

THE KOSCIUSZKO
FOUNDATION

89th
ANNUAL



Dinner & Ball

Kosciuszko

*Celebrating 250 Years
of Friendship Between the
Polish and American People*

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

THE PLAZA, NYC



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*The Board of Trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation
welcome you to the*

89th
ANNUAL Dinner
& Ball | 

***Celebrating 250 Years
of Friendship Between the
Polish and American People***

SATURDAY, APRIL 25th, 2026

GRAND BALLROOM

T H E P L A Z A

FIFTH AVENUE AT CENTRAL PARK SOUTH
NEW YORK CITY

COCKTAILS 7:00 PM • DINNER 8:00 PM

**DANCING TO THE GERARD CARELLI ORCHESTRA
BLACK TIE**



New York, April 25, 2026

Dear Friends,

On the occasion of the 89th Annual Dinner & Ball of the Kosciuszko Foundation, we mark a meaningful milestone—250 years of friendship between the Polish and American people, a bond shaped by our namesake, Tadeusz Kościuszko. Through its mission, programs, and activities, the Kosciuszko Foundation has been an important contributor to strengthening this friendship for over the past 100 years.

It is a pleasure to recognize this year's honorees: Kosciuszko Foundation Trustee Stephen Kusmierczak and his wife, Jamie, recipients of the 2026 Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition, and Kristin Miller, recipient of the Foundation's Spirit Award. Their dedication and service reflect the Foundation's core values and mission.

As we enter our second century, I am pleased to note the continued support of our long-time friends, as well as the growing interest of new generations. It is especially encouraging to see young people becoming engaged, as they will carry forward the responsibility—and the privilege—of sustaining and developing the Foundation's work in the years ahead.

The Foundation's continued strength depends on its community's engagement. I invite you all to support our mission by becoming members and making contributions. The Annual Dinner & Ball remains our main fundraising event, supporting our educational and cultural programs.

Thank you for your support, and please accept my best wishes for a memorable and meaningful evening, shared in the spirit of learning, culture, and friendship.

Warm regards,

Marek Skulimowski
President and Executive Director



New York, March 20, 2026

Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in New York

Mr. Marek Skulimowski
President of the Kosciuszko Foundation

Dear Mr. President,

It is with great honor that I extend my sincere congratulations to the Kosciuszko Foundation on the occasion of the 89th Annual Dinner & Ball. This year's celebration holds profound significance, marking the 250th anniversary of Polish-American friendship, a milestone deeply rooted in the legacy of General Tadeusz Kościuszko. This historic moment underscores the enduring bond between our nations, a relationship that continues to evolve while enriching our shared history. I am proud to join you in celebrating both your remarkable achievements and the ongoing impact of this special alliance.

For over a century, the Kosciuszko Foundation has served as a beacon of educational and cultural exchange, tirelessly fostering closer ties between Poland and the United States. Through scholarships, grants, academic programs, and cultural initiatives, the Foundation has empowered countless individuals, ensuring that the values of freedom, democracy, and solidarity remain at the core of Polish-American relations. By supporting the development of future leaders, scholars, and artists, your work builds lasting bridges between our nations, upholding the ideals championed by General Kościuszko.

As we commemorate 250 years of Polish-American friendship, the Kościuszko Foundation remains central to this historic moment. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the journey we have shared and to look toward the future, where the next generations will continue to strengthen these bonds. Your tireless efforts ensure that the ideals we hold dear endure for many years to come.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Trustees and all those who have contributed to making the Kosciuszko Foundation the esteemed institution it is today. Your unwavering commitment and visionary leadership have made a lasting difference, ensuring the continued success of the Foundation's mission.

Once again, congratulations on this extraordinary achievement. I have no doubt that the Kosciuszko Foundation will remain a pivotal force in strengthening the relationship between Poland and the United States.

Sincerely,
Mateusz Sakowicz

Mateusz Sakowicz
Consul General

233 Madison Avenue
(Jan Karski Corner)
New York, N.Y. 10016



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

Rector
Professor Alojzy Z. Nowak, Ph.D.

Warsaw, March 19, 2026

Mr Marek Skulimowski
President and Executive Director
The Kosciuszko Foundation

Szanowny Panie Prezydencie,

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to the 89th Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner & Ball, celebrating 250 years of Friendship between the Polish and the American People. It would be a distinct honour to be a part of such a meaningful event.

On behalf of the whole academic community of the University of Warsaw and my own, it is my greatest pleasure to convey to you my sincere congratulations on this important jubilee. Your exceptional commitment and proactive approach to fostering Polish-American relations, as well as your engagement in facilitating the exchange of researchers and artists between Poland and the United States, are invaluable. We highly appreciate our long-standing institutional cooperation and hope that our relations will continue to prosper in the future.

Please accept our best wishes of further success in accomplishing your mission.

[Handwritten signature]



Rektor

Warszawa, 16 marca 2026 r.

