

Philadelphia Area Youth Promote Polish Heritage

Alicia Pszeniczny



On March 25, 2007, the Tenth Annual Union of Polish Language Schools contest was held in Clark, NJ, with 120 students participating from thirty one Polish Language Schools from five states.

Seven students from St. John Cantius Polish Language School in Philadelphia participated in various Polish categories.

In the oratorical competition, Alicia Pszeniczny from St. John Cantius Polish Language School received first place out of twenty two students with her Polish legend "Pan Twardowski."

Alicia who is 11 years old, and a sixth grade student at Cinnaminson Middle School and a fifth grade student at St. John Cantius Polish Language School was born in New Jersey.

Besides learning Polish, Alicia also studies Spanish, plays the flute, was chosen to play in the South Jersey Elementary Honors Band twice, plays basketball and softball and is especially proud of her Polish heritage and visits her family in Poland regularly.

Erica Szymanski



Erica Szymanski is a ninth grade student at Merion Mercy Academy. She also attends St. John Cantius Polish Language School on Friday afternoons, where she learns the language, history, and culture of Poland. Last year, she represented her school in New York at a Pope John Paul II Contest, singing and playing the violin, where she placed second. She won the vocal competition in Philadelphia and was invited to sing at the Polish Consulate in New York. Erica received an Academic Award from the Polish Embassy in Washington. An excellent student, Erica is a recipient of

the President's Outstanding Academic Excellence Award. She plays the violin in the Rowan University Youth Orchestra, had a leading role in the school musical, and received an award for Outstanding Performance from the New World Music Academy. On April 2, 2007, Erica paid tribute to Pope John Paul II by playing the violin at the Pope's Second Anniversary Memorial Mass at St. Adalbert Church in Philadelphia, PA. Erica loves to write poems and stories. Her essay was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer last December. She is involved in helping less fortunate children, especially those from Camden, Jamaica, and Africa. During the holidays, she visits the elderly in nursing homes, where she sings and plays her violin. Despite her very busy schedule, Erica loves to spend time with her family and friends, go to the movies, and travel around the world.

Dominika Gnatowska



Dominika Gnatowska was born in Philadelphia in 1992. She attended Frankford Friends School and continued her middle school experience at Moorestown Friends School in Moorestown N.J. Presently, Dominika is completing her high school freshman year at Moorestown Friends where she is continuously recognized as an honor student. At Moorestown Friends she takes advanced courses in math and French, participates in fencing and tennis, and is involved in several school community projects. Since her early

days of elementary school Dominika attended the Polish Language School at St. John Cantius Church in Bridesburg. Every Friday evening Dominika studied the Polish language, Polish history and literature. Dominika was able to successfully apply her language skills during last year's East Coast Polish Language Schools competition dedicated to John Paul II. She won first prize with her program about the late Pope's life. On April 2, 2007, Dominika paid tribute to Pope John Paul II with the beautiful reflections of the Pope's life during the Second Anniversary Memorial Mass at St. Adalbert Church in Philadelphia, PA. Whenever asked about her heritage, Dominika stresses her Polish roots with pride. She has visited Poland numerous times and has made many Polish friends there. She reads her favorite books in both English and Polish including the works of Agatha Christie, Tadeusz Borowski, Dorota Terakowska, Kornel Makuszyński and others. She practices piano daily, polishing the sounds of Chopin's Mazurkas. Her other musical interests include: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Coldplay, Kyo, and the Beatles.

From the Desk of
Michael Blichasz, President
Polish American Cultural Center
and
Polish American Congress
Eastern Pennsylvania District
PolishAmericanCenter.org



Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

As we begin the vacation season, you are invited to visit Historic Philadelphia and take note of the attractions highlighting Polish heritage. A guide to Polish heritage attractions is listed in this newspaper. More information is listed on the Cultural Center's Internet site at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**. This year you are encouraged to Trace Your Polish Heritage. To assist you there is a Trace Your Heritage link on the Center's Internet site. If you would like to receive a copy of that form in the mail, you can call the Museum at: (215) 922-1700. Spread the word.

October Marks 399th Anniversary Plan to join the Celebrations!

October 1, 2007, marks the 399th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish settlers at Jamestown, Virginia. The Polish American Cultural Center Museum and Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District invite you to mark your calendar and plan to attend the community-wide events in the Philadelphia area that will highlight this anniversary. More event information will be available in the next newspaper:

Monday, October 1st, 5 to 8 P.M. The 399th Anniversary of the arrival of the Polish settlers with a Time to Celebrate reception at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia. Refreshments will be served. Admission Free.

Thursday, October 4th, 12 noon, Pulaski Day and Polish American Heritage Month Proclamation Reception at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia. Refreshments. Admission Free.

Saturday, October 13th, 5 P.M. Pulaski Parade Observance Dinner Dance, Associated Polish Home Ballroom, 9150 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia. For information call (215) 739-3408.

Sunday, October 14th, 1 to 3 P.M. Pulaski Day Parade on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City Philadelphia. Live television coverage on TV 6 ABC.

Sunday, October 28th, Polish Harvest Festival "Dozynki", Harvest Mass 10:30 A.M. in St. Adalbert Church, Thompson Street and Allegheny Avenue in Philadelphia, PA. Harvest Festival 12 to 4 P.M. in St. Adalbert's Auditorium. Admission Free.

Throughout the month of October, Monday to Friday, the Polish American Cultural Center Museum will host special guided group tours of the Museum. For more information call the Museum at: (215) 922-1700 and visit the Center's Internet site at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**.

Polish Passports Outreach Report

On Saturday, May 19th and Sunday, May 20th representatives from the Polish Consulate from New York held a special outreach at the Polish American Cultural Center, 308 Walnut Street in Philadelphia, to assist individuals applying for a Polish Passport in accordance with the new Polish passport law. 350 people came to file for passports during the two-day outreach.

I want to compliment the representatives from the Polish Consulate, Katarzyna and Dariusz Wojtaszek, and Nina Tyra of J World Travel and Jurek Tomczyk from Polish American Travel Services who assisted at this effort from 10 A.M. until 11 P.M. on Saturday and from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Sunday. My thanks to Richard Klimek, Caroline Ciesielka and Dorothy Orlichowski who assisted me with information and registrations. For information about the new Polish passport law, visit the Polish Consulate's Internet site at: PolishConsulateNY.org

Your Participation Is Important & Appreciated!

As you visit with family and friends during the vacation season, spread the word about the information you read in this newspaper, hear on the daily Polish American Radio Program and see on our Internet site. Have an enjoyable vacation!

Michael Blichasz

Polish American String Band 2nd Annual Golf Classic August 18, 2007

Ramblewood Country Club • Mount Laurel, NJ

Registration: 12 Noon - Tee Time: 2 P.M.

For more information, call Stephen at 267-408-1644