

# COMMEMORATION



THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA  
1863 - 1963

**CENTENNIAL PROGRAM**  
OF THE  
**POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA**

**CELEBRATED ON JULY 6, 1963**

MARK HOPKINS HOTEL  
CALIFORNIA & MASON  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



**JOHN F. KENNEDY**

The President of the United States



I am proud to serve on the Honorary Committee for the 100th anniversary of the Polish Society of California.

We are a nation of many peoples, many traditions and many cultures. And I believe one of our great strengths is the pride with which we recognize our own national and ethnic origins.

This, above all else, is the reason why America has a richness of culture, a deep rooting with the past, which unite as a nation even as they honor and respect the differences among us.

The Polish Americans of California, descendants of a people for whom freedom was a creed, not merely a word, have made many vital contributions to our state and our country. As Governor, I extend to your society the best wishes of California's more than 17 million citizens.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edmund G. Brown".

EDMUND G. BROWN, Governor



**EDMUND G. BROWN**  
Governor of California

By Assemblyman Phillip Burton:

*Commemorating the One-hundredth Anniversary  
Of the Polish Society of California*

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, Polish patriots who, after the unsuccessful January uprising of 1863, emigrated to the United States of America, organized the Polish Society of California with Captain Bielawski as their leader and first President; and

WHEREAS, In 1880 this group joined the newly organized Polish National Alliance in an effort to create a united Polish organization of national significance, to work more effectively in the cause of liberation and freedom of their enslaved homeland, and also to extend fraternal help to Poles and Americans of Polish descent in all fields of government, politics, and humanitarian activities; and

WHEREAS, From these pioneering beginnings the Polish National Alliance has become the largest Polish American fraternal organization in the United States today, with a membership of over 370,000 and assets of over \$115,000,000; and

WHEREAS, In celebration of the centennial anniversary of the organization of the Polish Society of California, a banquet and program has been planned to be held on July 6, 1963 in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, At that time homage will be paid to the many achievements and cultural contributions of the Polish Americans in the Western States of the United States; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the members take this opportunity to extend their sincere and hearty congratulations to the Polish Society of California on its 100th Anniversary and to its many members throughout the State; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly is directed to transmit a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the Polish Society of California.

Resolution read, and referred by the Speaker pro Tempore to the Committee on Rules.

# Senate Resolution No. 185

By Senator McAteer:

Relative to the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Society of California

WHEREAS, The Polish Society of California, which was formed in 1863 by a group of Polish patriots who had emigrated to California, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, The event will be commemorated at a special program to be held in San Francisco on July 6, 1963; and

WHEREAS, The Polish Society of California, which is a part of the Polish National Alliance, the largest Polish-American fraternal organization in the United States, has, during its existence, done outstanding work in furthering the cause of liberty and freedom in Poland and in extending important and useful social services to Poles and Polish-Americans in California; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State California*, That the Members of the Senate wish by this resolution to convey their congratulations to the Polish Society of California, on the 100th Anniversary of the society and to commend the society, its members, and officers for the outstanding work they have done; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit suitably prepared copies of this resolution to Victor F. Stachura, the President of the Executive Committee of the Polish Society of California.

Resolution read and unanimously adopted on motion of Senator McAteer.

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Polish National Alliance, as the largest fraternal society of Americans of Polish descent, is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Colony in California on July 5th, 1963; and

WHEREAS, Polish-American people in San Francisco always have been an outstanding asset to the community, and their diligence, patriotism and deep moral and religious convictions are admired throughout our City; and

WHEREAS, Strong bonds of friendship have always existed between the Polish and American peoples, and those of Polish descent living in our nation and our City today are keeping alive the deep Polish devotion to liberty which communist oppressors have tried to suppress in the Polish homeland;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Christopher, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby congratulate the Polish Colony of California on its 100th Anniversary in our State, and I proclaim Friday, July 5th, 1963, to be "POLISH COLONY 100th ANNIVERSARY DAY" in San Francisco, and I wish the members of this Colony continued success and happiness as citizens devoted to the heritage of freedom we enjoy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this tenth day of June, nineteen hundred and sixty-three.

  
George Christopher  
Mayor



## POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

LARGEST AND MOST PROGRESSIVE FRATERNAL SOCIETY  
OF AMERICANS OF POLISH DESCENT

Extends

### Greetings and Best Wishes

to

### GROUP 7 P.N.A.

### *On the Occasion of its 100th Anniversary*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

In our state capital, above one of the impressive buildings, these words are inscribed: "BRING ME MEN TO MATCH MY MOUNTAINS." How aptly these words challenge Californians to action and great achievement. The Polish Society of California, as one of the pioneer groups in the development of California, took up this challenge, and its members, through the one-hundred years of its existence, contributed greatly to the intellectual, political, economical, humanitarian, and cultural development of our great State of California.

Uppermost in the minds of the first Polish settlers who came to California, as well as those who followed, was the liberation of Poland. They organized the Polish Society of California, always ready to help morally and materially their oppressed homeland. The idea of liberty was their guiding light in the search for human rights and dignity. Keeping this idea in mind, these seekers of human liberty started a new life in a free land, building a better tomorrow for themselves and their fellow men. Although not many of them accumulated great wealth, they did succeed, through generations, in passing on the love of liberty and freedom.

Today, over one-hundred years since the first members of our Society settled in California, the Polish colony is well known as a guardian of those high ideals and personal freedoms so greatly cherished in our time, when the right to liberty and freedom is often ignored or utterly denied.

We are fortunate we live in the United States of America, the land of the free, where we can enjoy the fruits of the labors of those men and women who came before us with the faith and inspiration to match our mountains. They faced the challenge with courage and integrity, never losing faith that men are born to be free.

Space does not permit me to enumerate the many contributions which were made by members of our Society in the development of our State. I am sure we can continue to follow in the pioneering spirit of our forefathers toward new developments and unconquered fields of human endeavors. The future growth of the Polish Society of California is assured with the constant growth of California and the many Polish Americans who are coming to the West. Let us honor the past and look to the future with courage and anticipation.

Victor F. Stachura, President  
*Polish Society of California*



**VICTOR F. STACHURA**, President  
Polish Society of California

# HONORARY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. EDMUND G. BROWN, Governor of California  
*Honorary Chairman*

The Most Reverend JOSEPH MCGUCKEN  
*Archbishop of San Francisco*

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Maciej Radziwill

Karol Rozmarek

Reverend Francis Wajda

Boleslaw Wojcik

Antoni Witkowski

Bronislaw A. Zaremba



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bottom row, from left to right: Mary Saluk, Wanda Pomykalska, Victoria Witkowska, Victor F. Stachura, Anna Nowakowska, Roman Nowakowski, Irene A. Stachura, Ingrid Kukula. Standing: Wilhelm A. Wolny, Frank Biernat, Kazimierz Porebski, Albina Isaeff, Leo Isaeff, Nancy Isaeff, Kazimierz Nowicki, Aleksandra Nowicka, Antoni Witkowski, Ted James Kukula, Teofil Kot, Kazimierz Pomykalski.

# EXECUTIVE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

VICTOR F. STACHURA

*Chairman*

Frank Biernat

Albina Isaeff

Leo Isaeff

Frank Jasinski

Ted James Kukula, Esq.

Ingrid Kukula

Teofil Kot

Anna Nowakowska

Roman Nowakowski

Aleksandra Nowicka

Kazimierz Nowicki

Wanda Pomykalska

Kazimierz Porebski

Maria Saluk

John Smelski

Irene A. Stachura

Victor Wielgosz

Victoria Witkowska

Boleslaw Wojtycki

Wilhelm Wolny

Alicja Wolny

Tadeusz Zagorewicz



## NATIONAL HYMN OF POLAND

### “BOZE COS POLSKE”

. . . this hymn became the National Hymn of Poland after the uprising of 1830 . . . its singing was not permitted by the conquerors . . . later lyrics entitled “Serdeczna Matko” were substituted for the same melody . . . as a religious song . . . it too was forbidden . . . the words in Polish for Boze Cos Polske go as follows:

Boze Cos Polske przez tak liczne wieki.

Otaczal blaskiem potegi i chwaly,

Cos ja oslanial tarcza Swej opieki

Od nieszczesc ktore przygnebic ja mialy.

