

Gold Medal Awards

The American Institute of Polish Culture Gold Medal Awards.



The educational mission of the American Institute of Polish Culture focuses on making America aware of the valuable contributions that have been made to the world and in the United States by Poles, Polish-Americans and friends of Poland representing different nations.

The *Gold Medal of Honor* is an award that the Institute confers on those who have distinguished themselves by their dedication and unwavering service in the arts, education or science and have made a positive impact upon the world. Since 1987 the awards have been presented at the annual International Polonaise Ball, which is the principal fund-raising event of the Institute, and an important occasion in which members and friends can celebrate their communities and Poland's cooperation with other countries, nationalities, and cultures.

The following is a complete list of distinguished recipients to date.

Year 2012 Recipients

Dr. Maria Siemionow, M.D., Ph.D.

for outstanding achievements in the field of medicine and leader of the world's first near-total face transplant



Maria Siemionow

Maria Siemionow was awarded her medical degree by the Poznan Medical Academy in 1974, after which she completed her residency in orthopedics, and then earned a PhD in microsurgery. In 1985, she completed a hand surgery fellowship at the Christine Kleinert Institute for Hand and Microsurgery in Louisville, KY. Since 1995 she has been Director of Plastic Surgery Research and Head of Microsurgery Training in the Plastic Surgery Department of Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Siemionow is the first U.S. physician to have received Institutional Review Board approval for facial transplantation surgery, and in 2008 she led the team of surgeons that performed the first near-total face transplantation in the United States and the world.

Dr. Siemionow has published over 250 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals. Her specialty interests include hand surgery, microsurgery, peripheral nerve surgery, face transplantation, and hand transplantation. She is also leading the way in developing new technology for minimal immunosuppression in transplantation and enhancement of nerve regeneration.

Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz

for his extraordinary vision and long service as Secretary to Pope John Paul II



Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz

Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz is a Polish prelate of the Roman Catholic Church. He has been Archbishop of Kraków since 2005, and became a cardinal in 2006. Cardinal Dziwisz was a longtime and influential aide to Pope John Paul II, a friend of the current Pope, Benedict XVI, and an ardent supporter of the late Pope's eventual beatification.

Cardinal Dziwisz wrote *A Life with Karol: My Forty-Year Friendship with the Man Who Became Pope*, about his extraordinary service to and friendship with Pope John Paul II which has been described by some as similar to a father-son. The Cardinal was one of the few people mentioned in the Pope's will, where he was thanked for his almost 40 years of service to the Pontiff.

Year 2011 Recipients

Maria Nowotarska

for promoting Polish theatre and encouraging Polonia in North America to explore the arts



Maria Nowotarska

Maria Nowotarska graduated from the Ludwik Solski Academy for the Dramatic Arts in Krakow, and then was employed by the prestigious Juliusz Slowacki Theatre in Krakow where she performed under direction of some of the most renowned Polish theatre directors, such as Erwin Axer, Kazimierz Dejmek, Bohdan Korzeniowski, and Rudolf Ziolo. She also appeared in a number of films and TV productions.

Mrs. Nowotarska immigrated to Canada in 1990 and immediately became involved in Polish theatrical life in Toronto. She singlehandedly created "The Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre" as its founder, manager, stage director, script writer and an actress. She also created an Actors' Studio which is associated with the Salon and introduces young people of Polish origin to the work on stage.

Mrs. Nowotarska's was honored with the Medal of Polish Senate, "Cross of Merit" by the President of the Republic of Poland and "Gloria Artis" medal and "Distinguished Advocate of Polish Culture" title by the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

Maria Knapik for

promoting Polish opera and music



Maria Knapik

Maria Knapik was born in Poland and sang as the youngest of "The Eight Knapik Sisters," performing more than 2,800 concerts throughout Europe and the British Isles, as well as on Polish radio and television. In 2003 she won the Gerda Lissner Foundation vocal competition in New York City, and in 2005 was awarded the International Rising Star of Opera Award by the American Institute of Polish Culture.

Ms. Knapik's broad and rich repertoire allows her talents to shine brightly both on the opera stage and in concert and oratorio. Her social commitment and love of music have led her to organize or participate in numerous gala benefit concerts, as well as dedicating long hours to vocal teaching and promoting young talent and artistic endeavor in Canada.

Year 2010 Recipients

Agustin Anievas

for promoting Chopin's works and the music of Polish composers



Agustin Anievas

American Agustin Anievas made his world professional debut in 1944, the first child to give a piano recital at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City, and at 18 made his New York debut with the Little Orchestra Society. He has won many competitions, including the Michaels Memorial Award, and the Concert Artists Guild in NY, which offered him a New York debut recital in 1958. Time magazine commented that "he had the prodigious technique and the kind of rhapsodic, deeply felt musical vision that suggests a major career." Garnering the grand prize in the first International Mitropoulos Competition for Pianists in 1961 began Mr. Anievas' international career and took him to world renowned status.

He has frequently appeared in New York's concert venues, and his orchestral appearances encompass the rich gamut of musical life in the United States and all around the world. His discography includes Angel and EMI recordings of Schubert, Liszt, Chopin, and Brahms, as well as the reissued centennial recordings of all the Rachmaninoff Concertos and Preludes.

Dr. William Langebartel, Ph.D.

for generously contributing to the international heritage of Fryderyk Chopin



William Langebartel

William W. Langebartel was Professor Emeritus of Temple University in Philadelphia, and resided in Italy. A passionate admirer of Chopin's music and a generous supporter of the arts, Professor Langebartel, on behalf of himself and his late wife Imelde Della Valle, generously donated to the Chopin Foundation the Pleyel piano, model E #13555. This historic instrument was built in 1846 in Paris and bears the signature of Frederic Chopin. It was part of special exhibition celebrating Chopin's Year presented by the Frederic Chopin Museum in Warsaw, Poland.

A strong believer in the Chopin Foundation's mission of supporting young talented musicians, Professor Langebartel was one of its most generous benefactors.

Commissioner Natacha Seijas

for promoting Polish business and supporting the music of Fryderyk Chopin



Commissioner
Natacha Seijas

Commissioner Natacha Seijas was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners in 1993. Commissioner Seijas served as Vice Chair of the Government Operations Committee which oversees the delivery of basic services to the County. In 2006, Commissioner Seijas was appointed Chairperson to the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium (ITC), and led a business development mission to Poland in May 2008. As a result of an invitation extended by her in 2009, ITC coordinated a high-level trade mission to Miami led by Marcin Korolec, Undersecretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Economy

Year 2009 Recipients

Alicja Bachleda - Curus for outstanding achievements in the film industry



Alicja Bachleda - Curus is a Polish actress and singer, born in Tampico, Mexico on May 12th, 1983. Her debut was at the tender age of 6 when she performed at a children's music festival in her home country, Poland. Awarded several times for her acting as well as her singing, Bachleda-Curus talents have taken her around the world, and she has represented Poland during International Film Festivals in Croatia, Germany and Italy.

Ms. Bachleda – Curus has also performed in theater and films. Her most noted roles include Zosia in Pan Tadeusz by director Andrzej Wajda, Life Achievement Academy Award recipient, Anke in Summersturm, Wanda in the German movie Herz im Kopf and Veronika in Trade. She has been received very warmly by the film critics in Hollywood and her career is getting more successful each year. She is fluent in Polish, English and Spanish.

