



# Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Vol. 6, No. 2

April 2026

## A Word From the President

As we prepare to gather in Lublin for the 2026 PIASA Congress, I found myself thinking about how meaningful it is not only to visit a city, but to understand its recent history and the experiences that have shaped its identity. Lublin is well known to many of us as a place of intellectual exchange, cultural dialogue, and deep historical resonance. Yet, in recent years, it has also become something more—a city whose response to crisis has drawn the attention and respect of the international community.



In the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Lublin emerged as one of the key centers of humanitarian assistance for refugees fleeing the war. The scale of solidarity shown by its residents, institutions, and local organizations offers an extraordinary example of civic responsibility and compassion in action. As members of PIASA, an organization deeply committed to scholarship, cultural engagement, and international dialogue, I thought it would be meaningful for us to learn more about this dimension of Lublin's recent history before we meet there in person.

The following interview is with Sławomir Łukasiewicz, professor of the Catholic University of Lublin, and a representative of the Institute of Central Europe in Lublin, one of the co-organizers of the 2026 PIASA Congress together with Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. His reflections offer an insider's perspective on how Lublin became a hub of humanitarian support, how institutions and citizens worked together in response to an unprecedented crisis, and how these experiences have reshaped the city's understanding of culture, community, and responsibility.

I hope that reading this conversation will deepen our

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## 10th World Congress of Polish Studies

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite you to attend its 10th World Congress to be hosted by the Institute of Social Communication and Media Sciences at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the Institute of Central Europe in Lublin, June 12-14, 2026.

Lublin is an especially fitting setting for a conference titled "Crossroads of Cultures." For centuries, the city has stood at the meeting point of major cultural, religious, and political currents in East-Central Europe. The 1569 Union of Lublin—an ambitious experiment in constitutional governance and multinational coexistence—symbolized the city's role as a place where distinct traditions could converge and reshape one another. In 2029, Lublin will celebrate its heritage as a European City of Culture.

Historically home to vibrant Polish, Jewish, Ukrainian, and other communities, Lublin developed as a hub of intellectual, commercial, and artistic exchange along trade routes linking the Baltic and the Black Sea. Today, Lublin

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## **A Word From the President**

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appreciation of Lublin—not only as the host city of the 2026 PIASA Congress, but as a place whose recent experiences embody values of solidarity, openness, and shared responsibility that resonate strongly with the mission of our organization.

### **How did Lublin become one of the main centers of assistance for Ukrainian refugees in the first days after February 2022?**

To understand Lublin's role in the first days after February 24, 2022, we need to go back much earlier. For many years, Lublin maintained very close relationships with Ukraine—both at the academic and cultural levels. There were joint research projects, translations of important Ukrainian historical works, and frequent visits by scholars and cultural figures.

The city's geographical location also mattered greatly—about 100 kilometers from the Ukrainian border. Because of this, Lublin had long functioned as a place of dialogue and cooperation between Poles and Ukrainians. When the full-scale war began, the city already had networks, experience, and social capital that allowed it to respond quickly.

In the first days, what mattered most was the spontaneous mobilization of residents. People went to the border, organized transportation, welcomed refugees into their homes, and provided food and clothing. Assistance appeared immediately—before formal structures were created. It was an instinctive act of solidarity that made Lublin (together with some other border cities) one of the key points of support.

At the beginning, assistance was primarily grassroots. On the very day the war broke out, the Lublin Committee for Assistance to Ukraine was created to coordinate the work of volunteers and non-governmental organizations. Organizations such as Homo Faber and the Rule of Law Institute Foundation played particularly important roles.

Systems were created to register offers of assistance—people declared whether they could host refugees, provide transportation, or volunteer their time. Tasks became more structured: organizing transport from the border, receiving people at reception points, and distributing supplies.

Over time, city authorities and state institutions became more actively involved. Assistance centers for Ukrainian citizens were established, and legal frameworks and financial support mechanisms were introduced. This was an evolution—from spontaneous civic action to a coordinated system involving society, local government, and

the state. Without that initial grassroots response, however, none of this would have been possible.