Szanowny Pan
Marek Skulimowski
Prezes & Dyrektor Wykonawczy
Fundacji Kosciuszkiowskiej

Szanowny Panie Prezesie,

Serdecznie dziękuję za skierowane na moje ręce zaproszenie na 89. Bal Fundacji Kościuszkowskiej poświęcony tym razem 250. rocznicy przyjaznych relacji pomiędzy Polską i Stanami Zjednoczonymi, zapoczątkowanej przez Patrona Fundacji, Tadeusza Kościuszkę, bohatera obu Narodów. Niestety z racji obowiązków przyjętych przeze mnie na ten termin nie mogę tej rocznicy czcić wspólnie z Państwem, w gronie Osób zasłużonych dla Fundacji, czego bardzo żałuję. Niemniej jednak wysoko ceniąc Państwa dokonania, codzienną działalność i jej szeroki wymiar chciałbym na Pańskie ręce złożyć najserdeczniejsze gratulacje, podziękowania i życzenia.

Gratuluję przede wszystkim podjęcia szeregu zadań, których efektem jest świadczenie wymiernej pomocy i wsparcie w realizacji planów oraz zamierzeń ludzi młodych, zdolnych, ambitnych, przepełnionych pasją, ciekawymi pomysłami, chłonących wiedzę, gromadzących doświadczenia w każdym obszarze ludzkiej aktywności. Wśród tych ludzi, którym Fundacja pomaga w zdobyciu funduszy na finansowanie projektów badawczych, funduje stypendia, ułatwia realizację podjętych prac są m.in. naukowcy, wynalazcy, inżynierowie, artyści, lekarze, przedsiębiorcy. Jest rzeczą oczywistą i godną pochwały, iż pragną poszerzyć swe kompetencje, wkraczać odważnie w obszary innowacyjności, nowych technologii, a także dbałości o naturalne środowisko.

Za ofiarnie świadczoną im pomoc najserdeczniej dziękuję zarówno Fundacji, jak i tym wszystkim z Państwa, którzy zaangażowali się w tak szlachetną misję. Dziękuję Fundacji również za konsekwentne i od wielu lat budowanie dobrych relacji Stanów Zjednoczonych z Polską, jej władz i Obywateli, co jest obopólną szansą dla dobrej współpracy gospodarczej, wymiany naukowej, wzajemnego poznawania historii i dziedzictwa kulturalnego, a także szlachetnej rywalizacji sportowej.

Podpisanie półtora roku temu umowy o współpracy pomiędzy Fundacją Kościuszkowską a Szkołą Główną Handlową w Warszawie daje szansę na tworzenie konkretnych projektów badawczych i edukacyjnych, co jest wartością samą w sobie, a ich realizacja bez wątpienia przyczynia się do rozwoju Uczelni.

Z okazji pięknej 250. rocznicy nieprzerwanej nigdy przyjaźni narodów polskiego i amerykańskiego życzę wszystkim Państwu, Szanownym Członkom Rady Powierniczej i wszystkim Osobom związanym z Fundacją Kościuszkowską, jej pracownikom, współpracownikom i wolontariuszom, poczucia dumy i satysfakcji z dotychczasowych dokonań oraz osiągnięć, a w życiu prywatnym i rodzinnym zadowolenia, szczęścia i wszelkiej pomyślności.

z wyrazami szacunku

dr hab. dr h. c. Piotr Wachowiak, prof. SGH



RECTOR
UNIVERSITATIS JAGELLONICAE
CRACOVIENSIS

25 April 2026

Mr Marek Skulimowski
President and Executive Director
Kosciuszko Foundation

Dear Mr President,

On the occasion of the 89th Kosciuszko Foundation Dinner and Ball, I have the great pleasure of sending the very best wishes and cordial greetings from the Jagiellonian University and the Royal Capital City of Kraków. I kindly request that you pass them on to all the participants of this exceptional celebration, without any doubt among the most important cyclical cultural and social events not only of New York, but the entire United States of America.

The Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner and Ball is, of course, always a marvellous opportunity to celebrate anniversaries and jubilees important to Poles – both in Poland and the United States – as well as the long history of Polish-American scholarly and diplomatic relations. As a space of meetings and creative exchange of views, each year engaging hundreds of the most distinguished figures from our two friendly countries and continents – scholars, artists, intellectuals, politicians, philanthropists and social activists – it also fosters valuable contacts as well as nurturing the development of cultural diplomacy in the widest terms.

I firmly believe that the same will be true with this year's ball, the 89th in the Kosciuszko Foundation's history. I therefore send all participants my fervent wishes that this edition may be equally fruitful and satisfying. I am certain that the context of the forthcoming 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, also a symbol of the birth of Polish-American friendship and collaboration, will lend itself to such productivity.

With this in mind, once again please accept our congratulations and very best wishes. I write these words to all participants in the 89th Kosciuszko Foundation Dinner and Ball on my own behalf and that of the entire Jagiellonian University academic community, whose members are pleased to join the celebration of this special occasion through this letter.

