





*Welcome to the 2017*

**San Francisco Bay Area  
POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

**Twin Pines Park  
Belmont, CA**

**20 May 2017**

**11:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**[www.polcafestival.com](http://www.polcafestival.com)**

**2017 Featured Performer**

**Guitar Virtuoso, Maciej Krystkowiak  
from Mogilno, Poland**

**2017 Spotlight**

**SCIENCE & LITERATURE**

*Join with us in CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
of the John Paul II School of Polish Language*

# *Polish American Congress*

## *Northern California Division*

### **FESTIVAL SPONSOR**

This festival is organized by the Polish American Congress, Northern California Division, together with three major festival partners and the help of many volunteers

### **THIRD ANNUAL POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

## *Celebrating & Sharing Our Polish Heritage*

The Polish American Congress State Division – Since 1944  
Northern California Division (NCD) – Since 1968

The goals of Congress are to:

- ❖ Support Poland in times of need
- ❖ Preserve cultural heritage and ethnic identity
- ❖ Uphold the image of Polish-Americans

Please join us! Keep Congress alive and successful!

Success in meeting the challenges facing Polish-Americans today means staying active and working collaboratively. We must adapt to changing times and the aspirations of today's Polish-Americans. We need YOU!

Your presence is the key!

Join the **Polish-American Congress**  
**Northern California Division**

<http://www.pacnorcal.org>



## FESTIVAL PARTNERS

### The Polish Society of California/PNA Lodge 7

<http://www.polishclubsf.org/PolishSocietyOfCalifornia.htm>



Founded by Polish California pioneers in 1863, the Society celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2013. Since 1880 the society has belonged to the Polish National Alliance as Lodge 7. The Polish National Alliance, popularly known as PNA or the Alliance, is the largest of all ethnically-based fraternal insurance benefit societies in this country. FP Wierzbicki, MD, is the most famous Calif. Polander, renowned for *California As It Is and As It May Be* (1849, SF).



### The Polish Club Inc., San Francisco

<http://www.PolishClubSF.org>

The Polish Club (Dom Polski), in San Francisco's Mission District (3040 22<sup>nd</sup> Street), boasts three member societies, which held their first joint meeting in 1925. The Polish Club is a center for the propagation of Polish culture, art, language and community. The Club building was acquired in 1926 and is used today for Polish cultural events and for San Francisco community events. The Polish Club is available for rentals for all occasions. Please see our website for details.

### The Polonian Cultural and Pastoral Center, Sacramento

<http://www.poloniasacramento.com/>



**The Polonian Cultural and Pastoral Center (PCPC)** in Sacramento was formally established in October 1985. The Center opened in 1991, and PCPC's Chapel of **Our Lady of Częstochowa** was consecrated that year by the Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento. The Polonian Cultural and Pastoral Center serves Polish Catholics in the Sacramento area. The original members were Polish immigrants who participated in Poland's Solidarity movement. The Center organizes year-round events such as picnics, entertainment, dances, dinners and other social gatherings. The Center supports local chapters of Polish Scouts and offers Polish language classes for children.

*The festival organizers are grateful to the  
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles for its support*

# GUEST & LOCAL TALENT

**We are proud to present our featured entertainer from Poland, Maciej Krystokowiak, and Mazovia Polish Song & Dance Association from Canada**

**Maciej Krystokowiak** is an accomplished young guitar virtuoso, composer and recording artist who transforms classical music into exciting rock renditions.



**Must Be the Music.** He appeared in the Polish TV show **Got Talent** and performed many times in the show **Name That Tune**.

Maciej played with top Polish rock bands including Dżem, TSA, Lady Pank and Oddział Zamknięty. He starred in solo shows in Poland, Germany, Ireland and Lithuania. Maciej is also a member of the Dixie Team, a traditional jazz

band which won a top prize in the 2016 Old Jazz Festival in Iława, Poland.



**Mazovia** Is an ensemble of enthusiastic, energetic, and friendly young dancers who are proud of their roots and the richness of Polish culture.

The Mazovia Polish Song and Dance Association is a newly formed non-profit organization in Calgary, Alberta, Canada founded by Majka Kowalczyk in September 2015.

Mazovia members are proud ambassadors, actively sharing the charm and treasure of Polish folklore (with its uniqueness, diversity and power of expression) with ensuing generations by entertaining and educating Canadian and worldwide audiences.

With a repertoire of both national and regional songs and dances Mazovia has danced at many venues throughout Canada and the US.