### **How has Lublin changed since 2022 as a result of this experience?**

The changes were enormous and visible almost immediately. At one point, the number of people from Ukraine staying in Lublin was very high—one could say that the city became significantly more multicultural in a very short time.

Some refugees moved further west or returned to Ukraine, but many decided to stay. This influenced the city's demographic structure, daily life, education, and labor market. Lublin, already known as an academic city, became even more international—especially because of Ukrainian students.

New institutions and initiatives supporting integration were also established, such as the Baobab Center, which organizes activities for children, workshops for adults, and community events. The Ukrainian language became a visible part of everyday urban life. These changes affected not only demographics but also culture and the functioning of public space.

### **What lessons has Lublin learned from this experience that could inform responses to future humanitarian crises?**

One of the most important lessons was the realization that the rapid response of society is crucial. In the first days of the war, it was ordinary people who created the foundation for the entire system of assistance. State institutions later introduced regulations and financial support, but without the initial mobilization of residents, the situation would have been far more difficult.

Another important lesson was that, in times of crisis, historical tensions should not become barriers to action. Polish-Ukrainian relations have a complex and sometimes painful history, but in the face of war, saving human lives became the priority. Assistance took precedence over historical disputes.

A third lesson concerns the importance of cooperation across multiple levels—local, national, and international. Lublin quickly established contacts with international organizations such as UNHCR, strengthening its capacity to provide assistance and coordinate humanitarian efforts effectively.

### **How has the experience of assisting refugees influenced Lublin's understanding of itself as a city of culture?**

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## A Word From the President

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This experience significantly reshaped the way culture is understood. Previously, culture was associated mainly with artistic events, festivals, and institutional programs. After 2022, culture began to be seen more broadly—as a space of solidarity, cooperation, and social integration.

Cultural institutions became places for meetings, workshops, humanitarian initiatives, and even shelter if necessary. It became clear that culture can function as a tool for building community and responding to crises. This experience is particularly important in the context of Lublin’s aspirations to serve as a European Capital of Culture—it demonstrates that culture is not only about art but also about social responsibility.

### Looking ahead, how should Lublin remember and represent this period within its cultural memory?

This is a crucial question, because this period deserves to be documented and remembered. There is a need for archives, exhibitions, artistic projects, and educational initiatives that capture the scale of solidarity and civic engagement that took place.

It is particularly important to preserve the testimonies of individuals—volunteers, refugees, and institutional workers. This story should not disappear with time, because it demonstrates an extraordinary mobilization of society.

At the same time, it is important to remember that this story is not yet finished. The war continues, and the need for support remains. For that reason, remembrance of this period should remain active—not only in museums or archives, but also in public spaces, educational programs, and everyday cultural life.

On April 5, 2023, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, honored Lublin with the title of “City-Rescuer” (<https://lublin.eu/en/lublin-4-all/news/the-title-of-city-rescuer-for-lublin-from-president-of-ukraine,213,1413,1.html>).

— Anna Müller, PIASA President

## 10th World Congress of Polish Studies

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embraces its identity as a space of dialogue and intercultural engagement, hosting international initiatives and cultivating a strong culture of memory work and creative collaboration. Its historic architecture, multicultural heritage, and contemporary institutions provide a compelling back-

drop for exploring the intersections, entanglements, and shared futures that define cultural crossroads.

**For further information visit:**

<https://piasa.org/conferences/>

**To register, visit:**

<https://piasa.org/piasa-annual-polish-studies-conference/>

## PIASA Award Recipients

PIASA is pleased to announce the recipients of its most recent awards cycle.

**Casimir Funk Award in the Natural Sciences:** Dr. Krzysztof Górski, Secretary General, Nicolaus Copernicus Academy, Warsaw. One of the leading astronomers worldwide, Dr. Gorski is internationally recognized for his contributions to mapping the cosmic microwave background to determine key properties of the universe. The advances from this work have collectively been recognized by several Nobel Prizes. He also has an impressive publication record of more than 420 scientific articles, which have been cited in the literature over 100,000 times.

