



Proud To Support
Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia



Congratulations John Wisniewski on the
Polonia Achievement Award!

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Polonaise Ball 2024

Serdeczne Gratulacje
dla
Pana Johna Wisniewskiego
z okazji otrzymania nagrody
Polonia Achievement Award
Polish Heritage Society w Filadelfii

*składają wolontariusze oraz pracownicy
Polsko-Słowiańskiej Federalnej Unii Kredytowej.*



Congratulations
to
Mr. John Wisniewski
on being granted the
Polonia Achievement Award
by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

*from Volunteers and Employees
of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union.*





an affiliate of
The American Council for Polish Culture

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia is the local representative of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). The Society is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of our rich Polish cultural heritage among the citizens of the Greater Delaware Valley.

Through its stimulating monthly programs, the Society enhances understanding and enjoyment of Polish history and culture and values of our forefathers. Its Annual Chopin Concerts, Poster and Art Exhibits, visiting author lectures, the Polonaise Ball and other special events showcase the talents and accomplishments of Polish and Polish-American artists, musicians, writers, scholars and scientists.

Overall, the Society strives to share an awareness and appreciation of the quality of the Polish ingredient in our modern American mosaic.

For membership information contact:

Agnieszka Simon
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, #2C51
Philadelphia, PA 19130

e-mail: asimonhearts@gmail.com

See our activities on the web page:
www.poles.org/PHSP

and view our FACEBOOK page:
Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia/Facebook

**The Polish Heritage Society
of Philadelphia**



*an affiliate of the
American Council for Polish Culture*

welcomes you to the

Polonaise Ball

Saturday, November 9, 2024

*presenting the Polonia Achievement Award to
John Wisniewski
for his contributions to the Polish Community*

•

**Associated Polish Home
Belvedere Ballroom**

9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PROGRAM

Peter J. Obst - President, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*Hors d'oeuvres
Traditional Polonaise led
by the PKM Folk Dance Ensemble
Cash Bar*

**Music provided by the
TKO Band**

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

*Elegant Buffet Dinner
Dancing
Chance and Silent Auction*

*Presentation of
the Polonia Achievement Award to
John Wisniewski*

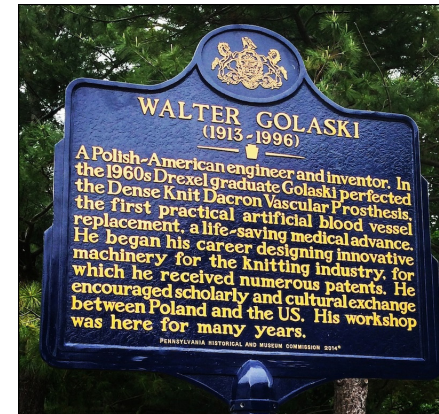
2024 Polonaise Ball Committee

*Diana Blichasz, Margaret Zaleska - Chance Auction
Deborah Majka - Finances and Accounting
Peter J. Obst - Invitations and Program Typesetting
Teresa and Terri Wojcik - Invitations
Marie Hejnosz, Tiffany Loomis - Room Decoration Committee*

Marking History

In 1999 the Society participated in the dedication of a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) marker at Moland House in Hartsville, PA. Along with George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, Casimir Pulaski was featured on the marker.

This led the Society to nominate and sponsor the placement of official markers for: bridge engineer Ralph Modjeski (2007), helicopter innovator Frank Piasecki (2010), and biomedical engineer Walter Golaski (2014). In 2022 the PHMC approved a marker for Philadelphia frozen food entrepreneur and Polonia supporter Edward Piszek (a.k.a. the "Fishcake King") which will be dedicated in 2025 near his former home along Pennsylvania Avenue in Fort Washington, PA.



It should be noted that the Piszek family had donated a large portion of land surrounding the house to Montgomery County creating a natural preserve for local species of flora and fauna.

This year the Heritage Society ventured afield, sponsoring a tablet on the battlefield in Savannah, Georgia, where General Casimir Pulaski fell, struck by grapeshot. Every October 9th the Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah holds a ceremony the day of the battle. During this event wreaths are laid on the redoubt and tablets are dedicated. This was the 12th tablet sponsored by a Polish or Polish-American organization to honor a participant in the American Revolution. Since the better known heroes were already memorialized with tablets, we chose to honor Capt. Jan Grabowski, a Polish officer of hussars in Lauzan's Legion.

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia welcomes new members to share in our work of publicizing the accomplishments of outstanding persons of Polish extraction and sharing our common heritage, history and culture. More information about membership in the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia may be found on the next page. Descriptions of PHMC markers that refer specifically to Polish contributions to Pennsylvania history may be found on the web page:

https://www.poles.org/DB/Pol_Museum/Pol_Markers/Markers_desc.html

Chance Auction Donors

Diana Blichasz
Marie Hejnosz
Mike Hrabowski
Jean Joka
Tiffany Loomis
Debbie Majka
Peter J. Obst
Jewls Rogowska
Vincent Rospond
Maggie Wisniewski
John Wisniewski
Margaret Zaleska

Line Listings

Congratulations and Best Wishes to John
from Margaret Zaleska

John, Congratulations and Best Wishes
Liz Whitman

Congratulations John, Well Deserved!
Jean Joka

*Many thanks to 3D Printing Service and
Edward Dymowski, Jr. for assistance in printing
the program and invitations to our event.*



November 9, 2024

Dear Friends and Members of the Polish Heritage Society,

Welcome to this year's Polonaise Ball. This year we have the opportunity to honor one of our members, John Wisniewski, with the *Polonia Achievement Award*.

