



**Polish People Throughout the World
Celebrate the**

**1,052nd Anniversary of
Documented Polish History**

966 AD • 2018

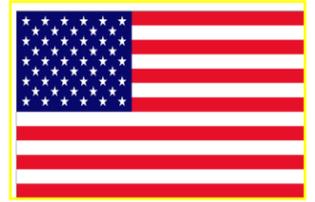
**Polish Americans Mark the 410th Anniversary
of the First Polish Settlers at Jamestown, Virginia
on October 1, 1608**

For more information, visit:

PolishAmericanCenter.com



A Brief Outline of Polish and Polish American History - Part 1



120,000 B.C. - First records of Protoslavic cultures in the Ojcow region of Poland.

1300 B.C. - First evidence of Lusatian culture, the progenitor of modern Polish and Slavic cultures.

700 B.C. - Biskupin Settlement is built in central Poland in what is now the voivodeship of Torun. It is now a museum in Poland featuring the oldest settlement.

100 A.D. - Contact with Roman Danubian provinces made by Slavic peoples, although Rome never expands into their territories.

500 - West Slavic tribal federations begin to form.

850 - Polanie and Wislanie tribal groups appear, eventually merging together into the first state of Poland.

966 - Duke Mieszko accepts Christianity for himself and for Poland and the documented history of Poland begins.

1000 - The foundations of the Catholic religion are laid with the establishment of the Archbishopric of Gniezno and three suffragan sees.

1025 - Boleslaw the Brave becomes the first Polish King.

1138 - Boleslaw Wrymouth's order of succession starts the dynastic division of Poland.

1253 - Poland's patron, St. Stanislaw Bishop of Cracow, is canonized.

1364 - The University of Cracow is founded under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church.

1410 - Polish-Lithuanian forces defeat the Teutonic Knights at Grunwald. This collaboration between the two nations would lay the seeds for the creation of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

1473 - The "Father of Modern Astronomy," Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicolas Copernicus), is born.

1543 - Copernicus' revolutionary work "The Revolution of Heavenly Spheres" is published shortly before his death, the first strike against the theory that the sun revolved around the Earth.

1569 - The merger of Poland and Lithuania into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth takes place. (Lublin Union).

1596 - The Union of Brzesc unites most of the Orthodox Bishops of Poland-Lithuania with Rome - the largest, most successful reunion movement in the history of the Catholic Church.

1608 - The first Polish settlers arrive in Jamestown, Virginia, on the English ship Mary and Margaret. They were craftsmen invited by Captain John Smith to establish a glass industry in the Jamestown Colony. They opened a glassblowing shop, which became the first American industry. After fulfilling the needs of the new Jamestown colony, the Polish settlers produced glass, pitch and tar for export to England. These products became the first commercial items to be exported from America to Europe.

1619 - After being denied participation in the new Virginia Assembly, the Polish settlers staged the first labor strike in America. The strike was not for wages or working conditions but for the right to participate in the newly-formed House of Burgesses. Recognized for their vital role in the Jamestown settlement, the Poles were granted the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English.

1683 - John Sobieski defeats the Turks at Vienna.

1745 - Casimir Pulaski is born in Poland.

1746 - Thaddeus Kosciuszko is born in Poland. He attended school in Lubieszow and later the Cadet Academy in Warsaw and then undertook engineering studies in Paris.

1776 - Thaddeus Kosciuszko came to America to offer his services to General George Washington. He was appointed engineer of the Continental Army with the rank of Colonel. He distinguished himself throughout the American Revolutionary War. His engineering and fortification skills along the Delaware River and at Saratoga, N.Y., helped win battles for the Continental Army. Kosciuszko is well known for his fortification at West Point, which is the site of West Point Military Academy. The name General Thaddeus Kosciuszko is listed on organizations, bridges, schools, and other local and national landmarks.

1777 - Count Casimir Pulaski arrives in the United States and is welcomed by General George Washington to serve in the Continental Army. Using his own money, Pulaski formed the first cavalry unit in the Continental Army. He became the Father of the American Calvary. For his service the U.S. Congress appointed him Brigadier General in charge of Four Horse Brigades. General Pulaski, distinguished himself in several key battles during the American Revolutionary War.

1779 - In October, General Casimir Pulaski was killed during the Battle of Savannah. The British, amazed by his courage, tended to his wounds before he died. Across America many organizations, bridges, streets, schools, and other landmarks are named after General Casimir Pulaski.