**Tadeusz Sendzimir Award in the Applied Sciences:** Dr. Teresa J. Bandosz, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, The City College of New York. Professor Bandosz’s groundbreaking research in adsorption science, porous materials, and environmental remediation has significantly advanced the development of innovative materials for environmental cleanup. Her achievements have garnered notable accolades such as being a Fulbright Senior Scholar, a Fellow of the American Carbon Society, a Senior Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and a Fellow of the International Adsorption Society.

**Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award to Promote Democracy and the Rule of Law:** Anna Husarska, writer, journalist and activist, and Leszek Jażdżewski, founder and editor-in-chief, “Liberté!” (co-recipients). Husarska’s devotion to human rights causes and the excellence of her writings mark her continuous efforts to keep the public informed about human rights crises. At present, she is devoting her time to report about the war in Ukraine. Leszek Jażdżewski is an outstanding Polish intellectual, progressive activist, and engaged journalist/commentator whose career embodies a commitment to democratic values, liberal thought, and civic engagement over the past two decades. He is the founder and leader of a network called “Liberté!”—and a journal of the same name.

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## **Ludwik Krżyżanowski Polish Review Best Article**

**Award:** Dr. Colin P. Neufeldt, Concordia University of Edmonton and Dr. Wojciech Marchlewski, the Mazovian Museum in Płock, for “*Escape to Freedom and Return to Bondage: A Case Study of the Flight of Mennonites from Deutsch Wymyschle and Gąbin, Poland, in Early 1945*” published in *The Polish Review* Vol. 69, No.3, 2024. **Honorable Mention:** Dr. Andrzej Pieczewski, University of Łódź, and Dr. Aliaksandra Sidarava, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, for “*The Polish Diaspora in Belarus: Functioning under the Lukashenko Regime,*” published in *The Polish Review*, Vol. 69, no. 3 (2024).

## **Oskar Halecki Polish and East-Central European History Award:**

Dr. Jacob Flaws, Kean University, for *Spaces of Treblinka: Retracing a Death Camp* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2024). Drawing on the testimony of perpetrators, survivors, and witnesses to reconstruct the camp’s spatial and sensory experience, Flaws demonstrates how the sights, smells, sounds, bodies, and railway connections of Treblinka rendered the mass murder committed there irreducibly disorderly, unmistakable, and omnipresent.

## **Bronisław Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences:**

Dr. Agnieszka Pasięka, University of Montreal, for *Living Right: Far-Right Youth Activists in Contemporary Europe* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2024). Pasięka has developed an in-depth ethnographic study of radical nationalist youth in three countries—Poland, Italy, and Slovakia. The book offers important reflections on moral challenges facing anthropologists doing field work in a politically hostile environment, as well as on the ways in which radical right wing movements appropriate positions of contemporary anthropology on multiculturalism for their own objectives.

**Wacław Lednicki Award in the Humanities:** Dr. Anna Parkitna, Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences, for *Opera in Warsaw: A City of the European Enlightenment* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2024).

**Honorable Mentions:** Dr. Elżbieta Ostrowska, University of Łódź, for *ReFocus: The Films of Agnieszka Holland* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2024) and Dr. Karen Underhill, University of Illinois, Chicago, for *Bruno Schulz and Galician Jewish Modernity* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2024). Parkitna’s *Opera in Warsaw* offers a brilliant analysis of operatic life during the turbulent final decades of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the reign of Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski including all aspects of operatic life from the construction of the theatre and staffing issues

through the co-existence of several operatic styles (Italian, German, French, and Polish) and the role of opera in contemporary political and social debates, to the gradual democratization of the audience.

Elżbieta Ostrowska offers a comprehensive and insightful study of one of Poland’s most acclaimed film directors whose work has achieved significant international recognition. This is the first English-language monograph dedicated to the exploration of Holland’s expansive career—from her early work in communist Poland through her transnational films and television projects.