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## THE JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL OF POLISH LANGUAGE *CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN 2017*



The John Paul II School of Polish Language was established in 1967 by the Polish-American Educational Committee of San Francisco (PAEC). In addition to studying the Polish language, and Polish history and culture, students who attend our school have the opportunity to learn and perform traditional Polish dances. Our children's dance group (**Orliki**) performs regularly at Bay Area cultural events.

Classes are held on select Saturdays at the United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek. For more information, including enrollment information, please visit our web page: <http://polishschool.org/> or follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/John-Paul-II-School-of-Polish-Language/>

### **KUZYNİ POLISH STREET FOLK BAND**



Kuzyni (cousins) is a group of musical enthusiasts established in 2013 who perform at various Polish events in the San Francisco Bay Area. Combining a broad range of instrumental and vocal talent, the musical style of this joyful, collaborative band could be loosely described as "street folk." The group's musical material includes pieces that span 80 years of Polish hits and popular songs.

### **SOKOŁY – A łowiczenie children's dance ensemble**



Sokoly (Polish Falcons) is a team of young performers who present traditional dances and songs of Poland, who work on various art projects, and learn about Polish language, history and custom, in a light-hearted and child-friendly atmosphere. Classes are held on Saturdays, 2-4 pm in Capel Hall at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1835 Valota Road in Redwood City. Group Director: Gosia Wojciechowska; Artistic Director: Piotr Irby; Music Director: Ted Savarese; Tel: 408.838.1178; Email: [info@sokolydancegroup.org](mailto:info@sokolydancegroup.org); Facebook: SokolyDanceGroup

### **SKRZYPECZKI – (established March 2016)**



is a string ensemble of young musicians with Polish background ranging in age from 5 to 11. The children meet at the JPII School of Polish Language. With the help of teachers and family members, the ensemble applies the Suzuki violin method to traditional Polish music. Skrzypeczki performs at local Polish cultural events and elsewhere. Facebook: [SkrzypeczkiSF](https://www.facebook.com/SkrzypeczkiSF)



# History of the John Paul II School of Polish Language

## Celebrating 50 Years in the San Francisco Bay Area!

In 1966, Poland celebrated its 1000-year anniversary as a nation, and the millennium of its conversion to Christianity. Wishing to mark these auspicious occasions, Bay Area Polonia leaders discussed how best to celebrate Poland's Millennium. The Millennium Committee discerned an urgent need for a Polish language school. Their meeting on **January 20, 1967** is considered the founding date of the John Paul II School of Polish Language. The first class was represented by 18 families (40 children). Members of the first School Board were: **Tadeusz Bulter, Irena Mrozewska, Władysława Grycz, and Anna Bogucka**. Audit Committee members included **Anna Brachaczek, Stefan Jankowski** and **Franciszek Stonina**. Serving as faculty members were **Anna Goldwin, Olga Izdebska, Helena Lazowy and Bronistawa Zaroda**. **Krystyna Chciuk** taught Polish folkdance and singing. Because parent participation was recognized as a key element to the success of the school, on May 5, 1967, a Parent's Committee was formed; its first members were **Jan Smelski, Jana Phillips** and **Czesława Sawicka**.



The Polish Language School was officially established on **August 20, 1967** as the **Polish-American Educational Committee of San Francisco, Inc.** (PAEC). Children attended class at the Polish Club (*Dom Polski*) at 3040 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in San Francisco, with sponsorship from the Club's Literary and Dramatic Circle. Beginning in January 1968, as the school grew bi-weekly classes were held at nearby Sanchez Elementary School in San Francisco. Over the years classes convened in different locations.

In 1976, **Father Wojciech Baryski** formed the **first Polish Roman-Catholic parish** in San Francisco. At his suggestion, a catechetical program was added to the school's core curriculum. In 1986, for the school's 19th anniversary, the school adopted the name **Pope John Paul II**, the first Polish Roman-Catholic pope in the history of the church.

Students range in age from preschool through high school, and upon graduation from the school's accredited curriculum, students may take a matriculation language exam for college credit. In addition to Polish language skills, history, and religion, students learn music and folk dancing, and many perform in the school's dance group, "**Orliki**".

During the school year, teachers and the board of directors celebrate Wigilia (traditional Polish Christmas Eve) organizing young artists to present a Christmas pageant, Nativity play and traditional folk dances. The school's annual poetry competition and recital features beautiful poems from famous and lesser-known Polish poets. For Easter, traditional egg decorating classes are held. Special celebrations for Mother's and Father's Day include dances and dramatic performances.

The Polish school in Walnut Creek has an engaging curriculum customized to students' individual language skills and experience. Students learn the language and heritage of their ancestors, and build friendships that last a lifetime.