1791 - The Constitution of May 3rd, the first democratic constitution in Europe and the second in the world, after the United States Constitution, is adopted. This event is commemorated annually as "Polish Constitution Day."

1794 - The Kosciuszko Insurrection occurs in Poland to protest Russia's interference in Polish politics. Kosciuszko, after successfully assisting the United States in its fight for freedom, attempted to help his homeland restore its independence.

1795 - The Third Partition of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria eliminated Poland from the political map of Europe. Despite the efforts of the partitioning powers, the Polish language and customs continued to flourish throughout the years of partition.

1797 - Kosciuszko returns to Philadelphia greeted by a hero's welcome. He resided at 3rd and Pine Streets, which today is called Kosciuszko House, a national monument to Tadeusz Kosciuszko, operated by the U.S. National Park Service.

1830 - The November Insurrection occurs - the first of several unsuccessful Polish attempts in the 19th century to regain independence.

1863 - The January Insurrection against Russian rule in Poland takes place.

1867 - Marie Sklodowska Curie, the first scientist in history to win a Nobel Prize in both chemistry and physics, is born in Warsaw.



A Brief Outline of Polish and Polish American History - Part 2



1870-1920 - Millions of Poles immigrated to the United States seeking better economic opportunities. They settled in Polish American neighborhoods, built churches, schools, and cultural organizations in major American cities to preserve the heritage of their homeland for their descendants Polish Americans continue to add to the way of life in America and every aspect of society.

1873 - The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the first Polish Fraternal Life Insurance organization in the United States, is founded. It continues to provide life insurance and other benefits to Polish Americans.

1908 - Polish American Social Services is established in Philadelphia to welcome Polish immigrants coming to America through the Washington Avenue Port of Entry in South Philadelphia. Large numbers of immigrants from many European countries were processed at the Washington Avenue Port of Entry between 1872 and 1914. Polish American Social Services, also known as PASS, sponsors United Social Services and remains a well-known social service agency assisting the general population in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

1918 - At the Treaty of Versailles, Poland regains its independence after 123 years of political partitions. At the close of World War I, supporters of Poland's interests, such as famed Polish activist Ignacy Jan Paderewski and President Woodrow Wilson, advocated Poland's political restoration. On November 11, 1918, the last day of World War I, an Armistice Agreement was signed that restored Poland's Independence and rightfully restored Poland on the political map of Europe.

On May 3 and on November 11 each year, Polish people all over the world mark two historic events in Polish history. May 3rd marks the anniversary of Poland's 1791 Constitution, the second oldest written democratic constitution in the world. November 11, 1918, marks the Restoration of Poland to the political map of Europe, a historic event known as Poland's Independence Day.

1920 - The newly-independent Second Polish Republic drives back the Red Army at the Battle of Warsaw, destroying Lenin's objective of bringing all of Europe under Communism.

1939 - September 1 - World War II begins as Hitler's German troops invade Poland.

September 17 - Soviet troops seize the eastern territories of Poland in agreement with Nazi Germany.

1940 - Soviet Agents murder nearly 22,000 Polish military officers, police, and intellectuals in the Katyn Forest on the orders of Josef Stalin.

1945 - The Yalta Conference between the US, USSR, and UK occurs, with the Western Powers allowing Poland to come under Soviet Communist control.

1945-1989 - An additional large wave of Polish immigration came to the United States following World War II and the fall of Communism. They added to the already strong presence of Poles active in American Society.

1952 - The Polish People's Republic comes into existence.

1966 - Poland observes the 1,000th anniversary of its Christianity and statehood.

1970 - The Polish government attempts to raise prices of basic foods, leading to protests and deadly confrontations.

1978 - Cardinal Karol Wojtyla is elected Pope John Paul II, to the great celebration of Polonia across the world.

1980 - Solidarity is founded under the leadership of Lech Walesa, starting protests at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk.

1981 - General Wojciech Jaruzelski, accompanied by the Military Council of National Salvation, declares martial law in Poland.

1981 - Polish American Heritage Month was established in Philadelphia, celebrated during the Month of October. In 1981, it became a national celebration in conjunction with thousands of Polish American groups including, organizations, churches, schools, and radio, print and electronic media. The main goal is to promote Polish and Polish American history, culture and pride. PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com.

1983 - Martial law is lifted in Poland.

1988 - Polish American Cultural Center Museum opens in Historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to welcome tourists from across America and around the world.

1990 - The Polish People's Republic and Polish government-in-exile from World War II dissolve on December 9, 1990, as Lech Walesa becomes the first democratically elected President of Poland since before World War II.