Underhill’s work challenges the traditional interpretations of Schulz and provides a new model of interpretation for Jewish writers, artists, and thinkers across Central Europe. Instead of limiting Schulz to his Jewish, Polish, Austrian, Ukrainian, or even universal world, Underhill provides an innovative and well-sourced argument for Schulz as participating in a broader form of modernity, stretching across Polish modernism and Jewish diasporic groups.

## **Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish-Jewish Studies:**

Dr. Waitman Wade Beorn, Northumbria University, for *Between the Wires: The Janowska Camp and the Holocaust in Lviv* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2024). Beorn’s is the first monograph on the Janowska camp in Lviv. He situates the camp within the history of Ukraine during World War II, the city of Lviv, and its ghetto, which was the third largest ghetto in German-occupied Europe, where approximately 80,000 Jews were murdered. Beorn discusses the roles of bystanders, victims, and perpetrators, portraying human characters on all sides. The depiction of the victims is moving, while the portrayal of the SS guards running the camp is horrifying. The author presents collective portraits of the victims and perpetrators, while also highlighting individual motivations and attitudes.

## **Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award:**

Dr. Jan Tomasz Gross, The Norman B. Tomlinson Professor of War and Society (Emeritus), Department of History, Princeton University. Gross has made monumental contributions to Polish studies and especially to Polish-Jewish and Holocaust Studies. With the publication of *Polish Society under German Occupation* (1979) and *Revolution from Abroad: Soviet Conquest of Poland’s Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia* (1987), he established himself in less than a decade as the leading expert in the socio-political history of wartime Poland. Professor Gross has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1982) and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (1996), among several honors and awards, to which PIASA’s Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award is the latest addition.

## Polish National Catholic Church

The Polish National Catholic Church Scholars' Conference, facilitated by the Commission on History and Archives, will take place on April 18, 2025, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, with a virtual option available via Zoom. This conference offers a meaningful and enriching opportunity to deepen our understanding of the PNCC—its history, mission, and ongoing work. It serves not only as an academic gathering, but as a vital instrument for strengthening the knowledge and faith of our congregations, while highlighting the dedicated efforts of our National Church as it continues to grow and move forward with purpose.

In addition, I am very pleased to share that Volumes 21 and 22 of the *PNCC Studies* journal are forthcoming and expected to be released in early Summer 2026. These volumes will further contribute to the scholarly and historical understanding of our Church and its enduring legacy. Questions should be sent to Rev. James Ploskonka at [jploskonka62@gmail.com](mailto:jploskonka62@gmail.com) or phone at 216-650-5596.

## Loyola University Receives Major Grant

Loyola University in Chicago has announced the receipt of a one million dollar donation from Jack and Monica Pinkowski to help establish a Center for the Study of the Polish Diaspora at the institution. Already the location of an active Polish Studies Program, Loyola offers credit courses, public programs, cultural events, art exhibits, and other activities designed to explore and publicize the experiences and contributions of Poles and the Polish diaspora around the world. For further information, see <https://www.luc.edu/polishstudies/>.

## Call for Papers

The Polish American Historical Association invites proposals for its next annual conference to be held in conjunction with the American Historical Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 7-10, 2027. Proposals are solicited in any discipline for individual presentations or full panels focusing on aspects of the Polish diaspora. The submission **deadline is April 15, 2026**. Questions should be directed to Iwona Flis at [iflis@archiwapomorskie.pl](mailto:iflis@archiwapomorskie.pl) or for further information visit <https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/17/call-for-papers-2027.html>.

## Upcoming Conferences

April 18, 2026—The **25th Scholars' Conference of the Polish National Catholic Church** will meet in Scranton,

Pennsylvania, with virtual participation opportunities available. See the Call for Papers in this issue. Questions should be addressed to Rev. Jim Ploskonka at [dr.ploskonka@savonarola.net](mailto:dr.ploskonka@savonarola.net).

April 24, 2026—**Kościuszko Conference**, West Point, NY. The general theme will focus on Pope John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev and the “end” of the Cold War. For further information, contact Anthony Bajdek at [a.j.bajdek@comcast.net](mailto:a.j.bajdek@comcast.net).

