latest Model) with Wi-Fi, 64GB, Blue
2. AMAZON KINDLE (2022 release) 6” display, 16GB, Denim
3. APPLE AIRTAG Silver and SAHARACASE, Silicone Case for Apple AirTag
4. ANDREW PITYNSKI signed album
5. THE BEST OF RAFAL OLBINSKI hardcover, album
6. TWARZE MUZYKI ANDRZEJ TYSZKO FOTOGRAFIE 1982 - 2015, hardcover, Photography album
7. ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF POLISH DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES: 1919–1919, hardcover
8. KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION COLLECTION DIAMOND JUBILEE CONCERT CD - SINFONIA VARSOVIA
9. FIRE IN THE STEPPE, Henryk Sienkiewicz, hardcover
10. THE VOLUNTEER: One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz, Jack Fairweather, hardcover
11. AUSCHWITZ. A Monograph of the Human
Dear Members and Friends of the Kosciuszko Foundation,

I am thrilled to welcome you to this year’s edition of our annual Newsletter, centered around the theme of “Tradition and Innovation.” As we gather once more to reflect on our organization’s journey and celebrate last year’s achievements, my heart swells with pride and gratitude. Together, we have honored our nearly century-old values while embracing innovation, paving the way for a brighter and more dynamic future.

The Kosciuszko Foundation has cultivated an innovative approach since its inception, guided by the visionary ideas of Stephen Mizwa, its founder and long-time president. Figures like Maria Sklodowska Curie, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, and Albert Einstein played pivotal roles in promoting his pioneering initiative to establish an organization dedicated to advancing the education of Poles on both sides of the Atlantic. Since then, the KF has supported the educational endeavors of countless talented individuals, including prominent figures such as artist Prof. Magdalena Abakanowicz, historian and author Prof. Norman Davis, CEO of McDonald’s Chris Kempczinski, and many more whose contributions to academia, culture, art, and business have shaped the modern world.

In today’s ever-evolving landscape, we remain committed to supporting emerging leaders, scholars, and artists through scholarships, grants, and cultural exchanges, allocating more funds for these endeavors than ever. In the past year alone, we distributed over 2 million dollars to our flagship programs and special grants. As part of the KF Exchange to the U.S., 32 outstanding scholars and researchers embarked on their journeys to the most prestigious American academic institutions, with the KF allocating a total of $528,000 for this purpose. Our Tuition Scholarship program provided financial support to 18 students, totaling $376,700 in funding. Furthermore, this year’s Summer Studies program supported 18 students on unique educational journeys, with a total funding of $30,000. Additionally, 400 Polish and 210 Ukrainian kids spent the summer in seven camps across the country thanks to the KF’s Teaching English in Poland program.

In addition, the KF swiftly raised over $1.8 million and initiated multiple aid programs for Ukrainian children, women, students, and scholars in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. One of our recent initiatives, the Children’s Rehabilitation Project, was organized in collaboration with our partners in Poland to help children who lost their parents in the Russian war cope with trauma. We also collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution, expanding our support to Ukrainian cultural and artistic institutions. You can learn more about the KF’s evolving assistance to Ukraine in the following pages of this Newsletter.

We are determined to extend our support to more individuals, helping them realize their educational dreams and achieve a brighter future. Your continued support is essential in reaching these goals! For those who aren’t members yet, please consider joining the KF to support our mission and enjoy tangible rewards and benefits. As a KF member, you will have access to exclusive members-only webinars. The KF series, “Discover Your Roots with the KF,” dedicated to genealogical research, has already premiered on our website, thekf.org.

Additionally, you can look forward to participating in Member Appreciation Month this November with a chance to win attractive tech awards. I also encourage you to participate in the new KF Member Referral Program. By inviting your friends or family members to join the Foundation, you and the referred individual will receive KF swag and enter a lottery to win KF 2024 Annual Ball tickets for yourselves and your accompanying guests. Join us in making a difference and enjoying the benefits of KF membership!

Please immerse yourself in the pages of this Newsletter, exploring the stories within and drawing inspiration from the remarkable achievements of our program recipients, volunteers, and supporters. Let us continue to work hand in hand, upholding our shared values and celebrating our heritage to empower the next generation towards a stronger-than-ever Polish global community.
Are you ready to embark on a journey celebrating culture, education, and a shared heritage? Look no further than the Kosciuszko Foundation, a vibrant community dedicated to preserving and promoting Polish American heritage while fostering international exchange and academic excellence. We invite you to discover The Power of Membership and join hands with us in our mission to inspire, educate, and connect.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION?

- **MEMBER BENEFITS:** Each KF membership level comes with tangible benefits, including members-only webinars, participation in raffles with valuable prizes like air tickets or electronic devices, and the organization's branded swag.
- **EDUCATION & SCHOLARLY PURSUITS:** The Kosciuszko Foundation fosters education and provides scholarships, fellowships, and grants. By becoming a member, you contribute directly to advancing academic excellence and support aspiring scholars, artists, and researchers in their quest for knowledge.
- **PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE:** As a member, you play an integral role in upholding the rich tapestry of Polish culture and heritage. Our Foundation is committed to preserving traditions, languages, and values that have shaped generations of Polish Americans.
- **CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** Immerse yourself in a world of cultural events, workshops, and performances that celebrate the artistic achievements of the Polish diaspora. From classical music to visual arts, literature to culinary experiences, our events nourish the soul and feed the intellect.
- **INSPIRING EXCHANGE:** Our membership opens doors to a global community of like-minded individuals passionate about cross-cultural understanding. Engage with renowned experts, artists, and thought leaders through exclusive events, lectures, and exhibitions that broaden your horizons.
- **NETWORKING & CONNECTIVITY:** Forge lasting friendships and meaningful connections with fellow members who share your passion for culture, heritage, and education. Our diverse membership base spans generations and professions, creating a tapestry of experiences to explore.
- **EMPOWERING GENERATIONS:** By joining the Kosciuszko Foundation, you contribute to a legacy that spans generations. Your membership supports the cultivation of young talent and ensures that our shared heritage continues to thrive in the hearts and minds of future leaders.

**EASY WAYS TO JOIN**

To become a KF member,
- Visit www.thekf.org or scan the QR code with your phone to follow the steps on the website.
- Call our office at 212-734-2130; our staff member will gladly assist you.
- Send a check to The Kosciuszko Foundation, indicating the membership level of your choice.
What does it mean to be Polish, or Polish-American? Who were my ancestors? Where did they come from? What were their lives like? How do their stories play a part in who I am today? These are some of the questions that many of us answer through the study of genealogy.

Genealogy—the study of family history and family trees—has exploded in popularity in recent decades, due in part to ever-increasing availability of historical records online. Traditionally, genealogical research has required letter-writing and in-person visits to churches, courthouses, libraries, archives, cemeteries, and other repositories to gather the evidence needed to construct a family tree. While such field trips are still an important part of thorough research, it’s become quick and easy to obtain online images of census records, passenger manifests, vital records, church records, land records, city directories, court records, maps, gazetteers, historical reference books, and so much more. Free websites such as FamilySearch, Find-a-Grave, WorldGenWeb, Internet Archive, and the passenger search at Ellis Island—to name a few from the U.S.—or Geneteka, Szukajwarchiwach, Skanoteka, Genealogiawarchiwach, and GenBaza—to name a few from Poland—put family history documents and family trees at our fingertips. Even subscription databases, such as Ancestry, Fold3, MyHeritage, and Newspapers, can be searched free of charge at FamilySearch Centers and most public libraries.

Technology has also made it increasingly easy to collaborate with others who are researching the same families or geographic areas, obtain research assistance through crowdsourcing, and connect with distant cousins living in Poland. Families that were once separated by oceans and language barriers are reuniting and discovering their common heritage together. Although many Americans are intimidated by their own unfamiliarity with Poland’s complicated history, changing borders, and the Polish language, these are not insurmountable obstacles to successful genealogical research. Persevering researchers can access historical records and genealogical resources in Polish and other languages, using genealogical translation guides and free translations in Facebook groups. Machine translations from sites and apps such as Google Translate and DeepL, although imperfect, are usually sufficient to convey the gist of the text at a foreign-language website, or to permit correspondence with cousins in Poland.

All of this may sound promising, but how does one get started? What if all the family elders are deceased, and there’s no one left who knows where in Poland the family originated? What if the surname was changed, and no one is sure of the original spelling? That’s where the Kosciuszko Foundation comes in. I’ve been invited to develop a series of introductory lectures in Polish genealogy to assist Polish Americans in discovering their family origins and reclaiming their cultural heritage. The series will consist of six lectures:

- Genealogy 101: The Basics of Family History Research
- Getting Around the Language Barrier: Translation Aids for Polish Genealogy
- Gathering Evidence for Place of Origin
Using Gazetteers and Maps for Polish Genealogy
Finding Records from Poland Online
Working with an Onsite Researcher

A new lecture will be released each month until the series is complete, teaching you the tools, methods, and resources that you need to feel confident and empowered as you begin your journey into the past. I look forward to being your guide along the way, as you discover those stories that have made your family unique.

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz is a family historian with 30 years of experience researching family origins in Poland, Germany, France, the U.S., and Canada. She is a native of Western New York and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She received her Master of Arts in endocrinology from the University of California, Berkeley.

She first became interested in genealogy shortly after she was married. Her paternal aunt, Carol Roberts Fischer, had already been researching her dad’s side of the family for some time, so she decided to investigate her mom’s Polish ancestry. Aunt Carol was very encouraging and offered to get her a copy of the marriage certificate for her great-grandparents, John Zazycki and Veronica Grzesiak, from the Erie County courthouse in Buffalo, New York, since she was making regular trips there for research while living in California at the time. She still remembers the feeling of awe as she held the photocopy of that marriage record in her hand and stared at the names of John and Veronica’s parents—names previously unknown to her or anyone else in her family, as far as she knew. And yet these were the names of some of her great-great-grandparents, who lived, worked, loved, cried, dreamed, prayed, hoped, and laughed, and whose DNA lives on in her. From that moment, she was hooked.

Julie enjoys sharing research strategies and resources via in-person lectures and webinars, which she has given for Polish genealogical societies nationally and regionally, as well as for local genealogical societies and library groups. She is an active member of a number of genealogy groups on Facebook, and she administers a few of them as well, including Poland & Genealogy, the Galicia Family History Group, and Genealogical Translations. She is currently serving as President of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State (PGSNYS), Vice-President of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC), and Secretary of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts (PGSMA).
The 86th Charity Ball of the Kosciuszko Foundation took place on Saturday, April 22, at the renowned Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. In line with this year's theme centered around music, the Foundation honored jazz vocalist URSZULA DUDZIAK and the director of the Polish National Opera, WALDEMAR DABROWSKI, for their contributions to shaping and promoting the Polish music scene globally.

Despite its long history dating back to 1928, this year's Ball has earned an informal reputation as the best one. The Foundation's President and Executive Director, Marek Skulimowski, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Alex Storozynski, and this year's awardees, Urszula Dudziak and Waldemar Dabrowski delivered charismatic speeches. Urszula Dudziak additionally treated the guests with an impromptu performance of her famous “Papaya.” She was joined on the stage by actor and theater director Omar Sangare and Isabella Storozynski, the daughter of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kościuszko Foundation. The evening was gracefully hosted by Barbara Bernhardt, the Foundation’s Vice President and Director of its Washington, D.C. Center.

The Ball was attended by special guests, including Polish Senator Jerzy Fedorowicz, Consul General of Poland in New York Adrian Kubicki and his wife Anna, photographer Ryszard Horowitz, Metropolitan Opera Director Peter Gelb, as well as representatives of Polish American organizations and businesses.

The annual Kosciuszko Foundation Ball is its most important fundraiser, aiming to gather financial resources for the coming year.
Left: Artur Szymanski, Wioletta Szymanski, Agnieszka Skulimowska, Marek Skulimowski, Dr. Zbigniew Inglot with his wife Zdzisława.

Far Left: Lydia Sarfati, David Sarfati and Waldemar Dobrowski, Małgorzata Brochocka

Below: Marek Skulimowski, Urszula Dudziak and Alex Storozynski

Above: Reggie Bahl and Eunis Wu

Left: Aleksandra Kujawska, Grażyna Czetrwetynska, Urszula Dudziak, Agnieszka Skulimowska

Right: Georgia Decker, James Norris, Veronika Gajer, Barbara Bernhardt

Below: Ed Mohylowski, Elizabeth M. Zechenter, Andre Zlotnicki, Alice Hazel Rosas Garcia, Mark Peszko

Below: Natalia Olbinska with her husband

Right: Ball Guests
Above: Urszula Dudziak and Guests

Above: Moja Steczkowska, Irena Mclean-Laks, Lydia Sarfati, Małgorzata Brochocka, Waldemar Dabrowski

Above: Jerzy Fedorowicz, Urszula Dudziak, Irena Mclean-Laks

Right: KF President Marek Skulimowski

Below: United States Merchant Marine Academy cadets

Above: KF President Marek Skulimowski with Urszula Dudziak

Right: 2023 KF Medal of Recognition recipients: Waldemar Dabrowski and Urszula Dudziak

Above: Polish American Folk Dance Company performance

Left: Urszula Dudziak performed her famous “Papaya Song” accompanied by actor Omar Sangare and Isabella Storazynski
Above: KF leadership and guests in the traditional Polonaise dance.

Above Left: Photographer Ryszard Horowitz with his wife Anna

Above: Nicolas Storozynski with his partner and Alex Storozynski

Left: Second from the left: Omar Sangare, Jakub Golink

Above: Guests on the dance floor

Above: Duo Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki

Above: Gerard Carelli Orchestra
The Kosciuszko Foundation grants several prizes to distinguish outstanding scientists and promote Polish science and scientists worldwide. These awards are presented periodically based on the assessment of a jury consisting of experts in a given field. Kosciuszko Foundation’s awards play a crucial role in promoting Polish science by recognizing excellence, providing financial support, encouraging research, facilitating international collaboration, enhancing scientific networks, elevating the reputation of Polish science, inspiring the next generation, and bridging cultures. Through KF Awards, the Foundation contributes to advancing knowledge and strengthening Poland’s position in the global scientific community. Additionally, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, The KF established the Biomed Awards to recognize Ukrainian scientists who continue their research despite the war. Everyone whose heart is close to Polish science can contribute to these goals. By joining the Kosciuszko Foundation, members and donors automatically support its programs primarily devoted to science and education.

**Lipski Award**

The Award was created in 2005 to honor the memory of Dr. Witold Lipski (1949-1985), prematurely deceased at the age of 35, pioneer of Polish computer science. It is considered the most prestigious distinction awarded to young computer science specialists in Poland.

The Award was initiated by Polish computer science specialists living abroad: Professors Krzysztof Apt, Wiktor Marek, and Mirosław Truszczynski. It was financed by individuals, scientists, The Polish Information Processing Society, and companies operating in Poland, such as Sage (2006-2015), Atende (2016-2021), and Huawei (2020-2023). The Award has served as a platform for cooperation between science and business. In December 2021, the Foundation for Information Technology Development (FITD), which had served as the competition organizer, handed this role over to the Kosciuszko Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of a private donor from the United States, starting in 2022, the Award is presented in two categories: for achievements in the theoretical aspects of computer science and computer science applications, with a monetary value of ca. $12,000 in each category. In October 2022, the 18th edition of the Witold Lipski Award Ceremony took place. Dr. Filip Mazowiecki from the University of Warsaw became the laureate in the theoretical aspects of computer science, and the exaequo winners of the Award in the category of computer science applications were Dr. Michał Koziarski from the Wrocław University of Technology and Dr. Mateusz Ostaszewski from the Warsaw University of Technology.

**Pienkowski Award**

The Pienkowski Award is conferred annually by the University of Warsaw Institute of Natural Physics and funded by the Marek Maria Pienkowski Foundation and the Kosciuszko Foundation. It recognizes outstanding scientific achievements in experimental physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, and medicine that have expanded Poland’s heritage for developing a scientific research community, as envisioned by Professor Stefan Pienkowski.
and the Dean of the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy, and Applied Computer Science of the Jagiellonian University.

The laureate of the 2022 edition was Michał Parniak, Ph.D., from the Center of New Technologies of the University of Warsaw. He was recognized for his work entitled “Developing New Experimental Platforms for Quantum Research and Technologies and Using them to Demonstrate the Latest Quantum Phenomena and Protocols.”

JANCZEWSKI AWARD

The Bohdan and Zygmunt Janczewski Award was founded by a prominent andrologist, the late Zygmunt Janczewski, a professor at the Warsaw Medical Academy. Prof. Janczewski decided that the Award is given every two years to a Polish medical doctor who has Polish citizenship, permanently resides in Poland, and whose writing contributes to the development of his discipline. Prof. Janczewski appointed the Kosciuszko Foundation as the administrator of the Award. The Foundation has worked in this capacity since 2004.

The KF awards a prize of up to $15,000 to authors of the most original and substantial publications in the area of clinical medicine. It can also be given to authors who prepared a publication based on their research in a foreign scientific institution. Awarded papers must be published in international medical magazines in English during the last two years before each edition of the prize.

BIOMED PRIZE

The award was established after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and is financed by a KF Trustee, Piotr Chomczyński, Ph.D. It honors Ukrainian molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, immunology, and biomedicine scientists who promote Ukrainian science and conduct research despite the war. This year, the jury honored as many as five researchers: Rostyslav Bilyy, Volodymyr, Oleh Lushchak, Natalia Kozýrovská, and Valeria Trusova, who received prizes totaling $30,000. Despite the adversities related to the ongoing war, all candidates continue their research and publish works at an extremely high level.

The namesake of the award, Stefan Pienkowski, (1883-1953), was an inspirational, world-renowned scientific figure, academician, author, and decorated citizen. He served as the University of Warsaw president. Pienkowski strove to create a culture for science education in Poland, build the country’s scientific community with an emphasis on cultural awareness and excellence, and instill a sense of national pride in the achievements of Polish scientists. Pienkowski received a grant from the highly competitive and prestigious Rockefeller Foundation of the United States to conduct his study. This honor carried the potential for exceptional career opportunities in the future. Yet, Professor Pienkowski returned to Poland to pursue his research and continue to promote science in his homeland.

The Pienkowski Award is granted every two years. In 2023, Wiktor Lewandowski, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Warsaw, was the laureate of the Prize. He designed optical materials, the future of 21st-century technology widely used mainly in producing modern liquid crystal displays. Wiktor Lewandowski, Ph.D., is an assistant professor at the Department of Organic Chemistry and Chemical Technology at the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Warsaw. He leads a thriving research team and publishes the results of his work in the best scientific journals. He also has registered two patents.

FRANK WILCZEK AWARD

The Kosciuszko Foundation established the Frank Wilczek Award in 2019 in partnership with the Jagiellonian University for high-achieving young Polish scientists. The Award of $12,000 is presented every two years to young Polish scientists who have made significant discoveries in physics, astronomy, or similar fields. Scientific achievements presented for consideration for the Award must be made alone or as part of the collaboration, but in the case of the latter, the nominee’s contribution must be clearly defined, leading, and necessary for the project’s success.

Prof. Frank Wilczek of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is one of the world’s most eminent theoretical physicists. In 2004, with Hugh David Politzer and David Grosse, he received the Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering asymptotic freedom in the theory of strong interaction. Patrons of the Award are Prof. Frank Wilczek and the Dean of the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy, and Applied Computer Science of the Jagiellonian University.

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The KF awards a prize of up to $15,000 to authors of the most original and substantial publications in the area of clinical medicine. It can also be given to authors who prepared a publication based on their research in a foreign scientific institution. Awarded papers must be published in international medical magazines in English during the last two years before each edition of the prize.

BIOMED PRIZE

The award was established after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and is financed by a KF Trustee, Piotr Chomczyński, Ph.D. It honors Ukrainian molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, immunology, and biomedicine scientists who promote Ukrainian science and conduct research despite the war. This year, the jury honored as many as five researchers: Rostyslav Bilyy, Volodymyr, Oleh Lushchak, Natalia Kozýrovská, and Valeria Trusova, who received prizes totaling $30,000. Despite the adversities related to the ongoing war, all candidates continue their research and publish works at an extremely high level.
Supporting Polish Studies in the United States is an initiative of paramount importance, closely aligned with the Kosciuszko Foundation’s core mission. By providing funds for Polish Studies, the KF helps nurture academic excellence and contributes to the growth of a vibrant intellectual community of scholars, students, and enthusiasts focused on this field. This effort subsequently builds a platform for cultural exchange and dialogue.

By providing accurate and comprehensive information, these programs contribute to a more in-depth understanding of the country’s history and culture. Therefore, the KF’s involvement in supporting Polish Studies in the U.S. enriches both nations’ intellectual and cultural landscapes.

Working towards achieving these ambitious and vital goals, over the years, the Kosciuszko Foundation has helped fund Polish Studies at over 20 American Universities. Additionally, the KF supports 2-3 teaching fellows from Poland through the KF Exchange to the U.S.

Currently, the Foundation funds Polish Studies programs at the following universities:

- **HUNTER COLLEGE IN NEW YORK**
  Minor in Polish, Polish Language Courses, and Polish Literature
  The program offers courses in Polish language, literature, and culture. Polish courses taught in the Division of Russian and Slavic Studies are open to all interested students who wish to learn the language, fulfill the Foreign Language Requirement, earn a Hunter Focus in Polish, or take Polish courses as electives.

- **BROWN UNIVERSITY IN PROVIDENCE, RI**
  Polish Language and Polish Cinema
  The Polish Program at Brown University funded by the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA).
  The program is part of the Department of Slavic Studies and offers a range of courses dedicated to the Polish language and culture. Beyond introductory, intermediate, and advanced Polish, students can take Polish cinema and literature classes in the comparative context of other Central European literatures and cultures.

- **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**
  Polish Language and Culture
  The Program is funded by the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA).

- **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO**
  The Kosciuszko Foundation Scholar
  The Kosciuszko Foundation Scholar position was established thanks to the generosity of Bozena and John McLees and Professor John Kulczycki. From 2022 to 2024, Dr. Olchawa has been conducting research and teaching about Polish and Eastern European politics.

- **DAEMEN UNIVERSITY AND CANISIUS COLLEGE IN BUFFALO** – The Warsaw University Visiting Scholar
  The position was established in collaboration with the Kosciuszko Foundation and the University of Warsaw.
  The Kosciuszko Foundation invites everyone to join our mission to ensure the vitality of Polish Studies programs in the U.S. by becoming a KF member or making a donation. Individual contributions will help educate American audiences about Poland’s rich cultural heritage while presenting its modern and diverse image.
2024 MARKS THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH STUDIES PROGRAM AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY.

It is the oldest, largest, and best-known program of its sort whose reputation is praised in both North America and Europe.

From the beginning the Program provided university classes in Polish language and history to hundreds of students. Some of them have gone on to earn advanced degrees and have won prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships.

The Program has presented public events by providing the community with knowledge of, and appreciation for, Polish culture and history. To this end it has arranged hundreds of lectures, concerts, and exhibits by distinguished scholars, journalists, politicians, and artists. The Program has arranged symposia, lectures and, recently co-sponsored an international conference on Polish studies.

The Polish Studies Program at CCSU has had an illustrious career under the direction of two celebrated scholars, Stanislaus A. Blejwas and M. B. B. Biskupski. It has combined teaching, public events, and scholarly presentations to make it perhaps the most successful and well-known academic program of CCSU, and, in so doing, gained international attention.

We are proud to celebrate the achievements and mission of the Kościuszko Foundation, and ask you to consult web-sites for more information: https://www.ccsu.edu/polishstudies/
THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION
A BEACON OF SUPPORT IN THE UKRAINE CRISIS

Marek Skulimowski, President and Executive Director

“In a landmark alliance aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage, the Smithsonian Institution and the Kosciuszko Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect and preserve cultural heritage in Ukraine endangered by the ongoing Russian invasion.”

AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS
Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, thereby initiating a full-scale war, and thus a humanitarian crisis erupted in both Ukraine and neighboring Poland. Amidst this tragedy, a significant civilian mobilization was witnessed. Ordinary Polish citizens, exhibiting extraordinary kindness and generosity, stepped up to support the incoming surge of Ukrainian refugees. Standing among them was and is the Kosciuszko Foundation, an organization historically dedicated to education and culture but which has, in these dire times, expanded its mission to humanitarian aid.

When the war broke out, Marek Skulimowski, the President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, was in Poland. He immediately joined thousands of Polish volunteers assisting the refugees at the Polish-Ukrainian border. Later, several trustees from the Foundation went to Poland to volunteer.

Understanding the magnitude of the crisis, the Foundation’s Board of Trustees held an emergency meeting just a day after the invasion. They launched a fundraising campaign to aid those forced to flee their homes due to the conflict. By the end of July 2023, the Foundation, supported by its members and friends, raised over 18 million US dollars for the cause.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND BEYOND
The foundation utilized these funds strategically, aligning their use with its long-standing education and cultural exchange mission. As part of the “Freedom Starts with Your Mind” Program, they offered grants to Ukrainian scholars conducting research in Poland. They disbursed $2,500 each to 50 Ukrainian scholars who had fled to Poland. Additionally, an award of $30,000 was offered to scientists from Ukraine in fields like molecular biology and biochemistry, funded by Dr. Piotr Chomczynski.

The Foundation’s reach was not limited to the intellectual realm. It ventured into practical, boots-on-the-ground projects. The sum of $100,000 was allocated for six Teaching English in Poland camp sessions – each one a two-week integrative language immersion summer program. This year, with the support of over 60 dedicated American volunteers, the Kosciuszko Foundation–Poland and the Kosciuszko Foundation USA organized six summer camps in different locations across Poland and invited 210 Ukrainian youngsters to join almost 400 Polish children.
The SOK Foundation of Warsaw, in partnership with The Kosciuszko Foundation, has been pioneering an invaluable initiative to support Ukrainian refugee children through specialized training for teachers. Known as training for teachers of Polish as a Foreign Language with a component of emotional regulation, the program has successfully completed 13 cycles since its inception in July 2022. Each two-week intensive training session works with 100-200 teachers of the Polish language, many of whom have direct contact with refugee children but lack prior professional experience in teaching Polish to foreigners. The program aims to equip teachers not only with the linguistic tools but also the emotional skills necessary for helping traumatized children. Conducted online in a hybrid model that includes recorded lectures and live Zoom sessions, the training is accessible to participants from across Poland and Ukraine. The latter group accounts for about 30% of the attendees. The program's funding is primarily supported by the Kosciuszko Foundation, in the amount of $65,000, and each ‘cycle’ offers 20 hours of lectures, 24 hours of workshops, and a set of textbooks.

The Kosciuszko Foundation's concern was not solely confined to academia. The inaugural Beyond Borders Academy (BBA) program saw 20 young leaders from Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus meeting for personal development workshops. With the aim of building community, leadership and cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, this initiative has sown the seeds for a promising future despite the prevailing crisis.

**TACKLING A MULTIFACETED HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE**

Over the past year, the Kosciuszko Foundation supported the Folkowisko Foundation with the sum of $100,000, to fund its ongoing efforts in aiding Ukrainian refugees in Poland and Ukraine. This donation aimed to provide vital resources, ranging from humanitarian aid to educational support, in regions severely affected by the war and the resulting refugee crisis.

Primarily, the funds were allocated for humanitarian assistance. This included Life Boxes—emergency supplies for immediate needs—as well as maintaining a medical center at the Polish-Ukrainian border. These initiatives were crucial in offering direct and immediate relief to refugees displaced by the conflict. Folkowisko has organized training for psychologists, focusing on treating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among refugees. Additionally, the funds were used to bolster educational infrastructure, equipping schools in the Lviv region with new computers, projectors, sports kits, and classroom furniture. Moreover, we supported a project in the village of Nahachiv (near Yavoriv), where in an existing building a number of classrooms were fully renovated, and a medical center was established in an abandoned building. The funds also enabled the purchase 10 generators to sustain power in schools in those regions that were disrupted by the Russian bombing of critical infrastructure.

Perhaps the most emotionally compelling project were educational and rehabilitation camps for Ukrainian children who had lost a parent in the war. The Kosciuszko Foundation co-funded the project with $50,000, which was organized by the Folkowisko Foundation and took place in Cieszanow, Poland. 190 individuals from all over Ukraine were invited to participate in the camp. There were 130 children aged 2-18, sixty mothers or guardians. Among the participants were youngsters whose parents vanished or remained in Russian captivity. The initiative offered not only a camping
experience but also psychological healing, allowing children to reclaim a semblance of their lost childhoods. Other projects ranged from supporting a Ukrainian kindergarten in Szczecin ($4,000) to purchasing kitchen equipment for a Krakow refugee center ($3,000) and funding Ukrainian artists’ trips and residences ($10,000).

Smithsonian Institution and Kosciuszko Foundation Partner to Preserve Cultural Heritage in Ukraine

In a landmark alliance aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage, the Smithsonian Institution and the Kosciuszko Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect and preserve cultural heritage in Ukraine endangered by the ongoing Russian invasion. This unique partnership underscores the belief that safeguarding a community’s cultural heritage is intrinsically linked to protecting its people.

Thanks to the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, 32 museums and cultural institutions in Ukraine have already benefitted from aid, totaling over $250,000. The bulk of this assistance has been directed toward essential resources such as climate-control equipment, generators, and power stations to ensure the safety and longevity of priceless artifacts and documents.

The list of beneficiary institutions is extensive and diversified, reflecting the rich cultural mosaic of Ukraine, and includes the following, among others: Sheptycki National Museum in Lviv, Taras Shevchenko National University Library of Kyiv, Museum of Jewish Culture and Holocaust History in Kryvyi Rih, Archaeological Museum in Odesa, Polish Cultural and Educational Center at Uman University in Uman, and National Art Gallery in Lviv.

The Smithsonian Institution has expressed its commitment to extend the partnership with the Kosciuszko Foundation for another year, pledging at least $100,000 in further support. This continued support will enable both organizations to expand their reach and protect even more elements of the rich ethno-cultural heritage in Ukraine.

CONCLUSION

The Kosciuszko Foundation has exceeded its primary mission to serve an urgent humanitarian need. From educational scholarships to personal development programs, from aiding educational institutions to bolstering cultural preservation, these efforts embody the principle that in times of despair, all must unite to help those who are suffering. Their contribution highlights the strength of collective effort, something vitally important in these troubled times.
Building on the foundation of past achievements, we are committed to the creation, preservation, and mobilization of expert knowledge about Ukraine and Ukrainians worldwide.

As the world continues to change, we shall attain our vision through critical dialogue and sustained engagement with partners and researchers around the globe.

All of us at CIUS wish to extend our gratitude to the Polish community worldwide for your response to Russia’s war in Ukraine with unwavering support of Ukraine and Ukrainians.
The importance of cross-cultural understanding, global collaboration, and effective leadership cannot be overstated in today’s world. Recognizing this imperative, the Kosciuszko Foundation, in partnership with the Foundation Borderland, the Folkowisko Association, and the School for Leaders Foundation—have joined forces to establish the Beyond Borders Academy. This groundbreaking initiative seeks to cultivate the next generation of leaders from Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus who are not only well-versed in cultural diversity but also equipped with the skills necessary to address the complex challenges of our time.

**COLLABORATIVE VISION**

The Beyond Borders Academy embodies a unique and innovative approach to leadership development by intertwining education, cultural exchange, and community engagement. The initiative is based on a shared belief in the power of diversity to drive progress. It offers holistic training and resources for young leaders tailored to develop relations and form new opportunities for cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, despite the difficult situation in their countries.

“We need to train a network of future NGO leaders in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, and possibly elsewhere in Europe to meet the challenges of the future world, such as environmental and social problems, wars, and crises. We want to build social capital and give impetus for community action in the region,” says Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director.

The first BBA study visit occurred in June 2023 in Gorajec, Podkarpacie, in Southeastern Poland. The region is at the meeting point of different cultures, including Polish, Ukrainian, and Jewish, which have been interpenetrating for centuries. The following workshops took place in September in Krasnogruda, a village in northeastern Poland, close to the border with Lithuania.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The Beyond Borders Academy offers a multifaceted curriculum that weaves together seminars, workshops, cultural immersions, and collaborative projects. Participants gain exposure to diverse viewpoints, engage in hands-on learning experiences, and develop a deep appreciation for the world’s cultural mosaic. Key program highlights include:

- **CULTURAL IMMERSIONS:** Participants engage in immersive experiences that allow them to explore partner countries’ rich heritage and traditions. These immersions foster cultural empathy and cross-cultural communication, from art exhibitions to folk music performances.

- **LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS:** Leveraging the expertise of the four partnering organizations, the academy offers leadership workshops that cover topics such as ethical decision-making, communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution. These skills are essential for navigating today’s complex regional and global landscape.

- **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS:** Participants work together on projects that address real-world challenges with a global dimension. This collaborative approach encourages innovative thinking and the application of culturally sensitive solutions.
GLOBAL NETWORK: Beyond Borders Academy alumni become part of a global network of emerging leaders committed to positively impacting their communities and the world. This network serves as a platform for ongoing collaboration, idea exchange, and support.

A CATALYST FOR POSITIVE CHANGE
The Beyond Borders Academy stands as a catalyst for the transformative power of collaboration and cultural exchange. By bringing together the expertise of the four partnering organizations, this initiative creates a fertile ground for nurturing leaders who possess a deep appreciation for cultural diversity, a global mindset, and the skills needed to address the pressing challenges of our era. As the BBA continues to inspire and educate, it paves the way for a brighter, more interconnected future.

Photos by Robert Kryla
In October 2022, the Kosciuszko Foundation – Warsaw Office and the Kosciuszko Foundation – Poland organized an insightful conference at the Łazienki Królewskie in Warsaw, Poland. Attended by 120 experts from various fields—academia, business, and diplomacy—the conference aimed to discuss the future of relations between Poland, Ukraine, and the United States. In the midst of global uncertainty and war in Ukraine, this gathering served as a platform for sharing perspectives and crafting possible solutions to strengthen the Euro-Atlantic community.

HISTORY, SOCIETY, DIPLOMACY

The first panel featured a robust line-up of eminent experts: PROF. HIERONIM GRALA from the University of Warsaw; PROF. MACIEJ DUSZCZYK, head of the Migration Policy Unit at the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw; KATARZYNA PEŁCZYŃSKA-NAŁĘCZ, former Ambassador of Poland to Russia; and LEV ZAKHARCHYSHYN, former Ukrainian Consul to Poland.

The discussion ranged from historical contexts to present-day challenges and the evolving nature of Euro-Atlantic cooperation. Special attention was given to the war in Ukraine, highlighting the urgent need for collaborative strategies for peace and stability. The experts underscored that the current threats are not isolated events but are deeply rooted in historical contexts that need to be understood for meaningful diplomatic engagement.

ECONOMY IN THE FACE OF THE CRISIS AND THE PROSPECTS OF UKRAINE’S RECONSTRUCTION

The second panel had an economic focus, with Stefan Kawalec, former minister of finance; Dominika Bettman, Microsoft Poland CEO; Michał Hubert Mrózek, Executive Vice President at ING Bank Ślaski; and Rafał Ogrodnik, CFO & COO of Warner Bros. Discovery Poland, taking the stage.

The panelists discussed the exigencies of building robust transatlantic economic relationships, particularly considering Poland’s current economic situation and the rebuilding necessities in Ukraine. A vital point of the conversation was the potential role of Polish entrepreneurs in Ukraine’s reconstruction. The panelists suggested that technological innovation and financial investments could serve as catalysts for economic revitalization, drawing a roadmap that could benefit all stakeholders in the Euro-Atlantic community.

THE AMERICAN AFFIRMATION

US Ambassador to Poland, MARK BRZEZINSKI, graced the event as the guest of honor. He conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to The Kosciuszko Foundation for its unyielding commitment to supporting Ukrainians since the conflict’s onset. Drawing a parallel with the illustrious Tadeusz Kościuszko, a symbol of relentless pursuit and dedication, Ambassador Brzezinski said the Foundation’s actions would indeed make the Polish-Lithuanian military leader proud.

“The leadership the Kosciuszko Foundation has demonstrated since the very start of the war has been nothing short of remarkable. It is truly an inspiration. You took action that was both strategic and timely, decisive and collective.” Ambassador Mark Brzezinski

In summary, the conference highlighted the need for a united Euro-Atlantic community in these trying times. The collaborative effort, both in terms of diplomacy and economic recovery, between Poland, Ukraine, and the United States is not only desirable but also essential for ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for the region.
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Polish Highlanders, traditional food suppliers, state media, and a local community of people of goodwill were all present at the Pierogi Fundraiser. The event was organized last summer by two young Polish American high school students from Ridgewood, NJ, Parker Rollins and Tara Conn. They decided to raise funds to help Ukrainian orphans and displaced families. The initiative of these two young individuals exemplifies solidarity and community awareness and proves that the strong urge to do good will overcome any obstacles.

Their idea of organizing the fundraiser came up as an immediate response to the Russian attack on Ukraine. “I saw that Poland was very involved in helping and welcoming the Ukrainian children coming across the border. I saw many children my age whose lives were completely changed, and the many families that lost loved ones and had to leave the only place they knew,” says Parker Rollins. “The people of Poland opened their hearts and homes and gave the Ukrainian children a sense of hope. Being a second-generation Polish American teen, this inspired me to try to help and to show my support for this initiative from my hometown in Ridgewood, New Jersey,” he explains.

Parker’s mother, Shirley Rollins, a first-generation Polish American, has been a member of the KF for many years. She taught Parker and his brother to be involved in extra-curricular activities: “Now I understand what my mom meant: The reward is much more meaningful when you believe in your cause and goals. My friend Tara Conn, who is also of Polish descent, felt the same way I did, and we took on this initiative with the help of our family, school, and community,” states Parker.

Organizing and managing such an undertaking required excellent planning, coordination, and the anticipation of any possible obstacles. One of the most complex parts was getting the word out about the event. However, Parker explains that once the event was planned, everything fell into place, and that community support had been invaluable for the project’s success: “The Ridgewood community was very supportive of our initiative, and once we spread the word through friends and family, the church bulletin, the school on-line announcement website, and social media channels, we felt confident that people would come and support the event,” he says. “We were so happy and proud that The Ridgewood News and the Bergen Record picked up the
story, and we were on the front page of the Life Section, raising the profile of the event and allowing us to raise even more money after the event occurred," adds Parker. Demonstrating an exceptional level of strategic planning, the two young individuals found a way to keep event expenses as low as possible so that all proceeds could benefit their main cause: "We were so happy when the local Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, offered to provide a venue for our event at no charge, including access to the kitchen and the community area. We were also able to secure the support of three local Polish grocery stores in Garfield (Piast, Krakus, and Oskar Bakery) in donating food, including delicious pierogies and paczki (Polish donuts), which we ultimately sold at the event. We also reached out to a local Polish mountaineer dance company to provide entertainment at the event. We felt so proud that these Polish stores felt the same way we did and supported our mission," shares Parker. "Without the support of the local businesses, my family, and Tara Conn, this event would not have been possible. This community gathering is why the event was so successful."

"Seeing all of the attendees rally around this event and believing in our mission to help in such an important cause – knowing that this hard work and the donations were going to such a great cause – helping people who were uprooted from their homes due to war," emphasizes Rollins. "I felt that I helped in the only way I knew how to and even if it helped only one or two Ukrainian teenagers, that is success and joy to me!"

Parker concludes that the event helped him appreciate the environment he hails from, even more: "It taught me that I live in a town and in a country that provides me with a very stable environment and that making a small sacrifice at that time had such a huge impact on the lives of others on the other side of the world. The support we have received from all the Polish Ridgewood and the surrounding Bergen County community was unbelievable. I am so proud to be a part of this culture and community that my grandparents began when they came to this country 55 years ago."

Based on the success of their first fundraiser, Parker and his friend Tara spent this past school year getting approval from the High School counselors and principal to build and create a Fundraising Club. "If Tara and I felt such happiness and pride helping other children and families, we were certain that many other friends and teens would feel the same way. We can’t wait to launch this Club in the fall of 2023 at the RHS Club Fair!" - Parker stated.

"Thank you so much for sharing our story with the rest of the Polish Community that is part of the Kosciuszko Foundation. It validates and shows us that “community” truly does support each other!"

Parker Rollins
The Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching English in Poland Program (TEIP) manifests the Foundation’s enduring commitment to fostering cultural exchange and educational opportunities between the United States and Poland. Established in 1991, this program has played a pivotal role in enhancing English language instruction in Poland, benefitting countless students and educators over the years. The program owes much of its success to the invaluable involvement of American volunteer teachers. These dedicated individuals contribute their time, expertise, and passion for teaching to enrich the English language skills of Polish and Ukrainian children and youth. Their commitment enables students to benefit from high-quality English education and creates lasting connections between the United States and Poland.

HISTORICAL MILESTONES:
INCEPTION (1991): TEIP was initiated as part of Poland’s post-communist transition. It aimed to meet the increasing demand for English language proficiency in a rapidly changing educational and professional landscape.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE (OVER 30 YEARS): Over the decades, TEIP has consistently recruited talented American volunteer teachers who have shared their expertise during organized across Poland summer camps. Their efforts have helped Polish and Ukrainian students develop language skills that are vital in today’s globalized world.

IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS: The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland Warsaw Office ensures the successful execution of the program by facilitating its coordination and administration. It assists American volunteers during their stay in Poland, and enriches English language instruction as well as cultural exchange initiatives.

KEY NUMBERS:
30+ YEARS OF SERVICE: TEIP boasts an impressive track record, having operated for more than three decades. This longevity speaks to the program’s enduring impact and success.

1000+ AMERICAN VOLUNTEER TEACHERS: Throughout its history, TEIP has facilitated the placement of over 1000 American teachers in Polish summer camps.

10,000+ STUDENTS: The program has directly impacted the lives of over 10,000 students by providing them with access to high-quality English language instruction.

As TEIP looks to the future, its commitment to excellence remains unwavering. The program seeks to expand its reach to benefit more Polish and Ukrainian children and empower American educators to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.
Join the 2024 TEIP Program as a Volunteer Teacher

Application Opens: November 2023

www.thekf.org
In its 32nd year, the impact of the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Teaching English in Poland program is shining brighter than ever. This year’s theme, “One person can change the world,” resonated across seven camps, three of which served students in new locations in southeast Poland.

The echoes of learning, unity, and cultural enrichment reverberated across each camp, leaving an indelible mark on the over 600 students. The camps were also a melting pot of educators: 60 American, 30 Polish, and 10 Ukrainian teachers, teaching assistants, and eight peer tutors united by a common purpose. Thanks to a wonderful partnership with the American Federation of Teachers, the Basznia Dolna camp also hosted nine volunteer AFT members among its staff, and the Olsztynek camp operated in partnership with the EFC Foundation.

This year’s theme, “One person can change the world,” was not just a slogan—it was a call to action, urging each participant to embrace their role as educators and learners in an uncertain world. Among this year’s 600 TEIP campers, around 400 were Polish, close to 200 were Ukrainian, and remarkably, even 3 students hailed from Belarus. The diversity within the camp mirrored the current population of Poland, where cultural differences enhance the beauty of shared experiences.

It’s a daunting task to pinpoint a singular highlight from each camp. From creating their own board games to delving into the charm of major U.S. cities like New Orleans, New York City, and Chicago to discovering the thrill of kickball, the campers were enthralled. Older campers were captivated by classes such as forensic science by an FBI agent, criminal investigation by an attorney, mindfulness by a yoga professional, and plein-air painting by a professional book illustrator. Baking apple pies, rice crispy treats, and peanut butter cookies added a delectable touch to the learning. Campers will never forget the dances they learned, like the Cha-Cha Slide, turning the camp into a dance floor of laughter. As Independence Day dawned,
the camps celebrated the 4th of July in style—with hotdogs, s’mores by a crackling campfire, and a sense of unity that transcended borders.

For the dedicated staff, almost every moment in Poland was a cherished memory. Visiting historical landmarks such as the art museum and castle in Łancut, the Wieliczka salt mines, the old synagogue in Kraków, and the Royal Palace in Warsaw, each experience was a journey of enrichment. For several of the staff members with Polish roots, the experience was the first time connecting directly with and learning about their ancestral homeland of Poland, and immersing themselves in the nation’s history and culture was both educational and profound.

Intercultural bonds were also formed in unexpected ways. The students enthusiastically taught their American counterparts a popular Polish dance, sparking joy and camaraderie. Campers and teachers found when language barriers couldn’t be bridged, sometimes the best translation was simple, heartfelt hugs. The warmth and hospitality of the Polish people resonated deeply with the American staff, and Poland ceased to be just a place; it became a second home and its people, family.

As we reflect on another chapter of “Teaching English in Poland,” the words of the theme resonate even more deeply. The impact of a single individual can cascade into a movement, transforming lives, cultures, and perspectives. The 600 students, the 100 educators, and everyone involved have proven that change is not just possible—it is inevitable when minds unite.

The Teaching English in Poland Program will begin recruitment for teachers and teaching assistants in November. TEIP welcomes teachers from all subject areas and teaching assistants from all walks of life: professionals, retirees, and college students are encouraged to apply and to see how they, too, can change the world!

Kristin Miller is an educator with a passion for international learning who serves as the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme coordinator and instructional coach for Oberlin City Schools in Oberlin, Ohio. Over the past nine enriching summers, Kristin and her family have embarked on journeys to Poland with the Teaching English in Poland Program. They have been warmly welcomed by camps in Otwock, Załęcze Wielkie, Ocypel, and, most recently, Basznia Dolna. These annual visits to their beloved second home in Poland and their teaching at TEIP camps are cherished traditions for Kristin and her family.
osciuszko Foundation President MAREK SKULIMOWSKI has helped negotiate the return of priceless art stolen during WWII under Nazi Germany’s occupation of Poland. These pieces include 18th-century watercolors by Zygmunt Vogel looted from the National Museum in Warsaw during WWII (Count Edward Raczynski’s collection).

“For two decades, Marek Skulimowski has monitored deals at auction houses to track artwork robbed from Poland,” said Kosciuszko Foundation Chairman Alex Storozynski. “As a diplomat, Marek worked to retrieve numerous paintings taken by Nazi Germany. We are proud that he continues this work as President of the KF. He is a vigilant art detective and negotiator who makes sure these artifacts are returned to their rightful owners.”

Over the years Skulimowski has helped retrieve prominent artifacts including: “Portrait of a Lady,” by Melchior Geldorp, “St. Phillip Baptizing Queen Kandaka’s Servant” by Johann Seekatz, two paintings by Julian Falat, “Before Going Hunting Rytwiany” and “The Battue Hunt at Nieswiez”, or a 15th-century breviary and a pre-war Polish Regimantal Standard.

Skulimowski has worked with the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Poland, federal agencies in the U.S., and individual collectors and hobbyists who share his passion.

“I began working with Marek Skulimowski to recover the collection of paintings of the Brotherhood of Saint Luke from Lemoyne College in Syracuse about 20 years ago. Since then, we have worked on many restitution projects. Thanks to Marek’s dedication and experience, we have managed to locate and recover several valuable artifacts to Polish collections,” said Boguslaw Winid, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador to NATO (2007-2011) and the UN (2014-2017).

Poland, a nation with a rich cultural heritage, has been a victim of art looting throughout history. The invasion and occupation of Poland by Nazi Germany saw the extensive theft and devastation of countless pieces of art and cultural properties. The post-war period brought forth struggles and negotiations to recover these treasures, yet hundreds of thousands of pieces remain missing.