**Alicja Bachleda –
Curus**

Zbigniew Paleta for outstanding achievements in the field of music



Violinista de Cracovia, as he is affectionately know, Zbigniew Paleta has lived in Mexico for the last twenty-eight years. He was born in Kraków, Poland and played the violin since the age of seven. He received his music education from Kraków Academy of Music and collaborated with various Polish artists such as Leszek Dlugosz, Ewa Demarczyk and Marek Grechuta, and he also played with Capella Cracoviensis.

In 1980, Mr. Paleta, his wife Barbara and their two daughters Dominika and Ludwika moved to Mexico. Since then, Paleta has been playing with classical and jazz ensembles as well as with a rock bands El Tri and his own band Paleta-Souza. He performed in Zbigniew Preisner's soundtrack for Krzysztof Kieslowski's film White and for Agnieszka Holland's Secret Garden. His music compositions for Mexican films such as Libre De Culpas have earned him two Ariel Awards (Mexican Academy of Film Award) as well as a 2002 nomination for the score for Su Alteza Serenissima directed by Felipe Casalsa.

His daughters are both very successful Mexican Telenovela actresses. They speak Polish, Spanish and English, and are very proud of their Polish heritage.

Anna Zarnecka de Santos Burgoa for outstanding achievements in the fields of painting and literature



Born in Turmont, Poland, Anna Zarnecka arrived in Mexico in 1943 as a refugee from the war in Europe, where she spent two years in a concentration camp in Siberia. A Mexican citizen since 1949, she began to study painting at the Instituto de Arte de Mexico, eventually developing a technique in which the painting is composed of triangles of color.

As an internationally acclaimed artist, she has exhibited in Mexico, Warsaw, Kraków and many other cities. More than 250 of her paintings hang in public and private collections in at least seven countries and the Vatican, among them portraits of Pope John Paul II and President Lech Walesa. She has 38 years of service with the Mexican Red Cross, many as President, and she is the recipient of its Benemeritus and Grand Cross medals.

**Anna Zarnecka
de Santos Burgoa**

In 1979 she published her recollections of the concentration camp, Polonia Viente y Tinieblas (Wind and Darkness), and has since published four other books, including a detailed explanation account of her innovative triangle technique of painting.

Year 2008 Recipients

Dr. Hilary Koprowski for outstanding achievements in the field of virology and immunology



Hilary Koprowski

Hilary Koprowski was born in Poland. At the age of 12, he entered the Warsaw Conservatory of Music to study piano. He continued his music education simultaneously with his medical studies at the Warsaw University. In 1939, he obtained his M.D. degree in Warsaw and upon the outbreak of World War II, he left for Italy. There he was a volunteer physician for the Polish in exile. He also attended Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Rome.

In 1940, Koprowski moved to Brazil where he met Luty Kosobudski, a high school friend and physician who was associated with research on yellow fever. With the joint support of the Rockefeller Foundation's Yellow Fever Research Service and the Ministry of Education of Brazil, Koprowski joined Luty's team researching yellow fever and neurotropic viruses. It is believed that during that time he decided to abandon his musical aspirations and focus on medical research.

Koprowski left Brazil for the United States in 1944 to become a research associate at American Cyanamid's Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, New York. He discovered the first vaccine against poliomyelitis which was based on oral administration of attenuated (rendered non-virulent) polio virus.

In researching a polio vaccine, he decided to focus on the use of live viruses that were attenuated instead of the killed viruses that became the basis for the injections created by Jonas Salk. Koprowski viewed the live vaccine as more powerful since it entered the intestinal tract directly and could provide lifelong immunity, whereas the Salk vaccine required boosters. Moreover, the process of administering the vaccine orally proved more efficient since an injection required medical facilities. The vaccine was taken by the first child on February 27, 1950 and within 10 years, it was administered on four continents.

Dr. Koprowski is a member of the National Academy of Sciences as well as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the New York Academy of Sciences. He is a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and holds numerous prestigious foreign memberships. He has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. On March 22, 1995, Dr. Koprowski was awarded the title of "Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland" by the President of the Republic of Finland and in 1997, the Legion D'Honneur Award from the French Government. On September 29, 1998, Koprowski was presented with the "Great Order of Merit" by the President of Poland for his polio research. On February 25, 2000, Dr. Koprowski was honored with a reception at Thomas Jefferson University celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first feeding of the oral polio vaccine.

Dr. Koprowski is the author or co-author of over 875 articles in scientific publications and is co-editor of several journals. Currently, he is President of the Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories, Inc. and head of the Center for Neurovirology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Scott Parazynski
for outstanding achievements in the field of astronautics



Scott Parazynski

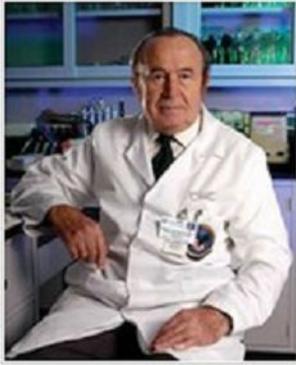
Dr. Scott Parazynski was born July 28, 1961, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended high school in Dakar, Senegal, and Beirut, Lebanon, Iran, and Greece. He received a BS degree in biology from Stanford University in 1983, continuing on to graduate with honors from Stanford Medical School in 1989. He served his medical internship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital of Harvard Medical School (1990). He had completed 22 months of a residency program in emergency medicine in Denver, Colorado, when selected to the Astronaut Corps.

While an undergraduate at Stanford University, Dr. Parazynski studied antigenic variation in African Sleeping Sickness, using sophisticated molecular biological techniques. While in medical school, he was awarded a NASA Graduate Student Fellowship and conducted research at NASA-Ames Research Center on fluid shifts that occur during human space flight. Additionally, he was involved in the design of several exercise devices that were developed for long-duration space flight, and has conducted research on high-altitude acclimatization. Dr. Parazynski has numerous publications in the field of space physiology, and has a particular expertise in human adaptation to stressful environments.

Selected as an astronaut in March 1992, Dr. Parazynski reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1992. He completed one year of training and evaluation, and was qualified as a mission specialist. He has served as the Astronaut Office Operations Planning Branch crew representative for Space Shuttle, Space Station and Soyuz training, as Deputy (Operations and Training) of the Astronaut Office ISS Branch, and as Chief of the Astronaut Office EVA Branch. In the aftermath of the Columbia tragedy, he was the Astronaut Office Lead for Space Shuttle Thermal Protection System Inspection and Repair. A veteran of five space flights, STS-66 (1994), STS-86 (1997), STS-95 (1998), STS-100 (2001) and STS-120 (2007), Dr. Parazynski has logged over 1,381 hours (over 8 weeks) in space, including over 47 hours of EVA (during 7 spacewalks), and traveled over 23 million miles.

He received many honors such as the National Institutes of Health Predoctoral Training Award in Cancer Biology (1983); Rhodes Scholarship finalist (1984); NASA Graduate Student Researcher's Award (1988); Stanford Medical Scholars Program (1988); Research Honors Award from Stanford Medical School (1989); NASA-Ames Certificate of Recognition (1990); Wilderness Medical Society Research Award (1991); Space Station Team Excellence Award (1996); NASA Exceptional Service Medals (1998, 1999); NASA Space Flight Medals (1994, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2007); NASA Distinguished Service Medal (2002). He also competed on the United States Development Luge Team and was ranked among the top 10 competitors in the nation during the 1988 Olympic Trials. He also served as an Olympic Team Coach for the Philippines during the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada.