\* Przed Twe oltarze zanosim blaganie;  
Ojczyzne, wolnosc racz nam wrocic Panie

\* repeat



### ENGLISH VERSION OF “BOZE COS POLSKE”

God, who held Poland for so many ages,

In Your protection, glory, and great power,

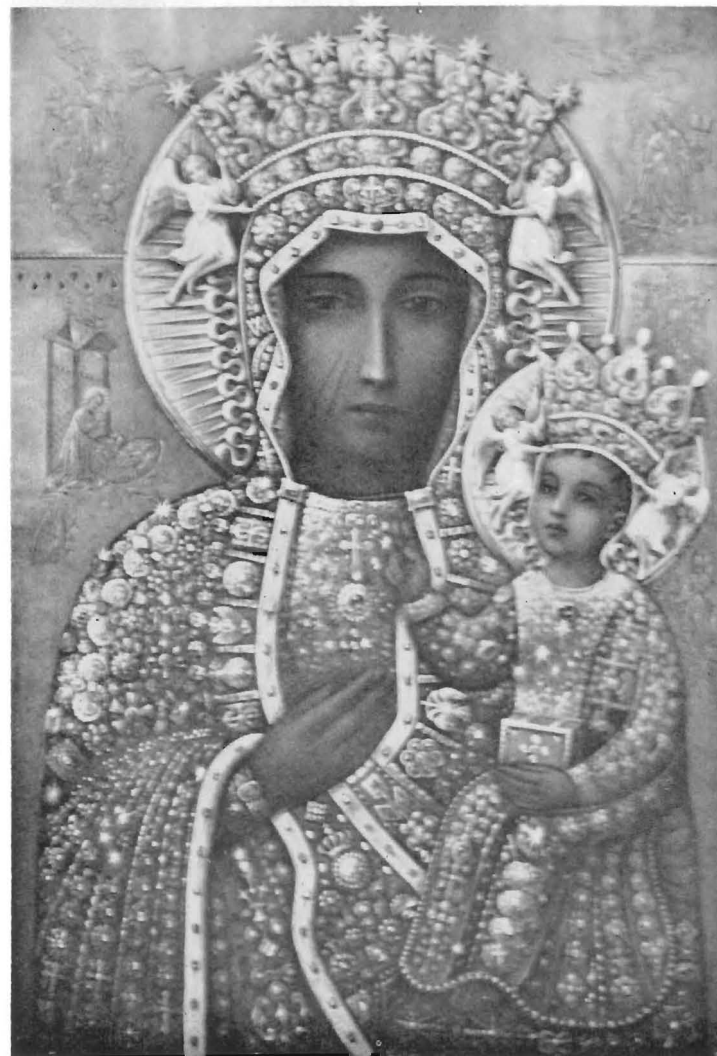
Who gave Your wisdom to her bards and sages,

And gave Your own shield as her rightful dower.

\* Before Your altars, we in supplication  
Kneeling, implore You, free our land  
and nation.

\* repeat

—(T. Brustowicz in Weekly “Czas”)



Our Lady of Czestochowa  
Queen of Poland

# FIRST POLES IN AMERICA



THIS BRONZE PLAQUE was unveiled by the Polish Falcons of America on Sept. 29, 1957, saluting the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles to America.

ACCORDING TO our noted Polish American historian, Mieczyslaw Haiman, the "Poles" that arrived were expert craftsmen, engaged by the Virginia Company to instruct and establish the manufacture of glass, pitch, tar and wood products. The exact number of this group is not known, but "they were not more than a handful" wrote Haiman in 1939.

WORLD WAR II brought so many Poles to England that among them were many men of letters. It was their research through the English archives that uncovered the actual names of the five Poles that arrived and to quote from Arthur L. Waldo's excellent monograph titled "The First Poles in America" published by the Polish Falcons of America in 1957, we have a description of who they were:

MICHAL LOWICKI of London, originally a Polish nobleman, industry and business organizer, leader of the group.

ZBIGNIEW STAFANSKI of Wloclawek, glass production specialist.

JAN MATA of Krakow, a prominent soap producer.

STANISLAW SADOWSKI of Radom, lumber clapboard production organizer.

JAN BOGDAN of Kolomyja, pitch and tar, and ship-building expert. Captain John Smith, one of the colonizers of Virginia, had personally met Bogdan in Poland during his sojourn there in 1603.

# A POLISH - AMERICAN CHRONOLOGY

- 1608 Arrival of the first Poles in America.
- 1608 Poles establish first factory in America, at Jamestown, Va.
- 1619 Poles win first recorded strike in American history. Win right to vote for and sit in Virginia House of Burgesses.
- 1643 First mention of a Pole in New Amsterdam (New York).
- 1777 Kosciuszko fortifies Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolutionary War.
- 1779 Pulaski dies leading cavalry at the battle of Savannah.
- 1830-1831 First Polish Revolution against Russia suppressed with great severity. Beginning of first major political immigration to America.
- 1834 First Polish book published in the United States.
- 1834 The "Polish Committee" founded. First Polish Society organized in the United States.
- 1846 Insurrection in Galicia. Suppression of the Free City of Cracow. Second major political immigration to America.
- 1851 Panna Maria, Texas, founded. First all-Polish Community founded in America.
- 1854 First Polish Parish founded in the United States, at Panna Maria, Texas.
- 1861 Outbreak of the American Civil War. Generals Krzyzanowski, Karge and Scheopf on Union Side.
- 1863 The Polish Society of California was founded in San Francisco by Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski and Kazimierz Bielawski.
- 1863-1865 Second Polish Revolution against Russia suppressed with great severity. A new wave of political exiles reaches America.
- 1863 Echo z Polski, first Polish newspaper in America founded.
- 1868 First Polish parochial school founded, in Milwaukee.
- 1873 Polish Roman Catholic Union founded, first Polish fraternal organization in America.
- 1874 Arrival of the Felician Sisters, first order of Polish nuns to arrives in the United States.
- 1877 Arrival of Helena Modjeska, one of America's greatest Shakespearean actresses.
- 1880 Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America was founded.
- 1885 Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary founded at Orchard Lake, Michigan. First Polish American institution of higher learning established in the United States.
- 1890 Beginning of mass economic migrations from Poland.
- 1891 Arrival of Paderewski in America.
- 1918 Wilson's Fourteen Points call for an independent Poland.
- 1918 John C. Klecza, first Pole elected to national office, takes seat in House of Representatives.
- 1944 Formation of Polish American Congress.
- 1955 Edmund Muskie of Maine, first Polish American to be elected Governor of an American state.
- 1958 Edmund Muskie, first Polish American to sit in the United States Senate.

# AN APPEAL FOR POLAND

*Published in Buffalo in 1831*

"When Poland was overcome, the fifth power in Christendom was trodden upon. There are circumstances of unmitigated wrong, of peculiar aggravation, that must be added to the picture. The crime of Poland was too much liberty; her independent existence, in the vicinity of those who had reared their thrones on arbitrary will, was not to be endured. Fellow-citizens, neither the ancient institutions, nor the ancient practices of Poland have been understood . . . There was wanting but a single aggravating circumstance to render the partition of the fine country more odious, and, unhappily, this too is to be enumerated among its sufferings. When Poland was subdued, by far the larger portion of her territory became subject to a people less advanced in civilization than her own citizens . . . Against the injustice of their lot, and the further accumulation of their manifold wrongs, the Poles have risen before God and man . . . We have put the case of Poland simply before you. Her cause is so obviously just as to require no aid from the embellishments of language, or to need any laboured appeal to your charities . . . We should be false to our origin, our principles, and that mild religion in which we are nurtured, could we hesitate between Poland and her enemies . . . Come then, people of America, to the relief of this much injured and gallant people. Your aid will be offered to those who are willing to work out their own redemption; who have already shown themselves worthy of their ancient fame in twenty fields and who will never yield until resistance shall have been carried to extremity."

**JAMES FENIMORE COOPER**

From BUFFALO JOURNAL AND GENERAL ADVERTISER, September 7th, 1831

*When a Polish uprising against Russia broke out in 1830, James Fenimore Cooper became the chairman of an American Committee to aid the cause. In this capacity he wrote the appeal, to the American people, excerpts of which are reprinted above.*

THOMAS CAMPBELL

(1777-1844)

## LINES ON POLAND

And have I lived to see thee sword in hand  
Uprise again, immortal Polish Land! —  
Whose flag brings more than chivalry to mind,  
And leaves the tri-color in shade behind; —  
A theme for uninspired lips too strong;  
That swells my heart beyond the power of song; —  
Majestic men, whose deeds have dazzled faith,  
Ah! yet your faith's suspense arrests my breath;  
Whilst, envying bosoms bared to shot and steel,  
I feel the more that fruitlessly I feel.  
Poles! with what indignation I endure  
Th' half pitying servile mouths that call you poor:  
Poor! is it England mocks you with her grief,  
That hates, but dares not chide, th' *Imperial Thief*?  
France with her soul beneath a Bourbon's thrall,  
And Germany that has no soul at all, —  
States, quailing at the giant overgrown,  
Whom dauntless Poland grapples with alone?  
No, ye are rich in fame e'en whilst ye bleed:  
We cannot aid you — *we* are poor indeed!