May this special event be a magnificent and memorable experience to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. dr hab. Piotr Jedynak



Rector
of the University of Rzeszów



Rzeszów, March 26, 2026

Mr. Marek Skulimowski
President & Executive Director
The Kosciuszko Foundation

Dear President Skulimowski,
Distinguished Members of the Board,
Dear Friends of the Kosciuszko Foundation,

On behalf of the University of Rzeszów, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 89th Annual Ball. It is a profound honor to mark this historic milestone—the 250th anniversary of the friendship between the Polish and American nations, a bond deeply rooted in the legacy of our shared hero, Tadeusz Kościuszko.

As the Rector of the University of Rzeszów, I look upon the Foundation's work with immense gratitude. Our University is particularly proud of the formal partnership we established with the Kosciuszko Foundation in May 2025. This collaboration, built on a shared commitment to academic excellence, has already begun to create invaluable opportunities for our scholars and students, fostering a modern bridge between Rzeszów and New York.

The Foundation's dedication to supporting research and education through prestigious scholarships remains a beacon for many young talents. I am confident that the ties between our institutions will continue to grow, inspired by the same spirit of liberty and progress that guided General Kościuszko centuries ago.

I wish all the guests at The Plaza an unforgettable evening, and to the Foundation—many more years of success in its noble mission.

With highest regards,


Prof. Adam Reich

Rector of the University of Rzeszów



POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

RECTOR

PROF. ZBIGNIEW KRASIŃSKI, MD, PhD

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address you at the Annual Ball of the Kosciuszko Foundation, a vital event uniting the Polish diaspora and academic communities across the Atlantic.

The partnership between Poznan University of Medical Sciences and the Kosciuszko Foundation is crucial. The formal agreement signed on October 2, 2025, marked a turning point, energizing our relationship.

Our collaboration focuses on academic excellence, fostering talent, and linking Poland with the United States in three key areas.

First, scholarships and academic exchange. Through the programs of the Kosciuszko Foundation, researchers from our University can conduct their work at leading institutions in the United States. We are proud that members of our academic community—including Professor Katarzyna Kosicka-Noworzyń, Dr. Marta Szukalska, and Associate Professor Aleksandra Uruska—have pursued their research projects overseas while simultaneously developing international collaboration networks.

Second, support for students in the English-language PUMS program. The Kosciuszko Foundation awards scholarships to U.S. students studying in Poznan, thereby contributing to a genuinely international academic environment.

Establishing a dedicated donation fund to support Poznan University of Medical Sciences and the Foundation's role in promoting our educational offerings in the United States—including programs like the PUMS Medical Summer Program—is crucial to strengthening our university's international presence.

Medicine is not only a profession but a commitment to individuals, ethical standards, and the global community. International cooperation is fundamental to our mission.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Kosciuszko Foundation for its trust, openness, and consistent efforts in building a space for the development of science and education. I am confident that our joint initiatives will continue to bring tangible results and inspire future generations of scholars and students.

I wish you an inspiring evening and continued success to the Kosciuszko Foundation in its mission.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Zbigniew Krasiński, MD, PhD
Rector
Poznan University of Medical Sciences

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THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION

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APPLICATION DEADLINE
June 1, 2026

A LIVING LEGACY: 100 Years of the Kosciuszko Foundation – The Centennial Campaign

By Marek Skulimowski, *KF President and Executive Director*

One hundred years ago, in a modest New York office, a dream took shape—one that would endure wars, economic turmoil, and political upheavals. Founded in 1925, the Kosciuszko Foundation remains a testament to the power of education and cultural exchange, honoring the legacy of Tadeusz Kościuszko, a champion of liberty in both Poland and America.

A VISION BORN FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Stephen Mizwa arrived at Ellis Island in 1910 with just \$16 and no knowledge of English. A friend's \$9 loan helped him meet the required \$25 for entry. Eleven years later, he was an assistant professor at Drake University, Des Moines, IA, embodying the American Dream.

Yet Mizwa's vision extended beyond personal success. He recognized the financial, cultural, and linguistic barriers faced by many talented Poles. In 1923, he formed the Polish American Scholarship Committee, aiming to raise \$5,000 to bring eight Polish students to the U.S. That vision soon grew into something far greater.

ESTABLISHING A LIVING MEMORIAL

As the U.S. commemorated the 150th anniversary of Kościuszko's arrival in 1926, Mizwa championed an idea: instead of another statue, why not a living memorial? Thus, the Kosciuszko Foundation was established—not as a charity, but as a bridge between two nations.

The Foundation's mission, as defined by its first President, Henry Noble MacCracken, was to foster cultural and intellectual ties between Poland and America. It would achieve this through academic exchanges, publications, and partnerships that enriched both nations.