Dr. Andrew Schally
for outstanding achievements in the field of medicine



Andrew Schally

Dr. Andrew V. Schally helped conduct pioneering research concerning hormones, identifying three brain hormones and greatly advancing scientists' understanding of the function and interaction between the brain with the rest of the body. His findings have proved useful in the treatment of diabetes and peptic ulcers, and in the diagnosis and treatment of hormone-deficiency diseases. Schally shared the 1977 Nobel Prize with French-born American endocrinologist Roger Guillemin and Rosalyn Yalow.

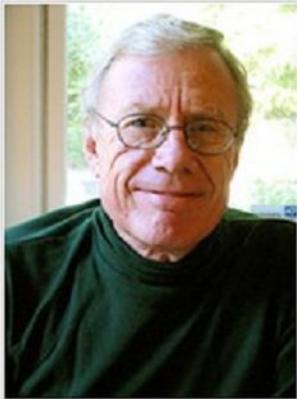
Andrew Schally was born in Wilno, Poland on November 30, 1926. He spent his childhood in the Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, but was fortunate to survive the holocaust while living among the Polish-Jewish community in Romania. He received his education in Scotland and England. In 1952, he moved to Canada, where, in 1957, he received his doctorate in endocrinology from McGill University. That same year, he left for a research career in the United States. He was principally affiliated with Tulane University, New Orleans, LA and also with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. Dr. Schally's first breakthrough came in 1966 when he and his research group isolated TRH, or thyrotropin-releasing hormone. In 1969 Schally and his team demonstrated that TRH is a peptide containing three amino acids. The success of this research made it possible to decipher the function of a second hormone, called luteinizing-hormone releasing factor (LHRH) which controls reproductive functions in both males and females. The chemical makeup of the growth-releasing hormone (GRH) was also discovered by Schally's team in 1971.

In 1977, Dr. Schally received the Nobel Prize for Medicine. He is also a recipient of many other awards and honors. In 1974 he was given the Charles Mickle Award of the University of Toronto, and the Gairdner Foundation International Award. He received the Borden Award in the Medical Sciences of the Association of American Medical Colleges in 1975 and that same year, the Albert Lasker Award and the Laude Award. He has held memberships in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Physiology Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Endocrine Society.

Since receiving the Nobel Prize, Dr. Schally developed the preferred method for treatment of advanced prostate cancer and proposed and demonstrated the efficacy of new approaches to therapy of prostatic, mammary, ovarian, endometrial, renal, pancreatic, colorectal, gastric and lung cancer, osteosarcomas, melanomas, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas and brain tumors based on these antitumor peptides. The hormonal therapies that he proposed are relatively free of side effects, in contrast to radiation and chemotherapy. His discoveries have led to many practical clinical applications that are widely used and highly effective. He now has over 2,200 publications, of which more than 1,200 were published after he received the Nobel Prize.

Year 2007 Recipients

Stanley Cloud for promotion of Polish history and culture



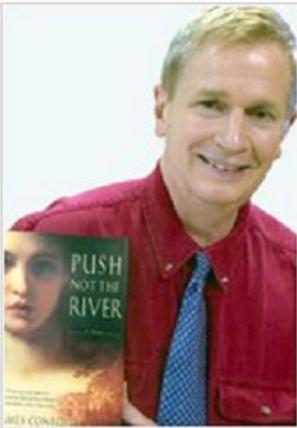
Stanley Cloud

Stanley Cloud was a magazine and newspaper journalist for 35 years -- he was a reporter, a correspondent in the U.S. and abroad, a bureau chief, a columnist and an editor. He has covered wars, politics, the White House, Watergate, business, the courts, culture and local government. For much of his career, he was with *Time* magazine as a correspondent (San Francisco, Moscow), a bureau chief (Bangkok, Saigon, Washington) and a press columnist. He has interviewed five presidents of the United States and covered six administrations. He was the principal reporter and writer for many *Time* cover stories, including the now-famous "Is Government Dead?" in 1989. He was assistant managing editor and managing editor of the *Washington Star* from 1979 to 1982 and executive editor of the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* from 1982 to 1986.

After his years as a newsmen, Cloud turned to writing non-fiction books with his wife, Lynne Olson. Their first book was *The Murrow Boys* (Houghton Mifflin, 1996) about Edward R. Murrow and the correspondents he hired during World War II to help create CBS News. Cloud has written a play, a fictionalized adaptation of this book that was work-shopped at the Kennedy Center and presented in a staged reading at the center's AFI Theater in February 2001. He is now working on a novel.

He and Lynne Olson live in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. and are the parents of a 23-year-old daughter, Caroline. Cloud also has three grown sons - Michael, David and Matthew Cloud - by a previous marriage.

James Conroyd Martin for promotion of Polish history and culture



James Conroyd Martin

A native of Chicago, James Conroyd Martin attended college at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, and received his Master's Degree in English literature at De Paul University in Chicago. After teaching English for a few years, he left for California to try his hand at screenwriting in 1974. There he befriended John Stelnicki, who had translated the diary of his ancestor, Countess Anna Maria Berezowska, whose own personal crises coincided with the tumultuous years of the Third of May Constitution (1790s). It was at that point that Martin's own odyssey began.

In 1976, Martin, of Irish and Norwegian descent, committed himself to bringing Anna's amazing story to the public. He believed that the circumstances of her life provided a metaphor for the challenges of her beloved Poland. Years came and went, as did agents, editors, and various approaches to the manuscript. Martin moved back to Chicago in 1983, took up teaching again at Marian Catholic, while continuing to write on weekends and vacations. Ultimately, he self-published *Push Not the River* in 2001 and was vindicated by the success he found at Polish organizations and festivals, where readers wished to know how he had been able to see into and illuminate the Polish heart and soul. In 2002, the prestigious St. Martin's Press took notice and signed Martin, bringing out a new edition of *Push Not the River* in 2003.

Even before its successful release, so confident were the publishers of the exciting story that they asked Martin for a sequel. Although the full diary had already been employed in the first novel, Martin took the characters he had come to know and love and projected them onto the fascinating canvas of the Napoleonic era. The result, *Against a Crimson Sky*, was released in August of 2006 to glowing reviews.

The Polish edition of the first book, *Nie ponaglaj rzeki*, was a 2005 bestseller in Poland, and the first printing sold out in a matter of months. The sequel was purchased for a Polish translation. Martin is convinced—as are legions of his readers—that Anna's story will one day find its way to the screen.

Lynne Olson
for promotion of Polish history and culture



Lynne Olson

Lynne Olson has been a reporter and writer since her graduation from the University of Arizona. In 1971 she went to work for the Associated Press in Salt Lake City, and in 1972 transferred to the AP's San Francisco bureau, where she specialized in feature writing. Later that same year, Olson was named to AP's top feature writing team in New York, which focused on developing and writing stories about the country's rapidly changing social mores. In 1973 she was asked by the AP to become the wire service's first woman correspondent in Moscow, and she moved to the AP's foreign desk to prepare for the assignment. She was based in Moscow from 1974 to 1976, once again concentrating on feature stories but also covering such news events as the Apollo-Soyuz space mission and President Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union. In 1976, Olson was reassigned to Washington, where she was chosen to cover Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign. After Carter became president, Olson joined the Washington bureau of the Baltimore Sun, where she covered national politics and eventually the White House. In 1981, she quit the Sun to become a freelance writer.

She has written for such publications as *American Heritage*, *Smithsonian*, *Working Woman*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Ms.*, *Elle*, *Glamour*, *Washington Journalism Review* and *Baltimore Magazine*. She also taught journalism for five years as an assistant professor at American University in Washington.