But if there should be none to aid you, Poles,  
Ye'll but to prouder pitch wind up your souls,  
Above example, pity, praise, or blame,  
To sow and reap a boundless field of Fame.  
Ask aid no more from Nations that forget  
Your championship — old Europe's mighty debt.  
Though Poland (*Lazarus* like) has burst the gloom,  
She rises not a beggar from the tomb:  
In Fortune's frown, on Danger's giddiest brink,  
Despair and Poland's name must never link.  
All ills have bounds — plague, whirlwind, fire, and flood:  
E'en power can spill but bounded sums of blood.  
States caring not what Freedom's price may be,  
May late or soon, but must at last be free;  
For body killing tyrants cannot kill  
The public soul — the hereditary will  
That downward as from sire to son it goes,  
By shifting bosoms more intensely glows;  
Its heir-loom is the heart, and slaughter'd men  
Fight fiercer in their orphans o'er again.  
Poland recasts — though rich in heroes old, —  
Her men in more and more heroic mould:  
Her eagle-ensign best among mankind  
Becomes, and types her eagle strength of mind:  
Her praise upon my faltering lips express:  
Resume it, younger bards, and nobler lyres!

# THE ATTITUDE OF CIVIL WAR AMERICA TO THE POLISH INSURRECTION OF 1863

## INTRODUCTION

The year 1863 marks a turning point in the history of two great nations. In Europe it was the year of Poland's January Insurrection, an event that marks the end of the older romantic program for the restoration of the partitioned State and the beginning of the period of "organic work". In America, 1863 was the year in which the tide of the Civil War turned; the year of the Emancipation Proclamation and of the battles of Chancellorsville, Vicksburg and Chickamauga and Gettysburg.

The January Insurrection has received a great deal of attention from the historians of the last hundred years. As a part of its program commemorating the centennial of this momentous event, the Jozef Pilsudski Institute will continue this tradition by publishing its namesake's observations on the Insurrection. The American Civil War has been the subject of still greater and more intensive historical scrutiny. Unfortunately, till now, no historian has presented a complete account of the part Poles and Polish Americans played in the course of our War Between the States. And with the exception of Arthur and Marion Coleman's pioneering study on *The Polish Insurrection of 1863 in the Light of New York Editorial Opinion*, no work has been published in which the relationship between the January Insurrection and the American Civil War has been considered either in part, as did the Colemans, or in its entirety as the subject definitely deserves. Dr. J. Wiczerzak is therefore to be commended for undertaking the study of the latter problem and the Pilsudski Institute is to be congratulated for its initiative in bringing the following abstract of his research to the attention of the general reading public. Polish studies would indeed be greatly enhanced by the publication of his completed work -- and there could be, perhaps, no better way in which to commemorate the centennial of the Insurrection than by the publication of his analysis of this unknown aspect of that momentous year.

Prof. Eugene Kusielewicz

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

While the American Union was torn in two and the threshold of the agonizing year of its Civil War, that part of dismembered Poland which had fallen under the rule of Russia began to make another futile armed bid for independence. At a first historical glance, it would seem highly improbable that the widely separated and totally unrelated historical tragedies, which were enacted on different stages of the world theatre, could have had any dramatic connections with each other. It would even seem more doubtful that in their time of gravest crisis Americans would have given the alien Polish struggle a second thought. However, such was certainly not to be the case. The columns of contemporary American journals, articles in contemporary American reviews and periodicals, notes and dispatches located in diplomatic archives, personal correspondence which passed between prominent contemporary figures, and items in other media of contemporary expression all reveal that the American Civil War and the Polish January Insurrection had several interesting points of actual and psychological coincidence which were to give them a definite historical nexus. And there is sufficient material in these sources from which can be woven the plot of a most fascinating story; a story with an unfortunate beginning, a pathetic denouement, and a sad conclusion.

In theme, the story of the Polish Insurrection in Civil War America is the story of a moral dilemma which confronted the American mind. In plot, it is the story of the attempts which were made to resolve that dilemma and to justify the resolutions. On one horn of the dilemma was a combination of several factors inherent in the American makeup and a strong "sentimental legacy" of peculiar American sympathy for Poland. Foremost among the traditional factors was an almost pathological abhorrence of all forms of monarchy in the Old World coupled with a sincere if occasionally distorted admiration for those movements in the Old World which took up arms against monarchies, exercised the same "right of revolution" which was written into the American Declaration of Independence, and declared themselves to be republican.

The "sentimental legacy" for Poland was built upon the aid which Kosciusko and Pul-

aski gave Americans during their own revolution. It was heavily divided by poetry and fiction extolling the suffering Poles, such as Thomas Cambell's "The Pleasures of Hope" with its oft-quoted line: "And Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell," and Jane Porter's novel *Thaddeus of Warsaw*, which was partly inspired by the life of Kosciusko. Much was drawn from the legacy at the time of the Polish November Insurrection of 1830 and 1831 when a virtual wave of *Polonophilia* inundated Jacksonian America; when hardly a day went by without some sympathetic mention of Poland in newspaper editorials; when banners for the Polish insurgent's were dedicated in Boston, Polish dances were taught in New York dancing schools, a plethora of amateur verse with Polish themes found its way into print and public protest meetings and collections were undertaken throughout the country.

On the other horn of the dilemma, however, there were more immediate and more practical factors. There was a growth of cordiality between the United States and Russia which was given a great impetus during the Crimean War when the archvillain of the Polish November Insurrection was cast by the American press in the heroic role of underdog fighting against "the unspeakable Moslem Turk" and against an England and France whose well-wishes were hardly with the growing American Republic. Several Protestant clergymen began to identify the Russian Orthodox religion with Protestantism and in the process almost invariably identified Poland with Catholicism whose spread into the United States by waves of German and Irish immigrants they morbidly dreaded. Immigrants in general and exiles in particular began to be viewed with suspicion as the xenophobic "Know Nothing" movement gained headway among the native-born. Finally, the emancipation of the Russian serfs in 1861 by the "Czar Liberator" Alexander II gave American abolitionist liberals a Russian idol, and the news of outbreaks of disturbances in Warsaw prelusive to actual insurrection was eclipsed by the sun of Alexander's glory and even greeted with some misgivings in the American press for deterring from that glory.

Alongside the glowing editorials on Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and frontline reports of military inactivity and scattered skirmishes which Northern journals printed early in 1863, there were also brief

and scanty accounts of new troubles in Russian Poland. They noted that rioters, moved to a frenzy by the enactment of a mass conscription to remove potential supporters of a conspiracy for independence from its most potential urban centers, entered Russian military billets on the night of January 22nd and killed many troops. The accounts termed the event "a second St. Bartholomew's massacre" and ended with the text of a speech which Czar Alexander made to his officers on the St. Petersburg parade ground in which he forgivingly stated: "Even in the presence of these atrocities I will not accuse the Polish Nation." Few of the journals printed the text of the January 22nd Manifesto of the Polish National Government which called the people to arms, promised the peasants of Poland (who were not freed by the Serf Emancipation) freedom and land, and which recognized "all sons of Poland, without regard to religious belief or birth, status or origin, free citizens of the nation." Although the American press utilized a few West European journals as sources for these first accounts, most of them gave credit to the official *Journal de St. Peterbourg* and translated the unfortunate appellation "a second St. Bartholomew massacre" directly from the *Journal*.

As more details came in via English and French press the American editors were able to conclude that Poland was in a revolutionary state. Those in the North hopefully speculated that the revolution would so occupy the British and French cabinets that it would divert the attentions of the powers from the Civil War and forestall any possible intervention on the side of the Confederacy. In this respect, the event was considered propitious. But the sympathy of the same editors for the Polish struggle per se contained a very noticeable admixture of caution. While the standard phrases "poor Poland," "unhappy Poland" and "poor oppressed Poland" were frequently employed, there were also expressions of regret for the Poles impetuosity, doubt as to the outcome of their struggle and, most often, expressions of confidence that the "Czar Liberator" would again manifest his liberality. Southern editors almost immediately noted the embivalence manifested by their counterparts above the Mason-Dixon Line and diagnosed its causes correctly, and with added sarcasm. Typical was an editorial in the Petersburg, Virginia *Daily Express* of April 24th which commented that had the Polish Insurrection broken out two-and-a-half years pre-

viously, "every northern rostrum would have thundered with plaudits to the gallant Poles, and every victory which they would have achieved over the Russian forces would have awakened the most gratifying emotions in the popular bosom of Yankeeedom." But it saw two "potential reasons" which prevented the citizenry of the North from "speaking in favor of the revolutionists on the Vistula." The first was that the Russian Emperor happened to be "high in favor at Washington" and that, in fact, Alexander was the only friend Lincoln had among the crowned heads of Europe, because his government, like Lincoln's, was a "pure despotism." The second was that the Yankees could not speak out their real thoughts on the Polish Insurrection because the people of the South were "engaged in identically the same sort of struggle . . . for separation from a hateful Union."

In the diplomatic arena, Union emissaries in various European capitals also took cognizance of the possible forestalling effects of the insurrection on British and French intervention; also carried some sympathetic comments on the Polish struggle; also saw its futility, and also considered the factor of American-Russian amity. From St. Petersburg, charge de affairs ad interim Bayard Taylor reported to Secretary of State Seward that the Poles were rash and foolish for depending on intercession in their struggle by an indifferent France and England, and, in a flourish of pessimism, concluded: "History teaches us no truer lesson than that there is no resurrection for a nation once dead." And Confederate agents advised their Secretary of State, Judah Benjamin, that the insurrection completely dimmed hopes for the recognition of their government by the European powers.