Fundraising was a challenge. Mizwa once lamented that no economics textbook had prepared him to ask for donations that offered no tangible return—only the promise of helping young scholars. Yet people responded. The first \$5 donation came from Stephen Swierczynski in Massachusetts, and by 1925, Mizwa's dream had turned into a reality.

The Foundation's founding board included six prominent Americans committed to Poland's cause, including war hero Cedric Fauntleroy, Harvard professor Robert Lord, and Vassar College president Henry MacCracken. Though it took 45 years to reach a \$1 million endowment, the Foundation's impact was immediate.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Early scholarships sent Polish students to Harvard, Yale, and Columbia. Over time, programs expanded to include tuition scholarships, fellowships, Polish language study in Kraków and Lublin, and grants for Americans to research in Poland.

Through the 20th century's most turbulent moments—World War II, the Cold War, and martial law in Poland—

the Foundation remained steadfast in its mission. Postwar, it broadened its scope, launching cultural initiatives that highlighted Polish heritage and talent.

The Chopin Piano Competition (est. 1949) celebrates young musicians performing Polish compositions. The Marcella Sembrich Voice Competition and Wieniawski Violin Competition do the same for vocalists and string players, ensuring Poland's artistic legacy thrives.

Beyond music, the Foundation honors scientific excellence through prestigious awards such as the Frank Wilczek, Pienkowski, Janczewski, and Lipski Awards, which recognize outstanding Polish researchers and scholars.

A CENTURY OF IMPACT AND GLOBAL REACH

The Kosciuszko Foundation continues to evolve. In 2023 alone, it distributed over \$1.8 million in scholarships and grants, with an additional \$500,000 supporting cultural programs. The Foundation's reach now extends beyond its historic townhouse on Manhattan's Upper East Side, with offices in Washington, D.C., Warsaw, and ten active chapters across the U.S.

For the 2024–2025 academic year, the Foundation awarded grants to 40 Polish scholars to conduct research at top U.S. institutions, while six Americans pursued studies in Poland. More than 120 tuition scholarships supported Polish-American students, and 21 students participated in intensive language programs in Kraków and Lublin. Nearly 700 Polish and Ukrainian youth took part in nine Teaching English in Poland camps, led by 74 American volunteers—the largest cohort in over 30 years. Additionally, the Foundation allocated over \$100,000 for Polish Studies at U.S. institutions, including Brown University, UNC, Loyola University Chicago, Daemen University, Canisius College, and Hunter College.

Beyond academic and cultural programs, the Foundation has acted in times of crisis. Following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the Board of Trustees launched a relief campaign, raising nearly

\$2 million for humanitarian aid to support Ukrainian refugees—an effort grounded in the Foundation's tradition of solidarity and service.

From Mizwa's struggles at Ellis Island to an internationally recognized institution, the Kosciuszko Foundation is a story of resilience, vision, and human connection. It stands as a living tribute to the values of Tadeusz Kościuszko: liberty, justice, and mutual respect.

LOOKING AHEAD: CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

As we celebrate 100 years, we honor our past while reaffirming the Foundation's vital role in today's world. In an era of rapid change, our mission—to foster understanding, promote education, and inspire cooperation—is more critical than ever. To build on this legacy and secure a brighter future for the Polish American communities, we are launching a Centennial Campaign that will strengthen our impact in the future.

Centered on three core pillars—Education, Culture, and Community—the Campaign aims to expand our impact and ensure the values of Tadeusz Kosciuszko. We strive to double our scholarship offerings by 2027 to help more students overcome rising tuition costs and pursue advanced studies. We are also strengthening our commitment to cultural preservation by promoting Polish culture, history, and art in the U.S. Additionally, this Campaign honors the Polish-American community's contributions while inspiring future generations to carry forward our mission.

Your gift to the Centennial Campaign will leave a legacy, empowering the Kosciuszko Foundation to meet new challenges and continue its mission of fostering education and cultural exchange for the next 100 years.

the KKF

W E L L D O N E !

*One Hundred Years
and Still Going Strong.
Congratulations to the
Kosciuszko Foundation!*

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Congratulations and Good Wishes to the
KF Medal of Recognition Honorees,
Jamie & Stephen Kusmierczak,
and the Spirit of the KF Award Honoree,
Kristin Miller

And a Toast to 250 Years of Friendship
Between Poland and America





**ELZBIETA &
ZBIGNIEW CHRZANOWSKI**
congratulates
THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

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*Celebrating 250 Years of
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Proud to support the **Kosciuszko Foundation** 89th Annual Dinner and Ball

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BALL PROGRAM

COCKTAIL HOUR

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

FANFARE TRUMPETS

USMMA Fanfare Trumpet Squadron, Kings Point, NY

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Barbara Bernhardt

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Midshipmen from the USMMA, Kings Point, NY

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Magdalena Kuźma, *soprano*

REMARKS BY

Alex Storozynski, *Chairman of the KF Board of Trustees*
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Mateusz Sakowicz, *Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York*