Olson and her husband, Stanley Cloud, are co-authors of *The Murrow Boys*, which was named one of the best books in 1996 by *Publishers Weekly*. *Freedom's Daughters*, Olson's second book, is the first comprehensive history of women in the civil rights movement, was published by Scribner in February 2001 and won a Christopher Award in 2002. Olson joined with Cloud again to write *A Question of Honor: The Kosciuszko Squadron: Forgotten Heroes of World War II*, published by Alfred A. Knopf in September 2003. Olson's fourth book, *Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England*, will be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in April 2007. She is working on a book about how the occupied countries of Europe, prominently including Poland, continued the fight against Hitler from London and helped win World War II.

Professor Thaddeus Piotrowski
for promotion of Polish history and culture



Thaddeus Piotrowski
born 1944

A native of the province of Wolyn (Volhynia—formerly a part of Poland, now in the Ukraine),

Dr. Thaddeus Piotrowski received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire in Manchester, where he also teaches courses in anthropology and the Holocaust, and where he served as the Associate Dean of Faculty. He is the recipient of the Outstanding Associate Professor Award, the Faculty Scholar Award, and a three-year Carpenter Professorship Award (all from the University of New Hampshire), as well as the Cultural Achievement Award from the American Council for Polish Culture, the Literary Award from the Polish Sociocultural Centre of the Polish Library in London, and the Interpreter of Perennial Wisdom Award from the Monuments Conservancy of New York. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Artwork of Jan Komski, Auschwitz Eyewitness.

His major books include *Vengeance of the Swallows* (1995), *Poland's Holocaust* (1998), *Genocide and Rescue in Wolyn* (2000), *The Indian Heritage of New Hampshire and Northern New England* (2002), and *The Polish Deportees of World War II* (2004). In addition, Professor Piotrowski has authored several minor works, including 12 studies of Manchester's various ethnic groups.

In Manchester, he has served as president of the International Center and was a board member of the Presidents' Council and the Human Services Council. He has also served as a book editor, book reviewer, manuscript referee, and translator. He has given over 50 talks on local and regional ethnic history, east central European history and the Holocaust to university audiences, the general public and professional organizations in America, Canada, England and Poland.

Year 2006 Recipients

Dr. Marek Jan Chodakiewicz for outstanding achievements in the field of Polish history



**Marek Jan
Chodakiewicz**
born 1962

Marek Jan Chodakiewicz is a Polish-American historian who specializes in Eastern and Central European history of the 19th and 20th century. His interests include Jewish-Polish relations, extremist movements, and World War II and its aftermath.

Born and raised in Warsaw, he arrived in California in 1982. He earned a B.A. degree from San Francisco State University in 1988 and a Ph.D. with distinction from Columbia University in 2001. Between 2001 and 2003 Dr. Chodakiewicz was an assistant professor with the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. Since 2003 he has been teaching at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, DC, where he continues his research. In April 2005 President George W. Bush appointed him for a 5-year term to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Dr. Chodakiewicz authored, co-authored, edited and co-edited several scholarly monographs and documentary collections as well as academic and popular articles in English and Polish. Among his recent publications are *The Massacre in Jedwabne, July 10, 1941: Before, During, After* (2005), *Between Nazis and Soviets: Occupation Politics in Poland, 1939-1947* (2004), and *After the Holocaust: Polish-Jewish Conflict in the Wake of World War Two* (2003). In 2004 he co-edited a selection of Ronald Reagan's speeches published in Polish as *My Vision of America*.

Walter Zachariasiewicz for outstanding achievements in the field of Polish-American relations



**Walter
Zachariasiewicz**
born 1911

A devoted patriot, Walther Zachariasiewicz emerged as a talented leader during his early years at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where he was elected President of the Student Democratic Association and International Student Fellowship. During World War II, while crossing the Romanian border to join the Polish Army in France, he was captured and deported to the Siberian gulag. Liberated after three years, he was appointed by the Free Polish Government in London to establish a Polish Welfare Office in the Russian city Chelyabinsk that would assist Poles released from Soviet incarceration. Arrested by the notorious Soviet NKVD, he was accused of political crimes, interrogated and tortured. Freed after four months thanks to the special intervention of the Polish Embassy, Zachariasiewicz was appointed to the Polish government's Special Project office in Istanbul. His next mission was in Rome, where he was again in charge of caring for Polish refugees. In 1946 he evacuated with General Anders' army to London and two years later emigrated to the United States to become one of the leaders of New York's Polish-American community.

In recognition of his role, he was elected to the boards of directors of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Aid and the American Immigration Conference. Later he coordinated the activities of thirteen ethnic groups active in the elections campaigns of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

With a special place in his heart for his heritage, Zachariasiewicz became involved in the National Council of Polish Cultural Clubs and the Polish Affairs Committee of the Polish American Congress. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and personally appointed by the Holy Father to the Board of Directors of the John Paul II Foundation. His many awards include a distinction as Knight Commander with a Star in the Order of Saint Gregory by Pope John Paul II and Knight Commander With a Star in the Order of Polonia Restituta by the President of Poland. He authored a book entitled *The Independence Ethos of American Polonia*.

Year 2005 Recipients

Teresa Zylis-Gara for outstanding achievements in the world of opera

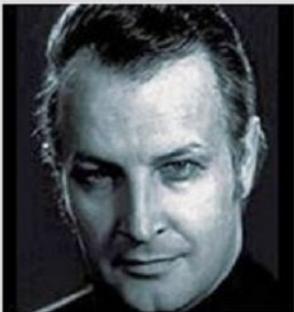


Teresa Zylis-Gara
born 1935

A lyrical soprano and one of the most accomplished Polish opera singers of the 20th century, Ms. Zylis-Gara was born in Vilnius and studied in Lodz. In 1956 she made her debut at the Krakow Opera as the heroine of Stanislaw Moniuszko's *Halka*. Her next success at a radio competition in Munich in 1960 allowed her to perform on German stages in Oberhausen, Dortmund and Düsseldorf and later at the renowned English festival at Glyndebourne. Her real breakthrough came in 1966 in Paris, where she performed the part of Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Juan*. Later she was invited to perform in Salzburg with the famous conductor Herbert von Karajan at London's Covent Garden as Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*, then at the San Francisco opera and eventually at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Zylis-Gara has also worked with the opera theatres in Berlin, Hamburg and Munich, as well as with Milan's La Scala and Vienna's Staatsoper.

Her repertoire includes 24 parts in works by Verdi, R. Strauss, Puccini, Mozart and Chausson. Among her stage partners are such celebrities as José Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti. In the recent years, Zylis-Gara has been devoting much of her time to teaching, leading singing workshops in Monaco, where she now lives, as well as in other parts of Europe and the United States.

Wieslaw Ochman for outstanding achievements in the world of opera



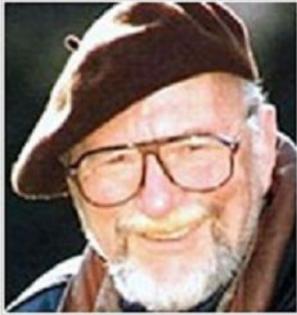
Wieslaw Ochman
born 1937

An internationally famous Warsaw-born lyrical tenor. Wieslaw Ochman debuted in 1960 at the Silesian Opera in Bytom and in the following years performed at the Krakow Opera and the Grand Theatre in Warsaw. His international career began in 1967 in Berlin, followed by opera festivals in Salzburg and Glyndebourne and engagements in Munich, Hamburg, Paris Chicago and San Francisco. In 1975 he debuted at New York's Metropolitan Opera in Verdi's *The Sicilian Vespers*. Soon he formed a permanent collaboration with the Hamburg Staatsoper and the Berlin Staatsoper.

