

Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

Member of Polish American Congress
American Council for Polish Culture
Kosciuszko Foundation
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute

The Kopernik Memorial Association is a 501c3 not for profit organization. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship fund.



Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter

Issue 23



OFFICERS

Richard Noga -President
Carol Dinger- 1st Vice-President
Joanne Szczegieł- 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary
Dan Jadowski - Corresponding Secretary
John Ossowski—Cultural Center Director

Meet Professor Rafal Kus

The Kopernik Memorial Association was proud to welcome Dr. Rafal Kus from Jagellonian university in Poland who attended some of our sponsored events during his recent visit to Utica. Kopernik members met with him at the welcome reception held on campus.



Dr. Kus was a visiting professor at Utica College under the umbrella of the Joseph P. Furgal endowment fund at the college. Mr. Furgal was a former president and active member of the KMA. The following article was written about Dr. Kus for the U.C. Tangerine to introduce him to the students and faculty for the spring semester.

Maria M. Silva, Spec. Assignment Reporter

Rafal Kuś has come very far, both in his academic career and in his life journey.

Kuś is a visiting professor at Utica College who will be teaching in the Communications and Media Department this semester. (continued on page 4)

BULLETIN BOARD

Aug. 2, 3 Polish American festival Sacred Heart/St. Mary's

Sun. Aug. 11 Polish Pilgrimage to Auriesville, N.Y.

Sun. Aug. 17,18 Polish Day at Polish Community Club

Sun. Sept 8, Holy Trinity Polish Festival Dinner

Mon. Sept 9, 6:00 PCC Next Meeting

Sun.Sept. 22 1:00 Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author presentation/book signing

Sat. Oct. 19, 1 pm Scholarship Awards





Palm Sunday April 14, 2019

The Kopernik Association's Polish Easter traditions Workshop was once again, a great success. Attendees of all age groups learned the time-honored traditions of Polish Easter egg decorating, butter lamb making and Palm weaving and Eastern European needlework.

Two specialty baskets loaded with goodies were raffled off. The Gourmet Easter basket was won by Joanne Wrobel and the 'Not your usual Polish Basket' won by Sherry Reynolds. The 50/50 prize was won by Joe Smothers. Many thanks for everyone's support.



The organization wishes to thank committee members and instructors: Mary Currie, Michelle Holbrook, Palm weaving, Valerie Elacqua Pi-sanki egg decorating, Janice Lyszczarz butter lamb carving, Jane

Kosuda, Dan Jadowski, Claire Biedrzycki, Phyllis Gowarek, Susan and Gary Moszak, John Ossowski, Betty Matusiewski, Eileen Waskiewicz and Richard Noga.



Special thanks to Mary Currie and Val Elacqua for the donation of the raffled baskets and New York Dough for the fresh babka.



Thank you all for your tremendous support and enthusiasm for Polish folk art and culture.



Palm Sunday Workshop 2019



(continued from page 1)

Originally from Kraków, Kuś is a faculty exchange partner from the Jagiellonian University of Poland. He earned his doctorate in American Studies and Polish Diaspora while specializing in American media and mass communication.

The Erasmus+ mobility grant took him to Utica College last spring for a week during which Kuś gave lectures and exchanged knowledge with UC students and faculty members.

"I really felt like I was at home, even though I was half a world away from home," Kuś said. "I thought it would be great to visit this beautiful town and this great college again."

At UC, Kuś will not only be teaching communication and media. He will also be conducting academic research about the U.S. audiovisual media system with the cooperation of faculty members such as David Chanatry, who has become his mentor at UC.

Kuś has worked at several universities, including the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the largest institution of higher learning in Poland with more than 40,000 students.

Despite UC being a more "compact" campus, Kuś thought it was "exactly as advertised."

"I think the words "Never Stand Still" perfectly capture this college's spirit," Kuś said.

At both institutions, Kuś has found many "dedicated academic teachers, creative researchers and brilliant students."

"The flourishing cooperation between our institutions provides the best proof of their many similarities," Kuś said.

Although Kuś has visited the U.S. many times and knows its culture, he pointed out that it was surprising for him to see students taking pride in their affiliation with the college by wearing Utica College t-shirts or jerseys.

"It is still quite uncommon to encounter a person in Jagiellonian University gear," he said.

Kuś has also noticed the "usual suspects" of American culture, such as "extremely large servings in restaurants and the fact that cities here seem to be designed exclusively for cars instead of pedestrians."

While in the U.S., Kuś has visited many sites he has always felt passionate about, such as the Rockefeller Center in New York City or the home of the first experimental TV station in the United States located in Schenectady.



A big fan of NBC's "The Office," Kuś is looking forward to visiting Scranton, Pennsylvania, where the famous show is set.

Being a Communications and Media professor, Kuś said the highlight of his job is being able "to share the things I feel passionate about with other people."

