

# Kopernik Memorial Association Newsletter

Member of Polish American Congress  
American Council for Polish Culture  
Kosciuszko Foundation  
Oneida County History Center

Website: [cnykopernik.com](http://cnykopernik.com)  
Phone Number (315) 818-4212

## OFFICERS

Richard Noga -President  
Gary Moszak- 1st Vice-President  
Joanne Szczygiel- 2nd Vice-President  
Valerie Elacqua -Treasurer  
Mary Currie—Recording Secretary  
Dan Jadlofski - Corresponding Secretary  
Sue Moszak—Cultural Center Director



Winter Newsletter January 2022

Issue 30

## TIME TO RENEW

You can find  
a 2022  
membership  
form in this  
newsletter



### BULLETIN BOARD

Send in your dues by Feb. 28th!!

Mon. Feb. 14, 6:00 KMA Meeting PCC

Mon. March 14, 6:00 KMA Meeting PCC

Sat. March 26 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm  
Szopka Live Action Presentation under the  
direction of John James Hickey  
Holy Trinity Cafeteria

Sun. April 10, after 10:00 Mass  
Palm Sunday Easter Traditions Workshop,  
Holy Trinity Gymnasium Free

Mon. April 11, 6:00 KMA Meeting PCC

costumes for live actors, including the three kings, King Herod, and a camel.

If time allows John would like to conduct a theater workshop and puppet making seminar with students at Notre Dame schools.

If anyone is interested in participating in the production please contact Val at (315) 725-1651



## Szopka !!! Finally !!!

With the worst of the pandemic hopefully behind us, our cross country visitor John James Hickey, theater professional from Los Angeles, will be arriving in Utica on March 17 to prepare the live action/puppet Szopka presentation on the Saturday March 26 at Holy Trinity school cafeteria at 2 and 6 pm. This initiative was funded by the Good News Center and we are excited to bring it finally to fruition.

John has added dialogue to the Szopka script adding roles and designing custom masks and

# Kopernik Scholarship Luncheon



Pictured above (l to r) Gary Sroka, Presenter, Richard Noga, Kopernik President, Danielle Mangini, Recipient, John Jablonski, Recipient, Valerie Elacqua, Scholarship chairperson, Mary Currie, Presenter.

The Kopernik Scholarship luncheon honoring our 2021 winners took place on Oct. 19 at 1PM at the Polish Community Center. Each scholarship recipient, Danielle Mangini from Cornell University and John Jablonski from Union College, was presented with a \$1,000. scholarship award.

The luncheon was catered by Kopernik members Brian and Karen Karwowski and assisted by members Sharon and Stacy Scotti. The exceptional Polish menu is listed. Those in attendance celebrated the afternoon honoring the students' accomplishments.



2022 Kopernik Scholarship information is available at our website [www.cnykopernik.com](http://www.cnykopernik.com)

(above) Honored guest Dr. Malwina Popiolek, from Jagiellonian University in Krakow Poland is currently a visiting professor at Utica College.

## Kopernik Scholarship Luncheon Menu



October 30, 2021 1 PM

Zupa Zupa Pomidorowa - Tomato Soup

Interludium Sorbet Śliwkowy -  
Plum Sorbet

Danie Główne Roladki z polskiej wołowiny po-  
dawane ze słodko-kwaśną

czerwoną kapustą i kluskami śląskimi

Polish beef roulades served with sweet and sour  
purple cabbage and Silesian dumplings

Desert Karpatka - Carpathian Mountain Cream  
Cake



# Marie Curie

## Qualifying Scholarship Essay

by Danielle Mangini

Have you ever been singled out due to your identity, or be the odd one out in a room of excelled individuals? Marie Curie, a Polish chemist and physicist may have had these feelings as she became a well known scientist.

Initially, I felt intimidated this semester in my coding/programming class for meteorology students. I walked into that room and found myself amongst all males and no females in sight. I remember seeing a group picture of world renowned scientists. Amongst them were Albert Einstein and Neils Bohr with Marie Curie



being the only female in the photo. This reminded me of the situation I was in, the odd one out in a group of individuals.

Although Madame Curie and I have different interests in the field of science, I look up to her because of the work she did and how she persevered during a time where women were considered the insignificant sex. I

have realized that the field I am interested in, Climate Science, is dominated by males. Sometimes I felt intimidated to go to class or ask questions. My lack of confidence in the beginning of the spring semester evolved after realizing I can accomplish anything I set my mind to. My fear was vanquished and my coding/programming class became my favorite that semester.

Marie Curie received the Nobel Prize in Physics and Chemistry. She won these awards for her notable work on radium and radioactivity. Madame Curie was the first woman to receive this prestigious award. This happened about 100 years ago. It is sad to think that the intelligence of women has only been acknowledged for over 100 years. Marie Curie was able to set the path for women in science all around the world. Therefore, Madame Curie is an inspiration to me.

# Poland's Greatest Unsung Hero of World War II - Witold Pilecki

## Qualifying Scholarship Essay

by John Jablonski

The Second World War was an unforgettably brutal war which resulted in the deaths of nearly 75 million people around the world. Despite the world having succumbed to darkness and evil, glimpses of valiant sacrifices and moral choices were made by many brave people during these dark times.