Since then he has sung in the most prominent opera houses and philharmonics (including La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, and Covent Garden) in the company of the greatest opera stars and orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic under Karl Böhm and Herbert von Karajan. Ochman has been a frequent guest at concert halls in Vienna, Munich, Cologne, New York, Milan, Chicago, Paris, San Francisco, Geneva, Zurich, Moscow, Madrid, Buenos Aires, and Barcelona. His performances are noted for refined and precise interpretation as well as suggestive acting talent. Ochman has also been involved in various charitable organizations that support culture and award scholarships.

Year 2004 Recipients

Jerzy Hoffman for promoting Polish culture and history through films



Jerzy Hoffman
born 1932

Jerzy Hoffman is an acclaimed director and screenwriter best known for his adaptations of Polish literary classics. Although he was born in Krakow, Hoffman grew up in Siberia where his family was displaced during World War II. After the war he returned to Poland to study at the State Film Institute in Moscow, from which he graduated in 1955.

Hoffman debuted as a documentary director and gained critical acclaim early on. He ensured his place in the history of Polish cinema by filming the epic trilogy of historic novels by Nobel Prize winner Henryk Sienkiewicz. He turned them into three films, debuting with *Colonel Wolodyjowski* in 1969, and *The Deluge* which followed in 1974 and competed for an Oscar in the Foreign Language Film category. To make the long anticipated third part titled *By Fire and Sword* (1999), Hoffman had to wait for a change of the political system because the novel described a 17th century war with the Ukraine (which at that time was a part of Poland). In 2003 the director filmed another literary classic *When the Sun Was God*, a story about the legendary Slavic forefathers of the Polish nation. For his achievements Hoffman received four awards from the Polish Ministry of Culture and several prizes at national film festivals.

Barbara Krafftowna for outstanding achievements in the performing arts



Barbara Krafftowna
born 1928

Barbara Krafftowna is a beloved Polish film, stage and television actress. Born in Warsaw and educated at the prestigious Old Theater in Krakow, after stage debut in 1946, she performed mostly at the Dramatic Theater in Warsaw. Krafftowna's melodic voice made her famous through television performances in the *Two Elderly Gentlemen's Show* in 1960s. Her witty characters and songs are still popular among generations of the show's devoted fans.

Throughout the decades she starred in more than 30 television and movie productions, proving to be a remarkable talent in dramas and comedies alike. Some of her most outstanding performances include roles in films directed by Wojciech Has, such as *The Manuscript Found in Saragossa* (1965) and her leading role in his *How To Be Loved* (1962) earned her the Best Actress award at the Golden Gate Film Festival in San Francisco. Krafftowna also worked together with such iconic Polish directors as Andrzej Wajda and Kazimierz Kutz.

In 1982 she moved to Los Angeles but frequently returned to Poland to guest star in film and television productions.

Year 2003 Recipients

Jolanta Kwasniewska for her charitable endeavors



Jolanta Kwasniewska
born 1955

The former Polish First Lady (1995-2005) grew up in Gdansk, where she graduated with a law degree from the University of Gdansk. There she met Aleksander Kwacniewski and they married in 1979. Later she established a real estate agency where she worked until her husband became the President of the Republic of Poland.

As First Lady she devoted her time to helping the disabled and the poor, with emphasis on children. In 1997 Mrs. Kwasniewska established the Communication Without Barriers Foundation, making traveling abroad possible for many Polish orphans and disabled children. Together with her husband she also founded the Young Talent Help Fund, which sponsors underprivileged students.

Mrs. Kwasniewska is a member of Comité des Sages, established by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, to develop a global plan to fight drug use. She has received many awards, including the Holy Brother Albert - Adam Chmielowski prize for care for disabled children (1997), the international Order of Smile (1998), the Doctor Henryk Jordan medal for assistance to children and their families, the medal "For Your Children and Ours" granted by the American Centre of Polish Culture in Washington (1999), The Golden Heart Award by the Polish Red Cross (2000), the "Optimus Hominum" Annual Award for Humanitarian Activities and the award For The Future of Children of Europe from the Hungarian Future of Europe Association (2002). In 2005 she was suggested as a possible presidential successor, but she ruled out a run, even though public opinion polls found that she would have been a popular candidate.

Martha Stewart for her entrepreneurial spirit



Martha Stewart
born 1941

Martha Stewart - media tycoon, "domestic diva," business magnate and, during the early 2000's, a subject of an insider trading controversy and a lengthy litigation. The story was hard to miss.

Not everyone, however, knows that Martha Stewart was born Martha Helen Kostyra to a large middle-class Polish-American family in New Jersey. Instilled with a strong work ethic by her parents, she mastered common household chores such as cooking, sewing, decorating and gardening early on, which proved to be the keystones of her success. She excelled in school and majored in History and Architectural History at Barnard College in New York City. In the meantime she also worked as a model. Later Stewart focused on developing business skills, became a stockbroker and eventually opened a catering company. Noticed for her talent and great taste, she was approached by the Crown Publishing Group to co-author a book; entitled *Entertaining*, it quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller.

Stewart followed with more cookbooks and magazine columns and gradually became a household name and a national authority on everything from baking to wedding parties. In 1990 she developed her own magazine, *Martha Stewart Living*, and three years later launched a TV show. In 1997 she went even further, consolidating her various ventures under the multi-million dollar company Martha Stewart Omnimedia. Despite the legal turmoil and media frenzy that began in 2002, the resilient entrepreneur made a strong comeback. As of 2006, she was once again involved in her multimedia business and expanded the popular Martha Stewart Everyday line at Kmart. She went back on television with *Martha*, a show nominated in 6 categories at the 2006 Daytime Emmy Awards, and Omnimedia launched a line of 650 Martha-style houses to be built nationwide.

Year 2002 Recipients

Eleni Tzoka for achievements in the field of entertainment



Eleni Tzoka
born 1956

One of the most popular Polish female singers, Eleni Tzoka was born in Bielawa, Poland, to a Greek family with rich artistic traditions. Eleni had been singing since childhood, and in high school debuted with her first band Ballada. In 1975 she started to sing professionally with the band Prometheus and recorded her first record titled *On the Sunny Side of Life*.

Since then, Eleni recorded more than 20 albums, including beautiful renditions of Polish Christmas carols. Most of her records reached Gold Album status in Poland, and in 1986 she received the prestigious "Victor" statuette. The mood of her songs is warm and sunny, celebrating the two cultures close to her heart. Besides Poland, Eleni has performed in France, Sweden, the United States, Canada and Australia.

Dr. Nikos Chadzinikolau for the promotion of Polish and Greek cultures



Nikos Chadzinikolau
1935-2009

A Greek-born poet, translator, historian and an avid promoter of Polish-Greek cultural exchange, Nikos Chadzinikolau came to Poland when he was 15 years old. After majoring in Polish literature and linguistics, he worked as a teacher in high school and later taught Greek at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

Dr. Chadzinikolau published more than 100 books, including 30 collections of poems, two novels and the first Polish textbook about Greek literature between the years 1453 and 1983. His many distinctions include awards from both the Greek and the Polish ministries of culture, a Gold Cross of Merit, Cavalier's Cross of Polonia Restituta, and the Orpheus' Gold Lire and Laurels of Acropolis.