You can help us find and return Poland’s looted art. Join the KF to learn more about Polish art and history.
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Professor Sven Ekdahl

10/28, 2023
POLAND ON THE CUSP OF THE 19TH CENTURY
Professor Antony Polonsky

11/11, 2023
POLAND’S JANUARY UPRISING 1863
Professor Andrzej Nowak

11/18, 2023
KRAKOW IN WORLD WAR 1
Professor Alexander Watson

12/09, 2023
MASTERCLASS IN OPERATIONAL ARTS: THE BATTLE OF WARSAW, 1920
Dr Paul Latawski

01/27, 2024
THE POLISH AIRFORCE IN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN
Richard Kornicki, CBE

02/10, 2024
THE BERLING ARMY
Roger Moorhouse, FRSHist.

03/16, 2024
POLISH SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS IN HUNGARY 1939-1945
Halik Kochanski, FRSHist.

04/20, 2024
POLES IN BRITAIN IN WWII
Jennifer Grant
In a recent collaboration that exemplifies the importance of preserving historical artifacts, the Naval Museum in Gdynia, Poland, has added a unique naval ensign to its collection. Thanks to Mr. Marek Skulimowski, the president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the flag was formally handed over in a ceremony in Warsaw in July.

The ensign isn’t just any naval flag; it’s a Polish war naval flag produced in the Third Reich. The flag was captured from a German U-boat slated for sinking during “Operation Deadlight,” an operation to scuttle German U-boats captured during World War II. Lt. Zygmunt Księżopolski, a Polish naval officer, secured the ensign. It was later donated to the Kosciuszko Foundation by Maria Księżopolska, Zygmunt’s widow.*

The ensign’s history becomes even more intriguing when considered in the context of the life of the man who secured it. Zygmunt Księżopolski was born in 1918 in Istanbul and raised in a patriotic Polish community in Turkey, which included the Polish village of Adampol. After graduating from high school, he moved to Poland and joined the Naval Cadet School.

As World War II erupted, Księżopolski and his school were evacuated to Pinsk, where he fought in the Operational Group “Polesie.” Injured in the Battle of Kock, he was subsequently taken captive. Remarkably, he was released thanks to his Turkish passport. Księżopolski then returned to Turkey to continue efforts to rejoin the fight. His journey led him through the Polish Army in the Middle East and ultimately to Great Britain.

In 1943, Księżopolski was promoted to junior lieutenant and served on several Polish navy ships, including the ORP Burza, Błyskawica, Krakowiak, and Piorun. He married Maria Pinińska, a Women’s Auxiliary Naval Service officer. Like many of their contemporaries, they eventually emigrated and are buried in the USA.

The acquisition of the ensign serves as a vivid reminder of the need to preserve artifacts that hold not just historical but also emotional value. In this case, the ensign isn’t just a piece of fabric; it’s a gateway to understanding the tumultuous lives led by individuals during a defining period in history.

The naval ensign, now housed in the Naval Museum in Gdynia, serves as a testament to the resilience and courage of individuals like Lt. Zygmunt Księżopolski. His story is a compelling chapter in the annals of Polish history, intricately interwoven with international events of the 20th century. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Naval Museum, this piece of history will be preserved for future generations, educating them about the sacrifices and valor of those who came before them.

*Maria Księżpolska died in New London on October 15, 2021.
An honored partner with the main Kosciuszko Foundation headquartered in New York City, New York proudly presents programs and events celebrating and promoting Polish culture and history as well as increasing awareness of the contributions of Poland to our community.

We salute our Chapter’s members, fellow board members and volunteers who made our events successful.

Special thanks to Elms College for their continued collaboration with our Chapter.

CONTACT: NewEnglandChapter@thekf.org
On November 30, 2022, in response to a request from faculty and coordinators of the Elms First Year Seminar program, the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning and the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter assisted in putting together presentations on Solidarnosc, commemorating the forty-year anniversary of the Solidarity movement in Poland. The event featured Marek Lesniewski-Laas, the former Honorary Consul in Massachusetts, Republic of Poland; Elżbieta Wasiutynska, a volunteer for the International Polish Solidarity Movement; and Andre Blaszczynski, former President of Solidarity International.

It was a two-part event. The afternoon featured a presentation by Marek Lesniewski-Laas to all Elms first-year students on the history of the Solidarity movement. The evening included a panel discussion on the decade of Polish Solidarity (1980–89), its connection to the Catholic Church and Cardinal Wojtyla (the future Pope John Paul II), and its impact on contemporary issues facing democracy in Europe and in the United States. The event was well attended by Elms College first-year seminar students, faculty members, and the community.

Thanks to the efforts of Fred Zimnoch, a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey proclaimed February 6, 2023, as Thaddeus Kosciuszko Day.

The Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter held its Annual Awards Luncheon on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at the Willits-Hallowell Center at Mount Holyoke College. A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the 2023 Distinguished Polish American Award to Carolyn Czaja Topor of South Hadley, Massachusetts.

UPCOMING EVENTS
- OCTOBER 2023 – THE POLISH FILM FESTIVAL
- SPRING OF 2024 – THE ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

A founding member of the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter, Carolyn Topor has retired from her role as president. During her tenure, the chapter has held the Annual Awards Luncheon, presented concerts featuring laureates of the Chopin piano competitions, brought events showcasing the Polish culture of the region, and helped connect younger Polish Americans to their heritage through the Kosciuszko Foundation programs.

With her husband, Joseph Topor Jr., Carolyn played a pivotal role in founding the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The Center is dedicated to preserving and maintaining a connection to Polish Americans looking to find their roots, and for the larger community to explore Poland’s diverse and unique history.

The 2023 Annual Awards Luncheon also acknowledged the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Polish American Award, Dr. Witold Kawecki (1929-2021). Dr. Kawecki was a founding member of the Connecticut Chapter of Solidarity International. In the 1990s, he was part of the effort by the Connecticut Chapter of the Polish American Congress lobbying for Poland’s accession to NATO. He served on numerous organizations, including the National Advisory Council of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, the Polish American Congress Advisory Council, and the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut.

The gala luncheon also celebrated the academic accomplishments of students who have received financial support from the Kosciuszko Foundation. Special guests at the event included Marek Skulimowski, President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation; Adrian Kubicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York; and Harry Dumay, President of Elms College.
Following the luncheon and awards presentation, the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter presented “Chopin in Paris-1848” featuring Magdalena Adamek, a pianist whose interpretations of Chopin have garnered numerous awards, and Emmanuel Feldman, an internationally renowned cellist, chamber musician, and composer.

With the support of the Kosciuszko Foundation New England Chapter and Elms College, a well-attended Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts Conference was held on the Elms campus on April 29, 2023. The event included four speakers and two genealogists from Poland who provided genealogical consultation for the participants.
During this period, Chapter members participated in events organized by Polish organizations in Chicago and at the area universities.

YEAR 2022

- On JUNE 5, the Chapter Vice President, Dr. Anna Kordylewska, with her husband, Dr. Leszek Kordylewski, represented the Chapter at the 35th anniversary of Polonia, Polish Song and Dance Ensemble. The event took place in the Arts Center of the College of DuPage.
- The President of the Chapter, Prof. Lidia Filus, was appointed Honorary Ambassador of the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH) on JUNE 8.
- The Chapter supported the 42nd Summer Gala of the Polish Museum of America (PMA), celebrating the 85th anniversary of opening PMA and honoring Mieczyslaw Haiman, its first curator. The event took place on JUNE 10. Ewa Radwańska, Joanna Radwańska-Williams, Maria Zakrzewska and her husband, Harold Trychta represented the Chicago Chapter at the Gala.
- On OCTOBER 1, Maria Zakrzewska, Vice-President of the Chicago Chapter, attended the conference called NEXT (Talks for the Future Generation). The event was organized by the Polish American Youth Council, which is a part of the Polish American Congress, Illinois Div. This conference, cosponsored by the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, the Polish Teachers Association in America, and “Dziennik Związkowy” (Polish Daily News), was held at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.
- On JULY 14, the Board of the Chicago Chapter met with the delegation from the Warsaw School of Economics who visited Chicago.
- On OCTOBER 2, Chapter members participated in the inaugural lecture of the Kosciuszko Foundation Scholar at Loyola University Chicago, which took place at the Polish Museum of America. The first Kosciuszko Foundation Scholar at Loyola University, Maciej Olchawa, has joined Loyola to teach in the Political Science Department. Mr. Olchawa is a graduate of Loyola University and the Jagiellonian University. He presented a lecture on Poland and the war in Ukraine. Also, on OCTOBER 2, the Chapter Board met with Marek Skulimowski, KF President. In collaboration with the Consulates of Poland and Ukraine and Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) in Chicago, the Chapter co-organized the exhibit “Mom, I do not Want War” from October 24-November 18, 2022. The exhibition was accompanied by a panel under the same title organized on November 16 at NEIU. The Consul General of Poland, Pawel Zyzak, and the Consul General of Ukraine, Serhiy Koledov, were present.
- On OCTOBER 8, in Rome, Italy, Małgorzata Pawlusiewicz, a member of the Chicago Chapter, won the first prize in the competition “Polak Roku we Włoszech i na Świecie” (Pole of the Year in Italy and the World) in the category Scientific and Educational Activities. She was acknowledged and honored for her entire pedagogical and authorial activity.
- On NOVEMBER 3, the Chapter celebrated Kosciuszko’s Name’s Day. On this occasion, our Chapter honored Richard Owsiany, President of the Polish Museum of America (PMA), for his leadership and dedication to Chicago’s Polish Community. The event took place in the PMA in Chicago.
- On NOVEMBER 29, the Chapter held its annual meeting and election of officers at the Polish Museum of America.
YEAR 2023

On JANUARY 2, Maria Zakrzewska, Vice President of the Chapter, was honored on a blog of the Chicago Public Library celebrating their 150th anniversary. The CPL chose to recognize some of its past employees for significant contributions during their tenure. This entry was titled “Maria Zakrzewska: Connecting CPL and the Polish Community.” This recognition will remain a permanent part of CPL’s blog through the link: https://www.chipublib.org/blogs/post/cpl-librarian-maria-zakrzewska-and-the-polish-community/. Information about Maria’s achievements was also included in the “Polish Daily News” (February 3-5, 2023 issue) and in the March 2023 issue of the "Polish American Journal".

On JANUARY 8, a concert of Christmas carols was presented at St. John’s Brebeuf Church in Niles, IL. This event featured the Lira Ensemble, which co-organized it under the sponsorship of the KF Chicago Chapter. After the concert, Keith Stras, Secretary and member of the Board of Directors at the Polka Jammer Network, presented a $3,500 donation to the KF to help support their work with the Ukraine refugees.

On FEBRUARY 12, Małgorzata Pawlusiewicz, founder and Director of Wisdom Publishers Co. as well as the author of school textbooks for Polish Saturday schools, and Maria Zakrzewska, former teacher of Maksymilian Kolbe Polish Saturday School, attended a banquet celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Polish Teachers Association in America. During this event, Małgorzata delivered a speech on the history of publication of Polish books for Polish Saturday Schools.

Maria Zakrzewska co-operated with Dr. Ewa Modzelewska-Opara of Jagiellonian University in Kraków, to help with the cost of publication of a Polish translation of a book titled The March by Wiesław Kuniczak. Maria collected $6,400.00 and, on MARCH 24, sent this amount to the publisher, Księgarnia Akademicka in Kraków, who will publish this book in Polish. Sponsors included the Chicago Chapter of the KF, individual members of the Chapter, Mr. Steven Kuśmierczak, member of the Board of Directors of the KF, Katyn Rally Society—Memory and Identity, and other contributors.

On JUNE 9, the Chapter participated in the Polish Museum of America (PMA) Annual Summer Gala, at which the PMA presented the Polish Spirit Award to the Kosciuszko Foundation. KF Trustee Ewa Radwanska accepted the award on behalf of the KF.

On JULY 15, Andrzej Pawlusiewicz, Treasurer of the Chicago Chapter, represented the Kosciuszko Foundation at the 100th anniversary of the completion of the bridge over the Tanana River in Nenana, Alaska. This bridge was designed by Rudolf Modrzejewski (Ralf Modjeski). During the ceremony, a group of dignitaries representing the Council of Polish Engineers in North America with President Andrew Nowak and Jan Plachta, the author of the book titled Artist in Concrete and Steel. Bridges of Ralf Modjeski (2017) were in attendance. The unveiling was performed by the Mayor of Nenana – Josh Verhagen, and the President of Modjeski & Masters, Michael Britt. Also present were Mike Dunleavy, Alaska’s Governor; Dan Sullivan, senator; Michael Nidzinski, President of Polish American Congress, IL Div.

On JULY 19, members of the Executive Committee of the Chicago Chapter met with Dr. Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska, a sociologist of Warsaw University, who came to Chicago on a KF scholarship. She shared her research findings on Chicago’s Polonia.
Our chapter events/project supported the Foundation’s mission of promoting ties between Poland and the United States through educational, scientific, and cultural exchange. Additionally, our efforts focused on spotlighting KF’s initiatives and fundraising efforts.

**HISTORICAL STREET MARKER DEDICATED TO HILLARY KOPROWSKI**
(sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter)

HILLARY KOPROWSKI MD
(1916 - 2013)
Biomedical research scientist, director of Wistar Institute.

The chapter focused its attention on details regarding the marker. We finalized the marker text and worked on finding the proper location at the Wistar Institute. Our dedication ceremony will be moved to Spring 2024 due to delays associated with the marker production and installation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters for their patience as we navigate the challenges. We also would like to recognize many supporters who prepared recommendation letters to the Historical Marker Program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, contributing to the marker approval’s positive outcome.

Throughout the year, we have collaborated with multiple local organizations to bring our members together:

- **JAZZ CONCERT “PIWNICA U DZIADKA WM WINNICKI-MEDYNA PROJECT”**, (October 2, 2022)
  WM Project conducted a series of concerts (New York, Washington, Philadelphia) in connection with the release of their album based on the archival recordings made in Poland over 40 years ago.

- **DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PLATES in Savannah, GA (October 9, 2022)**
  We have funded the memorial stone for Agrippa Hull (1759-1848), an African-American patriot who served as an orderly to Gen. Tadeusz Kościuszko and was a field medical assistant for five years during the American Revolutionary War.

- **JAZZ CONCERT “PIWNICA U DZIADKA EVENT FEATURING GOSIA JULIA MAJ”**, (March 18, 2023)
  Gosia is a well-known professional singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Poland. She performs solo and with different bands. She collaborates with artists from the USA, Europe, and Asia in various genres.

- **Two-part WEBINAR SERIES ON “LEMKIN, GENOCIDE AND THE MODERN WORLD” in collaboration with the Jagiellonian Law Society (December 1, 2022) & (March 14, 2023)**
  Keynoted by Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp, the United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, and featured distinguished international faculty.

- **NEWSLETTER**
  The Philadelphia Chapter continues communicating with its members on a regular basis via quarterly distribution of the Quo Vadis newsletter with frequent posts on LinkedIn and Facebook.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members of the Philadelphia Chapter for their enthusiasm and dedication to various projects that help our chapter connect with members.
The KF Philadelphia Chapter thanks all of the supporters for their efforts and recommendation letters that contributed to the approval of the commemorative marker to honor this great Polish scientist.
Invites everyone to become a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation

THE CHICAGO CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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We are proud to announce the opening of

The KF Florida Chapter

BECOME A MEMBER

FloridaChapter@thekf.org
Welcome to KF Stories, a project where we share the accounts of our program receivers. We are excited to introduce Angelika Kwak, an inspiring student and future doctor who participated in the KF Summer Studies program in Krakow and received the Tuition Scholarship to help her pursue a degree in the U.S.

“From studying abroad in Krakow to winning the Tuition Scholarship, I am truly so blessed by this organization. The Kosciuszko Foundation has been life-changing for me, and I will always be grateful for the kindness and generosity. Anyone who has a passion for Polish culture should apply for this program; let's continue spreading the love and support into the Polish Community,” says Angelika Kwak. Her story and spirit embody what it means to be a part of the KF community.

Raised by two hard-working Polish immigrants, Angelika Kwak is not your average medical student. Currently, in her fourth year at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine and Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health candidate ’24, Kwak’s incredible journey has only just begun. During her time at Loyola, she has held leadership positions in the Medical Polish organization, where she taught medical students the Polish language and culture and was a Polish interpreter at the volunteer-based clinic CommunityHealth. Kwak is now applying to the Family Medicine Residency in Chicago with the goal of building long-lasting relationships with her patients and acting as an advocate for health equity.

It was through the encouragement of her college advisors that Kwak applied for the KF Summer Study program. As a first-generation, low-income college student, she was already adept at staying on top of scholarships, and the KF application was no exception! With her diligence and support from friends, Kwak greatly distinguished herself amongst the candidates and, before she knew it, was accepted. Although already fluent in Polish and attended a Polish high school, Kwak was yearning for more. She wished to immerse herself in the rich traditions of Polish literature, history, and culture directly in her mother country. Being a part of the Summer Studies program allowed her to do just that, creating an unforgettable experience that Kwak will carry with her throughout the rest of her life.

While in Krakow, Kwak got the unique experience of meeting students from around the world who were just as passionate about learning Polish culture and language as her. These students weren’t just classmates; they became friends for life. In fact, she still keeps in close touch with them, making plans to meet up all over the world. In addition to the Summer Studies program, Kwak received the highly coveted KF Tuition Scholarship. This grant offered financial support, enabling her to focus on the things she’s passionate about. Her aspiration is to merge medicine with public health to make a change on a clinical level and in the community she will work in on a policy and advocacy level. For Kwak, medicine is not only scientific but “...an art that requires enthusiasm, integrity, compassion, and love.” Even with her steady enthusiasm, Kwak’s journey has not been without hardship. As a first-generation student, she often had to take the initiative to find and build mentorship in order to gain the skills she needed to apply for scholarships such as the KF’s. However, with her hard work and unwavering support from her mom, Kwak continues to persevere.
When Ella first applied to volunteer at the Kosciuszko Foundation, nothing was ordinary about her. With a degree in media and culture, previous experience in journalism, an artistic personality, and a myriad of uncommon hobbies, Ella has quickly become an extension to the KF team as a volunteer intern. She shared her experience at the Foundation to encourage others to get involved with the organization.

**VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY**

Ella expressed that she sought to volunteer with the KF to be closer to the Polish community while living abroad. Raised as a Polish New Yorker, she felt this need when she first moved to Amsterdam: “In New York, ‘everyone is from somewhere.’ There are many people of Polish descent living in the city. Being one of them felt natural. Although Amsterdam as a European capital also attracts people from around the world, being new there, I lost my sense of belonging,” I was looking for a way for me to connect with the Polish community in the U.S. no matter where I was. Then, I came across the KF. It was a perfect place connecting and fostering the Polish Community in the United States,” says Ella.

**BENEFITS OF REMOTE INTERNSHIP MODE**

Applying from Amsterdam wasn’t an obstacle. Since the coronavirus pandemic, many of the Foundation’s programs continue remotely. KF’s internship is no different. “Thanks to the KF’s flexibility towards remote work, I can stay connected while moving between the two cities. In fact, despite teleworking, I still feel like a team member. I am always met with constant, clear, and friendly communication,” said Ella.

**A PLACE FOR YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD**

After submitting her application online, Ella was invited by the KF team to discuss her interest in particular projects. “Volunteering at the KF means always having a conversation. I’ve never just been given simple tasks to complete. Rather, the KF has allowed me to specifically apply my expertise in a way that is meaningful to me. I have conducted interviews, written articles, wrote one month’s newsletter appeal, and am brainstorming ideas for new initiatives. I studied media and culture as an undergraduate, which was a great way for me to do the things I love while giving back to the Polish American community.”

**EXPECTATION AND RESULTS**

It turned out that the internship satisfied her expectations. “As a recent graduate, it is easy to feel powerless in making a difference in the world. The KF has given me the space and respect to feel empowered. I have learned that my ideas are valued and that I bring a unique perspective to the table that people want to hear. The Foundation has given me the space to be creative and test out ideas. I even proposed a new project for the KF – and I hope you’ll hear about it soon enough. As a recent graduate, this is a completely new experience for me. I now find myself using my creative strengths to directly connect and build our Polish community in new ways,” said Ella. “As someone starting their professional life, I can use these experiences with the KF to approach professional situations (where I may be the youngest in the room) confidently. Outside of my professional career, I can use these experiences to foster Polish communities anywhere and to connect the Polish diaspora in new ways,” she concludes.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is currently looking for individuals interested in volunteer internships in the fields of communications and social media. Interested candidates are invited to send their cover letter to development@thekf.org.
Whenever anyone asked me as a young child what I wanted to be when I grew up, my answer was simple – and perhaps a lesser-known response. I wanted to be a Polish folk-dance instructor.

I achieved that goal at the young age of 17. I returned to that dream job as a young adult in 2019, and this year, I continued my educational credentials in folk dancing thanks to the generous support of the Kosciuszko Foundation for Polish Choreographic Study program in Rzeszów, Poland, in July and August 2023.

I started dancing with Syrenka Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2001 at the age of 5 years old. While classmates participated in soccer, ballet, and other extracurricular activities, my days were consumed by folk dance – entranced by the lively melodies of the Krakowiak and romance of a Kujawiak, waiting to purchase my own pair of black boots, the kind that the adults I looked up to wore on stage.

I danced with Syrenka from 2001 to 2014, but as I grew older, I moved into new leadership roles. I became the social media director for Syrenka in 2013. That same year, I accomplished that childhood dream of becoming a dance instructor. In my senior year of high school, I was the children’s instructor for Syrenka, teaching children 4-12 years old a lively national Krakowiak dance.

In 2018, following the completion of my undergraduate and master’s degrees, I returned to Polish folk dance, joining Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble and participating in the International Festival of Polish Folk Ensembles in Rzeszów, Poland in 2019. In 2019, I also returned to my previous role as Syrenka children’s instructor. I remain an active Syrena dancer, the public relations director for Syrena and Syrenka, and am Syrenka children’s instructor to this day.

Polish folk dancing is my greatest passion. While I now have over 20 years of Polish folk-dance experience, there is so much more to learn, and the choreographer’s course in Rzeszów was the best way to enhance my credentials and strengthen my knowledge to ultimately take back to Syrena and Syrenka Polish Folk Dance Ensembles. For three weeks, I ate, slept, sang, danced, and breathed Polish folk. From Monday through Saturday, for 10 hours a day, my schedule was full of Polish folk dance classes. I learned seven different national and regional dances – Krakowiak, Polonez, Krosno, Przeworsk, Kaszuby, Cieszyński, and Eastern Krakowiak. I also had coursework in sports medicine, singing, music theory, rhythm and expression, and Polish musical folklore.

As I prepare for the upcoming dance season, I am reinvigorated with a passion for showcasing authentic Polish folk dance in my local Milwaukee community. I have begun planning for a new suite to teach my children, and I am looking forward to the upcoming summer, where I will reunite with course friends and get inspired and educated in Polish folk dance.

Ms. Margaret Naczek received a KF Special Grant funded from the KF Matusz, Bronislaw, and Henry Jaworowski Scholarship Fund in the amount of $2,000 to attend a Polish folk dance choreography course in Poland.
Invite a Friend to the KF!

You both will receive a KF tote bag and enter the 2024 KF Ball tickets lottery!

KF Membership Referral Program

Refer a friend to join the KF, and both of you will receive a KF tote bag. Plus, each of you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win two tickets (4 in total) to the 2024 KF Ball at The Plaza in NYC this April.

When joining the KF online, the referred person should input the full name of their referring KF member in the ‘How did you find out about us?’ field.

The offer is valid until March 1, 2024.
As a historian and scholar of migration in the context of World War II, I came across the war and postwar emigration of Poles to the United States. While working on my Borderlands biography of Z. Anthony Kruszewski, I realized that the life stories of many successful Polish men in America are well known, but not those of women. In the male-dominated world of Polonia, the role of women leaders has often been overlooked, leaving their contributions still in the shadow of their male counterparts.