Towards the middle of the year, the Polish question was drawn into the arena of active diplomacy and the United States almost with it. French Foreign Minister Drouyn de L'Huys, in a move which as probably more tactical than altruistic, invited the Union to enter into a *demarche*, a mild appeal-protest, on behalf of the insurgent Poles. Alluding to the deepening American-Russian friendship, he duly noted in his invitation that the "good relations which exist between the government of the United States and the Court of Russia cannot but give greater weight to counsels presented in a friendly form." On May 11th, Seward dispatched a note of refusal. The note was doubly consistent: with the American tradition of non-

interference built around George Washington's Farewell Address and the Monroe Doctrine, and with the more immediate precedent of the Union's stiff refusal of Napoleon III's offer of mediation in the Civil War.

Historians have properly supported Seward's action. However, few have gone a step further to its handling by Cassius Marcellus Clay, the Anglophobic, Catholophobic and Polonophobic Minister to St. Petersburg who had just returned to his post after a brief but unsuccessful stint at playing general. In style which was worthy of the appellation "noisy jackass" given him by his colleagues of the diplomatic corps, Clay appended a lengthy note of enclosure to a copy of the reply which was forwarded to Russian Foreign Minister Gortchakov in which he expressed his personal gratification. Gortchakov, in his turn replied with a note of thanks which contained comments to the effect that Seward's action had strengthened "the bonds of mutual sympathy" which united Russia and the Union. Clay then took the initiative in allowing the three documents full publication in official czarist journals, moving far beyond the bounds of diplomatic propriety and adding Slavophilic propaganda aimed against the Poles. To pour salt on Polish wounds, he commented in a dispatch to Seward dated June 17th that "our interests and my sympathies are on the side of Russia — liberal Russia — against reactionary, Catholic and despotic Poland!"

The theme of American-Russian amity came to the fore in a third area; the area of American public activity. Underscored in the first appeal to Americans for aid and sympathy by the Central Polish Committee in New York were the words: "Equal rights to all and forgiveness to our enemies." Northern journals printed the appeal but gave it scant editorial attention. The few that did comment on it, also called their readers' attention to the amity and to Alexander's magnanimity. The *New York Herald*, the journal with the largest circulation in the Union, bluntly advised its readers on April 29th that aid to the insurgents in the form of monetary contributions would be against "the national sentiment," and "silly" in view of past experience with the diversion of revolutionary funds from their original objects. But in its conclusion, it called attention to another motive for restraint:

We are ourselves in such critical circumstances that we cannot afford to convert into enemies those who have shown us

sympathy in our troubles. Since the outbreak of the rebellion Russia has been the only European power which has manifested a really friendly feeling in our regard. It would therefore, not only be ungrateful, but unwise, of us to lend our sanction to a proceeding which — without doing the Poles any good — would be certain to destroy the cordial relations which at present exist between the two countries.

Public response to the appeal was extremely weak in the East and strong only in San Francisco which was far removed from the war fronts (of the \$16,000 collected by the Polish Central Committee and its seven subsidiary Polish Committees, over half came from the Golden Gate City. Response was strongest among immigrants who had had revolutionary ties with the Poles in the 1840's. In the exceptional case of the Irish immigrants, an overwhelming response was stimulated by a letter from William Smith O'Brien, their nationalist leader, after his visit of the scenes of insurrection and his distant relatives in Lithuania. But immigrants, and especially the numerous Irish immigrants whose rank on the social ladder was only slightly higher than that of the newly freed Negroes, were not the best supporters to have in an America still in the throes of xenophobia.

The Northern press continued to rationalize and waver in regard to Poland. At times, it gave notice to catalytic events which moved the balance of opinion in favor of the Poles. For example, when Russia and Prussia signed the notorious Alvensleben Convention easing the apprehension and return of escaped insurgents, some comments were levelled against Alexander for allowing it. When the first stories of atrocities committed by czarist officials against the Poles were published a few journals were stirred up with editorial ire. Yet others, such as the fledgling *New York Times*, dismissed them as British and French propaganda not unlike the alleged propaganda concerning atrocities committed by Benjamin "Beast" Butler and other Union generals in occupied areas of the South. When a serious split developed in Polish insurgent ranks, there was several editorial reviews of Poland's past political shortcomings with conclusions that the Poles were incapable of self-rule. Ironically, while the Union press decried the Poles' dependence on European intercession,

it also levelled criticism at the mildness of the protest notes which European governments sent to St. Petersburg. There were even criticisms of the irregular tactics employed by the insurgents. The *New York Times* for example, in its editorial of October 11th, indicated that the guerilla warfare of the insurgents was an indication of weakness and lack of popular support, and in strong contrast to the dignified warfare carried out by the American revolutionists and by the Poles themselves in their November Insurrection.

The psychologically and tactically well-timed arrival of Russian warships in New York and San Francisco in the fall of the year tipped the balance of pro-Russian feeling in the Union to its extreme. The wave of Russophilia which flooded American minds as the naval visitors were wined and dined almost completely drowned all sympathy for the Polish struggle. Amid the wishful thinking and wishful hoping that the vessels had arrived to fight alongside the American navy if the Western Powers resorted to a last minute intervention or if Confederates attacked Northern cities with English-built arms, which never did arrive, some of the very editors who had applauded Seward's refusal of the French invitation to the *demarche* advocated a formal Russo-American alliance and an end to isolation! In the high pitch of hysteria, the January Insurrection was equated with the Southern rebellion. Even the more level-headed journalists advised the Poles to throw in their lot with Alexander and count on his mercy rather than on the duplicity of the English and the indecisiveness of Napoleon III.

Southern editors took the offensive. They made capital of the Union's intimacy with the autocratic Russian regime and drew odious parallels between Alexander II and "Abraham I." But their editorializing evoked little positive sympathy for Poland. In the end, they reasoned that their struggle was much more important and righteous than that of the Poles and their suffering was inestimably much worse.

By 1864, where there was no chance of European intervention in either the Civil War or the Polish January Insurrection, and when Union armies mounted a decisive offensive against the Southern rebels, Northern opinion began to take a decidedly pro-Polish turn. Atrocity stories were given considerable

space in the news columns and the excesses of "Hangman" Muraviev and other infamous czarist officers in Poland were singlingly condemned—in many an editorial column. In some of the journals there were even expressions of American naivete in expecting Russian aid against intervention as well as a realization that the vessels had, in fact, anchored in the safety of American harbors after being ordered to move out of Baltic ports where they might have been bottled up in the event of a war over Poland.

Yet there were areas where the momentum of the previous year's Russophilia had not spent itself. Audiences thronged to listen to lectures on Russia by the returned Bayard-Taylor and heard him condemn the Poles for their own sufferings. Cassius Marcellus Clay continued to attack "Catholic reactionary Poland" and two eminent Protestant clergymen, Joshua Leavitt and Charles Boynton, who had been rabid abolitionists and admirers of the "Czar Liberator" put the attacks into print; the former in an article in the *New England Magazine* and *Yale Review*, the latter in a book impressively entitled *English and French Neutrality and the Anglo-French Alliance in Thier Relations to the United States and Russia*. A Polish seaman, Alexander Milewski, who had deserted from one of the visiting Russian vessels and had joined the United States Army, was apprehended as his regiment moved to the front lines and turned over for execution. (The apprehension was carried out by none other than "Beast" Butler himself.) All of this disillusioned and embittered Polish exiles whose sympathies had consistently been with the Union. Some even approached the government of the dying Confederacy and offered to recruit a "Polish Legion" for its army.

Finally, 1864 saw the belated publication in the *Continental Monthly* of two articles written in defense of the insurrection. The first, published in the February issue and entitled "Nos Amis les Cosaques!" was written by Michael Heilprin, a member of a prominent Jewish rabbinical family, who was secretary of the Washington D.C. Polish Committee. The other article appeared in the August issue under the apt title: "Tardy Truths." Its author Henryk Kalussowski, was the officially appointed delegate of the Polish National Government to the United States. In addition to giving a point-by-point presentation of the

Polish case and refuting some of the distortions which had been printed throughout 1863 in the Union press, Kalussowski gave vent to a complaint that in their determination not to offend the czarist regime, American publishers had actually denied Polish exiles access to print in their journals and periodicals. Mrs. Martha Walker Cook, the *Continental Monthly's* editor, a translator of the poetry of Zygmunt Krasinski and other greats of Polish literature, stood out as the sole exception.