1997 - Poland adopts a new constitution to replace the modified Polish People's Republic Constitution.

1999 - Poland joins NATO.

2004 - Poland joins the European Union.

2010 - The crash of the Polish presidential aircraft kills President Lech Kaczynski, members of his cabinet and high-ranking Polish civilian and military officials during a flight to Smolensk to attend a ceremony to commemorate the Katyn Massacre.

2013 - Pope John Paul II is officially canonized as Saint John Paul II.

2018 - Poland marks the 100th anniversary of its restoration on the map of Europe. Despite invasions and occupations, that at times, removed Poland's boundaries, the population remained intact.

Throughout its history, the people of Poland have fought for the freedom of not only their own homeland, but for the freedom of other nations. The Polish language, culture, and history are kept alive not just in Poland, but across the world wherever people of Polish heritage live. Polish communities outside of Poland are known as Polonia. In the United States, millions of people of Polish heritage live and maintain thousands of organizations that keep Polish and Polish American heritage alive for Polonia in America and for future generations.

Submitted by Michael Blichasz



For more information visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106, Located in the Heart of Historic Philadelphia, America's Most Historic Square Mile.

Visit us on the Internet at:

PolishAmericanCenter.com

October “Polish American Heritage Month”

From the Desk of

Michael Blichasz, President
Polish American Cultural Center

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-1700

Internet: PolishAmericanCenter.com



Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

Polam Month, 2018

As the founder of Polish American Heritage Month and the chairman of the committee, I would like to thank everyone for their participation over the last 37 years. From the time I suggested the idea of a month-long Polish American Heritage Month celebration in Pennsylvania in 1981, this effort has been a rewarding one for me. I want to compliment the leadership of the Polish American Cultural Center and Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, for helping me get this idea off the ground and for joining forces with Polonia across Pennsylvania to make this effort a state-wide success. After five years of Heritage Month celebrations in Pennsylvania, the national leadership of the Polish American Congress, in 1986, joined with the Polish American Heritage Month Committee to expand this event to a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. Over the years Polish American organizations, churches, schools and individuals have become united in celebrating the history, culture and pride of the Polish people.

The Polish American Heritage Month Committee, headquartered at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 308 Walnut Street in historic Philadelphia, works closely with its participating groups, and the national affiliates of the Polish American Congress. Together, we work to coordinate everyone's efforts by providing information packets with ideas on sponsoring local celebrations, coloring and essay contests, and suggestions that highlight great men and women of Polish descent, as well as great moments in Polish history. Now available on the Committee's Internet site.

I also want to thank the leaders of the national Polish American fraternal organizations who help encourage the celebration of Polish American Heritage Month among their members and supporters through their newspapers and group representatives. Compliments also to the organizations, churches, schools, libraries and individuals who continue to work on this effort for the purpose of preserving Polish history and culture for future generations. I want to also thank the Polish American press and radio for helping get the word out about Polish American Heritage Month to the general public. Everyone's efforts are appreciated and very much needed. We live in an ever-changing time, and it is vital for ethnic groups in America to continue to highlight their individual heritage so the great mosaic of America remains vibrant.

On behalf of the members of the National Polish American Heritage Month Committee, I thank you for 37 years of cooperation and participation and urge everyone to continue sponsoring activities in your local community during October, Polish American Heritage Month.

Visit our Internet site at: PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com

October "Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride!

From the Desk of
Michael Blichasz, President
Polish American Cultural Center
National Chairman
Polish American Heritage Month Committee
308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • (215) 922-1700
PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com



Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jameston, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2018, Polish Americans will mark the 37th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event which began in Philadelphia, PA, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2018, we will also mark the 239th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry and the International Year of Kosciuszko, Hero of Poland and America.

You are asked to spread the word about Polish American Heritage Month events in your local community and invite people to view the information which is linked below, including:

- [First Polish Settlers in America](#)
- [239th Anniversary of the Death of General Casimir Pulaski](#)
- [2018 Coloring Contest](#)
- [Things to Do During October "Polish American Heritage Month"](#)
- [Tracing Your Heritage](#)
- [Recent Editions of the *Polish American News*](#)
- [Some Reasons Why Polish Americans are Important to America](#)

There is always something happening in the Polish American community across the United States. It's great to see that Polish American history and pride are well represented in the "**Great Mosaic of America**". One way that you can help us spread the word is by welcoming family and friends to join the Museum's email list. The [guest book registration form](#) is on the home page of the Museum's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.com.