Most war and postwar emigrants (both women and men) chose to emigrate for political reasons. Many of them belonged to the Polish intelligentsia, a high socio-economic class, and were educated in Polish schools and universities. They also had a strong sense of national identity. These people experienced a difficult period of initial adjustment in the United States, typical of all immigrants, and were confronted with the need to compete for position and influence with the so-called Old Polonia community, which in many cases jealously defended its status.

I decided to examine the life stories of selected Polish women who were part of the postwar wave of emigration to the United States and their contributions to the social life of the Polish American community as well as to society in general. These women have managed to develop both professional and community activities: in typically female fields (e.g., the POLISH WOMEN’S ALLIANCE OF AMERICA and its organ, GŁOS POLEK [THE POLISH WOMEN’S VOICE]) and in areas usually run by men (e.g., the editorial of DZIENNIK ZWIĄZKOWY [THE POLISH DAILY NEWS] and the Polish section of VOICE OF AMERICA RADIO). A separate group of women are those who made their careers in science and as academic teachers (for example, Helena Znaniecka-Lopata and Anna Cienciała). Moreover, some of them combined their scientific aspirations with literary and journalistic work and achieved numerous successes in these fields (for example, Danuta Mostwin, Alicja Iwanska, or Anna Freilich).

I studied the legacy of HELENA ZNANIECKA-LOPATA in the Loyola Women’s and Leadership Archives in Chicago. I went to Atlanta, where ALICJA IWANSKA worked at a university for African Americans in the 1950s. I also drove to Talladega College in Alabama, where she taught and worked on the issue of racial and gender segregation. At both institutions, I was able to work in the archives and received significant support from archivists.

The most important discovery for me was the writer and scholar DANUTA MOSTWIN. I had read all her short stories and novels before I came to the United States. I was very impressed with her literary work. Since she died in 2010 and it was not possible to interview her, I tried to contact members of her family. I met her son, prof. Jacek Mostwin and told him about my project. He agreed to support me and offered me access to his parents’ house, where I would find her entire legacy. After arriving at the house on February 1, 2023, I realized that this collection was absolutely unique.

"While researching emigré biographies of Polish women in the U.S., I discovered wonderful novels and short stories by Danuta Mostwin, as well as her scholarly works on the Polish diaspora. Thanks to the Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship and the support of Mostwin’s family, I was able to research her vast legacy.”
and no one had ever worked with it before. This made me change my research plan and I decided to write a biography of Danuta Mostwin. I worked in the house for many weeks and made 1229 copies of various documents, texts and photographs. I also spent many hours interviewing Jacek Mostwin, his family and friends of his parents, who were very helpful to me. I also visited many places that were important to the Polish diaspora in Baltimore. Most of them were described in novels and short stories by Danuta Mostwin. Unfortunately, there was not much left of that world because most Polish Americans moved to other parts of Baltimore or left the city. The former Polish settlement is now occupied by migrants from other countries, mostly from Africa. Therefore, the fact that Danuta Mostwin described this unique climate of the Polish diaspora in Baltimore in the 1950s and 1960s in her books (e.g. America! America!) is today an extremely valuable monument to that time and a great read.

Danuta Mostwin’s Polish Saga is also worth sitting down for, especially the first four volumes in which she describes her family’s history from the mid-19th century to the end of World War II. It is a wonderful example of Polish history written from a woman’s perspective, with many great women in the leading roles. Most of her literary works are available only in Polish, but Ohio Press published her short story collection “Testaments” in English in 2005. Several novels have already been translated into English and are awaiting publication. Her own life story is also very interesting, especially the time of the Second World War in Warsaw and Lublin and the circumstances of her and her husband’s escape from the communists and leaving Poland at the end of 1945. Her husband, Stanislaw Mostwin, was trained by British intelligence for secret missions as a member of an elite group of military and diplomatic couriers known as the Cichociemni, or “Silent Shadows.” On May 11, 1944, he was parachuted into Nazi-occupied Poland.

I would like to thank prof. Jacek Mostwin for allowing me to study his parents’ legacy and to work in their house. I would also like to thank Małgorzata Fidelis, who was my host professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her comments and suggestions on how to write women’s history were very helpful to me. I presented my research on March 1, 2023 at Loyola University in Chicago, where Bozena Nowicka McLees, director of the Polish Studies Program, organized a public lecture for me. I also presented at the annual conference of the Association for Borderlands Studies in Phoenix on April 15. The topic of my presentation: “The Changing Roles of Polish Women After Immigration to Postwar America”. I am very grateful to Irasema Coronado, Director of the School of Transborder Studies, for inviting me to Arizona State University in Phoenix, where I had the opportunity to discuss with her and her colleagues issues of immigrant integration into American society that are important in Danuta Mostwin’s work.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the donors of my scholarship, the Kosciuszko Foundation. I truly appreciate the generosity of the Foundation. The hero of my first biography - Zbigniew Anthony Kruszewski - was a Fellow of the KF and many years later he started supporting the KF because he wanted to give something back. Danuta Mostwin was also a KF Fellow and received the KF Prize for her dissertation on the Polish Diaspora. I will be happy if one day I can also support the Kosciuszko Foundation and help other scholars to realize their dreams.

Prof. Beata Halicka was awarded a 3-month KF Exchange Program to the US Fellowship, funded from the KF Stanislas Chylinski Scholarship Fund. She is a professor of contemporary history at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and author of eight books. Prof. Halicka has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and edited volumes. Her recent book “Borderland’s Biography. Z. Anthony Kruszewski in Wartime Europe and Postwar America” has been published in Polish in 2019 and in English in 2021.
Prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Kutak, received a 4-month Fellowship of the KF Exchange Program to the US to study Entropy of dense systems of quarks and gluons at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. Seemingly breaking natural laws with dead/alive cats and particles that communicate as if time and space did not exist, quantum physics may seem like magic to many of us. We have asked Professor Kutak to write this article to uncover some of his fascinating discipline’s mysteries and help us understand his groundbreaking research and its future implications.

The world around us is described to a good approximation by classical physics. This means only that properties such as velocity and position of classical objects are always measurable and can be measured in a single measurement. Classical objects are, for example, a moving car or a falling apple. However, at the fundamental level, reality is described by quantum theory. Simplifying, this means that we cannot measure the momentum and position of elementary particles at the same time. From quantum theory it also follows that matter is composed of particles that can be entangled with each other.

This means that knowledge of one of the particles of entangled pair of particles determines the state of the other particle regardless of the distance.

The particle that accounts for most of the mass of the observed matter is the proton. The mass of the proton accounts for almost all the mass of the hydrogen atom. The proton, however, is not an elementary particle, because it consists of quarks and gluons, which are not observed due to the property of strong interactions causing them to be confined.

The project “Entropy of dense system of quarks and gluons” supported by The Kosciuszko Foundation for the
Academic year 22/23 aimed to study the structure of the proton using new tools of quantum information theory in combination with quantum chromodynamics - the theory of strong interactions. In particular, the goal of the project was to obtain the entanglement entropy of gluons in the proton. The task is conceptually difficult because gluons are confined and not directly observable. From this, one could conclude that such entropy is zero. However, this is not the case. This is related to the property of gluons and the measurements that lead to the entanglement of gluons. The idea is based on my paper from a few years ago: “Gluon saturation and entropy production in proton-proton collisions” Krzysztof Kutak Phys.Lett.B 705 (2011) 217-221 and on recent work by physicists from Brookhaven National Laboratory and Tel Aviv University. As part of the implementation of the aforementioned project, I wrote with collaborators M. Hentschinski, K. Kutak, R. Straka the paper “Maximally entangled proton and charged hadron multiplicity in Deep Inelastic Scattering” accepted by the prestigious European Physical Journal C Eur.Phys.J. C 82 (2022) 12, 147, in which we calculated the entropy of gluon and described the experimental data where entropy is calculated by measuring hadrons resulting from proton splitting. We also obtained a prediction indicating that entropy will saturate when the resolving power of the experiment is low. This is related to the entanglement of gluons. The idea is based on Ref. [36] in order to study the photoproduction limit of DIS (Q^2 → 0).

The GBW model incorporates two main features which characterize the two regions of r separated by the saturation scale Q_s(x), which we discuss in detail later. That is when r < 2/Q_s(x),

\[ \sigma_{GBW}(x, r) = \sigma_0 \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{r^2}{4Q_s^2}} \right), \] (3.1)

and a modified variable

\[ x_m = \frac{x}{1 + \frac{4m_f^2}{Q_s^2}}. \] (3.2)

where m_f is an effective mass of a quark f, was used in place of the Bjorken scaling variable x. In the rest of this paper, the subscript m is dropped. Along with the above modification, effective mass of the light quarks m_l = 0.14 GeV was introduced in Ref. [36] in order to study the photoproduction limit of DIS (Q^2 → 0).

while when r > 2/Q_s(x), the dipole cross section approaches a constant value. However, the small-r limit of the dipole cross section reads [37]

\[ \sigma_{dipole}(x, r) = \frac{\pi r^2}{3} \sigma_0(x, 0) x g(x, \mu^2), \] (3.4)

Page from the article published online at Science Direct titled "Sudakov effects and the dipole amplitude" by T. Goda, K. Kutak, S. Sapeta. Available online at www.sciencedirect.com
The ceremony brings scholars, diplomats, and dignitaries together to celebrate the exceptional individuals selected to embark on academic journeys to the United States.

Your geographic location will undoubtedly be important, yet the profound impact of your contributions will carry even greater weight. From pioneering cancer research to the development of cutting-edge technology for the next generation of Martian helicopters and the relentless battle against the proliferation of misinformation, each of this year’s distinguished fellows will undoubtedly embark on a remarkable journey that will not only enrich their personal and professional lives but also serve as a shining exemplar of the finest aspects of transatlantic academic Exchange.

The destinations of the program grant recipients are prestigious American institutions, such as the City University of New York, Roosevelt University, Stanford University, University of Colorado Boulder, and University of Miami, among others, where they will be privileged to contribute to cutting-edge research and scholarship.

We wholeheartedly congratulate all the Exchange to the U.S. program grant recipients and look forward to recognizing this year’s beneficiaries.
THE LEADING EXPERTS IN POLISH GENEALOGY-RELATED SERVICES, SUCCESSFULLY PROVIDING ADVANCED GENEALOGY RESEARCH AND HERITAGE TOURS TO POLAND FOR OVER 15 YEARS.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Operating in Poland enables us to access various records which may not be available on-line. We check genealogical databases, civil- and parish records and other valuable sources. We can search for the original house where your ancestors used to live, their graves, and very often find living relatives of our clients.

HERITAGE TOURS

Whether for a group or for an individual, depending on your budget and time you want to spend in Poland, we create unique tailor-made itineraries. Our experienced and knowledgeable English speaking tour guides, comfortable transportation, and attention to every detail make our tours so special. You may also join one of our heritage group tours with guaranteed departure for 2024.

CONTACT US: www.genealogytour.com
OUR EMAIL: office@genealogytour.com
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/genealogy.tour

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-5% FOR RESEARCH CODE: GEN23
The KF Exchange Program to the United States is designed for Polish scholars to pursue research, artistic projects and Teaching Fellowships in US institutions.

This year 99 candidates submitted their applications to participate in the 2023/2024 Exchange Program to the United States and the U.S. Advisory Committee Members selected 69 candidates for interviews in Poland. Members of the U.S. Advisory Committee together with members of the Polish Academic Commission conducted interviews in Warsaw from February 13th to February 23rd, 2023.

All interviews were conducted in English, evaluating the English proficiency of the candidates. Each interview lasted approximately 30 minutes, including Committee discussions prior to and after each session. 30 candidates were accepted, bringing the total amount of funding to $504,000. Additionally, 2 awardees from the academic year 2022/2023 were unable to conduct their research in the original time frame and will conduct their studies in the academic year 2023/2024, bringing the total number of candidates to 32 and the total funding for the 2023/2024 Exchange to the US Program to $528,000.

Funds are distributed in three categories:

1. The Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowships designed for postdoctoral research in the US are awarded to advanced post-doctoral fellows, instructors, and assistant professors (or equivalent).

2. The Kosciuszko Foundation Grants support graduate research in the US and are awarded to graduate students and research staff who hold a master’s degree but have not obtained a doctoral degree.

3. The Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching Fellowships are awarded to Polish faculty members to teach classes at US universities, for up to 9 months. The program focuses on lectures in Polish Studies, including Polish language teaching and Polish culture.

We would like to thank all Members of the selection Committees who volunteered their time and expertise. Your discerning evaluations, careful deliberations, and commitment to fairness have ensured that our Fellows are not just academically accomplished, but also embody the values and aspirations we hold dear.

Members of the Academic Advisory Committee for the 2023/2024 Exchange Program to the United States:

- MIROSŁAW BRYS, PH.D., M.D.
  Professor, Department of Neurology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

- JOSEPH GORE, ESQ.
  Corporate Secretary, Clifton, NJ

- WŁODZIMIERZ MANDECKI, PH.D.
  Adjunct Professor, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, New Jersey Medical School, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

- EWAA RADOWSKA, PH.D. M.D.
  Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL

- MAREK SKULIMOWSKI
  President and Executive Director, The Kosciuszko Foundation Inc, New York
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Professor, Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology, University of Warsaw

WOJCIECH BRZOZOWSKI, PH.D.
Professor, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw

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Professor, Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw; President, The Kosciuszko Foundation Poland

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Associate Professor, Department of Management Theory, SGH Warsaw School of Economics

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Professor, Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics, University of Warsaw

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Professor, Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw

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Department of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University

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Professor, Faculty of Material Science and Engineering, Warsaw University of Technology

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Professor, Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw

MATEUSZ ZAWISTOWSKI PH.D.
Managing Director, FF Venture Capital, Doctor of Law, Kozminski University

JOANNA ZIARKOWSKA-CIECHANOWSKA, PH.D.
Associate Professor, Faculty of English Studies, University of Warsaw
HUMANITIES

BRZYSKA ANNA, M.A.
Narodowy Bank Polski, Warsaw
3MG  ■  THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF AMERICA
$12,000  –  SENDZIMIR FUND

HISTORY  ■  The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA): Activities of Polish scientists, economists and politicians related to the wartime Polish Government-in-Exile. The project will study the legal continuity between the institutions of the Second Republic of Poland and the Polish institutions restored in exile during the World War II. This study will be conducted with the help of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA), under the guidance of dr Bozena Leven, Executive Director of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.

DREWNOWSKI MICHAŁ, PH.D.
habilitation, University of Music in Lodz
9MTF  ■  ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY
$30,000  –  STANISLAS CHYLSKI FUND
$6,000  –  WANDA ROEHR FUND

MUSIC  ■  From Chopin to the contemporaneity - Polish music teaching project. Classes will be conducted at College of Performing Art, Roosevelt University under the guidance of world-renowned pianists Edwad Auer and Adam Neiman. The goal is to popularize the music of Polish composers from the early romanticism to the contemporaneity and to share the pedagogy of the Polish pianistic school in terms of Chopin’s performance practice. The students will learn about the genesis and characteristics of Polish folklore culture.

DZIURZYNSKA MAGDALENA, M.A.
University of Wroclaw
4MG  ■  UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
$16,000  –  THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

LITERATURE  ■  Gender and Sexuality in Female and Male Single-Sex Societies in Twentieth-Century Anglophone Science Fiction Literature. The aim of the project is to analyze gender separatism in female and male same-sex societies in contemporary American science-fiction and utopian writing. The project is going to be conducted under the guidance of Sherryl Vint who is a professor of Science Fiction, Media and Cultural Studies.

GRADOŃ KACPER, PH.D
habilitation, University of Warsaw
6MF  ■  UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
$7,000  –  WACLAW AND IRENA SZYSZKOWSKI FUND
$17,000  –  THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND

LAW  ■  Blueprints In Disinformation Prevention. The aim of this study is to propose scientific tools and testing procedures based on the analysis of potential application of the “Blueprints” violence prevention programs (designed and implemented by CU Boulder) for deterrence of global threats associated with the propagation of fake news (disinformation campaigns, including those instigated or inspired by nation-states as a method of asymmetric or hybrid warfare), especially during the worldwide health emergencies.
JÓZWIKOWSKA WANDA, PH.D.
University of Warsaw
3MF ■ UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
$12,000 – STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

LITERATURE ■ Preliminary Research Towards Unearthing Helen Stankiewicz Zand as an Actor in Popularizing Polish Literature in the USA. The primary aim of this research is to unearth Zand’s life and her commitment to translating Polish literature and explain how the latter tied in with her multiple roles in the Polish communities in the USA. The project will be conducted in the Polish Room at the Lockwood Memorial Library of the University at Buffalo with the help of Rose Orcutt, Curator of the Polish Collection.

KILARSKI MARCIN, PH.D
habilitation, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
3MF ■ BOSTON COLLEGE
$12,000 – FELIKS AND HARRIET BASISTA SCHOLARSHIP

LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES ■ Women in Americanist linguistics (1830–1950). The project will examine the contribution of women linguists to the study of the Indigenous languages of North America in the period c.1830 – c.1950, focusing on the life and work of Therese Albertine Luise von Jakob Robinson, Laura Sheldon Wright, Erminnie Adele Smith, and Ella Cara Deloria. The project will be conducted at Boston College, under the guidance of Prof. Margaret Thomas, Professor of Linguistics at the Department of Eastern, Slavic, and German Studies.

KOWALEWSKI JAHRomi
PIOTR, M.A.
University of Silesia
3MF ■ UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
$4,000 – WILLIAM AND MILDRED ZELOSKY SCHOLARSHIP
$1,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND
$7,000 – THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONIATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND

PHILOSOPHY ■ Historizing the Analytic Philosophy of History (APH): Past and Future of Historical Explanation. The project will make a bold attempt to (re)write the history of APH by adding important European influences (especially Lviv-Warsaw School and Poznan School of Methodology). This historical goal will be supplemented with a philosophical one: an in-depth analysis of challenges and opportunities for historical explanation in current philosophy. This project will be completed in collaboration with Professor Paul Roth at UCSC with occasional visits to Berkeley and Stanford Universities.

POSZYTEK PAWEL, PH.D
habilitation, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
4MG ■ STANFORD UNIVERSITY
$2,000 – STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND
$14,000 – IRENE FREES FUND

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT ■ Towards the Future 4.0. The aim of the study will be to diagnose the level of digital transformation of Polish universities and to compare the scale of their digitalization with universities in USA, especially in California. Because of the proximity of Silicon Valley, Californian Universities will be treated in the study as a benchmark.

SĘKOWSKI KRZYSZTOF, M.A.
University of Warsaw
5MG ■ DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
$6,000 – ALFRED TARSKI SCHOLARSHIP
$34,000 – THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND

PHILOSOPHY ■ The method of thought experiments as a part of the conceptual engineering enterprise. The project will examine the normative interpretation of thought experiments. It will explore how several kinds of thought experiments might serve as a proxy for conceptual engineering and what methodological conditions have to be met in order to apply such interpreted thought experiments justifiably. This study will be conducted with the help of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire under the supervision of Prof. Amie Thomasson, the Daniel P. Stone Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy at Dartmouth College and the Chair of Philosophy Department at Dartmouth College.

STELOWSKA-MORGULEC DIANA, PH.D.
University of Warsaw
3MF ■ UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
$8,000 – STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND
$4,000 – WANDA ROEHR FUND

POLITICAL SCIENCE ■ Covert Cultural Diplomacy. CIA’s role
in Cultural Diplomacy activities conducted in Poland during the Reagan Administration. This project aims at investigating "the golden age of Cold War American public diplomacy" (years 1981-86) in regard to cultural activities supported by the CIA, directed at Poland and other countries of the Soviet Block. This research will be conducted under the guidance of Prof. John Connelly at the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

**WISNIEWSKA-DREWNIK MAGDALENA, PH.D.**
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun

| 3MF  | CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK |
| $12,000 | THE ADOLF AND STEPHANIE BAUER EDUCATIONAL FUND |

**HISTORY**
Teaching about community archives in the US and Poland. The project will study how the topic of community archives is presented to students at higher education institutions in the US. The results will then be compared to the presence of this topic in university curricula in Poland. The study will end with a comparative analysis of both realities. This study will be conducted under the guidance of Dr. James Lowry, director of the Archival Technologies Lab.

**WUDARSKI ARKADIUSZ, PH.D.**
University of Zielona Gora

| 5MF  | UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, SCHOOL OF LAW |
| $12,000 | TAMARA PUSLOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP |
| $8,000 | THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND |

**ZIEMANN ZOFIA, PH.D.**
Jagiellonian University

| 4MF  | INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON |
| $16,000 | STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND |

**LAW**
Parentage in a time of social change: Inconsistencies in the legal status of genetic parents. A Comparative Study. This study will investigate the legal status of genetic-not-legal parents in Florida and California, and the impact of the Uniform Parentage Act. The purpose is to identify country-specific inconsistencies, compare the results with Polish and German law and propose legal changes in Poland considering the results of other family-related disciplines.

**ZIEMANN ZOFIA, PH.D.**
Jagiellonian University

| 4MF  | INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON |
| $16,000 | STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND |

**LAW AND POLITICS**
Different ways of getting to 'Yes'. Study on the use of the alternative dispute resolution in the U.S. The study of the doctrinal basis for out-of-court dispute resolution in the United States. The main goal is to explore the real nature of ADR, investigate the powers of different out-of-court institutions as well as instruments serving the purpose of law enforcement in the US.

**THE KF STUDENT EXCHANGE IN COOPERATION WITH POLISH - AMERICAN FREEDOM FOUNDATION**

**VOLKIVSKYI MYKOLA, PH.D.**
3MF

| 5MF  | UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, SCHOOL OF LAW |
| $12,000 | TAMARA PUSLOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP |
| $8,000 | THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND |

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**
Polish Ukrainian inter-parliamentary cooperation in the system of American foreign policy: the case of two-state lobbying process. The study is devoted to the topic of Polish-Ukrainian parliamentary cooperation and its influence on American foreign policy in Eastern Europe, manifested in the intensification of ties within and outside NATO, deepening of bilateral cooperation, and changes in strategic goals in the region since the beginning of the full-scale of Russian’s invasion on Ukraine.

**AWARDEES THAT DEFERRED THEIR RESEARCH FORM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023 TO 2023/2024**

**MUCHA JAGNA, PH.D.**
University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law and Administration

| 5MF  | HARVARD LAW SCHOOL |
| $4,000 | WACLAW AND IRENA SZYSZKOWSKI FUND |
| $11,000 | THE DRS. FRANCIS AND LIDIA KOPERNIK FUND |

**LAW AND POLITICS**
Dif erent ways of getting to ‘Yes’. Study on the use of the alternative dispute resolution in the U.S. The study of the doctrinal basis for out-of-court dispute resolution in the United States. The main goal is to explore the real nature of ADR, investigate the powers of different out-of-court institutions as well as instruments serving the purpose of law enforcement in the US.
SCIENCE

BRYKSA ANNA, M.SC.
Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw

4MG  ■  WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE
$11,000  –  FELIKS AND HARRIET BASISTA SCHOLARSHIP
$5,000  –  THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONIATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND

BIOLOGY  ■  How the interplay between the excitatory and inhibitory neurons within the prefrontal cortex shapes social attachment. The aim of the project is to reveal the role of the two vital cell classes in the prefrontal cortex - the brain structure critical for interacting with others - in encoding social bonds. This study will be conducted with the help of the Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York, under the guidance of Conor Liston, Associate Professor of the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine and Brain and Mind Research Institute.