Dr. Chadzinikolau launched a Greek-Polish Friendship Association, which promotes Greek singers in Poland, as well as Polish folk groups in Greece. He translated more than 130 Polish authors into Greek, including poems by Polish Nobel Prize winners Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska, and he also translated hundreds of Greek masterpieces into Polish. Among them are such classics as *The Iliad*, *Antigone*, *Electra*, *King Oedipus*, and *Aesop's Fables*.

Year 2001 Recipients

President Ryszard Kaczorowski for outstanding achievements in the shaping of modern history



Ryszard Kaczorowski
1919 -2010

Ryszard Kaczorowski was born in Bialystok in eastern Poland. When the Soviet Union invaded Poland on September 17, 1939, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, he immediately joined the underground movement. He also clandestinely created a scouting movement in Poland against the Soviet mandates. He was arrested by the Soviet NKWD and sentenced to death, which was later commuted to 10 years in a Kolyma Gulag. After an amnesty in 1941 President Kaczorowski joined the Polish forces forming under General Anders and took part in the 1944/1945 Italian Campaign, including the famous siege of Monte Cassino. Unable to return to Soviet-occupied Poland at the end of the war, he chose exile in Britain, where he later became the head of the Polish Scouting Union (ZHP) in Exile.

In 1986 Kaczorowski joined the Polish Government in Exile and after the death of Kazimierz Sabbat in 1989, he became the sixth and the last President of Poland in Exile. In 1990 Poland held first free presidential elections after the war. In December 1990 Ryszard Kaczorowski flew to Poland, where he handed the presidential insignia over to Lech Walesa during a moving ceremony in the Royal Palace of Warsaw.

Count Adam Zamoyski for outstanding achievements in literature



Count Adam Zamoyski
born 1949

A member of the old Polish noble family that left the country during World War II and stayed in exile during the decades of Communist regime, Adam Zamoyski was born in New York and brought up in England, where he graduated from The Queen's College in Oxford. In the 1960s he began to visit Poland, drawn by his passion for history and interest in his heritage. In 1979 he published the award winning biography of Frederick Chopin, which has become an important reference for scholars. He soon wrote a biography of the pianist and statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski, followed by an account of the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920, and then *The Polish Way: A Thousand-year History of the Poles and Their Culture*, which stayed on the British best-seller lists for several weeks.

Subsequent works include *The Last King of Poland*, *The Forgotten Few* (a history of the Polish Air Force in World War II), *Holy Madness: Romantics, Patriots and Revolutionaries 1776-1871 and 1812*, *Napoleon's Fatal March on Moscow*. Active in public life and the life of Polonia, Count Zamoyski has been a member of the Princes Czartoryski Foundation, Society of Authors, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London, the Societe Historique Et Litteraire Polonaise in Paris and several other organizations. In 1981 he founded the Committee for Relief to Hospitals in Poland and in 1990 the Foundation of St. John in Warsaw, which helps the poor and the handicapped. He is also active in the Maximillian Kolbe home for the elderly in London. The Polish Government decorated Count Zamoyski twice with the Order of Polonia Restituta for his leadership and dedication.

Year 2000 Recipients

Stephanie Powers for outstanding achievements in the performing arts



Stephanie Powers
born 1942

Stephanie Powers is a veteran of over 200 television appearances, and best known for ABC's 1980s hit *Hart to Hart*, for which she received two Emmy and five Golden Globe nominations for "best TV actress". She was born Stefania Zofia Federkiewicz to Polish-American parents in Hollywood, CA, and at 15, signed a movie deal with Columbia Pictures and was soon labeled as one of America's brightest rising stars. The stunning redhead appeared in several movies in the early 1960s and eventually focused on television, gaining international fame as Jennifer Hart.

In 1974, Powers formed a relationship with actor and pioneer of African preservation, William Holden, and became involved in conservation work at his Kenyan ranch. Following Holden's death in 1981, Powers became the president of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. She has been a tireless advocate of wildlife preservation and animal rights, but has not given up acting.

In 1993 she won the Sarah Siddons Award for her stage performance in *Love Letters*. During 2003 to 2005, she toured the UK and the U.S. in the singing role of Anna Leonowens in a revival of *The King and I*. For her contribution to the television industry, Powers received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Aleksander Wolszczan for outstanding achievements in the field of astrophysics



Aleksander Wolszczan
born 1946

Aleksander Wolszczan is a Polish astronomer who co-discovered the first confirmed planets beyond the solar system. Educated at the famous Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland, he moved to the U.S. in 1982 to work at Cornell University in Ithaca and Princeton University. Later he became a Professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Pennsylvania State University.

Professor Wolszczan and a Canadian astronomer Dale Frail carried out observations from the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico that led them to the discovery of the pulsar PSR B1257+12 in 1990. The data analysis showed that the pulsar is orbited by two planets with a mass 4.3 and 2.8 times that of the Earth's mass. It was the first extra-solar system discovered in the universe whose existence had been proven. The findings were published in 1992 and 1994, and in 1996 Professor Wolszczan received the Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize from the American Astronomical Society. Since 1994 he has also been a professor at his alma mater in Torun and a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN).

Year 1999 Recipients

Senator Barbara Mikulski for her achievements in the field of governance



Barbara Mikulski is the great-granddaughter of Polish immigrants who owned a local bakery, who was raised in historic and ethnically diverse East Baltimore. After receiving her Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland, Mikulski went to work on the front lines of President John F. Kennedy's war against poverty. In 1976, she ran for the House of Representatives, winning 76% of the vote. Although in 1986 Mikulski announced her retirement from politics, she decided later to run for the Senate seat vacated by retiring Senator Charles Mathias. She won the race and since then has been re-elected with large majorities in 1992, 1998 and 2004, making her the most senior female U.S. senator.

Senator Mikulski has never forgotten about her heritage. She has been shedding light on the Soviet massacre of Polish officers and intelligentsia in Katyn and served as an honorary member of the Polish Women's Alliance. Senator Mikulski worked together with Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) to introduce legislation that would designate Poland as a candidate for the U.S. visa waiver program. "Poland is a reliable ally, not just by treaty but in deed." Senator Mikulski reminded Congress in 2005.

Zygmunt Sulistrowski for his efforts to preserve the Amazonian ecology



Zygmunt Sulistrowski
1922-2007

An ecologist and film maker, Zygmunt Sulistrowski devoted 30 years to the preservation of the Amazon region at his 27,000-acre Great Ecological Reserve called The Forest of Life. Born and raised in Poland, he fought in the underground army (AK) and took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising during World War II. In 1946 he moved to Paris where he graduated from the French Film Academy as a director/producer. He worked on several British productions and eventually moved to California, where he established the International Film Enterprises in Hollywood.

In 1951 Sulistrowski visited Rio de Janeiro and fell in love with Brazil. Fascinated by the native Indians' way of life and the beauty of the jungle, he made *Naked Amazon* (1954), which was nominated for the Grand Prize at the Cannes International Film Festival. Throughout the years, many of his films were presented at festivals in Cannes, Berlin and Brazil. Most tell stories about love, adventure and suspense in remote locations in South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

In 1988 Sulistrowski moved his office from Hollywood to Manaus in north-west Brazil and founded The Research and Preservation Center of Amazonian Ecology. In 1991 he built the Green Land Lodge Hotel, where he promoted ecotourism, and encouraged research of the area's biological and genetic diversity.