DINNER

PRESENTATION OF THE KF MEDAL OF RECOGNITION

JAMIE & STEPHEN KUSMIERCZAK

PRESENTATION OF THE KF SPIRIT AWARD

KRISTIN MILLER

REMARKS BY

Professor Zbigniew Krasieński, MD, PhD, *Rector of Poznan University of Medical Studies*

STAGE PRESENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE BALL

COPERNICUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR: "KOSCIUSZKO'S COMPASS"

Jan Krutul, *music*; Nicholas Kaponyas, *piano*; Bozena Konkiel, *music director*

MAGDALENA KUŹMA, *soprano* accompanied by MICHAŁ SKOWRONEK:

"WIOSNA" by CHOPIN and "DEH VEINI, NON TARDAR" from MOZART'S LE NOZZE DI FIGARO.

POLISH AMERICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY

GRAND POLONAISE, *Polish American Folk Dance Company and Guests*

Dancing throughout the evening until 12:30 a.m. to the Gerard Carelli Orchestra

DINNER MENU

APETIZER

TUNA TARTARE

Lemon Aioli, Celery and Radish Salad, Espellette Pepper, Sour Dough Toast



ENTRÉE

BRAISED SHORT RIB OF BEEF

Potato Puree, Broccolini, Horseradish Gremolata

Meatless option:

DAYBOAT HALIBUT FILET

Fregola, Fava Beans, Wild Mushrooms, Blood Orange



ALTERNATING DESSERTS

ESPRESSO MOUSSE CAKE

Gianduja Chocolate, Hazelnut Crunch, Salted Caramel

CHAMPAGNE STRAWBERRY MINT MOUSSE CAKE

Champagne-Soaked Sponge, Strawberry Mint Jam, White Chocolate Mousse



WINE

WHITE

Chardonnay, Antigal, AR

RED

Malbec, Antigal, AR

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KF MEDAL OF RECOGNITION



In 1955 The Kosciuszko Foundation initiated an award meant to honor special individuals who have significantly contributed to our mission of promoting cultural and intellectual exchanges between Poland and the United States.

Called the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition, the bronze medal was designed in 1955 by the Polish sculptor Tadeusz Sowinski. It features a bas-relief bust portrait of Tadeusz Kosciuszko attired in his American uniform with the Order of the Cincinnati affixed to his lapel. Encircling the portrait are the famous words of Thomas Jefferson: *“He was as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known.”* The reverse of the medal, depicts the lamp of knowledge and wheat stems representing internal inspiration, and centered we find the text: *“The Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition for Distinguished Service to Polish and American Culture.”*

Generally presented during the Foundation’s Annual Ball; it is not awarded annually. The first award was made to Henry Noble MacCracken for his efforts in establishing the Kosciuszko Foundation. Others who have received the award were Eric P. Kelly, Artur Rubenstein, Oscar Halecki, Wacław Lednicki, Kazimierz Wierzyński, the editors of the first Kosciuszko Foundation Dictionary – Kazimierz Bulas, Lawrence L. Thomas and Francis J. Whitfield, Leopold Stokowski, Stanisław Skrowaczewski, Maria Kuncewicz, Arthur and Marion Coleman, Edward Smith, Robert Goldstand, Stanisława Malecka-Dymnicka, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jerzy Kozminski, Ann T. Mikoll, Michael G. Sendzimir, Archbishop Wesoly, Jack Radgowski, Edward Pinkowski, Van Cliburn, Ryszard Kapuscinski, Wanda Tomczykowa, Marta Eggerth, President Lech Walesa, Dr. Maria Siemionow, Rafał Olbinski, Coach Mike Krzewski, Professor Frank Wilczek, Wojciech Inglot, Justyna Kowalczyk, Juliusz Machulski and Martha Stewart, Lt. General Edward L. Rowny, Professor Stanley Wojcicki, Agnieszka Holland, Urszula Dudziak, Waldemar Dabrowski, Chris Kempczinski, Joseph E. Gore, Esq., Wanda Senko, Hanna Chroboczek Kelker, Ph.D., Aleksander Koproski, and Ewa Radwanska, M.D., Ph.D.

This year, the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition is being awarded to Jamie and Stephen Kusmierczak.

*The Kosciuszko Foundation
salutes tonight's Sponsors and Table Hosts for helping
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KF MEDAL OF RECOGNITION

JAMIE & STEPHEN KUSMIERCZAK



STEPHEN KUSMIERCZAK has been involved with Poland and Polonia for most of his professional life. His father's family immigrated to the US during the Interwar Period, and his father became an orphan at the age of seven. He learned values such as the importance of education, hard work, faith and family through Central European immigrant families and a Polish parish which helped raise him in the industrial city of Madison, IL. Stephen knows he was fortunate to have parents who shared these values.