BUCHWALD MIKOŁAJS, PH.D.
Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center

6MF  ■  CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER
$11,000  –  VICTORIA KOKERNAK FUND
$13,000  –  ANTONI S. AND IRENE REPECZKO SCHOLARSHIP

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES  ■  Advancing Nuclear Medicine Imaging Methods with Deep Learning Technologies: Cardiovascular Phenotyping and Assessing Individual Risk Factors. The goal of the project will be to utilize machine learning technologies to improve the diagnostic capabilities of cardiac nuclear imaging methods. The computational models will be used to enhance risk stratification algorithms in cardiological patients. This study will be conducted with the help of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, affiliated to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), under the guidance of Prof. Piotr Slomka, PhD, FACC, FASNC, the Director of Innovation in Imaging and Professor of Medicine and Cardiology, Division of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine at Cedars-Sinai.

DZIADULA WIKTORIA, M.SC.
Silesian University of Technology

3MG  ■  SASAKAWA INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SPACE ARCHITECTURE
$12,000  –  STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY  ■  Architecture in extreme environments. Model of the supportive closed-loop habitat to apply in space and terrestrial environment. The project aims to create a model of self-sufficient space habitat by combining human-centered design approach (ergonomic environment supporting human activities) with the technical-ecological aspects (closed-loop environment). The project allows dual use; both for future space crew missions and for fastidious environments on Earth; extreme and susceptible to changing climate. This study will be conducted with the help of the University of Houston, Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture (SICSA) in Huston, Texas, under the guidance of Prof. Olga Bannova, Director at the Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture (SICSA).

EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE US

FIGAT MAKSYM, PH.D.
Warsaw University of Technology

6MF  ■  CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
$24,000  –  TADEUSZ SENDZIMIR FUND

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY  ■  Development of robotic technologies for the next generation of Mars helicopters. The primary objective is to design and develop robotic technologies and algorithms enabling autonomous operation of Mars helicopters. Another objective is to develop a design methodology for the safety-critical robotic systems and its verification on a new generation of Mars helicopters. The project will be conducted at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a research and development lab federally funded by NASA and managed by California Institute of Technology, under the supervision of Arthur Chmielewski, project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

KOZIOL KRYSTYNA, PH.D.
The Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz

3MF  ■  UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
$8,000  –  JAN PAUL ZALESKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
$4,000  –  TADEUSZ SENDZIMIR FUND

GEOGRAPHY  ■  Spatial patterns in aerosol deposition in the city of Glasgow. The aim of the research proposed here is to gain a better understanding of the spatial differences
in aerosol deposition in the urban environment for air quality management. The project will be conducted under supervision of Prof. Cohen and his research group at the Department of Earth Sciences and Department of Chemistry, UC Berkeley.

KRZAK ANNA, M.SC.
Silesian University of Technology

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
Structure and properties of multilayer composite materials published under cryogenic conditions. This study will be conducted with the help of the Ohio State University in Columbus, under the guidance of Professor Michael Sumption, Professor and Associate Director. The research will concentrate on the modification of the resin and the development of a spatial reinforcement phase will allow the production of a material with cryogenic properties. The work will include simulation tests in which the extreme operating conditions of selected structural variants of the developed composites will be mapped.

KUROWSKA PATRYCJA, PH.D.
Jagiellonian University

BIOLOGY
Searching for new links between obesity and mammary gland pathologies. The research objective is to define the transcriptional and morphogenic changes in the mammary glands (MG) during obesity-induced growth suppression. The long-term goal of this work is to find new strategies/target to prevent obesity-induced MG dysfunction that can be applied to humans and animals. This study will be conducted under the guidance of Prof. Russell C. Hovey.

MAŁECKI PIOTR, PH.D.
The Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznan

BIOLOGY
Solving the structure of the full-length KDM4 protein using CryoEM. The project aims to obtain the full-length KDM4 protein and decipher its 3D structure. Identifying the regulatory areas of the protein will be a foundation for designing novel cancer therapeutics. The proposed project will be conducted at the Center for Structural Biology (CSB) under Alexander Wlodawer, Ph.D., in the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research.

MASLOWSKA-JARZYNA KRYSYNA, M.SC.
University of Warsaw

BIOLOGY
Searching for new links between obesity and mammary gland pathologies. The research objective is to define the transcriptional and morphogenic changes in the mammary glands (MG) during obesity-induced growth suppression. The long-term goal of this work is to find new strategies/target to prevent obesity-induced MG dysfunction that can be applied to humans and animals. This study will be conducted under the guidance of Prof. Russell C. Hovey.

MALANOWSKA-JARZYNA KRYSTYNA, M.SC.
University of Warsaw

CHEMISTRY
Anion transport and binding of biological membrane components by small synthetic anion transporters. The project will focus on studying the ability of synthetic anion transporters to recognize various components of biological membranes in order to explain their antibiotic properties. The main goal is to investigate anion transport activity and lipids-binding properties of different carbazole-based anion transporters using synthetic liposomes and bacteria. This study will be conducted with the help of the Department of Chemistry at Tulane University in New Orleans, under the supervision of Prof. Nathalie Busscheart, the leader of her research group.

PAWŁOK ALEKSANDRA,
Ph.D. habilitation, Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences

EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE US

KUROWSKA PATRYCJA, PH.D.
Jagiellonian University

BIOLOGY
Searching for new links between obesity and mammary gland pathologies. The research objective is to define the transcriptional and morphogenic changes in the mammary glands (MG) during obesity-induced growth suppression. The long-term goal of this work is to find new strategies/target to prevent obesity-induced MG dysfunction that can be applied to humans and animals. This study will be conducted under the guidance of Prof. Russell C. Hovey.

MASLOWSKA-JARZYNA KRYSYNA, M.SC.
University of Warsaw

CHEMISTRY
Anion transport and binding of biological membrane components by small synthetic anion transporters. The project will focus on studying the ability of synthetic anion transporters to recognize various components of biological membranes in order to explain their antibiotic properties. The main goal is to investigate anion transport activity and lipids-binding properties of different carbazole-based anion transporters using synthetic liposomes and bacteria. This study will be conducted with the help of the Department of Chemistry at Tulane University in New Orleans, under the supervision of Prof. Nathalie Busscheart, the leader of her research group.
**AGRICULTURE**  Canine Cancer In 3d – Innovative Model For Lymphoma Immunotherapy Development. The subject of the study is to generate, for the first time, a model of 3D canine lymphoma culture with the potential to serve as a platform to assess the efficacy of immunotherapies. The obtained model will be used to study the effect of a therapy developed by our team. This study will be conducted with the help of the Iowa State University, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine under the guidance of Prof. Karin Allenspach, Dr. med. vet. FVH, PhD, Dipl. ECVIM-CA, FHEA, AGAF, Professor of Internal Medicine.

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**SAŁAMATIN RUSŁAN**  Ph.D habilitation, Medical University of Warsaw  
4MF  UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA  
$15,000  -  DR. JOHN A. CETNAROWSKI - CETNER FUND  
$1000  -  DRS. RICHARD AND CATHERINE PASKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

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**BIOLÓGIA**  Molecular phylogeny and evolution of the dilepidid tapeworms (Cestoda: Dilepididae). A study of evolution of a very large tapeworm family Dilepididae, using sequence data and morphology. Available molecular data on Dilepididae are scarce. Main objectives are to generate most detailed molecular phylogeny of the Dilepididae to date and study evolution of morphological traits and host associations among dilepidids using phylogenetic framework. This study will be conducted at the Department of Biology, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, USA, under the guidance of Prof. Vasyl Tkach, Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor, Immediate past President of the American Society of Parasitologists.

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**SZCZEPANIAK ADRIAN, M.SC.**  Mossakowski Medical Research Institute Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw  
4MG  BROWN UNIVERSITY  
$36,000  -  STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

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**MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**  The effects of cytomegalovirus on blood vessel formation and tumor growth in glioblastoma. The project will study the role of cytomegalovirus in the aggressive malignant primary brain tumor - glioblastoma. The main goal is to investigate the mechanism of increased blood vessel formation induced by cytomegalovirus in glioblastoma. This study will be conducted with the help of the Brown University, Providence, RI, under the guidance of Sean E. Lawler Ph.D.

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**SZUKALSKA MARTA, PH.D.**  Poznan University of Medical Sciences  
3MF  RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
$2,000  -  THE IRENE BUYNOSKI FUND  
$1000  -  THADDEUS F. BRYZINSKI AND GENEVIEVE M. PONATOWSKI-BRYZINSKI FUND  
$9,000  -  DRS. RICHARD AND CATHERINE PASKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

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**MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**  Investigating how NAD+ regenerating reactions are altered to maintain NAD+/NADH homeostasis in lipid- and oxygen-depleted environments. The research goal is to understand how cells meet their NAD+ requirements in lipid and oxygen-depleted conditions. This work will uncover how cancer cells adapt to different nutrient and tissue environments and suggest new strategies for cancer treatment. This study will be conducted under the supervision of Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
**WASIAK MICHAL, PH.D.**
Faculty of Medicine, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University in Warsaw

**6MF** - HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
$24,000 - STANISLAS CHYLINSKI FUND

**MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES**
Improving Outcome of Atrial Fibrillation Ablation by Targeting Non-Pulmonary Vein Triggers of Atrial Fibrillation: Filling in the Information Gaps. The project will contribute to better ablation procedures and lower mortality among patients with heart rhythm disturbances. The study will be conducted at Electrophysiology Laboratory, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, under the guidance of the director Francis E. Marchlinski.

**ZUBA-SURMA EWA**
Ph.D. habilitation, Jagiellonian University

**3MF** - UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
$12,000 - JAN PAUL ZALESKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**BIOLOGY**
Genetically-modified extracellular vesicles (EVs) as novel therapy for heart repair. The main goal of this study will be to investigate whether specific microRNA clusters regulate pro-regenerative activities of extracellular vesicles (EVs) derived from two types of human stem cells (SCs) such as mesenchymal SCs (MSCs) and induced pluripotent SCs (iPSCs), in myocardial repair. This study will be conducted with the support of the Department of Internal Medicine, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), under the guidance of Prof. Buddhadeb Dawn MD, FACC, FAHA, FACP - Head of the Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, UNLV.

**GOTZSALK TEODOR, PH.D.**

**ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**
Investigations of focused electron beam induced deposited (FEBID) nanowires using high resolution electron and ion microscopy methods-FEBIDmic to investigate the focused electron beam induced deposition (FEBID) nanowires fabricated at the Department of Nanometrology (DNanoMet) of the Wroclaw University of Science and Technology (WUST) at Berkeley University (UB) of California using transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and helium ion microscopy (HIM) technologies.

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**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO THE US 2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

APPLY BEFORE NOVEMBER 15TH
The KF Exchange to the US Program

Application Deadline: NOVEMBER 15TH, 2023

www.thekf.org
exchangetotheus@thekf.org
What does it mean to belong somewhere? How does heritage and memory manifest in public space? How does seeing our physical landscape through a different lens facilitate new, alternative or forgotten stories and moments in time? And what implications does it provide for how we can shape the future?

My grant project executed through the Kosciuszko Foundation in 2022-23, also in tandem cooperation with Humanity in Action’s Mapping Inequities Fellowship, aimed to provide a preliminary investigation of the tangible and intangible remnants of (dissonant) heritage, collective memory, and belonging in Kraków and Warsaw’s public spaces through individual and collective artistic mapping projects.

The first part and my initial mapping and artistic research began with a “Memoryscapes” project on a local Kraków case study of the Podgorze district and executed research on its historical and contemporary context, uses (and abuses), and evolution. My goal was to examine the specific tangible and intangible remnants of (dissonant) heritage through mapping physical art and heritage sites in Podgorze’s district and by creating new entry points for reflection and ways of seeing and navigating the intersection of the past and present through the artistic intervention of memoryscapes.

The project seeks to enter new territory, a different perspective, and reside in a liminal space where the past, present, and future intersect. The processes and outcomes of this preliminary investigations include mapping via a bicycle ride - with full sensory immersion and visibility of the surroundings - through the selected district, starting at the southern part of Kazimierz, going through Podgórze’s notable sites such as the Heroes Square/Jewish Ghetto Memorial, the Podgorze District, and showcasing the architectural markers of historical and contemporary development and ending at Kraków-Płaszów Concentration Camp and its surrounding areas.

The audio/visual piece provides an abstracted timelapse of this route with selected images of specific portions of the journey from the film shown below. Special thanks to Jeremy Wexler (PhD), who collaborated on the project on the sound of “Memoryscapes.”

With this portion of the project, my goal was to capture what is not and cannot be mapped -- the intersection of the physical landscape of natural and urban spaces with the intangibility of memory and heritage i.e. what is preserved, memorialized, and revitalized versus what is not.

Still Images of “Memoryscapes”, view and listen to the full piece here: https://youtu.be/nAKvn6gLUcE
abandoned, buried, suppressed, or forgotten. And finally, how art and artistic invention provides an entry point for investigating this liminal space as a safe space for reflection, active listening, and questioning.

The audio/visual piece was showcased at two events in Kraków: at the Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Solvay, Strefa 223: Concert and Screening in February 2023 and at festival at MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art in Kraków in April 2023.

What can these abstract compositions and memoryscapes tell us? How can we respond?
The second portion of my project included co-leading an interdisciplinary course – part workshop/lecture, part exhibition – which I designed around my grant topic and themes at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts (ASP Warsaw) for the summer semester entitled “Mapping Memoryscapes: The Space Between.” Participating in the Erasmus program at ASP Warsaw, each artist has brought to this workshop course and subsequent exhibition their diverse experiences in contemporary art and design practice, as well as their experiences of calling another place (or places) home.

Key research questions within this thread of the project included: What does it mean to map a space or idea as an “outsider”? How does seeing our physical and cultural landscapes through a different lens facilitate new, alternative or forgotten stories? How do artistic interventions on topics of collective memory and identity, cultural (and dissonant) heritage, and mapping, provide alternative opportunities for renegotiating and deconstructing these phenomena?

Students were tasked with the challenge of developing an artistic project that contrasted and blended 1) local context in Poland (Warsaw, your neighborhood) and 2) your home country, city and neighborhood, also with the following themes of intersecting art making, cultural heritage, collective memory and identity, and mapping. The course also highlighted decolonial, post communist, and inclusive theoretical frameworks and project approaches as well providing students examples of individual and collective artistic projects and opportunities to execute work on an individual and collective basis.

The works included in The Space Between exhibition at the end of the academic year at Spokojna Gallery were created during the semester-long course including photography, drawing, painting, and sculpture. The works on view negotiate language and meaning-making, the emotional triggers of place and the simultaneous comfort and distance of the familiar, the excitement of discovery, and as well, what gets lost in time: whose stories are preserved and whose are left to decay. As artists from different countries temporarily residing in Warsaw, questions of place and belonging, through the lens of cross-cultural exchange, provide us new entry points into what it means to be at home.

Joanna Pottle is a visual artist, educator, researcher, and cross-cultural exchange program facilitator from Richmond, Virginia, USA, based in Kraków Poland since 2019. In addition to receiving the KF Exchange Program to Poland: Graduate Studies and Research Studies grant (and Humanity in Action Fellowship), Joanna has worked and exhibited internationally including with The Fulbright Program (Poland, 2019-2020/21), a US Embassy in Poland grant (2020-2021), the International Mark Rothko Painting Symposium (Latvia, 2021), and with the Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund (2023). This grant was funded by the KF the Ted and Walter Wysocki Scholarship Fund and NAWA National Agency for Academic Exchange. We would like to thank our partners in NAWA for their ongoing support of the KF Exchange Program to Poland.
This past July, I completed the Jagiellonian University Summer Studies program through the Kosciuszko Foundation's Tomaszkiewicz-Florio scholarship. Through this opportunity, I achieved my goals of developing a basic understanding of the Polish language at an A2.1 level and gaining a new perspective on my Polish culture and family heritage.

Overall, I found the program to be a deeply engaging and rewarding experience and would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Tomaszkiewicz-Florio Scholarship Selection Committee and Kosciuszko Foundation coordinators for making my participation possible. The first time I visited Kraków, I was ten. Returning twelve years later, I found that I loved Kraków then, and I love it now. Recognizing all the life, culture, and history that lives in this city, I was committed from the minute I arrived to exploring and engaging as much as I could during my short stay, in and outside the classroom.

Within the program, I attended every morning language course and even challenged myself by moving up to A2.1, despite my initial placement in A1.2. Here, I expanded my vocabulary and was taught basic grammatical structures, including present, past and future tenses and several cases, as relevant to the course’s progression of concepts. Though it was often overwhelming to be presented with such a volume of information early in the morning (followed by one to two lectures later in the day), I saw it as inherent to the intensive nature of the program. I appreciated the challenge as it pushed me to recall information quickly and think on my toes in a setting, at least in the morning, where I had to problem-solve to understand and be understood. My language teacher was very kind, and I enjoyed the classroom atmosphere she fostered. Her instruction reminded me of exposure to educational settings in France more than my experience in the American educational system.

Interested in gaining a further general understanding of Polish grammar, I also attended the afternoon grammar class. These lectures familiarized me with the meaning, function, and form of essential aspects of the Polish language. Though Polish is quite complicated, particularly given I am a native-English speaker with no previous exposure to Slavic languages and am also now past my language-learning prime years, these courses improved my oral comprehension and provided me a linguistic base, which was ultimately my goal with respect to language learning.

I also frequented the contemporary Polish cultural history lectures. My professor’s stories highlighted metropolitan Polish culture and tracked cultural divides between the West and East as tied to national economic, political, and cultural development. I deeply appreciated his personal

“After completing this program, I could join my family for niedzielny obiad and participate in collective conversation with people I love.”
and academic perspective, particularly as a point of comparison to the understanding of Polish history, politics, economics, and culture I had formed from my five-week stay with family in a small central Polish town.

Outside of class, I spent almost every moment exploring Kraków. I walked through the northern, western, eastern, and southern neighborhoods expanding from Stare Miasto, where I also spent much time. On these walks, I observed and appreciated the centuries and decades of architecture, open public spaces, markets, and small businesses, trying to guess the history and function of each neighborhood relating to the larger city. I spent a lot of time people-watching to get a sense of each community as they bridged to the larger urban culture.

Through the program, I was also surrounded by a wonderful cohort of people. I learned a lot about my peers, many of whom shared Polish heritage and all of whom shared our interest in learning more about Polish culture and language. I attended every programmed activity on weekends and could be found for most breakfasts and dinners at Piast Dormitory, where many other students were staying. It was a pleasure to meet others in my program. I enjoyed the cultural exchange, given the diversity of age, religious background, and nationality with those taking classes at the university. It was also the first time in my life I’ve been surrounded by so many Polish Americans and been able to use my legal name without mispronunciation or confusion. I was prompted to think about my identity, as it was recognized, shared, and understood by those around me in new ways that were both comforting and challenging.

Given all of these invaluable aspects of the program experience, I would like to reiterate my most sincere gratitude to the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Tomaszewicz-Florio scholarship for making this opportunity for linguistic, cultural, familial, and personal exploration in Kraków possible. I will carry the connections I formed, the memories I made, and the lessons I learned with me for the rest of my life as I continue to find ways to affirm my identity and learn Polish. Most importantly, completing this program meant I could attend a seven-hour family niedzielny obiad directly after my return from Kraków, where I could follow parts of my family’s conversation and even contribute in moments when, two months ago, I understood nothing. So, with this, I will simply say, dziękuję bardzo!

NEW APPLICATIONS CYCLE FOR SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM WILL OPEN IN SPRING
The Kosciuszko Foundation's Exchange Program to Poland provides U.S. citizens with opportunities to pursue research at universities in Poland and to study Polish at the Jagiellonian University.

The Year Abroad Program scholarships support Polish language studies at the Jagiellonian University’s Center of Polish Language and Culture in Cracow. Scholarships are awarded under the auspices of the KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION and POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE (NAWA). Students who are awarded a scholarship are accepted to attend the Center for Polish Language and Culture program at the Jagiellonian University. The scholarship includes a tuition waiver and 1800 PLN per month for living expenses in Poland from the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange as well as $1,125 per semester in additional support from the Kosciuszko Foundation.

The Graduate/Postgraduate Studies and Research Scholarship Program grants support studies and research at public universities in Poland by American graduate students, researchers, and university faculty members. NAWA awards a monthly grant of 1800 PLN and the Kosciuszko Foundation awards grants of $400 per month. Additionally, this year the KF and NAWA decided to award two special grants for undergraduate research.

The total amount in scholarships awarded by the Kosciuszko Foundation for the academic year Fall 2023 - Spring 2024 is $20,450. The Funding will be provided from THE MARY WYSOCKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

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**THE YEAR ABROAD PROGRAM 2023/2024**

**THE TED AND WALTER WYSOCKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

- **DI LASCIO JOHN**
  Austin, TX
  M.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies, University of Texas.
  $2,250
  Fall 2023/Spring 2024

- **NINOMIYA KENT**
  Round Rock, TX
  B.A. in History & Government, University of Texas.
  $2,250
  Fall 2023/Spring 2024

- **MATALA JOSEPH**
  Schenectady, NY
  B.Sc. in Business, Wells College.
  $2,250
  Fall 2023/Spring 2024

- **STENSON ALEXANDER**
  Palm Harbor, FL
  B.A. in History, Florida State University.
  $1,125
  Spring Semester 2024

- **WALINSKI VERONICA**
  Milwaukee, WI
  B.Sc. in Exercise Physiology, Marquette University.
  $1,125
  Fall Semester 2023

- **WROBLEWSKI AMELIA**
  Denver, CO
  M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction in Literacy, University of Colorado at Boulder
  $2,250
  Fall 2023/Spring 2024
STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN POLAND 2023/2024
THE TED AND WALTER WYSOCKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

■ BANDOSZ TERESA
Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, The City College of New York
To test a broad range of surface interactions/adsorption forces, including in-situ changes upon selective adsorption, in separation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Marie Curie – Skłodowska University in Lublin from January 8 to April 15, 2024.
$1,200 – 3 months

■ FRANKEE LYONS
Ph. D. student in Philosophy in Modern Eastern European History, University of Illinois at Chicago
To conduct archival research in Lower Silesia for her dissertation entitled Jewish Belonging and the ‘Polish Road to Socialism,’ 1953-60 at University of Wroclaw from July 12 to June 30, 2024.
$3,600 – 9 months

■ HITCHENKO PAWEL
Professor, Department of Mathematics, Drexel University
To carry out research with Prof. Jacek Wesolowski on the interface of probability theory, statistics, and combinatorics at Warsaw University of Technology from April 1 to June 30, 2024.
$1,200 – 3 months

■ MOKRZYCKI PAUL
Research Assistant, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
To conduct a community-based research study with immigrants, refugees, and residents of different communities across Wroclaw from July 1st to November 1st. This will be under the mentorship of Dr. Dariusz Galasinski, professor of health humanities and director of research at the University of Wroclaw.
$1,600 – 4 months

■ DAVID RUBINSTEIN, Ph.D.
student in History, Cornell University,
To research mass resettlement and coal mining in post-1945 Walbrzych, the subject of his doctoral dissertation. He will be working with Prof. Kamil Kijek at the University of Wroclaw, while conducting archival research in several relevant local holdings.
$1,600 – 4 months

WE ARE STARTING TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS IN OCTOBER
We are pleased to announce the Kosciuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship winners for the Fall 2023-Spring 2024 academic year.

Each year, the Foundation awards tuition scholarships to U.S. citizens and permanent residents of Polish descent for graduate studies in any field at colleges and universities in the United States and to Americans of non-Polish descent whose studies at American universities are primarily focused on Polish subjects. The Tuition Scholarship program also allows funding for graduate studies in Poland, specifically, English Schools of Medicine in Poland.

The Foundation has a small number of scholarships which are available to undergraduate students. One such opportunity is the Jeanette K. Nieciecka Scholarship, which is awarded to New Jersey residents. As per Ms. Nieciecka’s wishes, the first preference is given to Bayonne, NJ, residents for studies in nursing, education, and business. Another is the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women’s Clubs Scholarships, which is available to U.S. citizens of Polish descent permanently residing in Massachusetts. Polish citizens who are legal permanent residents of the U.S. permanently residing in Massachusetts are also eligible. Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate studies in any field.