For more information, we welcome you to visit our school in person and to visit our website: [www.polishschool.org](http://www.polishschool.org)

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Szanowni Państwo!

50 lat temu w 1967 roku została założona Szkoła Polska im. Jana Pawła II. Jesteśmy niezmiernie dumni z tak okrągłej rocznicy istnienia. Obecnie nasza siedziba jest w Walnut Creek. Przez pół wieku szkoła daje dzieciom i młodzieży z Północnej Kalifornii możliwość zapoznania się z polską kulturą i szansę nauki języka polskiego.

Do szkoły mogą uczęszczać dzieci od 3 lat. Nauka kończy się w klasie licealnej i jest przypieczętowana egzaminem, dzięki któremu młodzież uzyskuje dodatkowe punkty do colleg'u. Oprócz lekcji języka polskiego, historii i religii uczniowie biorą udział w lekcjach muzyki i tańca ludowego. Przy szkole istnieje zespół taneczny "Orliki", który dumnie reprezentuje nas na festiwalach i innych imprezach okolicznościowych.

W roku szkolnym odbywa się dużo imprez organizowanych przez nauczycieli i członków zarządu. Dużą popularnością cieszy się polonijna wigilia, podczas której nasi mali artyści występują w Jasełkach i tradycyjnych tańcach ludowych. Podczas dorocznego konkursu recytatorskiego publiczność ma okazję usłyszeć najpiękniejsze wiersze tych wielkich i tych mniej znanych polskich poetów. Przed Wielkanocą oferujemy możliwość nauki wykonania tradycyjnych polskich pisanek, hucznie świętujemy dzień mamy i taty, podczas którego każda klasa prezentuje program artystyczny dla rodziców.

Szkoła polska w Walnut Creek ma ciekawy program nauczania dostosowany do poziomu znajomości języka polskiego. Lekcje konwersacji oraz praca indywidualna z uczniami jest tym, co sprawia, że odnosimy sukcesy. Nasi uczniowie chętnie przychodzą do szkoły aby odkrywać wiadomości o kraju ojczystym ich przodków, a spędzony czas z kolegami i koleżankami z reguły owocuje w przyjaźniach na całe życie.

Więcej szczegółowych informacji mogą Państwo uzyskać na stronie szkoły [www.polishschool.org](http://www.polishschool.org)

Serdecznie zapraszamy do odwiedzenia naszej placówki.





# A Short History of Poland

The story of Poland is a tale of long stretches of foreign rule, and repeated attempts by Poles to evict foreign occupiers and to reclaim self-rule. **Between 1600 and 1845 alone, Poland was invaded, or fought for freedom, 43 times.**

The arrival of the Slavs on the land known today as Poland gave rise to the Piast dynasty and the adoption of Christianity in **966** – the year when Poland is considered to have been born as a nation. The next great dynasty began when the **Grand Duke Jagiello** of Lithuania married Poland's **Queen Jadwiga** who **ruled Poland with the full powers of a King**. Jadwiga and Jagiello continued to rule together as **co-equals**. This union of the Crowns eventually led to a full political union of the two states, subsequently known as the **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth**, in 1569. The **Polish Winged Hussars** were the main cavalry in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth between the 16th and 18th centuries.



The Commonwealth, often referred to as the **First Polish Republic** (their **kings were not absolute monarchs** as elsewhere in Europe, but were **elected and responsible to the Senate**) was the largest and most populous state in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Europe, spanning some 390,000 square miles and with a multi-ethnic and multi-religious population of 11 million at its peak. It

was **known for religious tolerance**, as exemplified by **King Zygmunt Augustus** who stated that he was the King of the people, but not of their conscience. **Uninvolved in Europe's religious wars**, Poland was a refuge for many people persecuted because of their religion. Jews found not only refuge when they were expelled from other European countries, but were given royal protection by the **Statute of Kalisz** (1264), and in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century were granted community autonomy with the establishment of the **Council of Four Lands**, an exemplary treatment of a minority even by modern standards.



**Jan III Sobieski** from 1674 until his death was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. Sobieski's military skill, demonstrated in wars against the Ottoman Empire, contributed to his prowess as King of Poland. Sobieski's 22-year reign marked a period of the Commonwealth's stabilization, much needed after the turmoil of the Deluge and the Khmelnytsky Uprising. He was an able military commander, most famous for his victory over the Turks at the **1683 Battle of Vienna**. After his victories over them, the Ottomans called him the "Lion of Lechistan"; and the Pope called him the savior of Christendom.