Stephen's first travel to Poland was in 1991, when he received a Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship to Jagiellonian University. After the year in Kraków, he joined ING Bank in Amsterdam and was later assigned to Warsaw. Through this early work experience in Poland, he saw the entrepreneurialism of Poles in the face of economic and social dislocation. He was impressed by the drive of his colleagues to help rebuild the country's economy. He remembers their optimism for democratic Poland's future, but also their embarrassment of being poor compared to Western peers.

While Stephen's work expanded beyond Poland, the experience gained during this transformation was formative in his finance career.

JAMIE KUSMIERCZAK became involved with Polonia after meeting Stephen in Chicago. The opening of the Stephen (Sr.) and Elizabeth Ann Art Gallery at The Polish Museum of America in honor of Stephen's parents coincided with the couple's engagement celebration. Jamie later became an active volunteer, planning events at the PMA and was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 2019. She created the endowment at the Kosciuszko Foundation to support Polish American and Polish women in STEM. Jamie is a pharmacist who earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University. She is a third generation American of German and Dutch descent and learned the importance of hard work from her entrepreneur father.

JAMIE AND STEPHEN'S desire to give back to Poland has underpinned their family's philanthropy. The couple share values of hard work, education, faith, and family, which guide their lives and charitable efforts. They support organizations such as Fundacja Dar Serca, the Polish Museum of America, and the Kosciuszko Foundation, which care for Polish handicapped children, preserve culture, and strengthen ties between Poland and the U.S. The family were early contributors to the Polin Museum in Warsaw and support other initiatives aiding young adults with special needs, Ukraine relief, and Polish cultural programs in West Michigan.

It is important for Jamie and Stephen to share this spirit of service with their daughters, Liliana and Genevieve, who attend Polish school and complete the national curriculum and exams in Poland each year.

Stephen was awarded the Order of Merit for his service to Poland and the Skalny Civic Award for his support of Polonia. He is a trustee of the Polish Museum of America and Vice-Chair of the Kosciuszko Foundation. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College and Princeton University.

KF SPIRIT AWARD

KRISTIN MILLER



KRISTIN MILLER is an educator in Oberlin, Ohio, with almost 30 years of teaching experience and a deep commitment to fostering international understanding through education. After beginning her career in northern Indiana and spending 11

years in Richmond, Virginia, teaching French, Spanish, English as a Second Language, and journalism, she developed a lifelong passion for cross-cultural learning and global connection. A graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in French and Education and a Master of Library and Information Science, she currently serves as an instructional coach and International Baccalaureate coordinator, supporting innovative teaching and learning in her district. As a longtime staff leader of the Kosciuszko Foundation's English-language summer camps in Poland, Kristin has worked alongside her husband and son to teach American language and culture to students since 2015, while also deepening her own connection to her Polish heritage and family roots. Through this work, she has sought to build cultural awareness, curiosity, and lasting connections between Polish, Ukrainian, and American communities.

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in 1991-92 in Kraków.*

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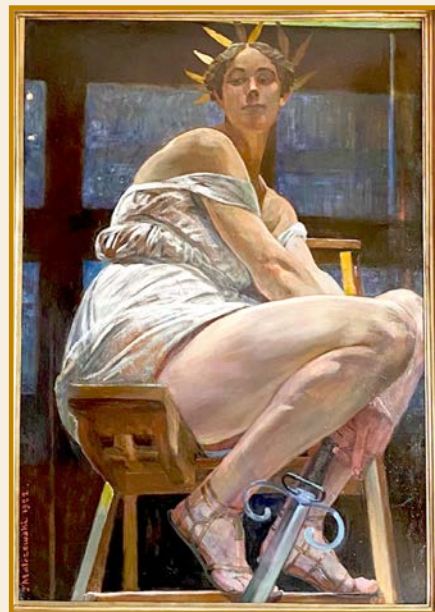
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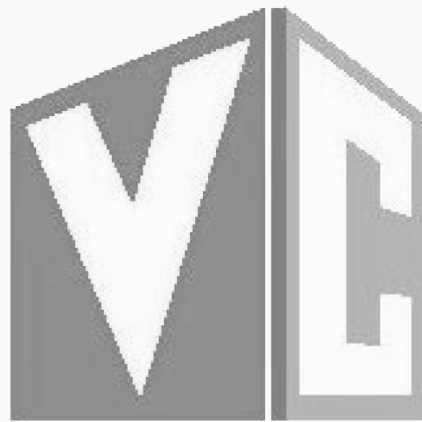
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Please join us in support of the Kosciuszko Foundation

Help us keep the flame of Polish-American cultural, educational, and scientific relationships alive

Dr. Teresa Szwarocka-Priebe and Prof. Waldemar Priebe



89th KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION ANNUAL DINNER & BALL

The Polish and Polish American Program is a cornerstone of cultural and academic excellence at Central Connecticut State University (Central), dedicated to promoting understanding and appreciation of Polish language, culture, history and politics. This interdisciplinary program enriches the university community, fosters cultural exchange and garners national and international recognition for its contributions to cross-cultural understanding. As the oldest, largest and most prominent program of its kind, the Polish and Polish American Studies Program at Central continues to connect students, scholars and the broader public with Poland's rich heritage, offering language and history courses, cultural programming – guest lectures, conferences, film screenings, exhibitions and performances – and study abroad experiences in major cities in Poland, which deepen global awareness.