Additionally, the Kosciuszko Foundation awards scholarships to undergraduates on behalf of the Polish American Club of North Jersey. Membership in this organization is a requirement of eligibility. And lastly, each year since the academic year 2016/2017, the Foundation has awarded the Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Scholarship to a college student who shows exceptional talent in the Natural Sciences as evidenced by a GPA of 3.5 or over.

All of the Foundation’s tuition scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. Financial need is taken into consideration; documentation of Polish ancestry is required, and all students must submit an application, complete a financial information form, two letters of recommendation from teachers/professors, an essay/personal statement, official transcripts, a Curriculum Vitae, evidence participation in Polish American activities/community, and submit a $40 non-refundable application fee. With the exception of the Drs. Trefil Scholarship: All students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

We are pleased to announce the names of 108 students who will receive scholarships for tuition for their undergraduate and graduate studies in the U.S. and Poland for the academic year 2023/2024. The scholarships for Americans for academic year 2023/2024 totals $376,700.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS 2023/2024 at a glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazimiera Adrian Adrianowska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanislaw Chylinski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofia Dembia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Leo J. Dulacki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Mucha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanette K. Nieciecka Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polish American Club of North Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Scholarship in the Natural Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS 2023/2024

*Please note all fund allocations are subject to change.

GRADUATE STUDIES

RICHARD ADAMIĄK SCHOLARSHIP
BENBENEK JULIA
of Park Ridge, IL
for first year of studies in Law,
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL, CHICAGO, IL.
$5,000

COPICH MIRA
of Pittsburgh, PA
for second year of graduate studies in Social Work, Policy Practice
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, IL.
$4,000

DAWICKI ERIN
of Halifax, MA
for first year of graduate studies in Business Administration,
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, CAMBRIDGE, MA.
$7,000

GRABOWSKI LUKASZ
of Ringwood, NJ
for third year of studies in Law,
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL,
CAMBRIDGE, MA.
$7,000

REESE ABIGAIL
of Chicago, IL
for third year of studies in Literature,
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL.
$5,000

KAZIMIERA ADRIAN ADRIANOWSKA SCHOLARSHIP
CARNEY AVA
of Chicago, IL
for first year of graduate studies in Fine Art, Studio Ceramics,
THE SCHOOL OF ART INSTITUTE, CHICAGO, IL.
$1,000

THE LEON A. AND PAT BABULA SCHOLARSHIP
BURIAN ALISSA
of Gainesville, GA
for second year of graduate studies in Physician Assistant,
PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, SUWANEE, GA.
$2,000

DUDEK CAIN
of Harrisburg, PA
for third year of studies in Medicine,
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY,
HERSHEY, PA.
$2,000

HELCSKI RYAN
of Logan UT
for second year of doctoral studies in Ecology,
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY, LOGAN, UT.
$3,000

KALINOWSKI MEGAN
of Des Plaines, IL
for third year of studies in Medicine,
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, SAINT LOUIS, MO.
$3,000

KURDYLA PATRYK
of Wallington, NJ
for second year in graduate studies in History,
DREW UNIVERSITY,
MADISON, NJ.
$2,000

LASTOWIECKA NATALIA
of Rolling Meadows, IL
for second year of graduate studies in Speech Language Pathology,
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY,
COLUMBUS, OH.
$3,000

MAKOWSKI MAREK
of Lake in the Hills, IL
for fourth year of doctoral studies in Literature,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,
MADISON, WI.
$4,000

MUSUNGU YENGE MARTA
of Ridgewood, NY
for first year of doctoral studies in Speech Pathology,
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK NY.
$4,000
### TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

**SLIWA HANNAH**  
of Lemont, IL  
for second year of graduate studies in Social Work, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MI.  
**$3,000**

**SUDRZYSKI ALEXANDER**  
of Algonquin, IL  
for the second year of studies in Law, CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW, CHICAGO, IL.  
**$4,000**

**MARY B. CALKA SCHOLARSHIP**

**KARBOWIAK ROSEMARIE**  
of Twinsburg, OH  
for first year in graduate studies in Social Work, CLEVELAND UNIVERSITY, CLEVELAND, OH.  
**$4,000**

**CHYLINSKI SCHOLARSHIP**

**KANICKI OLIVIER**  
of Ann Arbor, MI  
for second year of graduate studies in Human and Organization Performance, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TN.  
**$4,000**

**EARLY KATY**  
of Brooklyn, NY  
for second year of graduate studies in Theater Directing, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, BROOKLYN, NY.  
**$4,000**

**TYMINSKI WERONIKA**  
of Lawrenceville, NJ  
for first year of graduate studies in Professional Accountancy, SAINT JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
**$3,000**

**STANISLAS CHYLINSKI SCHOLARSHIP**

**MATREJ K DANIELLE**  
of Athens, GA  
for third year of graduate in Veterinary Medicine, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ATHENS, GA.  
**$3,000**

**WOJ TAS YVONNE**  
of Estero, FL  
for third year of graduate studies in Fashion, THE NEW SCHOOL, NEW YORK CITY, NY.  
**$2,000**

**SOFIA DEMBIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**ACKIEWICZ DANIEL**  
of Leola, PA  
for second year of graduate studies in Health Administration Program (IUG), PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.  
**$3,000**

**GROTH PHILIP**  
of Santa Cruz, CA  
for fourth year of doctoral studies in Philosophy, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ, CA.  
**$3,000**

**HAHAMOVICH REYNOLDS**  
of Athens, GA  
for fifth year in doctorate studies in History, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MI.  
**$3,000**

**MATUCH CINDY**  
of Santa Cruz, CA  
for second year in graduate studies in Costal Science and Policy, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ, CA.  
**$2,000**

**MOORE ALYSSA**  
of Maple Grove, MN  
for second year in graduate studies in Archives and Public History, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY.  
**$5,000**

**NOSOWITZ JONATHON**  
of Hicksville, NY  
for the fourth year in doctorate studies in Physics, THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC.  
**$4,000**

**NELSON CHRISTOPHER**  
of Rolling Hills Estates, CA  
for second year of graduate studies, BARD COLLEGE, ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY.  
**$4,000**

**SADKOWSKI KAROL**  
of Cedar Falls, IA  
for second year of graduate studies in International Education Policy and Management, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TN.  
**$4,000**
ZACHWIEJA ZANETA of Elmwood Park, NJ
for third year of studies in Veterinary,
LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY POST,
GREENVALE, NY.
$5,000

ZAWADA STEPHANIE of Tucson, AZ
for the fourth year of doctoral studies in Biomedical Science,
MAYO CLINIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE,
SCOTTSDALE, AZ.
$5,000

KATAN OLIVIA of Brooklyn, NY
for the second year of graduate studies in Communication Sciences and Disorders,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY.
$5,000

WIGDORTZ JONATHAN of Scottsdale, AZ
for first year of graduate studies in Cinematic Arts,
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
LOS ANGELES, CA.
$4,000

ITRICH JOANNA of Raleigh, NC
for third year of studies in Veterinary Medicine,
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE,
RALEIGH, NC.
$3,000

KUBACKI ALEXANDER of Seattle, WA
for fourth year of studies in Medicine,
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT,
BURLINGTON, VT.
$5,000

GEORGES DANIELA of Irvine, CA
for second year of graduate studies in Physical Therapy,
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
LOS ANGELES, CA.
$3,000

KALATA KAROLINA of Chicago, IL
for second year of studies in Medicine,
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN,
MILWAUKEE, WI.
$5,000

WIRSHBA CARLE of Plainview, NY
for fourth year of doctorate studies in Music,
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY,
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ.
$2,500

SOPHIA GRODZICKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NECKA SANDRA of Romeoville, IL
for second year of studies in Medicine,
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGIUM MEDICUM,
CRACOW, POLAND.
$4,000

NOWINSKI VICTORIA of Broad Channel, NY
for sixth year of studies in Medicine,
POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
POZNAN, POLAND.
$4,000

EDWIN I. HARASIMOWICZ FUND

CAUTHORN ANNE of Evanston, IL
for first year of studies in Medicine,
ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY,
NORTH CHICAGO, IL.
$4,000

Tuition Scholarships
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Fund and Student Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPPMANN ALEKSANDRA</strong> of Scottsdale, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for third year in Medicine, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF GDANSK, GDANSK, POLAND.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SMOLIĆ MATILDA</strong> of Sugar Land, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for first year in graduate studies in Music, Vocal Performance, RICE UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON, TX.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ANTHONY AND ROZALIA IRACKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KŁONOWSKI MICHAELA</strong> of Lincolnshire, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for first year of graduate studies in Social Work, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KRAUSE ALEKSANDRA</strong> of Palmetto, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the second year of graduate studies in Clinical Social Work and Public Health, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, MIAMI, FL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRANK AND BARBARA KOSAK SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BORSUK DANIEL</strong> of Arlington Heights, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for fourth year of studies in Medicine, CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL, CHICAGO, IL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JARMULA JAKUB</strong> of Bartlett, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for third year of studies in Medicine, CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, CLEVELAND, OH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEDEL NICOLE</strong> of Clifton, NJ,</td>
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<tr>
<td>for third year in Medicine, ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, BRONX, NY.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<td><strong>KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KUCHARCZYK-SWAMY ANETA</strong> of Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>for first year of studies in Nursing, JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE, MD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>McCORMACK EMILIA</strong> of Westfield, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>for second years of studies in Medicine, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEWARK, NJ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAN LESNY SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WYSOCZYSKI KAJ ETAN</strong> of Folsom, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>for second year of doctoral studies in Biomedical Engineering, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, CA.</td>
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<td>$6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLOYD &amp; IRENE MCKAIN/JOHN GENZA AND HELEN GENZA SCHOLARSHIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DURZYŃSKI ANNA</strong> of Bradenton, LF</td>
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<tr>
<td>for first year of studies in Law, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, MIAMI, FL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRODZKA OLIVIA</strong> of Hilo, HI</td>
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<tr>
<td>for second year of studies in Law, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW, HONOLULU, HI.</td>
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<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOWAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STANTON JOY</strong> of Atkinson, NH</td>
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<tr>
<td>for the first year of studies in Law, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF LAW, ANDOVER, MA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KATZMAN ELI</strong> of Silver Spring, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for the first year of graduate studies in Clinical Social Work, SMITH COLLEGE, NORTHAMPTON, MA.</td>
</tr>
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<td>$2,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### NOWICKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND
**POZNANSKA JUSTYNA**
of Griswold, CT
for fourth year of studies in Medicine, UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, POZNAN, POLAND.
$3,000

### DR. IRENE S. PYSZKOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND
**AUGUSTIN CATHERINE**
of Jersey City, NJ
for first year of graduate studies in Elementary Education, UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, PHOENIX, AZ.
$5,000

### BORATYN VERONICA
**of Arlington Heights, IL**
for first year of studies in Medicine, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MA.
$4,000

### DABROWSKI OLGA
**of Mount Prospect, IL**
for second year of studies in Prosthodontics, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, PA.
$4,000

### THE POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY FUND OF CONNECTICUT
**KORNAL MAYA**
of Stamford, CT
for fourth year of doctorate studies in Molecular, Cellular, Development Biology, YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CT.
$5,000

### MARKOWICZ ADAM
**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
**BUNKOWSKI KLAUDIA**
of Manville, NJ
for second year of graduate studies in Physician Assistant Program, ARCADIA UNIVERSITY, GLENSIDE, PA.
$3,000

### ARTHUR AND GENEVIEVE ROTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
**GROMADZKI BRANDON**
of Charlotte, NC
for first year in graduate studies in Personal Financial Planning, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, LUBBOCK, TX.
$3,000

### EDWARD RZUCIDLO PIANO AND VIOLIN SCHOLARSHIP
**DUDEK PETER**
of Lake Zurich, IL
for second year of graduate studies in Viola Performance, THE J ULLIARD SCHOOL, NEW YORK, NY.
$3,500

### EDWARD J. SCOTT FAMILY ENDOVENTMENT FUND
**KALUTA JULIA**
of Great Neck, NY
for second year of studies in Law, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW, CHAPEL HILL, NC.
$5,000

### RICHARD SOBIERAJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND
**SMIECINSKA NADIA**
of Richmond, CA
for doctoral studies in Sociology, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, CA.
$3,000

### EDWARD RZUCIDLO PIANO AND VIOLIN SCHOLARSHIP
**SZCZEPANKIEWICZ DANIEL**
of Urbana, IL
for the fifth year of doctoral studies in Organic Chemistry, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA, IL.
$4,000

### ZOLTEK KRZYSZTOF
**of Willow Spring, IL**
for the first year of graduate studies in Leadership and Finance, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, IA.
$3,000
JEROME AND MARY STRAKA SCHOLARSHIP

PIWKO ALEXANDER
of Tallahassee FL
for the fourth year in doctoral studies in Biochemistry, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, TALLAHASSEE, FL.
$3,000

MICHAEL TWAROWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

JASIEWICZ CHRISTOPHER
of Pittsburgh, PA
for third year of graduate studies in Violin Performance, SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
$3,000

JOSEPHINE AND IGNATIUS WALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

HARDEJ ISABELLA
of Austin, TX
for first year of studies in Medicine, BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NASHVILLE, HOUSTON, TX.
$3,000

MIENKO ANNA
of Rego Park, NY
for first year of studies in Osteopathic Medicine, NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, OLD WESTBURY, NY.
$3,000

POEHLER EMMA
of Richmond, VA
for first year of studies in Osteopathic Medicine, EDWARD VIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, BLACKSBURG, VA.
$2,000

SMYK ALEXANDER
of Forest Hills, NY
for first year of studies in Dentistry, TOURO COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE, VALHALLA, NY.
$4,000

STANLEY WASIL SCHOLARSHIP

BONDAROWICZ JUSTIN
of Parsippany, NJ
for first year of studies in Medicine, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, CRACOW, POLAND.
$2,500

ZACHARIASIEWICZ JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP

RICH KATIE
of Saint Louis, MO
for second year of studies in Media Communications, WEBSTER UNIVERSITY, SAINT LOUIS, MO.
$5,000

ZIELINSKI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

BUGAJ MARZENA
of Lakewood Ranch, FL
for the third year of doctorate studies in Educational Leadership,

NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY, PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ.
$2,000

DABEK KINGA
of East Ruth Rutherford, NJ
for third year of studies in Dental Medicine, RUTGERS SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE, NEWARK, NJ.
$6,000

KOSCIELNIAK ZUZANNA
of Chicago, IL
for second year of graduate studies in Forensic Psychology, THE CHICAGO SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, CHICAGO, IL.
$2,000

MAKAREWICZ NATHAN
of Salt Lake City, UT
for fourth year of studies in Medicine, STANFORD MEDICAL SCHOOL, STANFORD, CA.
$4,000

STALENYJ ANNA
of Piscataway, NJ
for first year in graduate studies in Teaching, MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTCLAIR, NJ.
$2,000

WYPARLO WERONIKA
of Lawrenceville, NJ
for first year of graduate studies in Accounting, SAINT JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
$4,000
# Undergraduate Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Fund/Name</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kazimiera Adrian Adrianowksa Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Stanczak Alexandra</td>
<td>Alhambra, CA</td>
<td>Human Biology</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Szczepankiewicz Catherine</td>
<td>Hopkinton, MA</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<td>Stanislaw Chylinski Scholarship</td>
<td>Czartoryski Jacob</td>
<td>Dunellen, NJ</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gach Michael</td>
<td>Burr Ridge, IL</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<td>General Leo J. Dulacki Scholarship</td>
<td>Bodyl Anna</td>
<td>Howell, MI</td>
<td>International Business Management</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Davis Julia</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant, PA</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>First Year</td>
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<td>Usynski Alexander</td>
<td>Amarillo, TX</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Second Year</td>
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<td>Stephanie Mucha Scholarship</td>
<td>Kulikowski Anna</td>
<td>Glen Head, NY</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Third Year</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
JEANETTE NIECIECKA SCHOLARSHIP

HULAK NIKOLA
of Pennington, NJ
for an undergraduate freshman year in Speech-Language Pathology, SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ.
$3,000

STRAMA DIANA
of Wallington, NJ
for second year of undergraduate studies in Quantitative Finance, STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, HOBOKEN, NJ.
$3,000

VARGYAS CECILIA
of Naperville, IL
for first year of undergraduate studies in Biology, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN.
$1,000

WAC PATRICK
of Toms River, NJ
for the second year of undergraduate studies in Accounting, SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH ORANGE, NJ.
$1,000

POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF NEW JERSEY

BYSTROWSKA MARTA
of Washington TWP, NY
for second year of undergraduate studies in Politics History, THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC.
$1,000

JAKUBOWSKI MARK
of Bridgewater, NJ
for second year of undergraduate studies in Biological Science, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ.
$800

OLSZEWSKA ELIZA
of Oradell, NJ
for first year of undergraduate studies in Biological Science, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG, PITTSBURG, PA.
$600

RUSZALA GABRIEL
of Fairfield, NJ
for third year of undergraduate studies in Computer Science, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ.
$1,000

ZON IZABELLA
of Cedar Grove, NJ
for second year of undergraduate studies in Criminal Justice, MARIST COLLEGE, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK.
$800

DRS. JAMES AND WANDA TREFIL SCHOLARSHIP

SALEWSKI NOAH
of Parkesburg, PA
for third year of undergraduate studies in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE, GETTYSBURG, PA.
$5,000

THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CYCLE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025 WILL OPEN IN NOVEMBER, 2023
SUPPORT EDUCATION AND UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND!

TEACH FOR POLAND FOUNDATION, established in 2020, is part of the global Teach For All network in 61 countries.

OUR MISSION:
- We lead by example, sparking real change in classrooms, schools, and communities.
- We champion the transformative power of education, promoting equality and support for all children.
- Our EduLeadership Development Program empowers young teachers to provide top-quality education in public schools.

Since February 24, 2022, Poland has faced the challenge of accommodating 4 million refugees, primarily children and youth from Ukraine. Recognizing this, Teach for Poland launched a six-month program to support Intercultural Assistants in meeting the educational needs of refugee children.

Scan the QR code to read more about the inaugural program edition:

![QR Code](image)

Teach for Poland Report: In her own words
To learn more or to contact our CEO Katarzyna Nabralik, visit: https://teachforpoland.org

More than 60% of adult Poles don’t read books.
50% of Polish parents don’t read books to their children.

This is a very serious and largely underestimated problem on many levels. At the Universal Reading Foundation (Fundacja Powszechnego Czytania) we are determined to change this.

Reading books has proven to be the most effective tool to nurture social capital and inclusion, raise scientists, entrepreneurs and inventors.

Research in pediatrics, psychology, social sciences, neuroscience and education show that reading trains the human brain to think critically, understand complex meanings and accumulate data, while promoting empathy and teamwork.

These are all crucial competencies of the future as they are now widely defined.

Our efforts focus around promoting family reading – we want more Polish citizens to thrive; more children to have better chances to achieve in school and in life.

Reading is absolutely fundamental for both. Since the outbreak of the war, we have been supporting Ukrainian refugee families through the distribution of children’s books.

We want to help them build resilience – reading as a daily family routine is one of the best ways to regain psychological stability.

Support us in helping families to read. For their children to succeed.

![QR Code](image)

In English at www.fpc.org.pl/en/about-us
In Polish at www.fpc.org.pl/wspieraj
Since last fall, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted three lectures by distinguished scientists, members of the Foundation's Collegium of Eminent Scientists of Polish Origin and Ancestry.

WITOLD NAZAREWICZ, in the lecture titled “Designer Nuclei. Connecting Femtoworld with the Universe” gave a fascinating talk about the development of study of atomic nuclei, the so-called designer nuclei, complexes of subatomic particles, which exist on a uniquely small scale that is a million times smaller than the familiar atomic scale of nanotechnology.

Next, on APRIL 1, 2023, DR. THOMAS WISNIEWSKI, a distinguished neuropathologist, Professor in the Departments of Neurology, Pathology and Psychiatry at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, discussed his work related to Alzheimer’s disease, a devastating age-related neurodegenerative disorder, that is the most common cause of dementia. Dr. Wisniewski is also a Director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Center, Center for Cognitive Neurology, and Center of Memory Evaluation and Treatment.

Lastly, in the online lecture presented on MAY 18, 2023, DR. MARCIN ZUKOWSKI, a leading expert in database processing and co-founder of Snowflake, Inc., gave a presentation about his work in analytical data processing. He elaborated on the importance of database solutions in modern computer applications and systems and described his most famous contribution to vectorized data processing.

The events, presented as part of the KF CES LECTURE SERIES, were co-organized with the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America and featured the presentation of the PIASA’s Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award to Prof. Witold Nazarewicz and Prof. Thomas Wisniewski and the Tadeusz Sendzimir Applied Sciences Award to Dr. Marcin Zukowski.

The highlight of the season of cultural events was a recital by TOMASZ KONIECZNY, held on JUNE 5, 2023. Konieczny is known as one of the most outstanding bass-baritones of our times and an excellent interpreter of Wagnerian characters performing at the world’s biggest operatic stages including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Vienna State Opera and the Bayreuth Festival. He is also recognized as an ambassador of Polish culture abroad and is credited with spearheading many high-profile initiatives promoting Polish culture and Poland’s music legacy abroad. In the intimate setting of the Foundation’s concert hall, both Tomasz Konieczny and pianist Lech Napierala gave a superb recital of songs by by Richard Strauss, Mykola Lysenko, Henryk Czyz, and Stanislaw Moniuszko.

Duo KAROLINA MIKOLAICZYK, violin & IWO JEDYNECKI, accordion, one of the most vibrant and innovative chamber ensembles of the young generation, entertained the guests with their dazzling performance featuring works by Chopin, Bacewicz, Mozart, Paderewski, Bartok, Blazewicz and Kostrzewa. The artists are multiple winners of the Grand Prix and 1st prizes at international music competitions.
competitions and have been recognized by such artists as Maxim Vengerov and Krzysztof Penderecki. The event, held on FEBRUARY 9, 2023, marked the birthday of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Poland’s most celebrated general, and featured the presentation by the Foundation’s Chairman and author of The Peasant Prince, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution, Alex Storozynski.

On MAY 21, 2023 the Foundation hosted the presentation of “The War of the Romantics: The Story in Words and Music,” written and directed by ELLA REMMINGS. The play, telling the story of a 19th-century musical culture war and a dispute about tradition vs. progress, with its great music, humor, and plenty of drama, attracted a full house attendance and a standing ovation in this sold-out event.

military leader and high-minded statesman who betrayed his democratic vision by seizing power in a military coup. In his talk, Prof. Zimmerman examined Poland’s national hero and his legacy that still divides supporters and detractors.

Even though it’s been over 80 years since the start of World War II, Poland’s suffering has not yet been fully covered by historians, and some relevant archive materials have been made public only recently. On NOVEMBER 29, 2022, KRYSYNA PIORKOWSKA, author of the English-speaking Witnesses to Katyn Recent Research, shared her insights on the US Select House Committee to Investigate the Katyn Massacre in a webinar marking the 70 years of the Madden Committee Report. In her talk, she presented the facts about the Katyn Massacre and discussed the Madden Committee’s role, its creation, and constituent members.

Then, on DECEMBER 1, 2022 the Foundation hosted an evening with DR. PIOTR M. A. CYBULSKI, Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, who discussed his most recent book, Auschwitz. A Monograph on the Human with journalist and author ANDREA PITZER. The book is credited with being the first global attempt to delve deeply into human emotions inside the camp. Piotr Cywiński analyzed over 250 books with memoirs of German Nazi Auschwitz camp survivors and extensive hitherto unpublished archival material containing their accounts.