The **Polish Constitution of May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1791** was the **first codified constitution in Europe** and second only to the United States. It was the formal expression of Poland's long history of tolerance and love of liberty, justice and honor. Traditionally, on or about May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the City of San Francisco celebrates Polish American Heritage Day at a flag raising ceremony at City Hall, organized at its inception by the Polish-American Congress. In honor of Constitution Day, Friends of Poland join Polish-Americans at an annual concert in Golden Gate Park.

**The Partitions:** The Russian Empire, the Kingdom of Prussia and Habsburg Austria -- all ruled by absolute monarchs -- collaborated in the destruction of Poland and divided Polish territory among themselves in three successive partitions: **1772**, **1793** and **1795**. Despite many attempts to regain their independence, including the final one led by **Tadeusz Kościuszko** (ironically a man who helped America win its freedom), Poland was **partitioned**

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in 1795 and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ceased to exist. Thus, **three times in the second half of the 18th century Poland lost its sovereignty** by territorial seizures from neighboring countries. **The Ottoman Empire was the only major country that did not recognize the partitions of Poland.**

Poland regained its independence as the **Second Polish Republic** in **1918** -- November 11<sup>th</sup> marking **Poland's Independence Day**. That year, **President Wilson** proclaimed his support for a free Poland, with access to the sea, in his famous Fourteen Points. **Józef Piłsudski** (Chief of State) played a major role in creating the 1918 **Second Republic of Poland**. For only a short 21 years Poles enjoyed their long-sought-for freedom.

**Between 1939 to 1989, Poles were forbidden to celebrate National Independence Day.** After the collapse of the socialist/communist government, the holiday gained particular significance.



In August 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed the **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** that included a secret agreement to invade, partition and occupy Poland. With staggering brutality, Hitler and Stalin oversaw the **destruction of cultural and educational institutions, and arrests, deportations, enslavement, torture and the execution of millions of Polish civilians.** In response, the **Poles fielded the largest and most determined resistance in occupied Europe.** **Poland fought alongside the allies in Norway, North Africa, Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, distinguished itself with its air force (The Polish 303 Fighter Squadron was the highest scoring squadron), had a small but effective navy, and contributed superb intelligence, including the first Enigma machine.** Without sufficient help from the Allies, however, their resistance, including the **Warsaw Uprising of 1944,** was doomed.

In total, **Poland lost six million citizens during the Second World War** – three million of whom were Jews. **All of Poland was annexed or occupied during WWII by Germans or Russians.** Helping Jews was punishable by death to entire families with at least one thousand such executions recorded.

**At the war's end, Poland did not regain her freedom,** having

been turned over to the Soviet Union by her allies at the **Yalta Conference.** Moscow then controlled Poland's internal and foreign affairs and the Polish Armed Forces. The Communist regime was installed with brutality including wholesale arrests and executions of former resistance members. Red Army forces were stationed in Poland until 1989. The **People's Republic of Poland (PRL)** was the official name of Poland from 1952 until 1989.

**Solidarity (Solidarność),** the largest and most successful non-violent resistance movement against the communist regime, united almost 10 million people from all walks of life: workers, students, professionals and intellectuals. Its most visible leader was the fiery labor leader, **Lech Wałęsa.** The regime tried to suppress Solidarity by imposing **martial law** and arresting thousands of dissidents. In the end, the government and the movement negotiated a compromise – agreeing to a partially free election -- but this election revealed the total moral bankruptcy of the regime and victory of the people. A year later, in the full and free election of 1990, Lech Wałęsa was elected the President of Poland.

**Denmark | Poland (WWII)**

1940: 7,800 Danish Jews | 3.3 million Polish Jews

Denmark surrendered within 6 hours of the "gentle" German invasion.

There were at least 2 Danish SS divisions. There were no Polish SS divisions.

Number of Righteous: Danes: 22 | Poles: 6,532

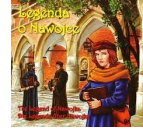
# Celebrating Education & Educators

## Jagiellonian University



was founded in 1364 by Kazimierz (Casimir) III the Great. It is the **oldest university in Poland**, the **second oldest university in Central Europe** (after Charles University in Prague) and **one of the oldest universities in the world**. It was positioned by QS World University Rankings as the best Polish university among the world's top 500. The university fell upon hard times during the occupation of Kraków by Austria-Hungary during the Partitions of Poland. In 1817, soon after the creation of the Duchy of Warsaw, the university was renamed as Jagiellonian to commemorate Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.

**Nowojka** was a medieval Polish woman in the 15th century who dressed as a boy in order to study at the University of Kraków. She is considered to be the **first female student and teacher in Poland**. According to some, she was the daughter of a teacher in a church school in Gniezno, schooled by her father, who decided to continue her studies using any means necessary. She enrolled at Jagiellonian University in Kraków under the assumed name of Jakub (or Andrzej) because at that time women were not admitted to universities.