But even as Americans were pondering over the articles and giving the Polish January Insurrection a second, dispassionate consideration, czarist authorities were hunting down and executing its remaining leaders and speeding its end. Cassius Marcellus had the last word. On November 14th, he sent Seward a copy of a brochure issued by British Ambassador to St. Petersburg, Lord Napier, in which the latter expressed satisfaction that his country's cabinet did not resort to force on behalf of the Poles; that the ministers did not permit their "resolutions" to be "influenced by the spectacle of partial and transitory wiles." Clay congratulated Lord Napier for his "wise counsel" and finally concluded: "the course pursued by the United States, in reference to this delicate question, will stand fully justified in history." Having presented only some of the facts and a few of the details in outline of this course, we leave the reader to draw his own conclusions as to whether Clay's statement bore justification.

In the end it should be mentioned — the fact that the American Plenipotentiary Minister in Paris — Dayton — strikingly summed up the connection between these two events when he informed Secretary of State Seward on February 23, 1863 — that the Polish Insurrection has overshadowed American problems, because it directly involved the interests of many crowned heads of European States. The European Powers now engaged in the Polish question, can no longer pay attention to America.

Without entering into details it should nevertheless be stressed that the Polish Insurrection of 1863 undoubtedly played an indirect role in the destinies of the United States during the Civil War. It eliminated the threat of a British and French intervention in favor of the Confederacy and thus —contributed to the victory and preservation of the Union.

—Dr. J. W. Wiczerzak



Sitting, left to right: Irene A. Stachura, Anna Nowakowska, Aleksandra Nowicka. Standing: Victor F. Stachura, Roman Nowakowski, Wilhelm A. Wolny.

## POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Officers and members of the Polish Society of California extend their most cordial welcome to the participants of The Centennial Celebration.

### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

VICTOR F. STACHURA, *President*  
 ANNA NOWAKOWSKA, *Vice President*  
 ROMAN NOWAKOWSKI, *Vice President*  
 VICTOR L. WIELGOSZ, *Financial Secretary*  
 IRENE A. STACHURA, *Recording Secretary*  
 ALEKSANDRA NOWICKA, *Treasurer*  
 JOHN FREY, *Sergeant-at-arms*  
 GABRIEL T. MAJ, *Standard-bearer*  
 BOLESŁAW WOJTYCKI, *Librarian*

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

ROMAN NOWAKOWSKI, *Chairman*  
 JOHN SMELSKI  
 BRONISŁAWA BRZUZA  
 IRENE PINEIRO

“Remember the past, preserve the serenity of your spirit and repeat the song of our fathers: for Poland will not perish as long as we live”

Joachim Lelewel

(1786-1861)

Polish Historian

(An address to Polish Youth — 1884)

## POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

1863-1963

### I

The history of the Polish people's settlement in San Francisco and California is closely related to the November Uprising of 1830-31 in Poland. As a result of this Uprising many Poles emigrated to the United States and to this area.

One of the first settlers was Major Stanislaw Pongowski, a former aide-de-camp to General Wincenty Kransinski. Major Pongowski left Poland after the November Uprising; he spent some time traveling around the world and then came to California in 1843. Little is known about his stay in California except that it was brief, for a short time later he moved to Chile, where he became a prominent citizen.

Another early California pioneer was Wojciech Pulaski (sometimes spelled Polasky). Pulaski came to California in 1846 and subsequently Marcus Pulaski founded the town of Pollasky on the River San Joaquin in Fresno County. He is also credited with establishing the first railroad between Fresno and Friant. The Southern Pacific Railroad line joining Fresno, Clovis and Friant is still known as the Pollasky Road.

One of the most well known Polish pioneers is Dr. Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki who arrived in California with Colonel J. D. Stevenson's regiment from New York in 1847. Dr. Wierzbicki was the author of the first English book printed west of the Rockies; *California as it is and as it May be, or A Guide to the Gold Region*. The first edition of this book appeared in San Francisco on September 30, 1849. It was printed in the shop of Washington Bartlett, a future mayor of San Francisco. The book was bound in a paperback and sewn together with ordinary thread. It was sixty pages long at first printing but in 1849 two more chapters were added making the second edition seventy-six pages. Dr. Wierzbicki is also known for his articles on the history of medicine which have been published in *The California State Journal of Medicine*. The first of these articles appeared under the title of Essay on the History of Medicine, (vol. 1, 1856, p. 147).



Dr. Wierzbicki died on December 26, 1860, at the age of forty-five. He was buried in the Laurel Hill Cemetery. About ten years ago, through the efforts of the Polish American Citizen's Club, San Francisco, his grave was moved to the cemetery at the Presidio of San Francisco.

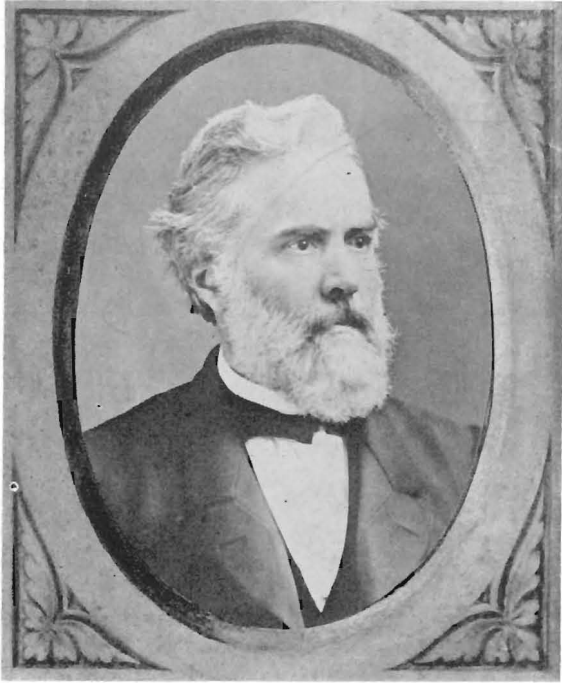
The greatest number of Poles coming into California was recorded during the Gold Rush period. Aleksander Zakrzewski, an officer of the Polish Army of 1831, is one of the men who settled in California during that period. Zakrzewski drew up the first plan of the City of San Francisco in 1849. The map is entitled; Official Map of San Francisco, completed from the field notes of the official re-survey made by Wm. M. Eddy, C. E. surveyor of the town of San Francisco, Drawn by Alexander Zakrzewski, ex-Polish Officer, 1849. The map

is now in the keeping of Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon.

Another man who came to San Francisco at the time is Rudolf Piotrowski. Piotrowski founded the Polish Committee in 1863, the first Polish organization in the area.

In 1853, Kazimierz Bielawski, a former captain of the Austrian Army, settled in San Francisco. Captain Bielawski was one of the principal organizers, leaders, and the first president of the Polish Society of California. He worked for the United States Land Office for 45 years and was generally recognized as the most informed person in his field. In commemoration of his services a mountain near Los Gatos in Santa Clara County was given his name, Mt. Bielawski. Bielawski died in San Francisco on March 3, 1905 and was buried in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma (lot 69, div. 3, sec. C). A monument was placed on his grave in 1937 through the efforts of the Polish Society of California. Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska) mentions Bielawski in her memoirs; "He was thoroughly honest; it would have been easy for him to have accumulated a large fortune, but he was unusually scrupulous and never exploited for his own gain the possibilities which his government position gave him." (Memoirs and Impressions of Helena Modjeska, New York, 1910, pp 305-308).





Kazimierz Bielawski,  
First President of the Polish  
Society of California

Other Poles, equally prominent, who settled in San Francisco were: Wincenty Lutnicki, Dr. Jan Strenzel, Franciszek Wojciechowski, Aleksander Bednawski, Julian W. Andrzejowski, Captain Theophilus Lessen, General Włodzimierz Krzyzanowski (a hero of the American Civil War for whom a monument was erected in Arlington National Cemetery, in Washington, D.C.), Dr. Pawlicki, an insurrectionist of 1863, Dr. Teclaw, Krystyna Narbutowna, and many others.

Another Polish name which deserves mention is Stanislaw (Stanislaus). "Besides the river, there are mountains, a peak (Alpine County), a town (Tuolumne County), and a county which bear the name of Stanislaus. They were so named after Stanislaus, or Estanislaw, an Indian of the Walla-Walla tribe, who led uprisings against Mexican authorities in the first half of this century" (Miecislaus Haiman. *Polish pioneers of California*. Chicago, Ill., Polish R. C. Union of America, 1940, p. 37). Father F. Bolek in his work, *Settlements established by Poles in the United States*, convinces us by documentation that the name is definitely of Polish origin. (*Polski Przegląd Kartograficzny* - Polish Cartographic Review - no. 32, 1930, p. 2).

## II

The first social organization in San Francisco was the Polish Committee whose initial undertaking was the collection of funds to support the struggle for Polish independence on the continent. They were able to collect what in those days was a substantial sum, \$8,000. The most active members of this Committee in 1863 were: Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski, C. Meyer, Julian W. Andrzejewski, Dr. J. L. Czapkay (a Hungarian closely identified with the Polish cause) and Kazimierz Bielawski.