As you read the articles in the *Polish American News*, I ask that you spread the word to others. Your participation is always appreciated. **My best wishes to you and yours for an enjoyable Polish American Heritage Month celebration!**

October

"Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America

News Release

Dear Editor:

PolAm Month, 2018

Kindly make the following announcement for our organization:

Polish Americans Celebrate During October

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, VA, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2018, Polish Americans will mark the 37th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event, which began in Philadelphia, PA, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2018, Poles will mark the **410th Anniversary** of the First Polish Settlers who were among the **first skilled workers in America**. We, therefore, will also **Salute All American Workers** and urge people to purchase the products and services offered by American workers. Polish Americans will also mark the 239th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry and the International Year of Kosciuszko, Hero of Poland and America. For information about these historic events and Polish and Polish American history, visit the Museum's Internet site at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**.

Information about ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at **PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com**. On this site you will find a list of "Things To Do During Polish American Heritage Month", the 2018 coloring contest artwork for schools, and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed. Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Monday through Friday between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at 215-922-1700.

-30-

Thank you for including this press release in your newspaper. If you need further information, kindly contact me at the telephone number listed below. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Michael Blichasz
Chairman

Polish American Heritage Month Committee

National Headquarters: Polish American Cultural Center Museum

308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Telephone: (215) 922-1700 • **Internet:** PolishAmericanCenter.com
or PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com

*410th Anniversary of the Arrival of the
First Polish Settlers in America on October 1, 1608*



On October 1, 1608, the English ship Mary and Margaret arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. Aboard the ship were several persons of Polish descent who had been hired by the Virginia Company of London, at the request of Captain John Smith, leader of the Jamestown Colony. Captain Smith, who had first learned of the Polish craftsmen's work while traveling in Eastern Europe, invited them to Jamestown for the specific purpose of helping to establish a glass industry in the colony. Upon their arrival, the Poles made a vital contribution to the survival of the colony by digging a well to provide fresh drinking water, which was seriously lacking in the colony.

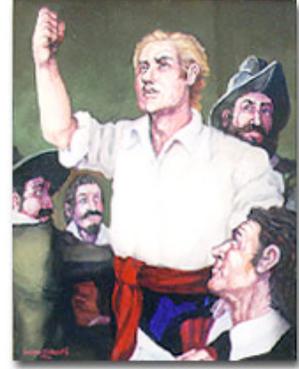


The next accomplishment was the building of a furnace to produce glass products, which became the first factory in America. In addition to producing glass products, the Polish settlers also produced pitch and tar, vital building materials for expanding the new colony. Despite many hardships due to the climate and living conditions, the Poles and their fellow settlers persevered and eventually were able to produce enough glass, pitch and tar for export to England. These products became the first commercial items to be exported from America to Europe.

On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement in the Jamestown colony by staging the first labor strike in America. After being denied participation in the first Virginia assembly, the Polish settlers conducted a labor walkout, not for wages or better working conditions, but for democratic rights. The newly formed House of Burgesses quickly acknowledged the vital role of the Poles in the settlement's well being and granted them the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English.

The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant event into American history.

Over the years, people from Poland continued to immigrate to America. Today Poles are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of immigrants who have come to America from all over the world and now proudly call this nation their home. The 409th anniversary of the first Poles in America provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add shape and color to the American mosaic.



For more information, visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia, and the Museum's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.com.

- [The First Polish Immigrants \(They were here before the Pilgrims\)](#)
- [Polish People in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Teacher's Lesson Plan - The Polish Experience at Jamestown](#)
- [Polish American Heritage Month](#)



[400th Audio Message
in Polish](#)

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Polish American Cultural Center Museum



Map found on NationsOnline.org

Polish American Cultural Center Museum

PolishAmericanCenter.org

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum invites you to “Trace Your Heritage.” America is a great mosaic of many nations. However, much of our family history is undocumented. This brief outline will help you collect and organize information about your family and your heritage.

“Tracing your Heritage”

Family Name _____ Date _____

1. Where is your family's point of origin (town/region)?

2. What was your family's means of transportation to America?

3. Where was your family's port of entry and original place of settlement in America?

4. How many of your family members immigrated to America?

5. Why did your family members immigrate to America?

6. What challenges has your family had to overcome?

7. What other family members remained in their country of origin?

Detailed family information:

My Mother

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Her Father's Name _____

Her Mother's Name _____

Other Information _____

My Father

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

His Father's Name _____

His Mother's Name _____

Other Information _____

Brothers and Sisters

List Names, Dates and Places of Birth:

Other Information:

Information About Myself

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Other Information _____

Grandparents (Mother's Side)

Grandfather's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Other Information _____

Grandmother's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Other Information _____

Grandparents (Father's Side)

Grandfather's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Other Information _____

Grandmother's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Other Information _____

Brief Story of My Family

Things to Do During October

Polish American Heritage Month

Listed below are suggested activities for your October celebration.