**Wilno University** is one of the oldest in Northern Europe, founded in 1579 as the Jesuit Academy by the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, **Stefan Batory**. It was the **third oldest university** (after the Kraków Academy and the Albertina) in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In the aftermath of the Third Partition of Poland (1795) and the November Uprising (1830 -1831), the university suspended its operation until 1919.



The **Commission of National Education (KEN – Komisja Edukacji Narodowej)** was the central educational authority in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, created by the Sejm and King Stanisław August Poniatowski on **October 14, 1773**. Because of its vast authority and autonomy, it is considered **the first Ministry of Education in Europe** and an important achievement of the Polish Enlightenment.

## Poles in Science & Literature

**Nicolaus Copernicus** (Mikołaj Kopernik) (19 February 1473 – 24 May 1543) was a Renaissance mathematician and astronomer who formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the center of the universe. The publication of Copernicus' model in his book, *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*, revolutionized science. Copernicus was born and died in Royal Prussia, a region that had been part of the Kingdom of Poland since 1466. A polyglot and polymath, he obtained a doctorate in canon law and was also a mathematician, astronomer, physician, classics scholar, translator, governor, diplomat, and economist.



**Jan Józef Ignacy Łukasiewicz** (8 March 1822 - 7 January 1882) was a Polish pharmacist and petroleum industry pioneer who, in 1856, built the world's first oil refinery. His achievements include the discovery of the methodology for distilling kerosene from seep oil, the invention of the modern kerosene lamp (1853), the introduction of the first modern street lamp in Europe (1853, Lwów), and the construction of one of the world's first modern oil wells (1854). Łukasiewicz became a wealthy man and one of the most prominent philanthropists in Central Europe.

**Marie Skłodowska Curie** (7 November 1867 - 4 July 1934), born Maria Salomea Skłodowska, was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences, and was part of the Curie family legacy of five Nobel Prizes. She was also the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris. She was born in Warsaw, in what was then the Kingdom of Poland, part of the Russian Empire. She studied at Warsaw's clandestine Floating University and



began her practical scientific training in Warsaw. In 1891, at age 24, she followed her sister Bronisława to Paris where she earned her higher degrees and conducted her subsequent scientific work. She shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics with her husband Pierre Curie and with physicist Henri Becquerel. She won the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Her achievements include the development of the theory of radioactivity (a term that she coined), techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes, and the discovery of two elements, polonium (after her native country) and radium. Under her direction, the world's first studies into the treatment of neoplasms using radioactive isotopes were conducted. She founded the Curie Institutes in Paris and in Warsaw, which remain major centers of medical research today. During World War I, she developed mobile radiography units to provide X-ray services to field hospitals. While a French citizen, Marie Skłodowska Curie (she used both surnames) never lost her sense of Polish identity. She taught her daughters the Polish language and took them on visits to Poland.

**Marian Adam Rejewski** (16 August 1905 - 13 February 1980) was a Polish mathematician and cryptologist who reconstructed the Nazi German military Enigma cipher machine, sight-unseen, in 1932. The cryptologic achievements of Rejewski and colleagues **Jerzy Różycki** and **Henryk Zygalski** enabled



Poland's Enigma masterminds with a copy of the Enigma machine on display at the Museum of Technology in Warsaw.

the British to begin reading German Enigma-encrypted messages at the start of World War II. The intelligence gathered by the British from Enigma decryptations contributed, perhaps decisively, to the defeat of Nazi Germany. For two decades, Rejewski remained

silent about his prewar and wartime cryptologic work to avoid adverse attention from the country's Soviet-dominated government; he broke his silence in 1967 when he provided to the Polish Military Historical Institute his memoirs. He is interred at Warsaw's Powązki Military Cemetery.

Kevlar is the registered trademark for a para-aramid synthetic fiber developed by **Stephanie Kwolek** at DuPont in 1965. This high-strength material was first commercially used in the early 1970s as a replacement for steel in racing tires. Kevlar has many applications, ranging from bicycle tires and racing sails to body armor. It is used to make modern drumheads that withstand high impact. When used as woven material, it is suitable for mooring lines among other applications.



Polish innovator **Olga Malinkiewicz** created a printing technology that produces cheap flexible sheets of perovskite that may someday revolutionize the solar energy industry. In September 2014 Olga founded Saule Technologies to produce solar cells for the mass market. Malinkiewicz envisions the day when anyone can purchase perovskite sheets and stick them to windows to obtain cheap, clean energy.