June 12-14, 2026—The **10th World Congress on Polish Studies**, sponsored by PIASA, is scheduled to convene at the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. See article beginning on page 1.

June 15-16, 2026—**Second Conference on Parliamentary Junctures in Continental Europe**. Titled “Recombining Representation During the Transformation from Empires to Nation-States 1905-1923,” the conference will meet in Warsaw. See the call for papers in this issue. Questions should be addressed to Wiktor Marzec at [wh.marzec@uw.edu.pl](mailto:wh.marzec@uw.edu.pl).

June 17-19, 2026—“**Mixed Couples**” in Europe under Axis Rule. The conference will meet in Munich, Germany to discuss the histories of “mixed couples” and their children under Axis rule. For information visit contact [zfhs@ifz-muenchen.de](mailto:zfhs@ifz-muenchen.de).

June 22-25—The **International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry** will convene in Warsaw, Poland. For details, see <https://nevzlincenter.huji.ac.il/forum-young-scholars>, or email [merkaznev@savion.huji.ac.il](mailto:merkaznev@savion.huji.ac.il).

July 6-8, 2026—“**Underprivileged Bodies: Marginality and Minority in Europe, 1850–1939**” will be held at the Department of Jewish Studies, Wrocław University. See call for papers in this issue.

Sept. 16-18—The **Polish Association for American Studies** will host its conference “Morphing America” at the University of Szczecin, Poland. A call for papers has been posted at <https://paas.org.pl/>.

October 21-24, 2026—**Polish Romanticism. Transnational Constellations**. The 33rd Conference of the German-Polish Working Group for Art History and Monument Preservation will convene in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, to explore topics in art, art history, and visual studies.

# New Books on Polish Studies

**Przemysław Adamczewski**, *Polish Ethnopolitical Myth and the Caucasus: Looking at the Past* (Leiden: Brill, 2026).

**Katarzyna Bazarnik, Agnieszka Karpowicz, Honorata Sroka, Paulina Chorzewska-Rubik, and Jakub Kornhauser**, eds., *A Hundred Years of Avant-gardes: The Literary Experiment in Poland and Beyond 1917-2017* (Boston: Brill, 2026).

**Błażej Ciarkowski**, *Architecture and Architects in Socialist Poland: Between Stalin and Le Corbusier* (London: Routledge, 2026).

**Roman Duda**, *A History of Polish Mathematics: A Cultural Perspective from Origins to Modernity* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2026).

**Urszula Idziak-Smoczyńska**, *Wittgenstein in Polish Galicia: The Life and Thought behind the Tractatus Logico-philosophicus* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2026).

**Sebastian Jagielski**, *The Politics of Excess in Polish Cinema* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2026).

**Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann and James S. Pula**, eds., *Polonia amerykańska o sobie: źródła do historii 1608–2020* (Warsaw: Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 2025).

**William C. Kashatus**, *Spitballer: Stan Coveleski and the 1920 Cleveland Indians* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 2026).

**Oktawian Kuc**, *The Supreme National Tribunal and International Criminal Law: Polish Perspectives on Prosecuting War Criminals* (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2026).

**Zbigniew Landau and Jerzy Tomaszewski**, *The Polish Economy in the Twentieth Century* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2026).

**Robert Aleksander Maryks and Michał Nowakowski**, *Foreign Intruders: Anti-Jesuit Narratives in Poland-Lithuania During the Reigns of Stephen Báthory and Sigismund III, 1576-1632* (Leiden: Brill, 2026).

**Joanna Beata Michlic**, *Through the Eyes of Jewish Child Survivors from Poland: Family, War, Identity, and Nationhood* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2026).

**Karolina Morawska**, *Sexuality in Medieval Poland in a European Context* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2026).

**Jagna Mucha**, *Consumer Collective Redress in EU Law: Lessons from the Polish Legal System* (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2026).

**Karolina Wanda Olszowska**, *Polish-Turkish Relations from the Eighteenth through the Twentieth Century* (New York: Routledge, 2026).