One unforgettable story that stuck out to me was the story of Polish hero, Witold Pilecki. In September 1940, after the fall of Poland, Pilecki willingly volunteered himself to be arrested in order to infiltrate a site that was speculated to be a Nazi work camp for Polish POWs. Once Pilecki was arrested, he was transported via cattle car to one of the most infamous concentration camps known today, Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Inside of the camp, despite being underfed and malnourished, he continued to focus on his mission and organized an underground Military Organization Union known as ZOW.



Pilecki Continued

The organizational structure of ZOW was designed to split up members into groups of five in order to remain undetected and protect other groups. The ZOW groups played a key role in improving morale for prisoners, distributing food and clothes, setting up networks of intelligence, and even providing news from the outside. As the ZOW organization continued to gain momentum in Auschwitz, Witold wrote the first comprehensive record of the holocaust death camp that was obtained by the allies which is known today by the name of "Witold's Report."

Pilecki stated in the detailed report that the Germans had crematoriums with the capability of cremating 8,000 people daily. However, nobody believed him. British officials that read his report simply did not accept the fact that crematoriums of this scale could possibly exist.

After two and a half years of being in the camp, Pilecki believed he could no longer survive under the harsh conditions and escaped with a few other inmates. After escaping, he continued to fight for Polish resistance, and helped organize one of the largest underground resistance groups, Armia Krajowa (AK.) Later, as Nazi Germany was slowly crumbling, Pilecki participated in the Warsaw Uprising to further weaken the Germans and recapture Warsaw before the Soviet army could reach the capital. But, the uprising was unsuccessful and he was taken prisoner by the Germans. Once WWII ended, he was released and assigned to the military intelligence division in the Polish II Corps.

The forgotten story of Witold Pilecki is the purest embodiment of Polish patriotism and resistance. The dauntless sacrifices Pilecki willingly made should be eternally cherished and celebrated world-wide. His surreal story remained unearthed for over 40 years and has finally obtained the recognition it deserves. This shows that there are incredible untold stories that may have been lost forever.

## KOPERNIK CHRISTMAS PARTY



Dec 13, 2021

Great Food ! Great company!  
Special thanks to  
Karen and Brian Karwowski  
Stacy and Sharon Scotti  
for a fabulous Polish sit down dinner.



## A Letter From The President



Dear Friends,

Like you, I had hoped that this pandemic would have been far behind us by now. It has, and may continue to impose some restrictions on our activities. Let's hope not. Recently, we have seen some positive signs, which are encouraging. We all look forward to the day when we can fully enjoy the freedoms we are accustomed to. It can't come soon enough.

If we've learned one thing from Covid 19, it is - adaptability. Just as the virus adapts to new and ever-changing conditions, so must we. And we need to do it in the best way we know how; to be cautious and ever-vigilant in our day-to-day activities.

Although our events have been affected, last year we were able to hold our Easter Traditions Workshop, Scholarship Awards Program and Christmas Szopka Competition. We also placed an exhibit at the Oneida County History Center, in honor of Polish Heritage Month. All were well-attended and appreciated. Sincere thanks to the planners and volunteers who made them possible.

As we look forward to the new year, we continue to develop programs, with high hopes that they can come to fruition. It seems that, under present conditions, every planned event comes with an asterisk. Terms such as "providing", "pending" and "tentatively", have become more frequent in our vocabulary. Nevertheless, we remain undeterred in our mission, to keep Polish culture, history and traditions alive.

Gladly, we are able to pursue our endeavors, thanks to you, our members. Your support, in the form of memberships, donations and bequests, is vital to our existence. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so. Also, your financial support of our Annual Fund comes with the added benefit of being tax-deductible. Many thanks to those of you who have contributed monetarily, or by the giving of your time.

Let us all look to a brighter future, and may we find peace, good health and much happiness, in the new year ahead.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Noga



**Adirondack Chair Raffle Ticket**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 each 5 for \$20.



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Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 each 5 for \$20.

**RAFFLE TICKET TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Kopernik Memorial Association Membership Application**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Add American Council for Polish Culture Membership +newsletter.....\$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership.....\$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Association's Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Appeal 2022 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** (including raffle tickets) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: KOPERNIK MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Mail checks to: PO BOX 911 UTICA, NY 13503

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

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you Mrs Ekross and students for participating in our Szopka Event!



*Thanks for Renewing! 2022*

## KOPERNIK SPRING RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

**Hand Painted Polish floral designed  
folding Adirondack chair**

Think Spring and consider adding this beautiful Adirondack chair to your outdoor living space! The floral pattern is based on Kashubian region embroidery motifs which characteristically feature several basic colors black, red, green, yellow and blue in 3 shades using floral images such as clovers, lilies, and tulips. The Kasuby region is located in northern Poland.

Chances are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20. Raffle tickets are included and can be returned in the enclosed envelope. The chair will be available for viewing at the Szopka event on Saturday, March 28 and the raffle will be held on April 10 at the Palm Sunday workshop.