**Maria Siemionow** (born 1950 in Krotoszyn) is a renowned transplant surgeon and scientist who gained world recognition when in 2008 she led a team of eight surgeons through the world's first near-total face transplantation at the Cleveland Clinic. She is regarded as a world leader in nerve regeneration enhancement and in developing minimal immunosuppression regimens following transplants.



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**Mikolaj Rey** or **Rey** of Nagłowice (4 February 1505 – between 8 September/5 October 1569) was a Polish poet and prose writer of the emerging Renaissance in Poland as it succeeded the Middle Ages, as well as a politician and musician. He was the first Polish author to write exclusively in the Polish language, and he is considered (with **Biernat of Lublin** who wrote the first book printed in the Polish language and Jan Kochanowski), to be one of the founders of Polish literary language and literature.

**Jan Kochanowski** (1530 – 22 August 1584) was a Polish Renaissance poet who established poetic patterns that would become integral to Polish literary expression. He is commonly regarded as the greatest Polish poet before Adam Mickiewicz, and the greatest Slavic poet prior to the 19th century.



**Adam Bernard Mickiewicz** (24 December 1798 – 26 November 1855) was a Polish poet, dramatist, essayist, publicist, translator, professor of Slavic literature, and a political activist. He is regarded as a national poet in Poland, Lithuania and Belarus on par with Byron and Goethe. He is known chiefly for the poetic drama *Dziady* (*Forefathers' Eve*) and the national epic poem *Pan Tadeusz*. His works served as inspiration for uprisings against the three imperial powers that partitioned and annihilated the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Mickiewicz was born in the Russian-partitioned territory of the former



Grand Duchy of Lithuania, formerly part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He was active in the struggle for Polish independence. After five years of exile in central Russia, in 1829 he succeeded in escaping the Russian Empire and, like many of his compatriots, spent the remainder of his life abroad. He helped organize Polish forces fighting Russia in the Crimean War. His remains are in Wawel Cathedral in Kraków, Poland.

**Henryk Adam Aleksander Pius Sienkiewicz** (pseudonym "Litwos"; 5 May 1846 - 15 November 1916) was a Polish journalist, novelist and Nobel Prize laureate. He is best remembered for his historic novels. Born into an impoverished Polish noble family in Russian-ruled "Congress Poland", he published journalistic and literary pieces. In the mid-1870s he traveled to the United States, sending back travel essays that won him popularity with Polish readers. In the 1880s he began serializing novels that further increased his popularity. He soon became one of the most popular Polish writers, and numerous translations of his work gained him international renown, culminating in his receipt of the 1905 Nobel Prize in Literature for his "outstanding merits as an epic writer." Many of his novels remain in print. In Poland he is best known for his "Trilogy" of historic novels - *With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge*, and *Pan Michael* - which are set in the 17th-century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; internationally he is best known for *Quo Vadis*, set in Nero's Rome. *The Trilogy* and *Quo Vadis* have been filmed, the latter several times, with Hollywood's 1951 version receiving the most international recognition.



**Joseph Conrad** (born Józef Teodor Konrad **Korzeniowski**; 3 December 1857 – 3 August 1924) was a Polish-British writer regarded as one of the greatest novelists to write in the English language. He joined the British merchant marine in 1878, and was granted British nationality in 1886. Though he did not speak English fluently until his twenties, he was a master prose stylist who brought a non-English sensibility to English literature. He wrote stories and novels that depict trials of the human spirit in the midst of an impassive, inscrutable universe. His narrative style and anti-heroic characters have influenced many authors, including F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, André Malraux, George Orwell, Graham Greene, Gabriel García Márquez, John le Carré, V. S. Naipaul, Philip Roth, J. M. Coetzee, and Salman Rushdie. Many films have been adapted from, or inspired by, Conrad's works. Writing in the heyday of the British Empire, Conrad drew on, among other things, his native Poland's national experiences and his own experiences in the French and British merchant navies, to create short stories and novels that reflect aspects of a European-dominated world and that explore the human psyche.



**Władysław Stanisław Reymont** (born **Rejment**; 7 May 1867 – 5 December 1925) was a Polish novelist and the 1924 laureate of the Nobel Prize in Literature. His best-known work is the award-winning four-volume novel *Chłopi* (*The Peasants*).



**Czesław Miłosz** (30 June 1911 - 14 August 2004) was a Polish poet, prose writer, translator and diplomat. His World War II-era series *The World* is a collection of twenty poems. Following the war, he served as the Polish cultural attaché in Paris and Washington, D.C.; in 1951 he defected to the West. His nonfiction book *The Captive Mind* (1953) became a classic of anti-Stalinism. From 1961 to 1998 he was a professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. He became a U.S. citizen in 1970. In 1978 he was awarded the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and in 1980 the Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1999 he was named a Puterbaugh Fellow. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, he divided his time between Berkeley, California, and Kraków, Poland.