Year 1998 Recipient

Professor Norman Davies
for his contributions to the appreciation of the history of Poland



Norman Davies

A British historian renowned for his publications on the history of Poland, Norman Davies studied history at Magdalen College, Oxford, and after stays in France and Italy went to Krakow, where he received his Ph.D. from the Jagiellonian University doing research on the Polish-Soviet war. Later he taught Polish history at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at the University of London, where he was a professor until 1996. Now Professor Davies is Supernumerary Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford.

The work that established his reputation was a comprehensive overview of Polish history titled *God's Playground* (1981), which made him immediately popular in Poland and after 1989 became required school reading. In 1984 he wrote *Heart of Europe*, a description of the role of the past in the Polish present. In the 1990s, Davies returned with two monumental works on the history of Europe as a whole (1996) and the British Isles (1999), where he sought to expose what he thought was the myth of a British nationality. His recent work, *Rising '44*, released on the day of the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, was enthusiastically received in Poland and abroad.

Poles have a special place in their hearts for Davies, not only because he has been shedding light on Poland's history and its role in Europe, but also for his dedication to the correction of persisting historical distortions about Poland, especially those related to the Holocaust.

Year 1997 Recipient

Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski
for achievements in the fields of medicine and discovery of anti-cancer drugs



Stanislaw Burzynski
born 1943

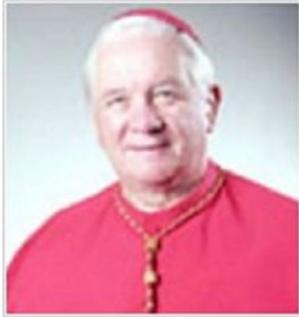
Stanislaw Burzynski is known for the discovery of a promising and controversial cancer cure: antineoplastons. His experimental treatments evoke skepticism, but Dr. Burzynski used antineoplastons for 30 years in the treatment of more than 3,000 patients. Many survivors claim that he saved their lives.

Dr. Burzynski received an M.D. from the Medical Academy in Lubin, Poland in 1967. In 1970, he came to the United States and worked in the department of anesthesiology at Baylor University, TX. He received a grant to study the effect of urinary peptides on the growth of cancer cells, and by 1976 isolated dozens of previously unknown peptides. After a series of tests he discovered that some of them, which he called antineoplastons, attacked cancer cells without harming normal cells. Soon he began using them on patients in his private clinic in Houston, raising eyebrows in the medical community. A 14-year long legal battle followed between Dr. Burzynski and the FDA.

The doctor - and his patients - emerged triumphant in 1997. Other medical research centers have replicated Dr. Burzynski's work, among them the National Cancer Institute, the Medical College of Georgia, the Imperial College of London and the University of Kurume Medical School in Japan. He continues to save lives in his Houston clinic under the Hippocrates's motto: "First, do not harm."

Year 1996 Recipient

His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida
for his extraordinary vision, leadership and efforts to establish the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.



**Adam Joseph
Cardinal Maida,
born 1930**

Born in the Pittsburgh suburb of East Vandergrift into a family of Polish immigrants, Cardinal Maida grew up surrounded by the Roman Catholic faith of his community. After serving in the diocese of Pittsburgh, he became a bishop in the Green Bay diocese in Wisconsin. In 1990 Pope John Paul II named him the Archbishop of Detroit and four years later proclaimed him a cardinal. Cardinal Maida became one of the founding fathers of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. It opened in 2001 in a grand ceremony with President George W. Bush, guests from the Vatican, U.S. Congressmen as well as Blanka Rosenstiel – one of the Center's initiators and Cardinal Maida's long time friend. In April 2005, following the Pope's death, he traveled to the Vatican to participate in the papal conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Cardinal Maida has remained in touch with his roots by traveling to Poland. In June 2006 he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. With a long list of academic titles – Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, degrees in theology and canon law and a doctorate in civil law – Cardinal Maida is first and foremost a servant of God. "Even in a dream I couldn't imagine the experiences that I've had as a priest," he told *The Michigan Catholic* in 2006, "just doing every day what I thought was God's will, responding to God's call. There were many happy moments, but also many challenging moments."

Year 1995 Recipient

The Honorable Stanley Haidasz
for efforts on behalf of humanity



**Honorable Stanley
Haidasz
M.D., born 1923**

A Canadian politician and the first Liberal Member of Parliament (MP) of Polish descent, Stanley Haidasz was born into a family of Polish immigrants who came to Canada in 1910. He studied medicine at the University of Toronto, and did post-graduate work in cardiology at the University of Chicago.

He entered politics during the 1957 election, and became the Liberal MP for the Toronto riding of Trinity. In 1962 he returned to the Canadian House of Commons and retained his seat through five succeeding elections until his appointment to the Canadian Senate in 1978. In the 1960s he served as head of Canada's delegation to the World Food Program in Geneva, as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, and as parliamentary secretary to a number of ministers. In 1972 he was appointed to the Canadian Cabinet as Minister of State for multiculturalism.

Year 1994 Recipient

Boleslaw Wierzbianski
for outstanding achievements in the field of journalism



**Boleslaw
Wierzbianski**
1913-2003

Boleslaw Wierzbianski was the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of an important Polish-American daily newspaper, *Nowy Dziennik*, in New York City. His colleagues referred to him as "a man of principle." "He wanted to influence his readers and was persistently objective. He understood the spirit of the modern press, believed in the power of the media and never feared taking a stand and searching for hidden meanings. His entire life was a struggle for a free homeland and a free press." (*Warsaw Voice News*, April 3, 2003).

Wierzbianski's ties to journalism date back to his years at Warsaw University, where he studied law and economics until 1938. After the war he became the President of the Union of Journalists of Poland in Exile, and the President of the International Federation of Free Journalists. In 1956, he settled in the United States and 15 years later established the Manhattan-based *Nowy Dziennik*.

In 1989, Wierzbianski took part in the historic Round Table talks in Warsaw as a reporter of *Nowy Dziennik* and a representative of the Polish-American Congress. In 1999, President Aleksander Kwasniewski decorated him with the highest Polish distinction - the Order of the White Eagle.

Year 1993 Recipient

Henryk de Kwiatkowski
for outstanding achievements in the promotion of Poland



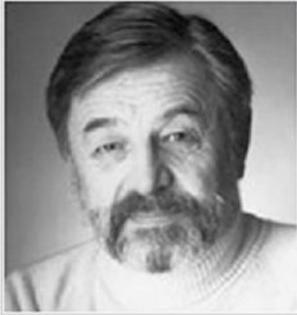
**Henryk de
Kwiatkowski**
1924-2003

A Polish-born American entrepreneur, British-educated aerospace engineer and a World War II veteran, Henryk de Kwiatkowski was a charismatic man of Old World charm who spoke 10 languages and owned a multi-million dollar fortune. After the invading German and Soviet troops had killed his parents and four of six siblings during World War II, he ended up in a Siberian gulag. De Kwiatkowski managed to escape and reach England, where he trained to become a pilot and parachuted into Nazi-occupied territories on secret missions. In 1957 he arrived in the United States, where his entrepreneurial talents flourished.

De Kwiatkowski made a fortune as the owner of an aviation brokerage firm with headquarters in New York's Rockefeller Center. He also had an avid interest in horse racing, which brought him to the pinnacle of this volatile business. He owned some of the best race horses in the world (including 1982 North American Horse of the Year, *Conquistador Cielo*), a Polo team in Palm Beach, FL; and the famous Calumet horse farm in Lexington, KY which he saved from bankruptcy. He always remained a Polish patriot, emphasizing his heritage with pride.