"I try to focus on topics that have always been interesting to me, and this is reflected in many of the courses I teach at the Jagiellonian, such as American Rhetoric, American Television and American Space Program," Kuś said.

His career as a professor can be "a tremendously rewarding experience," to the point that sometimes "when everything 'clicks,' you really feel like Robin Williams in the 'Dead Poets Society' movie."

UC also allows students to go to the Jagiellonian University for a semester.

"For those thinking about visiting my hometown, I would like to say, 'Please, do feel invited! Kraków is a marvellous city, and I'm sure that you'll be amazed by the experience,'" he said.

Dr. Kus at a farewell dinner with Kopernik members. The cake bears the insignia of Jagiellonian University with wishes for a good trip home.

In the future, Kuś is still unsure what he will be dedicating his efforts to, but he hopes that he will be at Utica College again, teaching media studies in the spring semester of 2024.

KOPERNIK SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED



The Kopernik Association is pleased to announce our 2019 scholarship winners. Congratulations to Sylvia Kryszczuk and David Opozda.

We warmly invite our membership to join us at the awards reception to meet these outstanding young people on October 19, 2019, 1 p.m. at the Polish Community Center, 810 Columbia Street, Utica, NY. Cost is \$20. per person.

Thank You For Your Contributions To Various Funds Through the 2019 Annual Appeal

Bednarczyk, Joseph,
Biedrzycki, Claire
Biernat, Patricia & John
Carville, Jane
Chomin, Helen
Currie, Mary
Dlugolecki, Celia
Drobin, Rev. Paul
Elacqua, Valerie
Fava, Lorraine
Godlewski, Jane
Hummel, G. Irene

Jankiewicz, James
Key, Patricia
Kupiec, Charles
Lepkowski, Mary Ann
Lewosko, Steven
Loin, Frank & Virginia
Luczka, Joanne
Majka, Donald & Sally
Neary, Karen
Pryputniewicz, Camille
Roback, Patricia & Robert
Selwach, Eleanora

Szczesniak, Kenneth
Walerski, Stanley & Barbara
Wise, Holly
Swiecki, Gale
Siuta, Andrew
Waskiewicz, Eileen
Johnson, Dennis & Sybil
Ossowski, John
Starczewski, Ed
Sady, Dariusz & Susan
Gowarek, Phyllis
Jaworski, Henry

ELECTION RESULTS



Congratulations to our Officers

Richard Noga -President
Carol Dinger- 1st Vice-President
Joanne Szczegiel- 2nd Vice-President
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary
Dan Jadowski - Corresponding Secretary

“7 Continents, One World”



Oneida Public Library, Oneida, NY sponsored their first International Festival called “7 Continents, 1 World”. It was held on Saturday May 4, 2019 at the Kallet Civic Center in Oneida from 11 am to 2:30 pm. The Kopernik Memorial Association was invited to represent Poland, as well as the continent of Europe. Representatives of KMA who maintained the exhibit and activity were Phyllis Gowarek, John Ossowski and Mary Currie. John brought



a selection of items from the Cultural Center to display. Mary showed an activity from the book “Poland, a Portrait of the Country through its Festivals and Traditions”, as well as engaged participants in making the Wycinanki themed bookmark.

Phyllis, dressed in a Polish folk outfit, distributed a coloring page of Kopernik listing the website and Facebook presence. She also distributed postcards of the Kopernik statue and an activity page for children to make a Mother’s day card with a flower using Wycinanki. We were very well received and invited back next year. We were proud to be there to represent the organization.



Copernicus Award at Utica College Science Fair

Through the generosity of long-time Kopernik members Don and Sally Majka , the Copernicus Award was established last year in the name of our association. This monetary award was given at the Utica College Regional Area Science Fair held in the library concourse at Utica College this past March for a Space related entry. This year’s recipients were Olivia Wiehenstroer from Whitesboro Central Schools with “How does Light Intensity change with Distance” and Dennis Van Hoesel’s project “ Lights Out: The Effect of Light Pollution on the Night Sky” from Rome Free Academy. Kopernik members who attended the presentation included



John Ossowski,
Joanne Scziegiel,
Don and Sally Majka,
Rich Noga and Carol Dinger.



Bednarczyk, Joseph
 Biedrzycki, Claire
 Biernat, Patricia & John
 Bunk, Theresa
 Carville, Jane
 Chomin, Helen
 Cognetto, Jane
 Currie, Mary
 Czuryla, Irene
 Demko, Mary
 Dinger, Carol
 Drobin, Rev. Paul
 Elacqua, Valerie
 Fava, Lorraine
 Furgal, Marsha
 Gemza, James
 Godlewski, Jane
 Gowarek, Phyllis
 Guzski, Gerald
 Hapanowicz, Rev. Arthur
 Hayduk, Michael & Helen
 Hummel, G. Irene
 Jadowski, Dan
 Jankiewicz, James
 Jaworski, Henry
 Johnson, Dennis & Sybil