**Izabela Paszko**, *Informal Communication and Occupation in the Polish Borderlands: Fragmented Worlds in East Upper Silesia, 1939-1945* (New York: Routledge, 2026).

**Alicja Patey-Grabowska**, *Will Snow Cover the Past? Translation from Polish Language by Krzysztof Satorfnin Schreyer* (London, New York: Austin Macauley Publishers, 2026).

**Eugenia Prokop-Janiec**, *Polish-Jewish Borderlands: Topographies and Texts* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2026).

**James S. Pula**, *Fighting for Polish Independence: The 100,000-Man Diasporic Army in World War I and the Conflicts of 1919-1921* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publications, 2026).

**Marek Ratajczak**, *A History of Polish Economic Thought* (London: Routledge, 2026).

**Wojciech Ryczek**, *Anti-Jesuit Discourse in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1576-1632): Arguments, Tropes, Figures* (Leiden: Brill, 2026).

**Natalia Rzońca**, *Pedagogy Oriented towards English as a Lingua Franca: Insights from the Polish Context* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2026).

**Wojciech Śmieja**, *Hegemony and Trauma: Polish Literature and the Transformations of Masculinity* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2026).

**Aleks Szczerbiak**, *Political Parties and Religion in Post-communist Poland* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2026).

**Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa**, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2026).

**Martin Schulze Wessel**, *The Curse of Empire: Ukraine, Poland, and the Fatal Paths in Russian History* (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2026).

**Edit Zgut-Przybylska**, *Informal Power in Hungary and Poland* (London: Routledge, 2026).

**Michael Bernhard** is co-editing a special issue of the journal *Comparative Political Studies*. The introduction, co-authored with his co-editor, **Dan Slater** (Michigan) is available on online first at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140251414049>.

**Kazimierz Braun** published two bilingual books, *Dramaty zebrane/Collected Plays*, Vol. 3, *Teatr artystek/Theatre of Woman Artists* (Los Angeles: Moonrise Press, 2025) and *Dramaty zebrane/Collected Plays*, Vol. 4, *Teatr pamięci/Theatre of the Memory* (both by Moonrise Press, Los Angeles, 2025). He also published *Monodramaty (Plays for one Actor)* (Częstochowa: Wydawnictwo 3DOM, 2025); *Awantura na Sardynii (Aventura at Sardinia). A novel* (Toruń: Wydawnictwo A. Marszałek, 2025); *Three Paderewski Plays* (Los Angeles: Moonrise Press, 2025); *Wiersze ostatnie (The Last Poems)* (Częstochowa: Wydawnictwo 3DOM, 2026); and *Norwid wczoraj i dziś (Norwid Yesterday and Today)* (Toruń: Wydawnictwo A. Marszałek, 2026).

**Anna Frajlich-Zajac** published “O codziennych zmaganiach,” *Migotania*, 1:90 (2026), 64-65. An essay on her work by Alice-Catherine Carls, “The Colors of Poetry: Anna Frajlich’s Lifework,” appeared in the October 17, 2025, issue of *World Literature Today* and Anna Fiedzeń-Kułak published a book focusing on her work, *Emigracja tożsamość pamięć. Życie i twórczość literacka Anny Frajlich* (Wydawnictwo Forma, 2025).

**John M. Grondelski** was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizen Services in the Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

**David J. Jackson** was re-elected president of the Bowling Green State University Faculty Association, which is the union representing the full-time faculty. He also celebrated the 15th anniversary of the debut of his “Sunday Morning Polka” show, which airs on WBGU-88.1 FM in Bowling Green, WAKT-106.1 FM in Toledo, and is archived on Mixcloud. Not only does the show play Polish-American style polka music, but each episode features a “Polish Word of the Day” and “The News from Poland,” which help keep listeners connected with Poland.

**Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann** co-edited *Polonia amerykańska o sobie: źródła do historii 1608–2020* (Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 2025).