HISTORY

The Foundation also hosted a series of talks dedicated to promoting knowledge and understanding about Poland’s history.

On NOVEMBER 14, 2022, JOSHUA ZIMMERMAN, PH.D., author and Professor of History at Yeshiva University, discussed his latest book about Jozef Pilsudski, a brilliant
As part of the talk series aiming to increase knowledge and deepen understanding of Polish literature, the Kosciuszko Foundation, together with the Polish Program at Hunter College, CUNY presented two webinars with JAROSLAW ANDERS, Polish literary critic, author, translator, and editor. The first one, held on OCTOBER 6, 2022, discussed the life and body of work of ZBIGNIEW HERBERT, one of the most recognizable poetic voices of postwar East-Central Europe. Jaroslaw Anders elaborated on Herbert’s poetic and moral vision, his image of a “citizen-poet,” his continued relevance, and the troubled aspects of his personality. “Darkness was here yesterday”: Joseph Conrad’s view of man and politics was the title of the second lecture, delivered on MARCH 21, 2023. JOSEPH CONRAD, born Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, was a Polish-born British writer who ranks amongst the greatest of all English novelists and stylists, recognized on both sides of the Atlantic as one of the most notable names of modern fiction. The lecture discussed the continued resonance of Conrad’s work in today’s world of multiplying political, social, cultural, and ethical uncertainties.

On MAY 5, 2023, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted the opening of the Volo Pacem exhibit, presenting artworks by father and son OLEH AND ALEXANDER DENYSENKO. The exhibit presents the artists’ creative journey through sculpture, printmaking, and painting to the invention of the unique artistic idiom, gessography, recognized by the New York Times. As far as its core subject matter, gessography is an epic story, told through the language of art, about the eternal struggle between good and evil. The public recognizes these artworks as allegorical narratives of Ukraine’s brave resistance to Russia’s aggression. This war is not just a ‘conflict in Ukraine’ but a clash of light and darkness.
On MARCH 14, 2023 the Kosciuszko Foundation, in cooperation with the Jagiellonian Law Society, had the pleasure of presenting the webinar panel discussion “LEMKin, GENOCIDE AND THE MODERN WORLD.” The seminar featured, as the keynote speaker, AMBASSADOR STEPHEN RAPP, the United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, and the distinguished faculty: PROF. AGNIESZKA BIEN CZYK-MISSALA, Professor in Political Sciences at the University of Warsaw; Prosecutor THOMAS HANNIS, former lead prosecutor, UN International Criminal Tribunal Yugoslavia; PROF. A. DIRK MOSES, Anne and Bernard Spitzer Professor of Political Science at the City College of New York, CUNY; Prof. ANA FILIPA VRDOLJAK, The UNESCO Chair in International Law and Cultural Heritage, Technical University, Sydney, Australia; DR. MYKOLA YURLOV, International Humanitarian Law and Policy Advisor, member of the Council of the Ukrainian Bar Association in Kyiv. DR. ELIZABETH M. ZECHENTER, a Visiting Scholar at Emory University, moderated the discussion.

The webinar was a tribute to Rafael Lemkin, a Polish Jewish lawyer best known for coining the term “genocide” and a key person behind the creation of the UN Genocide Convention. For that work, he was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. On the 50th anniversary of the Convention entering into force, Lemkin was honored by the UN Secretary-General as an inspiring example of moral engagement.
Władysław Anders with accompanying officers. The ruins of the Monte Cassino Monastery are visible in the background. Cassino, Italy, May 1944 (Photo: Felicjan Maliniak; Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London, courtesy of the KARTA Centre Foundation)

THE EXHIBIT OPENING
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6:30 PM
THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION
15 E 65th Street, New York, NY 10065
105th Anniversary of Poland’s Independence

230th Birthday of The Father of Polish Comedy Aleksander Fredro

• A Talk about Fredro by Jaroslaw Anders
• Sing-along of Polish historical and patriotic songs
• Traditional Polish food

NOVEMBER 11, 2023, 5 PM
THE KFDC, 2025 O ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

KF MEMBERS FREE
NON-MEMBERS $20
TICKETS: WWW.THEKF.ORG
When I came to DC in 2000, after my ‘adventures’ on Long Island, California, and Texas, I first searched for the local Polish organizations. Although I have always stayed in touch with our culture, especially as a freelance writer, translator, and theater critic for Polish publications, I was hungry to meet like-minded people who would share my passion for everything Polish. I suspected that I would find them in this fantastic city.

The first organization I encountered was the American Center of Polish Culture, so I immediately gave them a call, asking if I could come and visit. I remember my first impression: a beautiful old townhouse with magnificent Poland-related art, to which an elegant lady with an adorable smile invited me in. It all was so much more than I expected. I spent a few hours with Kaya Mirecka Ploss, talking about Poland, history, music, literature, and our personal lives. I felt as if I had just restored my sense of belonging. I settled in DC and started teaching at American University while still writing, translating, and reviewing literature. Soon, I became an active member of our local Polonia and got involved in organizing cultural events, performances, and celebrations.

For several years, I played the role of artistic director for the local Polish Theater, where I met and worked with many fascinating people. I organized and performed in annual caroling events at the Polish Embassy. I still wrote about American culture, theater, and literature, conducted interviews, and translated prose and poetry - all in Polish and for Polish publications. When the Kosciuszko Foundation acquired a building on O Street, I became a vice president of the KFDC Chapter and was a frequent and active member of the Center.

And then, a faithful 2013 happened. After returning from the New Year’s celebrations in Europe, I was diagnosed with an illness that turned my life upside down. Hard as it was, I pulled it through.

Looking back, the KF played a crucial role in my recovery. A position for the KF Washington DC Representative had been announced, and I immediately knew this was the change I needed. I was still working as an adjunct professor at American University. I knew however that becoming a KF representative would motivate me to recuperate while doing what I loved most. I knew I would

“Looking back at these ten years, I could write down a long list of things I learned and experienced, but it’s the people, always the people, who made my efforts and hard work worthwhile.”

Barbara Bernhardt, KF Vice President, Washington DC Director
be visible, liable, accountable, and closely evaluated by our local Polonia. And I needed that.

Now, in 2023, I still think about this as a miracle. I love what I do. I am proud to be a part of the Kosciuszko Foundation, which I deeply respect.

A renowned Polish filmmaker, Agnieszka Holland, called the KF: “A crème de la crème of all Polish organizations”, and I (immodestly) think we are just that!

Looking back at these ten years, I could write down a long list of things I learned and experienced, but it’s the people, always the people, who made my efforts and hard work worthwhile. I have been privileged to meet many incredible, inspiring individuals: artists, scientists, journalists, actors and filmmakers, musicians, businesspeople, and thousands of others who ‘just’ love Poland and its culture. They are why our O Street venue has such a homely and friendly atmosphere. Our events gather people whose love for and interest in Poland is undeniable. It’s always thrilling to host them in our Center.

I am excited and committed to continue promoting what’s best in Poland and introducing new programs that will strengthen the beautiful mission of our organization.
In 1877, the great Polish poet Adam Asnyk wrote a poem, Daremne żale (Futile Laments), as an attempt to bridge a gap between the passing Romantic era and the new Positivist ideas. It is a call to abandon the old sentiments and attitudes and to turn towards the future, however unknown and incomprehensible.

Although it is not easy to find a good English translation, here is an attempt to express the main idea of the poem:

“Futile laments, vain efforts
Powerless maledictions
No miracle will revive
The obsolete forms
Life will not go backwards and return to us
A row of fleeting phantoms
No fire nor sword will be able
To stop a thought in its run
We must move forward with the living
Reach out for a new life
And not stubbornly adorn our heads
With withered laurel leaves
We will not stop the run of life
Complaints won’t help at all
Powerless anger, vain lament
The world will proceed its own way”

The expression that our world is constantly changing and that we need to change with it may be considered a truism. Still, it’s essential to embrace what is new, even if we don’t quite understand or agree with current trends, behaviors, and attitudes. At the same time, we also need the wisdom and foresight to recognize the difference between actual and future-oriented change or what are just transient whims or fads.

Now, in 2023, we not only have new tools, new technology, and a new, more rapid pace of life and work but also new strategies, new approaches, and new ways of relating to others. These ways often appear uncompromisingly contradictory to the older forms we were accustomed to.

At the Kosciuszko Foundation, as we approach 100 years, we recognize that we must keep up with the New. We need to have the courage to do things differently than before, stretching ourselves more, even if it makes us less comfortable. We must begin embracing and trusting those younger than us, acknowledging paths and choices that often seem strange.

Celebrating our roots and keeping traditions and customs alive is at the center of the KF’s mission, which we should never stop doing. But it also should not conflict with our search for better ways of communicating with the younger generation and respecting those who do things in unfamiliar ways. Many seven-year-olds are often better than we are with electronics as the digital, virtual world is their natural environment. The seventeen-year-olds often relate to others, to work, and to life quite differently than we do.

We must try to make ourselves feel at home in their world. Otherwise, we will fall off the grid. As the African proverb says: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

So, this is a call to the younger generation: Please join us, show us your ways, and we hope to be ready and humble enough to learn from you!

Original version of Adam Asnyk’s poem: DAREMNE ŻALE

“Daremne żale – próżny trud
Bezsilne złorzeczenia!
Przeżytych kształtów żaden cud
Nie wróci do istnienia
Świat wam nie odda, idąc wstecz
Znikomych mar szeregu
Nie zdoła ogień ani miecz
Powstrzymać myśli w biegu
Trzeba z żywymi naprzód iść
Po życie sięgać nowe
A nie w umarłych laurów liść
Z uporem stroić głowę
Wy nie cofnijcie życia fal!
Nic shargi nie pomogą
Bezsilne gniewy, próżny żal!
Świat pójdzie swoją drogą.”
The 68th Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition
February 28 - March 3 Washington D.C.

It will take place between FEBRUARY 28 and MARCH 3RD, 2024, IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The competition invites all pianists AGES 17-30 to apply. Eight chosen semifinalists will be asked to Washington D.C. to perform a recital of music by Chopin and Szymanowski, and three finalists will perform a Chopin Piano Concerto with the members of the National Philharmonic under the baton of Maestro Piotr Gajewski on March 3.

The jury will include PIOTR GAJEWSKI (Jury Chair), EWA POBLOCKA (Poland), AKIKO EBI (Japan), KRZYSZTOF JABLONSKI (Canada) and LINDA PETRIKOVA (IMG Artists). The prizes will total over $20,000 as well as performance opportunities for the 1st prize winner.

The competition’s history dates to the early 1950s, making it the oldest Chopin competition in the United States. The prominent past winners include Van Cliburn, Murray Perahia, Kevin Kenner, Kirill Gerstein.

We hope to see all Chopin enthusiasts in Washington D.C. in February 2024.
“Last year, we opened our doors again and celebrated Poland and its culture with our local Polonia community. (...) We are planning many exciting events and programs for fall 2023 and spring 2024.”

Last year, after two years of virtual existence, we opened our doors again and celebrated Poland and its culture with our local Polonia community.

We had numerous events and programs, among them several jazz concerts by established Polish jazz musicians like KUBA CICHOCKI, BOGNA KICINSKA, ANDRZEJ WINNICKI, KRZYSZTOF MEDYNA, PAWEL IGNATOWICZ, MATEUSZ SMECZYNSKI, and others. We hosted the concerts in our venue on O street and in a prominent DC jazz Club, Blues Alley, and Baltimore’s jazz Club, Keystone Korner.

We also organized several classical concerts, including a FREDERICK CHOPIN concert by pianist MARTIN LABAZEVITCH. We celebrated Poland’s Independence Day, another Chopin concert by young and talented pianists when we celebrated INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S DAY, and Chopin’s great chamber music by pianist BRIAN GANZ, cellist CARTER Brey, and violinist LAURA COLGATE, in preparation for their concert at the National Philharmonic.

We also presented a POLISH FILM SCORES concert by pianist MARTIN LABAZEVITCH, accompanied by slides from well-known and beloved Polish movies. Among our guests was Professor Piotr Wachowiak from the Warsaw School of Economics with his wife.

We celebrated INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY in March with a great guest speaker, Professor AGNIESZKA CHŁON-DOMIŃCZAK.

In April, we hosted the Marshal of the Republic of Poland – DR. TOMASZ GRODZKI, the Honorary Patron of the Polish Diaspora.

On another occasion, we held a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Sopot, MR. JACEK KARNOWSKI, to talk about Poland’s efforts to help Ukraine. Among the guests, there was a former Polish Ambassador to the US, Ryszard Schnepf.

Kosciuszko Foundation, Washington DC, also co-partnered in presenting a 2022 film screening of I Am Not Afraid of Darkness, a powerful production about three pianists preparing concerts of Chopin music in places
associated with great suffering: the city center of Beirut, the border between South and North Korea and the Nazi Concentration Camp Auschwitz in Poland.

We celebrated the year of WISLAWA SZYMBORSKA with an evening of poetry and music. A Polish American actor and theater professor OMAR SANGARE, recited Szymborska’s poems. The guest speakers were a literary critic JAROSŁAW ANDERS, a poetry professor, and Szymborska’s translator JOANNA TRZECIAK HUSS.

Before the summer, we opened a new art exhibit by HELEN CIESLA COVENSKY, the late mother of a Polish-Jewish-American documentary filmmaker Aviva Kempner. Several media personalities were among the guests, like CNN journalists Wolf Blitzer, Greta van Susteren, and CBS reporter Jef Goldman.

COMING UP...

We are planning many exciting events and programs for fall 2023 and spring 2024. In addition to concerts, talks, film screenings, and commemorations, we are working on three big and significant events:

- **ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA** at the beginning of December, during which we will host and award two brothers: Jan Komasa, filmmaker, and Szymon Komasa, opera singer.
- The **68TH KF CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION**, in cooperation with the National Philharmonic.
- The first edition of the **KF WASHINGTON POLISH FILM FESTIVAL**, under the Honorary Patronage of Agnieszka Holland.

We hope to see all our members and friends at our events!
Throughout the year, KF DC organizes many programs and events. Still, the highlight each year, held in late fall or early winter, is our annual fundraising gala, honoring prominent figures from the Polish-American community.

- In **2013** we honored the late US General and Ambassador, Edward Rowny, one of the most eminent leaders of the Polish-American community. The celebrations also featured a remarkable Chopin concert by piano virtuoso Brian Ganz.

- In **2014**, the recipient of the KF Pioneer Award was Julian Kulski, an architect, writer, World War II Veteran, and the Warsaw Uprising veteran. The artistic program that evening was a talented Duo Klavitarre, comprised of Maciej Ziemski (guitar) and Jolanta Ziembska (piano).

- **2015** was the year when we hosted and recognized the Oscar-nominated and highly respected filmmaker Agnieszka Holland. For that event, we were able to present virtual greetings from many Polish film personalities, like Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Zanussi, Janusz Gajos, Robert Więckiewicz, Michał Żebrowski, Michał Bajor, Andrzej Seweryn, Maja Ostaszewska, or Agnieszka Grochowska. Hollywood stars like Julie Delpy, Ed Harris, Diane Kruger, Peter Medak, and Philip Krupp sent additional greetings and congratulations.

- In **2016**, the KF Pioneer Award was given to Maestro Piotr Gąjewski, Artistic Director, conductor, and Founder of the National Philharmonic. We celebrated the event with several outstanding musicians and singers, including Polish mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wór.

- **Year 2017** was dedicated to a special salute recognizing the legacy of our Patron – General Kościuszko on the 200th anniversary of his death. That year we also recognized the City of Wrocław, the home of the famous Raclawice Panorama painting,
depicting the triumphant battle of Poles against the Russian invaders, led by Gen. Kościuszko. Among our guests was the Mayor of the City of Wrocław, Rafał Dutkiewicz, a director of Wroclaw National Museum, Piotr Oszczanowski, some well-known personalities like basketball player Marcin Gortat, actress Alicja Bachleda, and philanthropist Helena Kołodziej.

During the 2018 we commemorated another important historical anniversary: 100 years of Poland regaining its independence. We honored a well-known American actress of Polish descent, LORETTA SWITT, and held the Gala in the style of the 1920s.

The last Gala before the global pandemic in 2019 was exceptional as we observed the 100th anniversary of Polish-American diplomatic relations. We had invited all the American Ambassadors to Poland since 1989, and those who attended were Ambassadors John Davis, Thomas W. Simons, Dan Fried, Christopher R. Hill, Victor H. Ashe, Lee A. Feinstein, Stephen Mull, and Paul W. Jones. In addition, a short performance was given by the iconic jazz-pop singer Basia.

In 2020 everything came to a complete stop as the public gatherings were temporarily canceled and prohibited.

In 2021, however, we decided to conduct “an experiment” by organizing a virtual gala. Our honoree and the recipient of the KF Pioneer Award was a renowned and beloved Polish actor, ZBIGNIEW ZAMACHOWSKI, celebrating his career of 40 years. As it turned out, our virtual Gala was a great success as it was well-attended, engaging, and entertaining.

In 2022, our Gala was titled: In the Spirit of Jan Karski. Celebrating Individual Courage, a tribute to the creators of the play about this Polish hero (Remember This. A lesson of Jan Karski): DEREK GOLDMAN, CLARK YOUNG and DAVID STRATHAIRN, as well as the actor and professor of theatre, OMAR SANGARE. Given Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, it proved to be a timely and essential reminder about individual responsibility during humanitarian crises. Our performers that evening was a Polish Ukrainian ensemble, Babooshki, with vocalists Karolina Beimcik and Dana Vynnytska and guitarist Rafal Samecki.
Last year, the Kosciuszko Foundation in Washington DC paid tribute to the Polish Second World War Hero Jan Karski during the Gala titled “In the Spirit of Jan Karski: Celebrating Individual Courage.”

We recognized with the KF 2022 Pioneer award the creators of the play: Remember This. The Lesson of Jan Karski as well as Polish American actor, theater professor and philanthropist OMAR SANGARE.

DEREK GOLDMAN is an award-winning international stage director, producer, festival director, playwright, published scholar, and professor at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is director and co-author of the play “Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski”, which was created by The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, and he also co-directed and co-authored the new feature film version of “Remember This”.

CLARK YOUNG is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, teacher, and co-author of the play “Remember This.” He has co-created every iteration of the play, alongside Derek Goldman and David Strathairn, since 2014, and it has taken them across the country and the world.

DAVID STRATHAIRN, portraying Jan Karski in the play Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski is an acclaimed stage, movie, and television actor. He is an Oscar nominee, and Emmy award recipient.

Of “Remember This” he says: “I’ve always felt that one of the vital roles, even a responsibility, of the artist/citizen is to provide palpable, emotive, and relevant insight into the most pressing issues concerning our common humanity. By dramatizing the legacy of Jan Karski, we are striving to do just that.”

OMAR SANGARE is an acclaimed actor, writer, poet, professor and one of the most influential people on today’s theater scene. He serves as a tenured full Professor and Chairman in the Department of Theater at Williams College, one of the most prestigious Liberal Arts colleges in the US where he teaches and promotes Polish theater to his students.

He was selected by the U.S. Department of State for a video project that appeared as part of President B. Obama’s trip to Poland, as one of the “prominent Polish Americans who are proud of their heritage while having an impact on America’s social and cultural fabric.”

OUR ARTISTIC PROGRAM WAS DELIVERED BY BABOOSHKI, A POLISH-UKRAINIAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Vocalists DANA VYNNYTSKA and KAROLINA BEIMCIK sing heartfelt folk, ethnic music, while celebrating the common Slavic past and Polish-Ukrainian friendship.
invites you to the

2023 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING

Gala Dinner & Dance

Celebrating Talented Polish Artists of the Younger Generation

HONORING:

Filmmaker JAN KOMASA and Opera Singer SZYMON KOMASA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND 2023
THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.
The KFDC will host and honor two talented brothers: filmmaker Jan Komasa and opera singer Szymon Komasa.

They come from a family with strong artistic traditions and are the sons of actor Wiesław Komasa and singer Gina Komasa. They have two sisters: Maria, a singer, and Zofia, a costume designer.

**JAN KOMASA** is one of the best Polish film directors, screenwriters, and younger-generation producers. His film Corpus Christi (Boże Ciało) was nominated for an Oscar in 2019. He is also known for films like Suicide Room (2009), Warsaw 44 (2014), and The Hater (2020). Suicide Room (2009) premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2011 and became an instant success. Jan Komasa was awarded with the Polish Film Award for Discovery of the Year and Best Editing, along with FIPRSCI at the International Festival of Independent Cinema Of Camera, Best Film and Best Score Award at the Giffoni Film Festival, the Silver Lion at the Gdynia Film Festival, Best Polish Film award at the MTV Movie & TV Awards, Best Film at the Stockholm International Film Festival, Best Film at the Geneva International Film Festival, Best Debut Film at the New Horizons Film Festival, and several others.

His colossal box of ce success came with a blockbuster he wrote and directed – an epic period film, Warsaw 44, which depicts the tragic story of young people fighting in the Warsaw Uprising. The film premiered at the Busan Film Festival, won Golden Lions for Best Actress, Best Sound, and Best Special Effects at the Gdynia Film Festival, received the Polish Film Award for Discovery of the Year, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design, and Best Film Award at China’s Golden Rooster & Hundred Flowers Film Festival.

His social thriller, The Hater, portraying a manipulative anti-hero, was selected for the International Main Competition at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. The film won the Best International Narrative Feature award, and Netflix acquired world rights to the film. Corpus Christi, inspired by real-life events, a story about a young man experiencing a spiritual transformation, had its world premiere at the 76th Venice International Film Festival. At the 22nd Polish Film Awards, it won in eleven categories, including Best Film. It also earned four nominations at the 33rd European Film Awards and was nominated for Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards.

Currently, Jan Komasa is making his debut in Hollywood with a thriller entitled Anniversary, with an all-star cast: Diane Lane (Man of Steel), Kyle Chandler (The Wolf of Wall Street), Madeline Brewer (The Handmaid’s Tale), Zoey Deutch...
(Before I Go), Phoebe Dynevor (The Bridgertons), Mckenna Grace (Ghostbusters: Legacy) and Daryl McCormack (Good Luck Leo Grande). The filmmaker describes Anniversary as “an intimate project with the most personal nightmare.” The film, set in a near dystopian future, is about a family falling apart due to a new movement/social virus, Changes, taking over the United States. The screenplay, based on an original idea by Jan Komasa, was written in collaboration with Lori Rosene-Gambino.

Jan Komasa is a lecturer at the National Film School in Łódź and an expert at the Polish Film Institute. He frequently participates in academic events such as panels and symposiums at notable universities, including USC, NYU, Columbia, Cambridge, Oxford, Warsaw, and Toronto. He has been a jury member at many festivals, including Geneva, Barcelona, Warsaw, Kraków, and recently at the Berlinale Shooting Stars 2023.

Szymon Komasa is one of Poland’s most talented singers (baritone). He performs in various opera houses in Poland and abroad. In addition to classical opera parts by such composers as Mozart, Bellini, Donizetti, or Verdi, the artist sings parts in operas by contemporary composers such as Korine Fujiwara and Paweł Mykietyn. He also proves his outstanding performing talent in a much lighter repertoire, singing songs from the famous Cabaret of Older Gentlemen or from the repertoire of an acclaimed Polish pre-war vocalist, Mieczysław Fogg.

Szymon Komasa started learning music at seven by playing the cello. “I’ve been crazy about singing since I was a child, so much so that in elementary school, I pretended to be sick just to stay home and play records at full volume and sing along,” says the singer in an interview with the Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza.

In 2004, he began his studies at the Vocal and Acting Department at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. Afterward, he began postgraduate studies in opera singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Then, he continued his singing studies at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York (Artist Diploma of Opera Singing in the singing class of Edith Wiens). The singer is also a graduate of the G. and K. Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź, from which he graduated with honors.