Community Wide

1. **Meet with your local Polish American organizations** to discuss a successful, well-coordinated Polish American Heritage Month event.
 2. **Request local elected officials to present a proclamation or special greetings to the Polish American community.**
 3. **Offer a Mass at your local church** for the intention of your area Polish American community and invite everyone to attend. Following the Mass, hold a reception with Polish pastries and refreshments, welcoming all in the spirit of Polish hospitality.
 4. **Sponsor an event to honor noted men and women of Poland.** During October we mark the death of American Revolutionary War Hero General Casimir Pulaski on October 15th. You can conduct a tribute ceremony in front of a portrait of Pulaski. You can also consider honoring people such as Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Fryderyk Chopin, Marie Sklodowska Curie and others.
 5. **Encourage people to display Polish and American flags and Polish American Heritage Month posters in their homes, organizational headquarters, banks, businesses, etc.** Flags, posters and banners help bring attention to the fact that October is National Polish American Heritage Month and that Polonia is celebrating proudly. Sample posters are available from the Heritage Month link on the Museum's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.com
 6. **Sponsor a lunch or dinner social** with Polish food, music and entertainment.
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Youth Activities

1. **Organize an essay contest in your local schools.** Complete information on sponsoring an essay contest is available from the Museum's Internet site. You can award prizes during a school assembly or public event to encourage participation from parents and students alike. Ask local businesses and organizations to help sponsor the event and offer prizes. This is also a way to involve local teachers as judges of the essay contest.
2. **Sponsor a coloring contest.** Art work samples are available upon request from the national committee or you can download coloring forms from the Museum's Internet site. The coloring contest remains very popular in schools.

Ask local art students to organize and judge the entries. Ask a local printer to reprint

the artwork for your committee at no charge with the name of his business at the bottom as an advertisement.

3. **Sponsor a children's music or dance recital** to highlight Polish music or dance in a local auditorium, school hall or recreation center. There are children's groups that would appreciate this type of exposure. It's a great way to get people together for a positive event involving young people. Invite the general public to attend.

4. **Sponsor a Polish poster art contest** requesting area schools to highlight Polish history and culture through student art. Display their art works and sponsor an award ceremony.

Cultural Displays

1. **Organize a display at your local shopping mall or library** featuring Polish books, arts and crafts, wycinanki and paintings by Polish American artists. Contact local artists and request them to display their works at the local library, parish hall, organization hall, public or office building lobby.

Media Contact & General Advertising

1. **Display Polish American Heritage Month posters.** Sample posters are available from the National Committee, or they can be downloaded from the Heritage Month link on the Museum's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.org. You can reprint these posters and encourage local stores, banks, supermarkets, churches and organizations to display the posters throughout the month of October.

2. **Contact your local newspapers, radio and TV stations** to tell them about National Polish American Heritage Month and your local activities.

3. **Ask local radio programs to mention your area Polish American events during October as part of their community bulletin board or public service announcements.** (Every radio station is required to give time for public service announcements.) You can also ask your radio stations to play a few selections written by Polish composers over the centuries and recorded by internationally famous artists. This is a way for them to bring attention to Polish American Heritage Month and highlight Polish composers.

4. **Ask local organizations, banks, businesses and elected leaders to place a "POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH SALUTE"** advertisement in local newspapers or on local radio or TV programs. Placing these salutes each week during the month of October will remind everyone about POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH. (The National Committee has an artwork for the newspaper, radio and TV salutes available upon request.)

5. **Ask area high school and college students of Polish descent to assist you with press releases, public service announcements and other activities.** Often this is a way for younger students to get extra credit for school and will allow them to be part of the Polish American Heritage Month celebration. Possibly there are individuals in your community with children who could be called upon to assist you with publicity and other efforts.

Family & Friends

1. **Start your family tree** and invite all the members of your family to get involved.
2. **Review a map of Poland** and learn more about the town or city of your ancestors.
3. **Read a book on Polish history** and share that information with family and friends.
4. **Attend a Polish American event** and invite others to attend with you.
5. **Display a Polish and American flag**, a red and white bow, or a Heritage Month poster in your home or place of business.
6. **Learn more about Polish customs** and share that information with others.
7. **Join a Polish American organization** and get involved in some way.