Bielawski acted as chairman of the Committee and Andrzejewski its secretary. In May, 1864, C. Meyer was nominated as Political Agent in California by the Polish Insurrectionist National Government. This action aroused the enthusiasm of the Polish community and gave them the incentive to continue working for the Polish cause. The Committee later changed its name to The Polish Society of California. In 1880 the Society joined the Polish National Alliance of the United States and received the designation of Group four. This was subsequently changed to its present designation of Group seven. In 1894 the Society was reorganized and a fraternal insurance plan for members was introduced which is still in effect today.

At this same time a new organization was created in San Francisco called, "Towarzystwo Bratniej Pomocy - Zjednoczenie Rzymsko-Katolickie (Benevolent Society of the Polish Roman Catholic Union)" under the name of St. Stanislaus which is still very active today. Both groups were very active; they raised funds which they deposited in the local banks and when Poland gained its independence the money was invested in Polish government bonds. Also, the Polish Society of California established a Polish library which today numbers over 3,000 volumes.

The members of the colony were fairly close knit groups, especially the political exiles. We get some insight into the lives of these pioneers through the works of Henryk Sienkiewicz and Helena Modrzejewska. An example is Sienkiewicz's "*Putnam of Mariposa*" who, isolated in the wilderness, nourished a yearning for his homeland by reading his uncle's *Bible* so as "not to forget his language."

In her memoirs Helena Modrzejewska recalls that when she came to San Francisco in 1876 to settle on a farm with Henryk Sienkiewicz, Sypniewski and Paprocki, she was met by a group of local Poles. At the head of the group was Captain Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski and with him Captain K. Bielawski, Dr. Pawlicki, General Włodzimierz Krzyzanowski, Horain, Bednawski, and Captain Theophilus Lessen. This group helped her get on the American stage in California and introduce the Polish name to the American public.

The period prior to World War I brought consolidation and further organizational growth of the Polish community in San Francisco. An "Eagle's Aerie" as well as a "Polish Society" in Oakland came into being. A courageous, dedicated Polish priest, Father Jan Kłanty Rosmus raised several thousand dollars for a parish church. Following his premature death the money was used for the purchase of a Polish Home in San Francisco.

### III

The most active workers in the Polish Organizations after World War I were Stanislaw A. Blonski, Pawel Brzuza, Felix Gottlicher, Henryk Piatkiewicz, Lucyan Markiewicz, F. Potasz, Florian and Josefa Niklasiewicz. Later Michael Maslach, Katarzyna Pich, Albina Isaeff, and Victor Wielgosz arrived.

After Poland obtained its independence the Polish community in San Francisco collected funds which they sent to the "Old Country." This was a way of helping the country of their origin.

The year 1926 was a turning point in the life of the Polish organizations in San Francisco. The Polish community established its own "Home" at 3040 Twenty-



DIRECTORS OF THE POLISH CLUB  
San Francisco, Sept. 12, 1926

Bottom row, from left to right: Franciszek Potasz, Adolf Strzelecki, Otto G. Kuklinski, attorney at law, Leon Kowalkowski, Katarzyna Pich, Pawel Brzuza, Josefa Niklasiewicz, Jan Luczynski. Second row: Jan Klich, Felix Gottlicher, Dyczynski. Third row: Teofil Kot, Stanislaw Blonski, Felix Majeranowski.

second Street. With the home as its focal point the Polish community was very active. Under the direction of Mrs. Jozefa Niklasiewicz, a Literary-Drama Society was organized which presented theatrical productions on its own stage and arranged for folk dances and the celebrations of the national holidays. Pageants were organized and there was cooperation with other national groups. The Polish community took an active role in the construction and the opening ceremonies of San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. It was under the active guidance of Dr. Ralph Modjeski that most of the plans for that outstanding structure were drawn, for he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Consulting Engineers for the projection of the bridge. Articles with Polish themes were frequently seen in the papers.

Receptions were given for prominent Polish artists who came to California. No Polish artist of note failed to visit San Francisco. Among these artists were: Helena

Modrzejewska, Henryk Wieniawski, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Ignacy J. Paderewski, as well as, Josef Slenczynski, a distinguished violinist-composer, only to mention a few.

Close cooperation has existed between the Polish Republic's Consul-General in San Francisco and the local Polish community ever since the opening of the Consulate. The Consul-General was a frequent guest in the Polish Club. In recognition of the services rendered for the Polish cause, four dedicated civic workers, and members of the Polish National Alliance were decorated with the Silver Cross of Merit. This award was given to Katarzyna Pich, Jozefa Niklasiewicz, Stanislaw Blonski and Felix Gottlicher under a decree issued by the Polish President on December 17, 1938.

With the establishment of the American-Polish Citizen's Club Inc. in 1934, Polish participation in the field of politics increased. Under the direction of well known and popular Stanley Walczak the organization members made contracts with American Government officials, sent petitions to Congressmen and influenced public opinion through large scale celebrations of Polish national events, such as 3rd of May Constitution Day, October 11th Pulaski Day, and others. These celebrations took place in Golden Gate Park with the participation of local government officials, State representatives and San Francisco's orchestra.

The Polish community took an active part in national defense during the second World War. Poles joined the armed forces in the United States while Poland became the first nation to resist German aggression which threatened to dominate the entire world. Poland resisted heroically, despite the hardest sufferings, and fought in the first ranks of the Allied Nations, ever faithful to her old motto: FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS.

#### IV

The post-war years changed the structure of the local Polish community. There was a mass influx of immigrants from among the Polish exiles in England, Germany, and Austria. A number of Polish intelligentsia settled in San Francisco, as well as, in the Bay Area. Polish professors have become members of the faculty of the University of California in Berkeley, among them are: the world famous Slavist Professor Wacław Lednicki, formerly professor at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and of the University of Brussels; Professor Jerzy Lenczowski, professor of Political Science, Chairman of the Committee on Middle Eastern Studies; Professor Jadwiga Maurer and Professor Czesław Miłosz of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Professor Jerzy Neyman, Director of Statistical Research, who was recently nominated to the United States National Academy of Sciences; Professor Antoni K. Oppenheim, professor of Aeronautical Sciences; and Professor Alfred Tarski, the internationally known mathematician. Lecturer in Slavic languages and literatures Michael K. Pawlikowski has recently retired from the University of California. The director of the

Chapter, was organized at the suggestion and encouragement of Rev. Dr. Jan Myrda, professor at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. The principal founders and leaders of this organization were, among others, Roman Filipkiewicz, Stefan Makohin, Adam Skoczowski, Prof. Witold Sworakowski, Wladyslaw Izdebski, Jan and Jadwiga Wagner, Waldemar Kulesza, Kazimierz Porebski (present chairman), Dr. Kazimierz Niec, Tadeusz Butler, Wojciech Winkler and S. Dyszynski.

There are eleven Polish priests in the San Francisco area who conduct church services in the Polish language. One of the most prominent priests since World War II is Father Francis Wajda, chaplain at Mary's Help Hospital, who is always present at the traditional Polish Easter Blessings and other important national holidays.

Many newcomers to San Francisco after World War II have taken leadership positions in the Polish National Alliance movement. Among them we find Leon Blaszak, tireless and devoted leader of the P.N.A., Boleslaw Wojtycki, long-term member and P.N.A. leader from Massachusetts, T. A. Zagorewicz, Wilhelm A. Wolny, Victor and Irene Stachura, Kazimierz and Aleksandra Nowicki, and John Smelski. Under the leadership of Leon Blaszak a new P.N.A. group was formed in 1959 by Polish Americans in Sacramento. Another P.N.A. group was organized through the personal efforts of Wilhelm Wolny and Walter Rylka in 1962 in Santa Clara, California. The P.N.A. groups organize Polish language schools, theatrical and social circles, Polish dance groups, and participate in community activities.

Two young Americans of Polish descent holding responsible leadership positions in the P.N.A., and other community organizations are Ted James Kukula, attorney at law, president of the Polish American Congress, San Francisco Chapter, and Leo A. Isaeff, insurance broker, president of the United Nationalities in San Francisco.

The United Polish societies of San Francisco, comprising several Polish organizations in San Francisco, having their headquarters in the Polish Home at 3040-22nd Street, San Francisco, are very ably administered by the president, Kazimierz Nowicki, and officers Frank Biernat, Teofil Kot, Joseph F. Noga and Roman Nowakowski. The Polish United Societies sponsor a Polish Colony Bulletin under the editorship of Frank Jasinski and Leo Isaeff.

## V

In summary, the Polish Society of California, Group 7 of the Polish National Alliance, was formed in July 1863 as the Polish Committee. From its inception, the purpose of this organization was to give assistance to its homeland which was so desperately fighting for its independence. The successors of the founders of the Group 7, Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski and Kazimierz Bielawski, continue to carry out the founders' ideology. Whenever Poland needed help in the difficult struggle prior to its liberation, during the initial stages of its independence and the difficult period of the German occupation at the time of World War II, as well as after the so-called liberation in 1945, Poles joined together in the ranks of the Polish Society of California in order to carry help to the Old Country, the land of their fathers.