**Maria Wisława Anna Szymborska** (2 July 1923 – 1 February 2012) was a Polish poet, essayist, translator and recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature "for poetry that with ironic precision allows the historical and biological context to come to light in fragments of human reality."





# FUN FACTS ABOUT POLAND

- The official name of Poland is the Republic of Poland (Rzeczpospolita Polska).
- Poland is the 9th largest country in Europe by land area.
- Seven countries share a border with Poland including Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Slovakia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and Germany.
- Poland is home to over 38 million people as of July 2013.
- Warsaw (Warszawa) is the largest city and capital of Poland.
- Poland's national symbol is the White Eagle.
- The peak of Rysy in the Tatra Mountains is the highest point in Poland at 2499 m (8199 ft). Outside of this mountain range most of Poland is very flat.
- A Polish state and the name Poland existed as far back as the year 966 during the reign of Mieszko I. The Kingdom of Poland was founded shortly after in 1025.
- Nicolaus Copernicus (Mikołaj Kopernik), the famous 16th century astronomer who first suggested the sun was the center of our universe was born in Thorn, Royal Prussia, part of the Kingdom of Poland.
- Famous physicist, chemist and Nobel laureate Marie Curie (Maria Skłodowska) was Polish.
- Polish born Nobel prize laureates: 15  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Polish\\_Nobel\\_laureates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Polish_Nobel_laureates)
- As of 2013 Poland has 14 heritage sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list.
- Forests cover over 30% of Poland's land area and the country is the fourth most forested in Europe.
- Of all migratory birds that travel to Europe for the summer, one quarter of them breed in Poland making it the most important bird breeding ground in Europe.
- The most popular sport in Poland is football (soccer). The Polish national team came third in the 1974 and 1982 World Cup Finals and won Olympic Gold in 1972.
- Other popular sports in Poland include track and field, basketball, handball, volleyball, boxing, weightlifting, ice hockey, tennis, fencing, cross-country skiing, swimming and ski jumping.

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# POLES IN CALIFORNIA

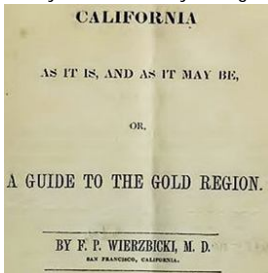
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## Polish California: From Pioneers to Silicon Valley

November 2013 marked **the 150th anniversary** of the founding of **The Polish Society of California**. The occasion was observed by a grand celebration at the **Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco**, a venue chosen in part because at the Fairmont some of the **first meetings of the United Nations** were held in **1945**. Poland had not been invited to participate, an irony not unnoticed by at least one distinguished UN guest who, as will be revealed below, ensured that Poland would not be entirely forgotten.

But that year, the event was not a meeting but a celebration aptly titled **"From Pioneers to Silicon Valley,"** providing perfect bookends for the multi-volume history of Poles in California. Those first pioneers were talented and exciting people: **writers, cartographers, physicians, lawyers, engineers, businessmen** and, of course, **the celebrated actress, Helena Modjeska (Modrzejewska)**.

Today, there is a strong Polish presence in Silicon Valley. Along the way **Andrzej Poniatowski**, the great-nephew of the last king of Poland, brought **the first hydroelectric power lines to the Bay Area**, established the **Sierra Railroad Company**, and formed the **Standard Electric Co.**, now **Pacific Gas & Electric**; Modjeska's son, **Ralph Modjeski**, became **one of America's greatest bridge builders**; he played a key role in early designs of the SF-Oakland Bay Bridge. The "Polanders" threw themselves



wholeheartedly into American life, grateful for the opportunities afforded them but also remembering the loss of freedom in their homeland that sent them into exile. One of the first was **Feliks Pawel Wierzbicki, M.D.**, a prominent member of the California Medical Society who is best known for *writing the first book published in English in California -- California As It Is and As It May Be.* (San Francisco 1849). That year (shortly before California's admission to the union), **Aleksander Zakrzewski (ex-Polish**



**officer)** drew one of **the early "official" maps of San Francisco** that hung for a time in the Mayor's Office.

In May 1863, the Polish pioneers in California formed the first Polish organization on the west coast, inspired by the January 1863 Uprising against Russia by the citizens of Poland. Headed by **Kazimierz Bielawski**, a civil engineer and surveyor, and five executive officers, among them a farmer, three merchants, and the rabbi from Congregation Beth Israel, these men were determined to assist the countrymen of their birth to regain their freedom. Monthly meetings took place at the **Russ House** at 235 Montgomery Street. The **Russ family (Riensi)** arrived in California during the gold rush; Russ became **one of the City's most respected assayers**.