For more information contact the National Headquarters:

Polish American Heritage Month Committee - Michael Blichasz, National Chairman
National Headquarters: Polish American Cultural Center Museum
308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • (215) 922-1700

October

"Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America

Suggestions on How to Sponsor a Coloring Contest

1. Announce that your organization is sponsoring a coloring contest.
2. Announce to area schools that will be participating in your organization's coloring contest that the contest will begin on a specific date. Also announce that all entries will be collected on a specific date. (This allows the principal to inform teachers that there is a time line for the coloring contest.)
3. **Objective** - The objective of this coloring contest is to allow students to learn something about the history of Polish people and their contributions to the world.
4. **Prize Notification** - The committee should announce on each of the coloring contest forms the type of prizes that will be awarded, as well as the date and place of the award ceremony.
5. **Prizes** - This is an excellent opportunity for you to ask area businesses, banks and organizations to provide prizes for the winners. Prizes can be cash, savings bonds or other types of articles that would be appropriate.

Each year the national committee distributes a new coloring contest artwork. Copies are free and they can be reprinted by your local printer.

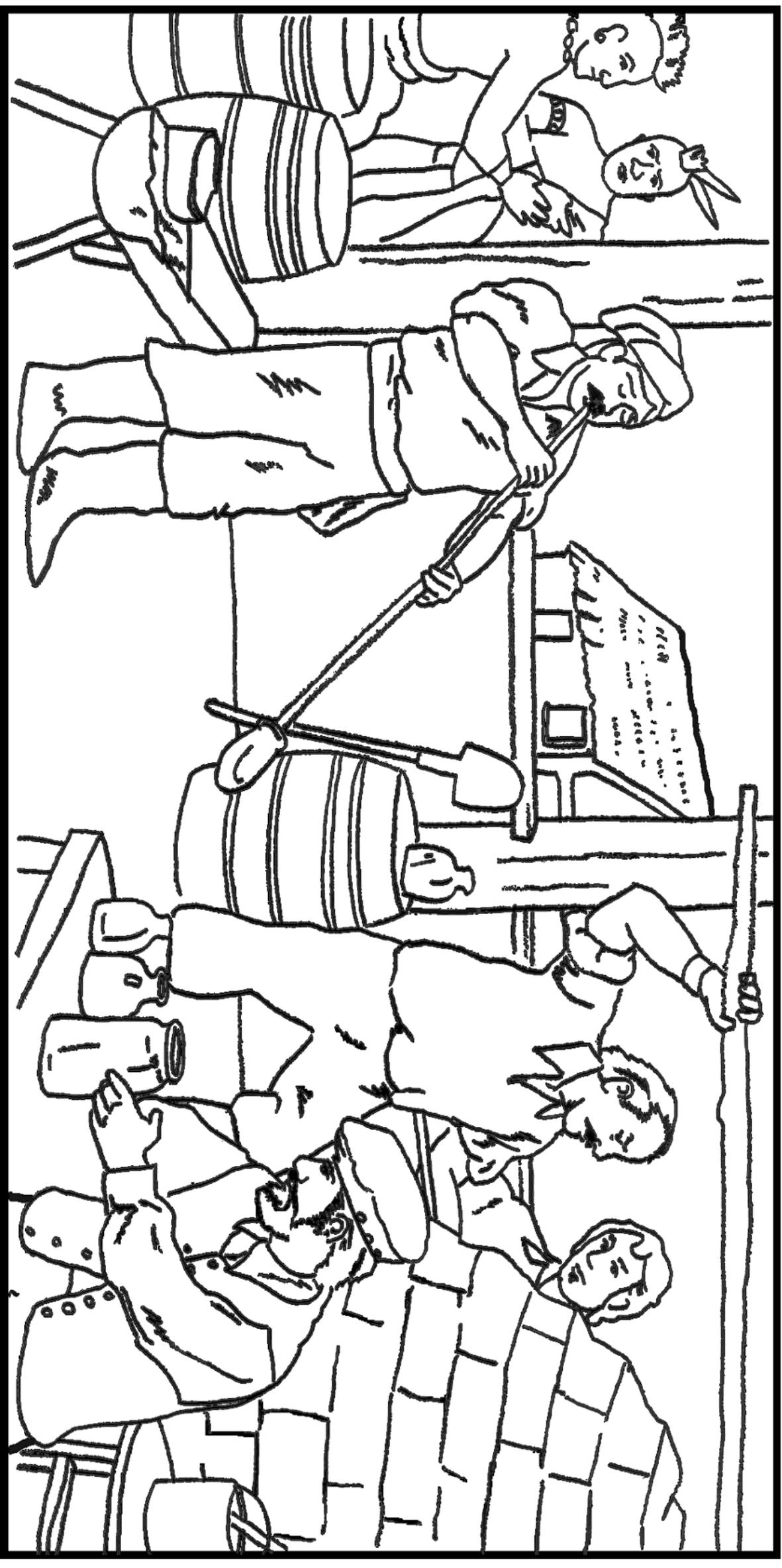
If the Polish American Heritage Month Committee can be of any further assistance to you, please contact us at the address or telephone number listed below.