**Paul W. Knoll** published a review of Magdalena Biniąs-Szkopek, *Marriage in Medieval Poland. A Study of Evidence from the Poznań Consistory Court, 1404-1428* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2024) in *The Slavic Re-*

*view*, 84:3 (2025). He also published a review of Stanley Bill and Ben Stanley, *Good Change: the Rise and Fall of Poland’s Illiberal Revolution* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2025) in the February 2026 issue of *CHOICE*, the journal of the American Library Association.

**Jerome Krase**, longtime member PAHA and PIASA, was honored by an award established in his name by the City University of New York Academy for the Humanities and Sciences. The Award is to be presented yearly to associate professors in recognition of outstanding research in the humanities or sciences, including social and life sciences. With this honor, he joins his esteemed mentor and PIASA past president Feliks Gross who has a CUNY Academy award for assistant professors in his name.

**Steven R. Majewski** was named a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society “For impactful contributions to our understanding of the structure and formation of the Milky Way; for innovative leadership in near-infrared instrumentation and large-scale astronomical surveys; and for persistent commitment to training of the next generation of astronomers.” He was also named among the world’s most influential researchers, according to the Clarivate/Web of Science 2025 Highly Cited Researchers List.

**Anna Mazurkiewicz** received a nomination to Full Professorship from the President of Poland in December 2025. She currently serves as a member of the Polish American Fulbright Commission, having been appointed by the Polish Ministry of Science and Education in 2025. Her forthcoming book on William J. Tonesk (NCN 2019/33/B/HS3/00579) will be published by Routledge. Prior to its release, two English-language articles related to the biography of a “Polish American liaison” may be of interest: “The Train from Moscow: The Road to Reopening the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, June–July 1945,” *Istorijska* (Lithuania, open access), and “Launching the Career of William J. Tonesk of Schenectady: A Case Study in *Polonia’s* Support of Academic Development of Talented Youth in the 1930s,” *Polish American Studies*, 84:1. For readers of Polish, the journal *Studia Historica Gedanensia*, published by the University of Gdańsk, has recently printed an additional open-access article: “*Polonijne szanse i wyzwania kariery w amerykańskim wywiadzie – przypadek William J. Tonesk (1906–1992)*,” *Studia Historica Gedanensia* 16:2.

**Michał J. Mikoś** published *Z chaosu doładu* in which he is interviewed by Jarosław Ławski (Białystok: Wydawnictwo PRYMAT, 2024).

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## Kudos

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**John Peters'** recent book, *Joseph Conrad and the Narration of Silence*, was selected for *Choice* magazine's Outstanding Academic Books list for 2025.

**James S. Pula** published *Fighting for Polish Independence: The 100,000-Man Diasporic Army in World War I and the Conflicts of 1919-1921* (McFarland, 2026) and "*The World Turned Upside Down*": *The American Revolution and the Creation of the Constitution*. He co-edited *Polonia amerykańska o sobie: źródła do historii 1608-2020* (Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 2025).

**Joshua Spero** addressed the World Affairs Council of Western Massachusetts on February 12, 2026, where he discussed "How Poland and Ukraine Anchor Europe's Defense" (YouTube presentation found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES7zonk1KNU&t=1527s>).

**Ewa Thompson** published "Halloween, czyli święto brzydoty," *Teologia Polityczna*, November 5, 2025.

**Maja Trochimczyk** received the "Polonia Award" in January 2026 from the Polish American Congress of Southern California in recognition of 30 years of promotion of Polish culture in California and volunteer service on boards of Polish American organizations. She also edited *Paderewski Essays & Poems* (Moonrise Press, 2025) with 52 poems in English from the Archive of Modern Records in Warsaw and four of her own articles.

**Maria Zakrzewska** was presented with the Mieczysław Haiman Award from the Polish American Historical Association for sustained contributions to the study of Polish Americans.

### New PIASA Member

**Karolina Kolpak** is Assistant Professor of History and the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University. A native of Kraków, Poland, she earned her baccalaureate degree at DePaul University and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Modern Eastern Europe and Russia at Yale University. Her dissertation was "A Microcosm of Civic Action: The *Kolonie Letnie* for Warsaw's Frail and Impoverished Children, Christian and Jewish, 1882-1922."



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