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of this organization, it is fitting to present a list of its members as of March 1864. This list is a part of the report included in Boleslaw's *Rachunki* (Accounts), Title II, p. 126, Manuscripts, Rapperswyl Library, nr. 424, v.

NAME	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	ORIGIN
Andrzejowski, Julian W.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Bielawski, Casimir	San Francisco	Galicja
Bojarski, Wladyslaw	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Betkowski, Piotr	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Czaykowski, Leon	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Czaykowski, Wincenty	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Cohn, Dr. M.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Dobrzynski, Gust.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Eisenberg	San Francisco	Galicja
Freedberg, M.	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Friedlander	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Fox, H. B.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Gerbic, Charles	San Francisco	Galicja
Greenberg, M.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Hafter, Ch. B.	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Kruszewski, Antoni	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Kutner, Adolph	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Kiczman, Jozef	San Francisco	Galicja
Lipman, Jozef	San Francisco	Galicja
Luniewski, Ernst L.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Louis, Moses	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Levy, M. B.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Levy, Alexander	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Lewinson, S.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Liberski, N. P.	Marysville	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Meyer, C.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Mesz, M.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Mendlewicz, Ludwik	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Mendlewicz, Mikolay	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Mayer	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Marks	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Michelsen, M.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Neumann, Jozef	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Neuman, Salomon	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Piotrowski, Rudolph K.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Prag, Marten	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Palecki, Jozef	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland

Pinczowski	San Francisco	Gr. Duchy of Poznan
Philips, A.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Rottenberg, Abraham	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Rosenthal, Joseph	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Strentzel, Jan, Dr.	Martinez	Kingdom of Poland
Strentzel, Henryk	Martinez	Kingdom of Poland
Siukwitz, Wladyslaw	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Schloss, M.	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Schoenberg	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Usicki, Jan	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Wolfson, Jozef	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Weintraub	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland
Zawadzki	San Francisco	Kingdom of Poland

#### SUPPORTING FRIENDS:

Aliski	San Francisco	German
Aron, Simon	San Francisco	French
Beer, Julius	San Francisco	French
Czapkay, J. L., Dr.	San Francisco	Hungarian
Cahn, David	San Francisco	French
Lazard, Elie	San Francisco	French
Dallebach, S. M.	San Francisco	French
Engels	San Francisco	German
Jelinek, Albert	San Francisco	Czech
Walsh, Maurice	San Francisco	Irish
Molitor, N. P.	San Francisco	Hungarian
Greenwich Dock	San Francisco	unknown
Wesl, Alex	San Francisco	French

As may be observed from the above list of members and friends, the Polish Committee numbered 50 active members in less than a year after its inception. It must be assumed that this is a complete list for that period. According to a contemporary report and according to the manuscripts in the Rapperswyl Library, all of the members subscribed to a Polish periodical *Echa z Polski* (Polish Echoes) published in New York, which contained accounts of Polish community activities in San Francisco. The San Francisco reporter at that time was Julian W. Andrzejewski.

Polish Committee was concentrating its efforts on raising funds for the support of the Polish struggle for independence and was organizing manifestations in which representatives of other national groups in sympathy with the Polish movement took part.

When in 1880 the Polish Society of California affiliated with the nationwide *Zwiazek Narodowy Polski* (Polish National Alliance), it became a part of a powerful national group with thousands of members.

The Polish Society's generosity was rewarded. Its dreams of a free Poland were realized. Poland obtained its independence in 1918; however, the Society's assistance has not ceased. Whenever it learns of the mother country's needs it is always ready to help. Numerous citations by Polish authorities attest to its assistance.

During World War II when the Old Country was again overrun by armies of the enemy, the Society members aided exiles who came to California. After the war, when the United States opened its borders to so-called displaced persons, there was no withholding of help from the Society. Space does not permit enumeration of all donors, but to name a few, Mr. and Mrs. Michal Pich, Mrs. Albina Isaef, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Nowakowski (cooperating closely with the National Catholic Welfare Conference), Mr. and Mrs. Jozef Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Florian Niklasiewicz, Mrs. Jozefa Hunter, Wiktor Wielgosz, Jan Gnot, and many others. These Poles helped newcomers in becoming oriented and obtaining the necessities of life.

The record of the Polish Society in the history of California is commendable. It merits best wishes for another 100 years of activities in the tradition of the founders of the Society who did not spare their efforts to speak and fight for liberty, justice and democracy.

A partial list of the president of the Polish Society in California, as well as currently active members follows:

- Bielawski, Kazimierz — 1863 . . .
- Brzuza, Pawel — 1914
- Plincz, Karol J., Dr. — Jan.-April 1915
- Tomaszewski, Ludwik — April 1915-1921
- Brzuza, Pawel — 1922-1928
- Zmudowicz, A. — 1929
- Gottlicher, Felix — 1930-1931
- Niklasiewicz, Florian — 1932-1935
- Markiewicz, Lucjan — 1936-1937
- Kuklinski, Otto — 1938
- Markiewicz, Lucjan — 1939-1942
- Pich, Katarzyna (Mrs.) — 1943-April 1952  
(Deceased in Office)
- Sawicki, Wladyslaw — April 1952-1953
- Schneider, Emilia (Mrs.) — 1954-1955
- Wojtycki, Boleslaw — 1956
- Blaszak, Leon — 1957
- Wojtycki, Boleslaw — 1958-1961
- Stachura, Victor F. — 1962-present

Members of the Polish National Alliance, Group 7, as of the 100th Anniversary Date:

ADULT DIVISION

Banami, Ida	Krystofiak, Ted	Ruzecki, Walter
Bialoszewski, Vincenty	Kukula, Ted James	Saliker, Janina
Boenling, Stefania	Jobo, Dolores A.	Sermak, Daniel
Bogacz, Catherine	Jobo, John J.	Schneider, Emily
Bogacz, John	Lenartowicz, Alice	Schneider, John Jr.
Brooks, Joseph	Lento, Francine	Smelski, John
Brzuza, Bronislawa	Lento, Stella	Smelski, Stefania
Cesnauskas, Eva	Lesniewicz, Jim S.	Smiala, Anna
Cesnauskas, Juzapas	Lewandowski, Sigmund	Smith, Ladis
Chesniak, Bronislawa	Lipski, Micholaj	Stachura, Irene
Chwistek, Helen	Lukas, Helen	Stachura, Victor F.
Czerwinski, Kazimierz	Maj, Gabriel	Stefanska, Bronislawa
Downarowicz, John	Maskie, Estella	Sus, Michal
Drozd, Ludwig	Miller, Arthur	Szybalski, Anna
Ferencz, Jerzy	Miller, Wladyslawa	Szybalski, Antoni
Fischer (Wielgosz), Virginia	Mostowski, Ludwig	Tomczak, Helena
Fry, John	Mrozewska, Lottie	Toczek, Stanley Dr.
Gala, Lucjan	Nawojski, Bettie	Valerga, Mike D.
Gnott, John	Niklasiewicz, Florian	Waldman, Zofia
Gottlicher, Felix	Niklasiewicz, Jozefa	Wasak, Chester
Grochowski, Marian	Nowakowski, Anna	Wasak, Zofia
Haloski, Michal	Nowakowski, Roman	Wielgosz, Rosalie
Hunter, Josephine	Nowicki, Alexandra	Wielgosz, Rosemarie
Hunter, Robert J.	Nowicki, Kazimierz	Wielgosz, Victor
Isaeff, Albina	Ostrowski, Andrzej	Wielondek, Piotr
Isaeff, Leo A.	Ostrowski, Katarzyna	Wojtycki, Boleslaw
Jagielowicz, Wladyslaw	Ozdowski, Roch J.	Wolny, Alicja
Jasinska, Maria	Panek, Thomas Jr.	Wolny, Wilhelm
Kaczmaruk, John	Plonska, Eva	Wozniak, Wladyslawa
Karczewska, Martha	Raciborski, Stanislaw	Wrona, Stanley
Kopinska, Maria	Riley, Theresa	Zakszewska, Rosalie

## JUVENILE DIVISION

Annis, Linda	Isaeff, Alma L.	Nowicki, Theresa K.
Cook, Kenneth D.	Jacobs, Kathleen	Olkiewicz, Mark A.
Cook, Gary K.	Jasinski, Henry	Olkiewicz, Rita K.
Fry, Edward J.	Jasinski, Floyd J.	Owsiewski, Nancy
Fry, Randy M.	Lenartowicz, Christine	Rudkosky, Michal
Gala, Andrew R.	Moss, Cathy J.	Sikora, Michal
Handford, Laura	Miller, Lynn	Toczek, Andrzej R.
Handford, Randy	Nesterowicz, Sandra	Wiatrowski, Sharon A.
Handford, Sandra	Nowicki, Maria E.	Zak, William S.