Polish American Heritage Month Committee

Michael Blichasz, National Chairman

308 Walnut Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106 - (215) 922-1700

Web: www.polishamericancenter.org



410th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers in America • 1608-2018

On October 1, 1608, a group of Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. They were craftsmen, skilled in glassmaking as well as the production of vital building materials, such as tar and pitch. Captain John Smith, the leader of the Jamestown colony, and the Virginia Company of London commissioned the Polish settlers to help establish a glass manufacturing industry. The products made at this factory became the first products exported from America. For more information, visit the Polish American Cultural Center on the Internet at: PolishAmericanCenter.com.

410th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers in America



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The next accomplishment was the building of a furnace to produce glass products, which became the first factory in America. In addition to producing glass products, the Polish settlers also produced pitch and tar, vital building materials for expanding the new colony. Despite many hardships due to the climate and living conditions, the Poles and their fellow settlers persevered and eventually were able to produce enough glass, pitch and tar for export to England. These products became the first commercial items to be exported from America to Europe.

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The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant event in American history. Over the years, people from Poland continued to immigrate to America. Today Poles are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of immigrants who have come to America from all over the world and now proudly call this nation their home. The 400th anniversary of the first Poles in America provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add shape and color to the American mosaic.

Use Crayons or Crayon Pencils Only.

Please Print Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Name of School _____ Grade _____

Sponsored by
Polish American Congress
Eastern Pennsylvania District

When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District, Visit the
Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall
308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 - (215) 922-1700
Open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. - Admission Free
Check us out on the Internet at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com**

October

"Polish American Heritage Month"

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America

America, the Nation of Many Nationalities

People of all nationalities can reflect on their heritage and remind themselves that they are all part of the "Great American Mosaic." For centuries people from all over the world immigrated to America in search of freedom, peace and justice. From Europe, the Irish, Polish, Germans, Italians and many other nationalities came in large numbers to live in the new land of opportunity. Today, people from all over the world make up America's ethnic and racial mosaic.

In October, Polish Americans celebrate national "Polish American Heritage Month". This year everyone is asked to take time to trace their family history. To help you trace your heritage, there is a [Trace Your Heritage](#) form on the front page of the Cultural Center's website at: PolishAmericanCenter.com

It was on October 1, 1608, that the English ship Margaret and Mary arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. The ship carried eight people of Polish descent who had been hired by the Glass Company of England to help open a glass house in the New World. After their arrival in Jamestown, this group of skilled glassmakers, along with other immigrant settlers, experienced many hardships. They did, nevertheless, accomplish their mission of building and operating the first glass house, and first factory, in America. As time passed and they made enough glass to serve the needs of the Jamestown colony, their products were then shipped to England. These glass items became the first products to be exported from America to Europe. Another noteworthy fact is that, in 1619, after eleven years in the Jamestown colony, the resolute Polish settlers staged the first labor strike in order to extend the right to vote to all members of the colony.

The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant, entry into American history. Over the years, people from Poland continued to emigrate to America. Today, people of Polish descent are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. They are among the tens of millions of immigrants who came to America from all over the world and are proud to call America their home. This anniversary celebration provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add color to the American mosaic.

The coloring contest artwork depicts (1) the first Polish settlers who immigrated to Jamestown, Virginia, (2) the Statue of Liberty, known as the welcoming beacon for all immigrants in search of freedom, peace and justice in the New World, and (3) maps of Poland and America to symbolize the lasting bond between these countries.

