



# Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Vol. 1, No. 4

October 2021

## A Word From the President

I had expected this column to be without some opening reference to COVID but we are now in the fourth wave of the pandemic which may not be the last. Nonetheless, PIASA has reopened its New York office on East 30th Street for regular business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Those who wish to enter the building to use our library and archives are welcome to do so. Unfortunately, we are still unable to host events attended by larger groups.



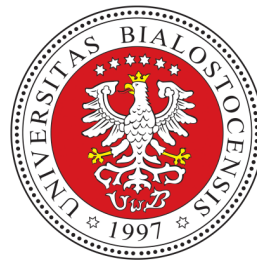
Meanwhile, our Board of Directors has hardly been inactive. The Board unanimously approved a non-discrimination policy statement which was long overdue. We also felt that we could not remain silent in the face of a poorly veiled assault on independent media contained in legislation passed by the Polish parliament but now held up in the Senate. As a non-profit academic and cultural organization, our long-standing practice has been to support principles such as democratic governance and civil liberties but to refrain from any involvement in partisan politics. We believe that our statement in support of independent media in Poland, accessible on our website, meets that standard.

A genuinely international organization in the making, PIASA has a bright future attested to by a growing membership, the expanding readership of *The Polish Review*, and our creation of new awards to recognize outstanding work in new areas of scholarship. That we have sustained this momentum during the COVID era is truly remarkable. But growth also brings challenges, which we will highlight in future newsletters. Stay tuned!

— Robert Blobaum, PIASA President

## Polish Institute to Meet in Białystok June 10-12, 2022

Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. The general theme of the conference is “Borderlands (Pogranicza),” for which Białystok, a city on Poland’s eastern frontier, is a most



appropriate setting. We welcome proposals which address the multiethnic and contested nature of borderlands. The borderland region known as the “kresy” has long inspired outstanding literary works and other cultural products, both national and transnational. Papers do not necessarily have to address the main conference

theme. Since we value comparative sessions that place the Polish and East Central European experience in context, papers need not focus specifically on Poland or Polish themes. Similarly, sessions including presenters from more than one country are encouraged.

Sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or about 20 minutes per paper, with time left for discussion. The conference language is English; however, the organizers of complete sessions may opt for their sessions to be conducted entirely in Polish. All conference rooms will be equipped with AV for PowerPoint presentations. Presenters are invited to submit their conference papers to be considered for possible publication in *The Polish Review* after the conference.

**The deadline for proposals is February 15, 2022, To submit a proposal**, send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at [pmd639@g.harvard.edu](mailto:pmd639@g.harvard.edu). All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee of \$80, discounted to \$40 for students.