Szymon Komasa made his debut as Schaunard in La Bohème at the Teatro Filharmonico / Arena di Verona in Italy (2009). He is the winner and laureate of numerous international vocal competitions, including BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, International Singing Competition V. Dunne, and the International Singing Competition named after G. Lissner. He has appeared on the stages of opera houses in Poland, USA, Italy, Germany, England, and Austria. He gave vocal recitals at Carnegie Hall (USA) and Wigmore Hall (England). In 2015, he was nominated for the “Polityka Passport” award.

In 2019, his debut album (together with pianist Oskar Jezior), Polish Love Story, was released and was nominated for the Fryderyk 2020. The album includes songs by Fryderyk Chopin, Stanisław Moniuszko, Stanislaw Niewiadomski, Mieczysław Karłowicz, Grażyna Bacewicz and Witold Lutosławski.

“I wanted the listener to know who I am – an ordinary boy who just sings; the song is the most intimate form of connection with the recipient.” – says Szymon.

Szymon Komasa will give a short recital during the Gala.

Szyman Komasa

FUNDRAISING GALA 2023
Brothers Jan and Szymon Komasa are among the leading artistic voices of their generation. For their contribution to the Polish art scene, the Oscar-nominated filmmaker Jan and internationally acclaimed opera singer Szymon will be jointly recognized at the 2023 KF Washington DC Gala Dinner and Dance. Before this event, they spoke with the Kosciuszko Foundation about their artistic family, inspirations, values, and plans.

Anna Tarnawska: Starting with when you were a child, you dedicated yourself to various artistic endeavors. You studied music and were an actor in children’s TV shows, just to mention two. You also completed a year of philosophical studies before entering the Lodz Film School. What inspired you to choose filmmaking as your future profession?

Jan Komasa: I always loved the emotional journey that storytelling could bring you into. I felt fascinated by how powerful creating worlds could be. I saw it in my father’s work when he dedicated all of his energy and immersed himself in every project, whether it was on a stage or film set. From the first moment, I can recall, I was, in a way, one step away from leaping into the realm of imagination. On a practical note, I experimented with many different disciplines - from painting to writing - and found that directing combines all of them without the necessity of excelling at any.

AT: The subjects of your films span a wide gamut, not only historical events (“Warsaw 44”, “Wroclaw’s Golgotha”) but also problems of the contemporary world (“Ode to Joy,” “Hater,” “Suicide Room”). How do you choose the subjects of your movies? What do they have in common despite these topics’ polarity?

JK: I always try to find something I haven’t yet approached. I like to feel challenged by a new genre, the size of the production, or a type of narration. “Warsaw 44” was a big-budget production in which I felt I needed to build a certain form of pathos and clash it with the tackiness of pop culture to mold a new flavor that I hadn’t yet seen in films. But with a big operatic backdrop as a setting, I attempted to show the journey of the leading characters. This is probably what I really like to explore - build characters and try to use the span of time I have between the first and the last second to introduce them to the viewer.

AT: You are a great observer of current reality, young people’s struggles, challenges of technology, etc. How did you manage to engage with this environment so ably?

JK: I essentially try to stick to what I find interesting in daily life. Sometimes, I let the subject find me; an example would be when “Corpus Christi” was sent to me by my friend, who is a producer. Other times, I just try to be open to reality and go where I feel the energy that resonates with me.

AT: In “Warsaw Uprising,” you used the rare technique of mixing historical documentary footage with scenes played by actors. What was the process of working with this method? And how did you proceed with ingathering and restoring the archival footage?

JK: It was an exceptional opportunity that occurred thanks to the directors of the Warsaw Uprising Museum. They got ahold of the mostly unseen footage and decided to invest in restoring it. They just needed to find an organizing thought to link it and asked me if I had any idea how to make the
footage speak in its own voice. I spent a fair amount of time with the museum's historians and finally was ready to present my version of the story. I hadn't had many external references, and it motivated me to come up with something completely new. That's when I came up with the idea of found footage and lip-reading from the silent archives. Happily, it all met with the approval of the museum's directors.

**AT:** “Corpus Christi” was nominated for Best International Feature Film at the 92 Academy Awards. The film is inspired by the true story of a young man who decides to pretend to be a priest after leaving a youth detention center. What was so universal in this story that spoke to viewers worldwide?

**JK:** I think that the film shows a universal desire to be part of a community, any community, and the search for acceptance. It seems like audiences like stark contrasts—criminals vs. innocents, deception vs. faith. “Corpus Christi,” at its core, starts with a contrasting setup, one that probably isn't that close to most of viewers. This, too, is probably one of the mysteries of storytelling—sometimes, people want to find themselves in the reflection of the most unlikely situation.

**AT:** After several widely acclaimed productions in Poland and Europe, you are now working on your first Hollywood movie. Anniversary is a thriller featuring American movie stars Diane Lane, Kyle Chandler, and Madeline Brewer. In addition to directing the picture, you are also the script co-author. Can you tell us more about this production? How different is working with a Hollywood cast? And when can we expect the movie to premiere?

**JK:** I wanted to cooperate with those amazing producers and actors and was and still am simply happy to be able to work on the material that I co-wrote. I'm also intrigued to see what happens when I bring my Central European sensitivity and translate it into a different setting. There are so many similarities between how American and Polish societies reacted to the turbulent socio-political situation of the last couple of years. I wanted to create a dystopian thriller that leads us towards something different than we can now imagine. The film is still in the making, so I hope the movie will be ready by mid-2024.

**AT:** In addition to creating your own films, you also teach at the Lodz Film School. What can you tell about the emerging generation of Polish filmmakers? What trends can we expect in Polish films in the upcoming years?

**JK:** I believe that at the end of every road, our job is to share our experiences with others to try to make the world a better place. That was always my goal, and teaching is just this—sharing. I'm trying to encourage young talents to be bold and explore the world, become scientists of the human soul and experience, and if they succeed—share it with others as well. I think that the style of Polish storytelling has detached itself from what was so pervasive when I was studying 20 years ago. At that time, it was all about a pretty strict recreation of reality, which was probably influenced by a very strong Polish documentary wave. This is something Poles were always great at—reporting about reality, sticking close to it, and finding the truth behind masks and forms. It, despite many shining exceptions, also made us, directors, feel under pressure to think about films as reports from daily life more than as our own imaginative creation. Today, I feel this, and I cherish all of those students who feel emboldened to experiment with the genre and just mix different flavors to find some exciting new tastes.

**AT:** We are thrilled to award you, together with your brother Szymon with the KF 2023 Pioneer Award! And how do you feel about this distinction?

**JK:** I feel humbled knowing who the previous recipient of your respected award was before my brother and I were selected. Also, I feel excited to share this experience with Szymon—our fascination with film developed concurrently. We watched every movie together while growing up. I always treated Szymon as my closest partner on my film journey. But most importantly, I know he's a genius, a great talent of unrestrained imagination and sensitivity. That's why I'm excited to see him being able to shine before the Washingtonian audience.
Szymon Komasa: “KF Marcella Sembrich Voice Competition Gave me Power to Work Harder”

**Anna Tarnawska:** You started your musical education by playing cello, later graduating from the Karol Szymanowski State Music High School in Warsaw. Coming from such an artistic family – your father, Wieslaw Komasa, is a movie director and actor – were you predestined to become an artist?

**Szymon Komasa:** Probably… I don’t know; I don’t ask myself that question. I felt the need to sing since I was a little boy. I just had this urge to sing my heart out every day. It was an internal need. I couldn’t stop it. I knew precisely that I would be an artist since I was a little boy. What I didn’t know was that this profession, at the end of the day, has nothing to do with being a great artist. I had to learn how to be a grown-up man, fight for myself, and always be in accord with every artistic decision I made. It is tough work, and mentally, I was not meant to do this job. Nonetheless, my heart is my heart, and I had to follow where it calls me.

**AT:** Following this path, you graduated from the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and Juilliard School in New York. Education in various forms is our primary role at the KF. What role did it play in your life, and how do you remember your student life in NYC?

**SK:** I recall my years at Juilliard as difficult ones. Juilliard is a huge machine, and I couldn’t find myself there. I met my twin sister Mary almost every night. I think I met Stephen Wadsworth, who was my mentor at Juilliard, and I liked her as a colleague. I think she can give students good advice and has immense energy, which people want to be around.

**AT:** At Juilliard, you studied in the vocal class of Canadian soprano Edith Wiens and attended masterclasses with American coloratura mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. What was your experience of working with those two outstanding artists?

**SK:** Joyce’s experience gave me a lot. I respect her enormously as an artist; meeting her was just very important for me. I saw her some years ago as a student in London when she was performing at the Royal Opera House, and I thought, “I want to be an artist like that.” She is radiant on stage – calm and very, very smart, an elegant artist. You can sense she is not only singing the part. She knows exactly what she wants to give you with her singing. She knows why she comes on that stage every night. She is definitely serving the art in an expanded manner. Edith was my teacher at Juilliard, and I liked her as a colleague. I think she can give students good advice and has immense energy, which people want to be around.

**AT:** Around the same time, in 2013, you took first place in the KF Marcella Sembrich International Voice Competition. How did this experience influence your artistic career?

**SK:** It was during my difficult years as a student at Juilliard. That competition gave me so much energy and power to work harder. I met Mariusz Kwiecien, who attended the competition as a listener. That encounter changed my life. Mariusz has always been my idol since I was very young. He gave me incredible advice after each round of the competition. I loved the atmosphere there, and I was fortunate that my twin sister Mary was in NYC to support me at the time.

**AT:** The Foundation honors you and your brother with the 2023 Pioneer Award at the KF DC Gala. How do you feel about it?

**SK:** I feel extremely blessed and honored. I love my brother very much, and receiving an award with him feels like heaven. I admire my brother deeply. He is an artist who is focused, determined and loves his job. He is also my friend, and I respect his opinion greatly. I am just so energized to be able to share this incredible moment of receiving the award with him. It will be an unforgettable memory. I want to thank everyone who decided to award us this year. Thank you!
AT: How is your relationship with your sisters? You are the twin brother of Berlin-based singer Mary Komasa and the older brother of Zofia, a costume designer.

SK: We are all best friends. We call each other every day. Even a couple of times a day. We support and annoy each other, but we are in this together. Every one of us is an artist. We understand what the word “rejection” means. It hurts. Our jobs hurt every day. It is a struggle, tears and sweat. That’s why when I call them, I know that they will know exactly what I am talking about when I say: “I wanted this so bad, and I didn’t get it.” I love my siblings, and I feel so lucky to have them.

AT: You also recently became an uncle.

SK: Of Victor. Who looks exactly like me. I hope it is a good thing [laughs]. Seeing this little one growing, smiling, and learning about the world is such a beautiful thing. I hope to be there when he becomes an adult man. I want to see who we will become.

AT: The Polish opera scene is currently on a world-class level; it sets trends. Our singers, including yourself, perform worldwide with success. To what does Poland owe these successes?

SK: Our language sets our speaking voices into that deep, soft side. That’s why Polish opera singers have these unique, beautiful tones when they sing. Also, Polish people are very ambitious, and they learn languages quickly! And that’s extremely important for opera.

AT: Besides classical works, you also perform in a lighter repertoire. I’ll just mention your recent album – the interpretation of songs of the Kabaret Starszych Panów (Elderly Gentlemen’s Cabaret). Is this a direction you would like to pursue from now on? How do these two genres differ, and in which do you feel better?

SK: I feel no difference between singing lighter music or opera. I put the same amount of energy, love, and heart into it. I love doing both, but right now, my calendar is so full of opera performances that I simply do not have time to do other things. But when I get a nice offer to sing cabaret songs, I will definitely do that.

AT: What are your current work plans and artistic assignments?

SK: I work a lot in Europe. I am currently working in an opera house in Vienna. Follow my social media, and you will find out everything important there [Smiles].

AT: On behalf of the KF and myself, I congratulate you on the 2023 KF Pioneer Award and thank you for accepting our Gala invitation. Please accept our wishes that all your dreams come true on your artistic path. What do you dream about?

SK: My dreams are very simple. I want to drive an open-roof Cabrio in Italy and enjoy my life, Sun, friends, water, and wine. I want to get to a point in my life when I will be able to do that. That’s it [Smiles].

AT: Thank you, and see you in Washington at the KF DC Gala Dinner & Dance!

SK: I would like to thank you all who made this event possible, and I wish you all a lot of strength, health, and good energy.
Welcome to our Blog!
All the world's a stage

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ZE ŚRODKÓW KANCELARIJ PRZESZA RADY
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POLONIA I POLACY ZA GRANICĄ 2023
POLISH FILM FESTIVAL IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Kosciuszko Foundation in Washington DC proudly announces a new initiative:

THE KF WASHINGTON POLISH FILM FESTIVAL

with its first edition mid-May 2024, featuring the American premieres of the best new Polish films presented at the annual Gdynia Film Festival

The Honorary Patron of the Festival is filmmaker AGNIESZKA HOLLAND

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The Kosciuszko Foundation in Washington D.C. has recently announced the launch of a Polish Film Festival, with the first event scheduled for May 2024. I was asked to help build this festival as I’ve spent the last 4 years as chair of the Ekran Toronto Polish Film Festival and, earlier in my life, taught film courses and ran an annual film series for many years at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

My love of film really began in the 50’s when I would escape from my home on the South Shore of Long Island every weekend to spend the days watching movies at New York City’s infamous Broadway and 42nd Street, where some 10 theatres were collected on one block, with other less savory activities, and where you could watch 3 movies for about one dollar. At that time, movies in the US were becoming more challenging as some of the clichés were being swept away as John Ford’s Fort Apache (1948) and later, the Searchers (1956), began to undermine the traditional clichés of Cowboys and Indians. Then, too, Hitchcock and Kubrick began to release their best work.

But nothing prepared me for the new waves of European films that began to appear, usually without the fanfare that accompanied spectacular films like The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) or DeMillie’s Ten Commandments (1956). In fact, film history, not unlike the other arts, tends to come in waves, bursts of light, showing the work of many artists working both separately and together in one nation or culture all in the same period. After WWII Italian Neo Realism, perhaps building on almost incomprehensible wartime suffering, grounded modern cinema in human struggle, while almost at the same time, the French Nouvelle Vague mixed that reality with an air of romance and a yearning for freedom both on a technical and human level.

So, I suddenly found myself immersed in films from Italian Neo Realist Directors like De Sica, Fellini, Antonioni, and Pasolini, or from the French New Wave Directors like Resnais, Varda, Truffaut, Chabrol, and Godard. Occasionally there would even be a Polish film. I think it was in the early 60’s when I first saw Wajda’s Kanal, the first film I had ever seen about Poland and a film about WWII that broke the mold. Of course, there were heroic men and women struggling through the sewers to freedom, but the outcome wasn’t exactly clear, as what first seemed to be a portrayal of almost mythic heroism, became surprisingly ambiguous at the end. At a time when we still didn’t really understand much about the war, when it was generally cast simply as a struggle between good and evil, Kanal was startlingly complicated and provocative. This was something deeper and darker than I had ever seen before.

In those days, you couldn’t run to an internet and find more Polish films, you had to wait until they made their slow way here. But although Poland was still hidden away behind the Iron Curtain, Polish films continued to be exceptionally powerful and challenging: Munk’s Eroica, Wajda’s Ashes and Diamonds, and Połański’s Knife in the Water were all recognized internationally as masterpieces. For many Americans, even for those whose families had emigrated from Poland, Polish cinema was our first real
insight into Poland, a country we knew primarily as a war
ground or as a country still tainted by communism.
Still, I think nothing prepared us for what a friend has
called the ripening or maturing (dojrzewanie) of today’s
Polish cinema. Despite continuing political dificulties,
Polish directors are undeterred and emerge each year
with brilliant new films. Now, with so many filmmakers
working at the same time, Poland is producing a newer
wave of exciting directors and films. In just the last few
years new films by Holland, Smarzowski, Skolimowski,
Pawlikowski, Chajdas, Lazarkiewicz, Komasa, and
Krzyształowicz, are not only appearing at festivals and on
American TV, but they are also seemingly entering the
cinematic mainstream.
Of course, we are not the first to recognize this Polish
wave. Polish film festivals have run in many U.S cities, in
L.A., Seattle, Chicago, New York, and Miami. So, without
doubt, it is time for Washington, D.C., with its extraordinary
emphasis on international culture and diversity to have a
Polish Film Festival of its own. Indeed, thanks to this new
KF initiative, we are under way and already preparing
our visit to the Gdynia Film Festival in September to
view and consider the best new films from directors like
Robert Gliński, Maciej Bochniak, Olga Chajdas, Krzysztof
Łukasiewicz, Kinga Debska, Grzegorz Dębowsky, and
many others, not to mention an extraordinary collection of
short films as well.
If we do it right, we will have not only many of these
movies here in D.C., but also guests from the world of
Polish cinema to meet with our audiences and talk about
their films. But perhaps more than anything else, our
Festival will be an opportunity for all of us to escape from
the internet for a few days, to share our experience with
friends, and enjoy ourselves watching the best of new
Polish cinema.
Stanley George Wojcicki was an eminent Polish American physicist, esteemed professor, and chair of Stanford University’s Physics Department in California.

Prof. Wojcicki’s distinguished career included significant roles at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and he served as a National Science Foundation fellow at CERN and the Collège de France. In 1966, he became part of Stanford University’s physics faculty, eventually assuming leadership of the Department of Physics from 1982 to 1985 and again from 2004 to 2007.

He provided counsel to government funding agencies both in the United States and abroad, in addition to advising various high-energy physics laboratories. Prof. Wojcicki also chaired the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP), offering guidance to the United States Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation on particle physics matters. Notably, he led the HEPAP subpanel, New Facilities for the U.S. High-Energy Physics Program, which recommended the construction of the Super Conducting Super Collider in 1983.

Prof. Stanley Wojcicki was married to an accomplished American journalist and fellow educator, Esther Wojcicki, whom he met at UC Berkeley. Together, they raised three children: Susan Wojcicki, former CEO of YouTube, Janet Wojcicki, an assistant professor of pediatrics at UCSF, and Anne Wojcicki, founder and CEO of the genetic testing company 23andMe.

In addition to his illustrious career, Prof. Wojcicki was a respected member of the Kosciuszko Foundation Collegium of Eminent Scientists. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, the Kosciuszko Foundation honored him with the KF Recognition Medal during the 2018 Annual Dinner and Ball.

Hanna Kaya Ploss was a long-time Polonia leader and director of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington DC, died peacefully at her residence on July 13, 2023, at 98, following a period of decline.

She left many friends who will forever treasure the memories of this extraordinary woman’s life and achievements.

Her remarkable legacy will have lasting impressions on the members of our Polonia.

Kaya did many things in her life: she was a fashion designer, an actress and singer, a writer, and a philanthropist. She has been recognized with numerous medals and awards by the Polish government for her efforts to spread tolerance and democratic values.

She devoted much energy and attention to supporting young Polish people while promoting tolerance and mutual understanding among Polish schoolchildren.

Thank you for your love for Poland and its people and for your efforts to represent Poland in the US capital in the best possible ways.

We will never forget you!
Father Majka was a prominent figure within the Polish American community, earning him the unofficial affectionate title "Duszpasterz Polski" or the "Polish Shepherd of Souls."


In October 1976, he was appointed as the founding pastor of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Lake Ridge. He later served as pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Warrenton and Saint Patrick Parish in Fredericksburg. Subsequently, he was assigned as a parochial vicar at Saint James Parish in Falls Church.

Father Majka's deep involvement in the Polish American community was marked by his membership in various Polish-American organizations and his role as chaplain to the Polish Community of the Metropolitan Washington area. Notably, he hosted then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla during the Cardinal's visits to Washington in 1969 and 1976.

In recognition of his dedicated service, Father Majka received several prestigious awards, including one from the Friends of John Paul II Foundation in 1996 and the Cavaliers Cross of Merit from the Polish Government. In 1999, he was installed as a Canon of the Archdiocese of Wroclaw, Poland. Additionally, he received a national award from the Polish American Priest Association.

Sam Ponczak was an active and dedicated member of the Kosciuszko Foundation Washington, DC. His early life was marked by resilience and survival. Escaping the Warsaw ghetto before his fourth birthday, he journeyed across borders and experienced the hardships of a Siberian labor camp. He, along with his parents and sister, survived the Holocaust and the aftermath of war.

After returning to Poland in 1946, Sam and his family relocated to Reichenbach, which had become part of Poland. Subsequently, they settled in Wroclaw, where Sam completed his high school education. Sam's family left Poland in 1957, temporarily residing in Paris. In 1959, they immigrated to Argentina, where they remained until 1964 when they settled in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1965, Sam married Frieda Greenblatt, also an immigrant from Poland. He earned an engineering degree from the University of Maryland and began working at the Radio Corporation of America in New Jersey in 1967.

Sam continued his engineering career in Baltimore from 1980 onward and raised three children.

Sam Ponczak's life was a testament to resilience and determination, his legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew him.
We frequently yearn to leave a lasting legacy that aligns with our values and passions. It can serve as a commemoration of a significant facet of our existence, bestowing a positive influence to benefit future generations. Whether through actions, one’s professional journey, or community involvement, we each possess the capacity to leave a unique imprint on the world that will endure beyond our lifetime.

By giving to the Kosciuszko Foundation through a charitable bequest, you contribute to advancing education, culture, and Polish heritage for generations to come. Your generosity will leave a memorable impact on the world, preserving your values and passions long after you’re gone.

It is effortless to insert a bequest to the Foundation in an original will or when making a revision to an existing will via a codicil. With any charitable bequest, you become a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation Society - a special community of donors. The most effective asset to bequeath is the remainder of your retirement plans, such as pension funds or IRAs. When left to someone other than your spouse, they can be subject to income and estate taxes—both of which combined can erode up to 63% of the remaining benefits! If bequeathed to the Foundation, these funds significantly reduce income and estate taxes and your taxable estate.

THERE ARE THREE OTHER WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION THROUGH YOUR WILL:

1. SPECIFIC BEQUEST
   For example, “I bequeath [dollar amount or description of property] to the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.”

2. RESIDUARY BEQUEST
   It is a gift of all or a part of the property remaining in your estate after debts, expenses, and specific bequests have been paid. It gives you flexibility and peace of mind that your bequest will not be larger or smaller than you had intended in the event of unexpected changes in the size of your estate.
   For example, “I give, bequeath and devise [all, or __% of] the rest, residue and remainder of the property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc.”

“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.”
Shannon L. Alder
3. CONTINGENT BEQUEST
It is a gift that takes effect only if the primary beneficiary or beneficiaries of the bequest should predecease you. For example, "If neither my husband nor any descendant of mine survives me, then I give, bequeath and devise all the rest, residue and remainder of the property, both real and personal, wherever situated, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc."

An unrestricted bequest is the most straightforward and most immediately beneficial kind of bequest to the Kosciuszko Foundation. The amount received through an unrestricted bequest can be used at the discretion of the Foundation’s Trustees and administration for its most essential needs, which may change from time to time.

Your will may read, “I give, bequeath, and devise [dollar amount, description of property or function of the residuary estate] to the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. for its general purposes.” A restricted bequest provides cash or property to be used by the Foundation for a specific Foundation program or named scholarship fund. If you are considering a restricted bequest, please call the Foundation’s Development Office at 212-734-2130, and we will be happy to talk to you about your wishes and provide you with a personal outline of funding requirements and possibilities.

The most important thing to remember is that much of the financial strength of the Kosciuszko Foundation has occurred as a result of the support of members and friends who have provided charitable bequests to the Foundation in their wills and estate plans. Whichever method is chosen to support the Foundation, all bequests and donations can be customized to suit specific wishes, including a desire to honor the memory of a friend or loved one.

The Foundation’s attorneys are available to guide you through the process at any time and free of charge. Regardless of the size of an estate or bequest, all donations are greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward supporting the Foundation in fulfilling its mission. In addition, legacies may be fully deductible for federal tax purposes. If you include The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID.

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