In August 2026, Central Connecticut State University welcomed the new Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, Dr. Karolina Kołpak. Building on the work of her predecessors, Dr. Kołpak continues to transform the program into a truly interdisciplinary hub, where collaborations that transcend borders, disciplines and self-identifications attract students, faculty and the public to become involved in the robust life of the Polish and Polish American Studies Program and to make it their place at Central.

To find out more about the Polish and Polish American Studies Program, its upcoming events and new initiatives or to simply say hello to the new Endowed Chair, contact Dr. Karolina Kołpak at kkolpak@ccsu.edu and visit our website:



Anyone who wishes to support the Polish and Polish American Studies Program can make their donation here.



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MORE INFORMATION
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Sebastian Post and his team at Lionheart Strategic Management LLC are honored to support the Kosciuszko Foundation in its celebration of 250 years of Polish-American friendship.

We join in recognizing Stephen Kusmierczak and his wife, Jamie, as recipients of the 2026 Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition, and Kristin Miller as the recipient of the Foundation's Spirit Award.

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*for his contributions to Polish horticulture
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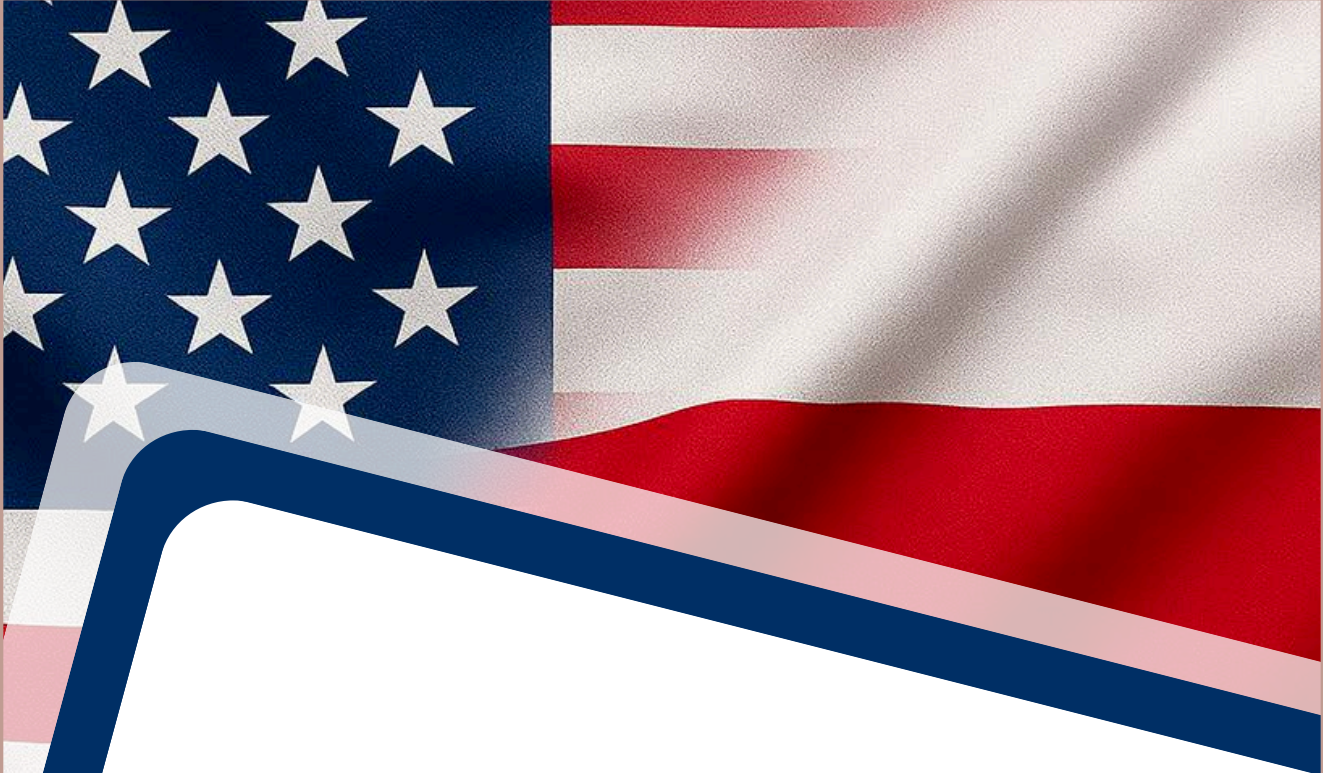
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We join in commemorating 250 Years of friendship between the Polish and American people.