PAID 2019 Dues

Karwowski, Brian & Karen
 Key, Patricia
 Kosuda, Jane
 Krul, Michelle
 Kupiec, Charles
 Lambrych, Edward
 Lasek, Edmund
 Lepkowski, Mary Ann
 Lernihan, Carol
 Lewosko, Steven
 Loin, Frank & Virginia
 Luczka, Joanne
 Lyszczyk, Janice
 MacWethy, Diane & Robert

Majka, Donald & Sally
 Mangini, Danielle
 Mantelli, Sylvia
 Matala, Susan
 Matuszewki, Betty
 Maziarz, Robert
 Miler, Wanda
 Mroczek, Tomasz
 Murray, Zosia A.
 Neary, Karen
 Noga, Richard
 Novak, Ed
 Ossowski, John, Jr.
 Ossowski, John, Sr.
 Petruccione, Helen
 Pieloch, Virginia
 Pryputniewicz, Camille
 Roback, Patricia & Robert
 Selwach, Eleanora
 Suita, Andrew
 Sroka, Gary
 Stanulevich, Arlene
 Starczewski, Edward
 Swiecki, Gale
 Szczesniak, Kenneth
 Szczygiel, Joanne

Venitelli, K.Z.
 Waskiewicz, Eileen
 Walerski, Stanley &
 Barbara
 Wierzbowska, Jo
 Wise, Holly
 Wrobel, Joanne
 Zdanowicz, John &
 Dianne
 Ziemba, Emily

ON THE ROAD..... SUMMER 2019

JULY 19-21 Fri.-Sun. Polish-American Arts Festival
 Cheektowaga, NY

AUGUST 11 Sun. Annual Polish Pilgrimage National Shrine of
 North American Martyrs, Auriesville, NY

AUG. 31- SEPT. 2 Fri.-Sun. Polish-American Family Festival
 and
SEPT. 7-8 Sat.-Sun. County Fair, National Shrine of Our Lady of
 Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

SEPT. 14-15 Sat.-Sun. Roncesvalles Polish Festival Toronto,
 Canada



KOPERNIK ASSOCIATION HOSTS AUTHOR SOPHIE KNAB



Author, Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, was born in a "Displaced Persons' Camp" in Hanover, Germany in 1948. Her latest book, "Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany 1939-1945", is the subject of the discussion. The book was inspired by listening to her mother's stories of her experiences as a "forced laborer" in Germany during World

War II. The author researched the plight of the 1.7 million Poles who were forced to leave Poland and work for Germany. The book especially focuses on the female laborers and the unique set of challenges and often unspeakable conditions they experienced as a result of their gender. This event will be held at the Polish Community Center, 810 Columbia Street, Utica, NY on September 22, 2019, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM. Admission is free.



Wearing the Letter P

POLISH WOMEN AS FORCED LABORERS
IN NAZI GERMANY, 1939-1945

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

Notre Dame's Polish Chapel Survives Tragedy

by Robert Strybel printed in "The Polish American Journal"

5/19 PARIS—The recently dedicated chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Paris' Notre Dame cathedral fortunately survived the blaze that gutted France's historic 800 year old structure. The cathedral's first national chapel was funded by the French Polonia and unveiled in December 2018. The relics of Saint John Paul II that had been enshrined there were also unscathed. When word of the French tragedy reached Poland, President Andrea Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki immediately pledged Poland's readiness to (support) the reconstruction and renovation of France's iconic, flame damaged national cathedral. In a sign of solidarity with



French Catholics and the French nation in general, church bells rang out across Poland. Notre Dame is a beloved symbol of both France's Catholic heritage and its national culture. Caritas, the Catholic charity, has set up a special texting account for Poles wishing to donate to the project. French President Emmanuel Macron expressed the hope that Notre Dame, which took some 200 years to build, could be restored to its splendor within 5 years.

Kopernik Memorial Association
P.O. Box 911
Utica, N.Y. 13503

NON PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 UTICA, N.Y.
 PERMIT NO. 206



The small green space called Koper-
 nik Park, as we know it, has received
 notoriety for the past three years as a com-
 munity spot for en-
 tertainment. Now in
 its fourth year the

Levitt AMP Concert Series returns for Mon-
 day night concerts. Beginning at 6 pm on
 Monday June 24th and continuing to Aug.
 26th, live bands will bring music to the park
 and Kopernik's name in advertising. Look for
 Kopernik Memorial Association mem-
 bers in the crowd and find out more
 about membership and Association activities.

Kopernik Association Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Individual Membership..... Renewal New Member.....\$15.00 \$ _____

*Add American Council for Polish Culture Membership.....\$5.00 \$ _____

Student Membership.....\$5.00 \$ _____

I am interested in making a donation to: Polish Cultural Center \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Association's Operating Fund \$ _____

Association Year: January 1 - December 31, 2019 **Total:** \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **Kopernik Association** Mail checks to: **P.O. Box 911 Utica, NY 13503**