October

“Polish American Heritage Month”

How to Sponsor an Essay Contest in Your Local Community

The national Polish American Heritage Month Committee encourages all organizations to sponsor an essay contest in their area parochial or public elementary or high schools. This is an excellent way for you to involve the teachers in your area schools in a project that can benefit all of us. Area business people and banks should be contacted to donate the prizes. **We have listed below some suggestions to help you organize your essay contest.**

TOPIC - Select a topic on Polish history or the accomplishments of Poles or Polish Americans. You can also select a topic on Poles who are presently making history through current events.

OBJECTIVES - The objectives of the contest are to help inform students of the importance of our past and to gain an understanding of the history and contributions of the Polish people.

ELIGIBILITY - Students could be selected from grades 4 through 10, or whatever grade level your area coordinators feel is appropriate.

ESSAY LENGTH - The essay should be a minimum of 200 to 250 words.

ANNOUNCING THE CONTEST - Select a day that the contest would be announced in all area schools. Request that teachers inform all those participating that the contest will begin on a particular day and be collected on a specific date. Teachers could help the committee by eliminating all but 10 essays from each of the grade levels that will be participating. When announcing the essay contest, be sure to list all of the prizes that will be awarded.

PRIZES - Three top winners should be selected from the overall amount of students that will participate. They could receive cash or other prizes; (i.e. U.S. Savings Bonds or gift certificates - 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50.) Other prizes could be awarded along with honorable mentions for those students who displayed special efforts in writing their essay.

ENTRY DEADLINES - All entries should be collected on the day announced by the committee allowing at least one week between the selection and announcement of prize winners.

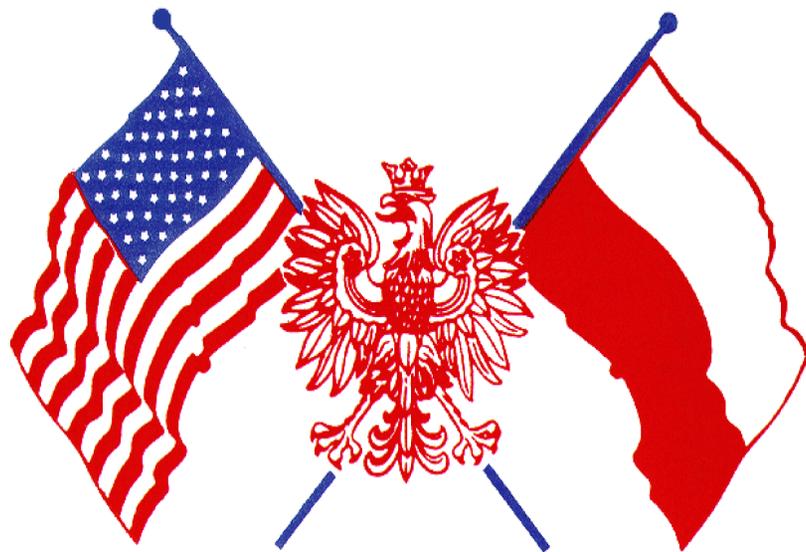
IDENTIFICATION - The students should use the following guidelines when returning their essays. Cover pages should include their NAME, ADDRESS, TOPIC SELECTED, SCHOOL NAME, GRADE AND DATE SUBMITTED.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS - The top winning entries should be notified at least 10 days in advance of the presentation of the awards.

AWARD CEREMONY - Organize an award ceremony in one of the area school auditoriums, libraries or another suitable place. Invite representatives of the participating schools to attend, and invite your area elected officials to participate in presenting the awards.

*During October We Salute Our
Friends and Neighbors Celebrating*

Polish American Heritage Month

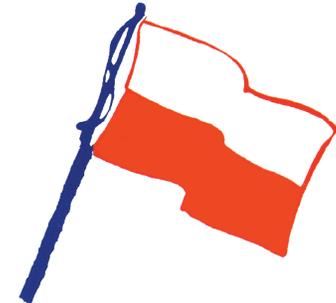


**A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia Across America**

During October We Salute Our
Friends and Neighbors as They Celebrate



**Polish American
Heritage Month**



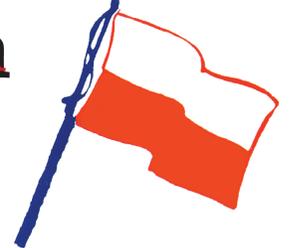
A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation
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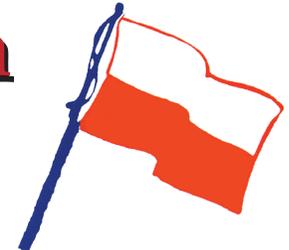
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