

**Frank Spula  
National PAC President**



Mr. Frank Spula has extended his sincere thanks to everyone who has offered him congratulations on his election as the National President of the Polish American Congress on October 28, 2005. Mr. Spula expressed his gratitude to the Polish American News and the PAC, Eastern PA District, for the compliments and best wishes he received following his election.

Following his election, he declared his commitment to working with Polish American Congress divisions and chapters across the U.S. for the well-being of America's Polonia. He said he is looking forward to strengthening the PAC's long-standing relationship with the leaders of Poland, the ancestral homeland of more than 20 million individuals who share full or partial Polish heritage in America.

On December 16, at the invitation of Poland's new Ambassador to the U.S., Janusz Reiter, Mr. Frank Spula attended a meeting at the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC. Later that day, he met with members of the U.S. Department of State. Commenting on this historic day, President Spula remarked, "I am encouraged by this new beginning, as we work together with the Polish government and the State Department on issues of common interest to Poland and to our Polish American community."

**Holiday Raffle  
Winner**

On Saturday, December 10, during the Polish American Cultural Center Museum's Christmas Open House, the \$500 Holiday Raffle drawing took place. The lucky winner was Tim Bielawski, Philadelphia, PA - ticket # 1574.

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum board, staff, and volunteers wish to thank everyone who purchased Holiday Raffle tickets, which benefit the Museum Exhibit Hall, as well as help to sponsor the annual Polish Christmas Open House and youth program.

**Polish American  
Priests Association  
Elects New Officers**

During the quarterly meeting of the Polish American Priests Association in November, new officers were elected.

The officers are Rev. Czeslaw Krysa, President; Rev. Mieczyslaw Nycz, Vice President; Rev. Walter Grabowski, Treasurer; and Rev. David Bialkowski, Secretary.

Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, along with Polonia, extend congratulations to the new officers. Sto Lat!

**Congratulations**

2006 Marks the 110th Anniversary of the founding of Narod Polski, the official publication of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), as well as the 120th Anniversary of PRCUA publications.

Visit the  
**Polish American  
Cultural Center  
Museum Gift Shop**  
on the  
Internet at:  
**PolishAmericanCenter.org/  
giftshop.htm**

**Performance by Ewa Podles at the  
Pennsylvania Convention Center**



On Monday, February, 13, at 8 p.m., at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society is presenting the Polish born operatic superstar, Ewa Podles, for the fourth time in five years.

Possessing a rare and astounding contralto voice, Ms. Podles has developed a near fanatical international following. Opera News hails Ewa Podles as "unquestionably the most gifted contralto on the music scene today."

"Her voice is a throwback to the Golden Age" raves The Boston Globe. The critics have called her "a vocal hurricane," "a force of nature."

For tickets and information, call the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society box office at 215-569-8080 or visit [www.pemsconcerts.org](http://www.pemsconcerts.org).

**Polonia Congratulates  
Philadelphia  
City Controller  
Alan Butkovitz**



The Polish American Congress and Polonia in the Philadelphia area extend congratulations to Philadelphia's new City Controller, Alan Butkovitz.

Prior to being elected as City Controller, Mr. Butkovitz served as a Pennsylvania State Representative representing Northeast Philadelphia for 12 years.

Mr. Butkovitz shares Polish and Eastern European heritage and understands and appreciates Philadelphia's cultural diversity. He has committed himself to working for the well being of all Philadelphians.

Polonia and the people of Philadelphia extend best wishes to Alan Butkovitz during his service as City Controller.

**Thank You Polonia!  
From Jonathan Saidel**



At the completion of my term as your City Controller, I want to take a special moment to acknowledge my many friends in the Polish community. From marching in your annual Pulaski Parade to supporting the work of your Cultural Center and Museum, I was honored to be included as a part of your extended family.

As we approach the commemoration of 400 years of Polish people in America, I am reminded of why America and Philadelphia are so great. The traditions of Philadelphia's vibrant past are only overshadowed by the rich potential of our exciting future. Even though my work as Controller is done, I am determined to continue to help Philadelphia thrive and reach its enormous potential. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and be a part of your community. I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2006.

In Memory of  
**Edward Pizek**

**POLISH  
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