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As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, we honor the legacy of **General Tadeusz Kosciuszko** whose vision of freedom helped shape a nation.

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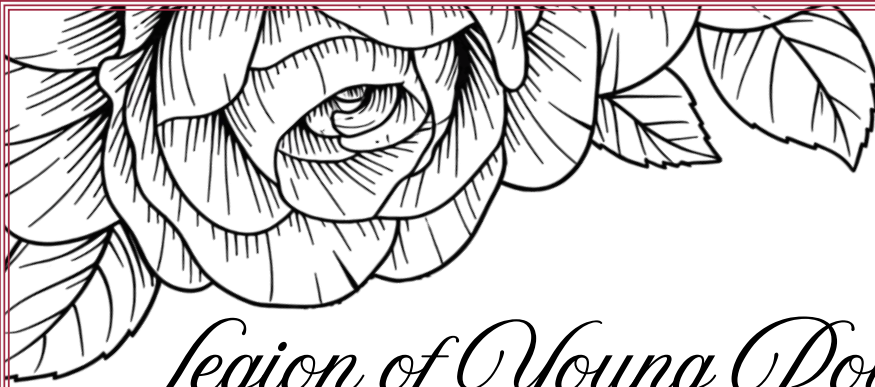
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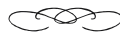


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THE CHICAGO CHAPTER joins all at THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and commemorating the contributions of the Polish American hero Tadeusz Kosciuszko to the American War of Independence.

Congratulations to JAMIE and STEPHEN KUSMIERCZAK for being honored by the Kosciuszko Foundation with its Medal of Recognition.



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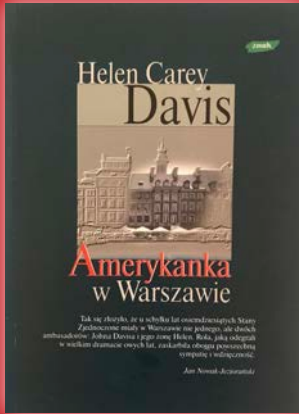
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"Amerykanka w Warszawie" by Helen Carey Davis

Wacław Kubacki's play, The Roman Spring (1955), captures the friendship between Poland's great poet, Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855), and America's first feminist and foreign war correspondent, Margaret Fuller (1810-1850). The setting is Rome, Italy, in the period of Europe's widespread revolutions known as the Spring of Nations. Kubacki's play, translated for the first time in English by Andrzej Zwanecki and published by Bergamot Books, celebrates two prominent intellectuals of the 19th century who became intimate friends.

Two scholarly essays on the subject follow the play.

"Roman Spring" by Wacław Kubacki



The Polish American Medical Society proudly congratulates the Kosciuszko Foundation on the joyous celebration of its 89th Annual Dinner and Ball. For more than a century, the Kosciuszko Foundation has stood as a vibrant bridge of friendship between Poland and the United States—championing education, science, and culture while nurturing collaboration and understanding across generations.

Your enduring commitment to academic excellence, artistic achievement, and the promotion of Polish heritage continues to enrich countless lives and strengthen the bonds within our community. With gratitude and admiration, we celebrate the Foundation's legacy of service and its inspiring mission to honor the past, empower the present, and shape a brighter future for both nations.



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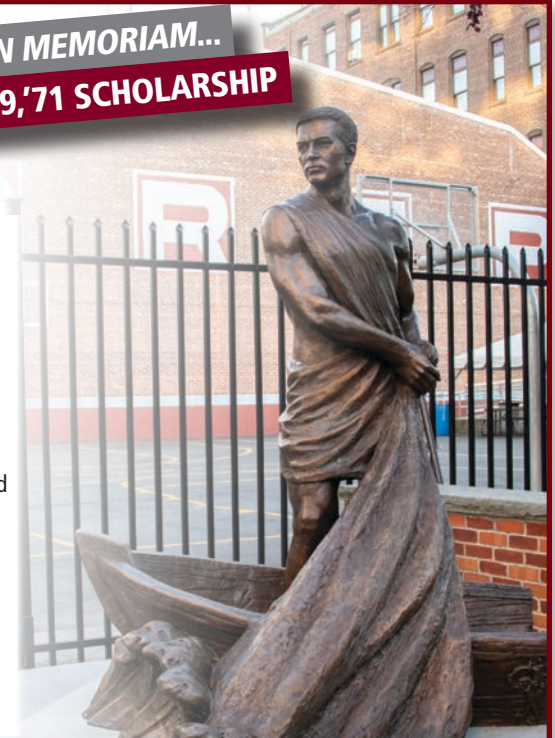
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For over a century, the Kosciuszko Foundation has advanced educational and cultural exchange between Poland and the United States—thanks to the generosity of members and supporters like you. As a public foundation, we rely on our community to help scholars, artists, and students pursue their goals and celebrate Polish heritage.

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To learn more about giving and recognition options as well as possible tax advantages, please contact us at development@thekf.org.

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