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## PAID UP POLICIES

Belzak, Dorothy	Cook, Susan	Plonski, Wladyslaw
Belzak, Stanley	Fisher, Victoria	Tomczak, Zygmunt
Bogacz, Katarzyna H.	Mrozewski, Francis	Wielgosz, Rosalie S.
Brysiewicz, Marion A.	Nawojski, Jan J. Jr.	Wojtycki, Waldemar

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Today we can look back with pride at the past 100 years of organized Polish community life in San Francisco. We can be proud of the contributions that our community has made to our adopted city and to California, and we are confident that many more will be made in the future.

The outstanding work performed by these organizations in furthering the cause of liberty, democracy and freedom here and in their troubled homeland has made an immeasurable contribution to the enrichment of American culture and heritage. The Polish people and their societies are proud to take their place in this heritage along with every other nation in the world.



# History of the Polish National Alliance

The Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America is chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois. It was incorporated and began business in 1880 and has now completed 83 years of successful operations. It has grown to be one of the oldest and best known Fraternal organizations in the world. It is the largest Fraternal Organization for Americans of Polish Descent.

The Organization's operations extend throughout 34 States and the District of Columbia. It maintains 1,511 subordinate lodges and finances are subject to supervision by the State Insurance Departments of these States and regular examinations are made. All investments must be made in accordance with strict laws governing the investment of insurance funds.

The Organization admits as Members men and women between the ages of 16 and 60 of good moral character who are by birth, extraction, consanguinity, or affinity, Polish, and all Slavic nationalities may affiliate with the Alliance. It also maintains a Juvenile Department to which are admitted children from birth to age 16.

The Alliance conducts many special activities. Its Juvenile Department is making an active effort to build a great reserve of youth, preparing them for future loyal Members, not only in the Alliance, but also of the United States of America. It maintains the Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, a four-year, fully accredited co-educational college, where Members may obtain a college education at nominal cost. It has organized and conducts evening classes throughout the country for its Members. Libraries, where all the latest books may be had by Members without cost, have also been established. Educational loans are granted for members and their children, enabling them to obtain an education in any of the universities they may choose.

## Alliance College

Founded and Endowed by the Polish National Alliance

The Polish National Alliance founded and maintains the Alliance College, a four year co-educational institution, and the Alliance Technical Institute in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania.

**FULLY ACCREDITED** — By the Middle States Associations of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

**BROAD CURRICULA** — Liberal Arts and Science Programs offer thorough preparation for advanced work in professional schools.

**ADEQUATE FACULTY** — A faculty member to every eight students. Faculty members have been trained at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Michigan, Wisconsin, John Hopkins, Western Reserve, and the Universities of Prague, Warsaw, Krakow, London and the Sorbonne.

**MODERN BUILDINGS** — Modern quarters for classes, administration, library, dining hall and dormitory.

**SMALL COLLEGE ATMOSPHERE** on an **IDEAL CAMPUS** — Small classes, individual attention, helpful personal relationships and adequate physical facilities set in the 180 acre landscaped and wooded campus.

Alliance College, an American cradle of the Polish heritage, is an institution of learning, a center of culture, character building, and training of future political, business and professional leaders.



**Leo McCarthy**  
*Of San Francisco*

**Congratulates  
The Polish  
Society of  
California**

**On its 100th  
Anniversary**



**POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
Group 7**

**SALUTES**

**BOLESLAW WOJTYCKI** in appreciation for the performance of long term organizational and administrative work in the P.N.A. movement.

Boleslaw Wojtycki was born on February 2, 1892, in Bialystok, Poland. After the completion of the Real School in 1912, he emigrated to the United States of America from his enslaved homeland in search of freedom and liberty. He settled in the City of Lorenz, Mass., and in 1917 joined the Polish National Alliance, Group 1114, Council 98. In a short time he advanced to the position of Recording

Secretary and subsequently became one of the main P.N.A. organizers in this area. In 1953, after years of experience in P.N.A. movement, he came to San Francisco and joined Group 7. His devotion to the organization and knowledge of organizational work was soon recognized, and he was elected as the president of Group 7. He served in this capacity for 5 years, helping to stimulate activities and growth of the P.N.A. in the Bay Area.

**Officers and members of Group 7 congratulate you on a job well done**

“Whether one traces his Americanism three centuries to the Mayflower, or three years to the steerage, is not half so important as whether his Americanism of today is real and genuine. No matter on what various crafts we came here we are all now in the same boat.”

— *Calvin Coolidge*

**Best wishes to the Polish Society of California  
on this Centennial Celebration.**

**TED JAMES KUKULA**

President of the Polish American Congress  
Counsel for the United Polish Societies

625 Market Street  
San Francisco, California  
Phone: EXbrook 7-1745



POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

Group 7

HONORS

STANISLAUS ANTHONY BLONSKI in appreciation for his tireless and devoted work in his social and patriotic activities.

Stanislaus A. Blonski was born on April 26, 1882, in Warsaw, Poland. Educated in Warsaw and Moscow, he spent almost twenty years in Siberia and Outer Mongolia

working in various capacities for Russian and American telegraph and telephone companies. He came with his family to San Francisco in 1923 and became a citizen of the United States in 1929.

Already in 1914 he organized and served as vice president of the Relief Committee for the Victims of War in Poland, and he was an hon. representative of the Polish government in Urga and Uliasutai, Outer Mongolia, from 1919 to 1921. In 1939, prior to the outbreak of the W.W. II, he was decorated with Silver Cross of Merit for services in the struggle for Poland's independence.

Tireless in his work S.A. Blonski spent many months of research and reestablished the identity of Mt. Bielawski near Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, and located graves of Capt. Bielawski and his wife.

He is a charter member of the Polish Hall in San Francisco, past president of Polish Hall and of the United Polish Societies of Polish War Relief; first vice president of the Polish American Congress Inc., California State District and chairman of San Francisco Division, 1944-1946, and an active member of the Polish Society of California, Group 7 P.N.A., since 1923.

Officers and members of the Group 7 salute you for your outstanding service to the Polish community in San Francisco and your devotion to the pioneering work in California.

*Congratulations and Best Wishes*  
*to the*  
**POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA**

*On its*  
**CENTENNIAL**

*from*  
**Kazimierz and Aleksandra Nowicki**

With Daughters

**Marysia ("Dzidzia") and Terenia**

*Lyon Associates*

**Congratulate**

THE **POLISH**  
**SOCIETY**  
OF **CALIFORNIA**

ON ITS **100 Anniver**

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**Insurance Representative for the Polish National Alliance**  
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*compliments of . . .*

**JOSEPH SCHNEIDER**

**EMILY SCHNEIDER**

Past President of P.N.A. Group 7

**JOHN SCHNEIDER**

Member of P.N.A. Group 7

*Wishes to the*

**POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA**

*on its*

**100th ANNIVERSARY**

*from the*

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TELEPHONE JU 5-2853

# The United Polish Societies of San Francisco

(DYREKTORIAT DOMU POLSKIEGO)

3040 - 22nd Street, San Francisco

Phone VA 4-9777

## MAGNIFICENCE OF THE MONUMENT

Founders of the POLISH HOME in 1926, namely P. Brzuza, L. Kowalkowski, J. Klich, O. G. Kuklinski, T. Kot, F. Gottlicher, J. Niklasiewicz, W. Waniorek, J. Luczynski, S. Blonski, F. Mayeryanowski, F. Potasz, K. Pich, M. Dyc, A. Strzelecki — a handful of whom are still alive — are joining the present administration of POLISH HOME in expressing their heartiest congratulations to your esteemed organization on the attainment of this milestone in its illustrious career. We hope your members will continue the realization of its most worthy and useful aspirations and activities for the welfare of our "Polonia," for the glory of our adopted U.S.A. and for the restoration and freedom of our enslaved Poland.

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## Fraternal Greetings

from

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### MEETINGS:

Every 3rd Sunday of the month, at 2:30 p.m. at the "POLISH AUDITORIUM",  
4434 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles 43, California

## Congratulations . . .

POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA  
ON YOUR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

from

GROUP 156 OF THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Best Wishes to the Polish Society of California  
ON YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY

from

MARIE CURRIE SKLODOWSKA — LODGE 3118  
*Fontana, California*

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## Best Wishes on Your Centennial Celebration

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE, COUNCIL 73  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

EDWARD WROBEL..... <i>President</i>	S. HOLODNIK..... <i>General Secretary</i>
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M. KOLODY..... <i>Vice President</i>	E. M. NIEDER..... <i>Commissioner, Dist. 16</i>

## BEST WISHES FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

from

## POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, INC.

1312 West Third Street, Los Angeles 17, California

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Meetings every 4th Sunday of the month, at 3:30 p.m., at "POLONIA HALL,"  
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# JEDNODNIOWKA

CALIFORNIA NEWS

## Activities of Polish Colony in California And Arizona

B. A. ZAREMBA, PUBLISHER Telephone TOpaz 2-7309

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*Extends Its Heartiest Congratulations*  
*On the 100th Anniversary of the*  
**POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA**

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