Year 1992 Recipient

Wieslaw Kuniczak
for outstanding achievements in literature



Wieslaw Kuniczak
1930-2000

A noted writer and translator of Polish literature, Wieslaw Kuniczak was born in Lwow and escaped to England during World War II. In 1958 he became an American citizen and settled in Pennsylvania. He wrote *The Thousand Hour Day* (1966), a trilogy of Polish experiences in World War II, which was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1984. His other works include *Valedictory*, the story of an ace pilot in the Polish Air Force during the war, and the award-winning *My Name Is Million: An Illustrated History of the Poles in America* (1978).

Kuniczak is also known for his controversial "modern translations" of works by the famous 19th century Polish historical novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz (*Quo Vadis*, *With Fire and Sword*). His accessible style and modern language, praised in the *New York Times'* Book Review section, attracted many who had never read Sienkiewicz in English.

Year 1991 Recipient

President Lech Walesa
for launching an avalanche of freedom



Lech Walesa,
born 1943
President of Poland
(1991-1995)

Lech Walesa hardly needs introduction. As one of the most widely recognized Poles in the world, he remains the symbol of Polish resistance against the Communist regime. In the 1970s he took part in the first demonstrations and strikes of Gdansk shipyard workers and emerged as an anti-government union activist. Fired and arrested several times, Walesa returned to the protesters in August 1980 to lead the inter-factory strike committee that linked workers from 20 factories in the area. The Communist Party leadership finally agreed to meet with Walesa and listen to the strikers, and in September the first Independent self-governing trade union, "Solidarity," was born. By the end of the turbulent 1980s marked by Martial Law, more protests, and the Round Table talks in 1989, Solidarity won the parliamentary elections. One year later Walesa was elected president of Poland.

Today he heads the Lech Walesa Institute Foundation in Warsaw. In addition to many international awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize (1983), he holds honorary doctorate degrees from several U.S. and European universities.

Year 1990 recipients

The Hon. Edward Rowny for outstanding achievements in diplomacy



Edward Rowny,
born 1917
Former Ambassador
and Retired
Lieutenant General
US Army

An American general of Polish descent, Edward Rowny began his military career following graduation from Johns Hopkins University and the U.S. Military Academy, attained two Masters degrees from Yale and a Ph.D. from American University in Washington, D.C.

He fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, commanding units from platoon to corps size. In the 1970s and 1980s General Rowny served as ambassador and advisor during the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in Geneva and as the chief negotiator of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). From 1985 to 1990, he was a special advisor for arms control to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. In 1989, President Reagan awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal, as "one of the principal architects of America's policy of peace through strength."

Since 1990 General Rowny served as a consultant, advising government officials and private organizations on political, military and business affairs in Russia , Ukraine, Poland , China , Japan and Korea.

Krzysztof Penderecki for outstanding achievements in the field of music



Krzysztof Penderecki
born 1933

Krzysztof Penderecki is one of the most esteemed and widely discussed classical composers of our time. His nearly one hundred compositions include four operas, eight symphonies, choral and chamber works and concertos.

Penderecki grew up in Krakow, where he studied and later taught at the Academy of Music. In 1959 three of his works won first prizes in the Polish Composers' Union competition. His reputation spread abroad with such pieces as *Anaklasis*, *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima*, and *The Passion According to St. Luke* to an unusually wide audience for contemporary works. Penderecki soon received commissions throughout Europe and the U.S.

Penderecki's prizes include the First Class State Award (1968, 1983), the Sibelius Prize (1983), the Premio Lorenzo Magnifico (1985), the Israeli Karl Wolff Foundation Prize (1987), a Grammy Award (1988) and a UNESCO International Music Council Award (1993). He has honorary doctorates from universities in Rochester, Washington, Bordeaux, Belgrade, Madrid, Warsaw, Glasgow and others. He is an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in London, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Musikaliska Akademien in Stockholm, and Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes in Buenos Aires to name just a few.

In 1990 Penderecki received the Great Cross of the Order of Merit in Germany, and in 1993 Monaco's Order of Cultural Merit. That same year he was decorated with the Commander's Cross with the Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta. He has conducted prominent symphony orchestras in the United States and Europe, and in 1996 the performance of his piece *Seven Gates of Jerusalem*, commissioned by the city, commemorated the celebrations of "Jerusalem - 3000 Years" in Israel.

Year 1989 Recipient

Jerzy Kosinski for outstanding achievements in literature



Jerzy Kosinski
1933-1991

Jerzy Kosinski was a Polish novelist of Jewish origin, who survived World War II under a false identity in a Catholic family in eastern Poland. After the war, Kosinski was reunited with his parents and earned degrees in history and political science from the University of Lodz. In 1957 he immigrated to the United States.

Kosinski is best known for the surreal novels *The Painted Bird* (1965) and *Being There* (1971), which was later made into a movie starring Peter Sellers. Kosinski's screenplay won the 1980 British Academy of Film and Television Arts Best Screenplay Award and the Writers Guild of America Award, and Mr. Sellers won the Academy Award for his performance in the title role. Kosinski's 1968 novel *Steps* won the National Book Award.

In 1991 Kosinski committed suicide, leaving behind a note: "I am going to put myself to sleep now for a bit longer than usual. Call the time Eternity." He remains a controversial figure. After the publishing of *The Painted Bird* he was accused of confabulation and anti-Polonism but always defended himself maintaining that the novel was pure fiction and a general metaphor for the human condition.

Year 1987 recipients

James Michener for outstanding achievements in literature



James Michener
1907-1997

James Michener was an American author of more than 40 historical novels. His first book, *Tales of the South Pacific*, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1948. In 1983 he published *Poland* – the result of nearly a dozen trips to the country and thorough research of its history and customs. The novel spans eight centuries and describes the destinies of three Polish families.

Known for his sweeping sagas and detailed family stories woven with meticulously researched historical facts, Michener traveled through most of the U.S. and the world, studying many cultures. His prodigious bibliography includes *The Drifters*, *Hawaii*, *Centennial*, *Chesapeake*, *Caribbean*, *Alaska*, and *Texas*. In 1977 President Ford awarded him the Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor. In 1990 Michener once again wrote about Poland in *Pilgrimage: A Memoir of Poland & Rome*, which is a record of his two-week tour through those countries, with an introduction by Lech Walesa.

Loretta Swit for outstanding achievements in the performing arts



American actress and daughter of Polish immigrants who settled in Passaic, New Jersey. Loretta Swit is best known for her portrayal of Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan in the 1970s television series *M*A*S*H*, for which she won two Emmy awards. She studied under acting coach Gene Frankel in Manhattan and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

She began her career with the 1967 national touring company *Any Wednesday* and continued as a Pigeon sister in an L.A. run of *The Odd Couple* and later as Agnes Gooch in the Las Vegas version of *Mame*. Arriving in Hollywood in 1970, she merited attention for her sharp and funny TV roles in *Gunsmoke*, *Mission: Impossible* and *Mannix*.

Loretta Swit
born 1937

Since the success of M*A*S*H, Swit has kept her visibility on screen in a few supporting roles as well as on stage in Broadway's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. In 1991 she was honored with the Sarah Siddons Award for Shirley Valentine in the Chicago Theater. She is also known as a political and social activist as well as an outspoken advocate of animal rights.