Having established a Society, these patriotic pioneers quickly convened a **"Grand Mass Meeting in Favor of Polish Freedom and Nationality."** Held at Platt's Music Hall, the convocation was attended by civic leaders and dignitaries -- a "who's who" of 1863 California that included three future mayors, two future governors, two future U.S. senators, the publishers and editors of four daily newspapers, and legislators, industrialists, bankers, and merchants too numerous to mention.

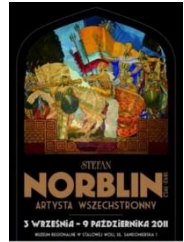
It was a dynamic and colorful community. One of them, **Captain Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski**, co-founder of the Polish Society of California, was the **inspiration for Henryk Sienkiewicz's Trilogy character,**



**Zagloba.** Colonel J.C Zabriskie, *the first Sacramento City Attorney, raised funds for the Polish uprising*, as did **Charles Meyer** who belonged to both the Polish Society of California and the first Hebrew Benevolent Society. In 1882, the Polish Society printed in local newspapers a *condemnation of the anti-Semitic persecutions* then taking place in Russia.

As the years went by, the Poles assimilated into the mainstream of American society. Immigration waned during the early part of the 19th century, not to be resumed in significant numbers until after World War II.

Among the first post-war immigrants was **Stefan Norblin** (whose *Art Deco* paintings in pre-war Poland and whose wartime paintings in India have recently been rediscovered and celebrated in exhibitions and film); Norblin settled in San Francisco with his wife, the popular Polish actress, **Lena Żelichowska**.



Some Polish-Americans moved to California as well, among them **Warren Winiarski**. A Chicagoan by birth, Winiarski had gone to Italy in the 1960s to study Machiavelli and returned to America inspired to make his own wine. Soon after, he moved to the Napa Valley, north of San Francisco. There he tasted a wine that gave him his "Eureka" moment: it had what he described as both a regional and a universal character. Within four years he produced a red wine, *a Cabernet Sauvignon, which won top honors at the historic Judgment of Paris in 1976*. Nobody expected a California wine to beat out the French, least of all the French judges themselves. In a blind tasting, Winiarski's **Stag's Leap Cabernet Sauvignon** won, and the French had to live with their judgment – which they did, but not without sour grapes. And so it was that Warren Winiarski – surely a name destined for just this kind of victory – established his **Stag's Leap Wine Cellars** on par with the world's best, and *put California wines on the map*. It's doubtful that you could buy a bottle of 1973 Stag's Leap Cabernet Sauvignon these days but you can have a look at one at the **Smithsonian National Museum of American History**.



And history moves on. The anniversary celebration was well attended, including a contingent of the new Polish pioneers, the **engineers of Silicon Valley**. The celebratory crowd drank a toast to the many generations of Poles in California, and to those still to come. *Sto lat!*



And so, 68 years after the historic meeting of the United Nations that had excluded Poland, the Fairmont Hotel was the site of a much happier gathering of a new wave of "Poles." Once again both the American and the Polish national anthems were heard, and it was time to recall *the man who had not remained silent in 1945*. It was none other than the **great pianist, Artur Rubinstein** who had been asked to play at the inaugural concert. As he subsequently wrote in his memoir, he was acutely conscious of Poland's absence, and deeply distressed:



"I walked on the stage, quite composed but with my heart beating... to play the Star-Spangled Banner [as required]... When I finished, I stood up to announce my first piece and something strange happened; a blind fury took hold of me. I addressed the audience in a loud, angry voice. **'In this hall where the great nations gather to make a better world, I miss the flag of Poland, for which this cruel war was fought.** And now — I shouted — I shall play the Polish anthem.'" "I played with a resounding impact and very slowly, and repeated the last phrase with a resounding forte. The audience stood up as one man when I finished and gave me a great ovation."

**Learn more about the Polish Pioneers in California:**

<http://www.polishclubsf.org/FairmontSlides.pdf>

<http://www.polishclubsf.org/150%20Years%20Polish%20Society%20of%20California.pdf>

<http://www.polishclubSF.org/PolishSocietyOfCalifornia.htm>

<http://www.polishclubSF.org/Newspapers.htm>

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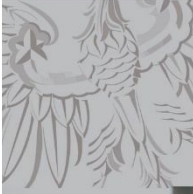
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przez niezgodę nawet  
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**Zgoda buduje, niezgoda rujnuje**

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