While you will find his biographical sketch among the pages of this program. I would like to add that John got into the Polonia activism game quite early in his youth. While we both were still in grammar school, I remember going with Johnny on our bicycles and tacking up posters for the Polish Home Labor Day Picnic on telephone poles.

A bicycle would be placed sideways against the pole and then one of us would stand on the frame - a precarious perch - and staple away. The other would support his legs to keep him from falling.

Somehow we both survived and lived to tell the tale.

Since then John has done alot for the Polish Community and Poland. The Award is well earned. My sincere congratulations, John, on this and the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit that the Polish Consul will be bestowing on you soon. Live long and carry on this vital work.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our future events and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

Sincerely yours,
Peter J. Obst, *President, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia*



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

November 9, 2024

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to recognize tonight's annual Polonaise Ball.

Pennsylvania is home to a diverse population comprised of individuals from all different backgrounds. For generations, the Polish American community has represented a vital component of our diverse history and has played significant roles and made valuable contributions to Pennsylvania's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development. We thrive when we celebrate the diversity that brings strength and vitality to our communities. The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and its members continue to shape and strengthen our Commonwealth through its charitable donations, educational programs, and collaboration with numerous businesses. I commend this organization and its members, and I am sure that the Polish American community will continue to thrive throughout the Commonwealth for years to come.

As Governor, and on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I am happy to recognize tonight's annual Polonaise Ball. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this ninth day of November two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Governor Josh Shapiro

Polish Heritage Society Polonaise Ball Donors

Diamond

*Stan, Judy, Bethany, Kathryn Belkowski
Mike and Karen Hrabowski*

Gold

*Jacek and Mary Brach
Dr. and Mrs. George Danielewski
Carol D. Klinger
Paul and Joan Krzywicki
Irene Musman*

Silver

*Edward Krolkowski
Walter Piesiecki
Stas and Theresa Raiczuk*

*With sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to
John Wisniewski
the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia's
honoree and recipient of the
Polonia Achievement Award
from the officers and directors of the*

***Associated Polish Home**
Stowarzyszenie Domu Polskiego
9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, Pa. 19114
215-624-9954 www.polishhome.com*

**The Best Wishes to all participants of the
Polonaise Ball 2024**

**ASSOCIATION OF POLISH AMERICAN ENGINEERS
POLONIA TECHNICA Inc.**



[www. polonia-technica.org](http://www.polonia-technica.org)

**Organizing and serving the Polish-American professional community in USA
and cooperating with engineering societies in Poland and Europe since 1941.
Promoting the Polish engineers and scientists and their significant achievements
for the history and the next generation of Polonia in America.**

**Dr Janusz Romański - Honorary Chairman and Member
Malgorzata Romańska – Honorary Member
Waldemar Lipinski**



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CHERELLE L. PARKER
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-2181
FAX (215) 686-2180

November 9, 2024

Greetings!

It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the Annual Polonaise Ball held by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. Your attendance and support of this event, which celebrates the many aspects of traditional Polish culture, is an important way to benefit the Society's Scholarship Fund.

This year the Polish Heritage Society is honoring John Wisniewski, one of your longtime members, at the annual Ball. He is a member of a family whose involvement in the Polish community in Philadelphia has been integral in its day-to-day life. John's father served as President of the local Polish Home, and his son Andrew is the current President. John has held office in various Polish-American organizations and is currently a member of the board at the PHSP. The Polonia Achievement Award is presented to John for his lifetime of contributions to the Polish community in Philadelphia, and particularly for his efforts to rescue the stained glass windows from the recently dismantled St. Laurentius Church in the Fishtown neighborhood of our city. These beautiful windows were successfully relocated to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown for the benefit of future generations.

In addition to the award, John must also be congratulated for the recognition he has received from the government of Poland. It is my understanding that John was recently approved to receive the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit by the office of Poland's President Andrzej Duda, which is reserved for those who have demonstrated their Polish heritage through exemplary service.

As the first World Heritage City in the nation, Philadelphia is extremely proud of its diversity and the rich contributions that many different groups of people have made to our population, culture, arts, history, and more. I'm pleased to note that Philadelphia has a special connection to Poland as it shares a Sister City relationship with Torun, Poland. We proudly maintain a monument of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a hero of the American Revolutionary War, which graces Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and the Kosciuszko Memorial on Pine Street.

On behalf of the City of Philadelphia, I wish you a most memorable, successful, and enjoyable evening in support of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Cherelle L. Parker
Mayor



Deborah M. Majka
Honorary Consul
of the Republic of Poland
Southeastern Pennsylvania

tel: 215-627-1391
hcrpmajka@comcast.net



***Congratulations and God's blessings on
John Wisniewski
the Polish Heritage Society's honoree and
recipient of the Polonia Achievement Award***



John Wisniewski

He was born in the Kensington/Fishtown section of Philadelphia. Each of his grandparents immigrated from Poland before World War I and settled in this neighborhood within St. Laurentius Parish, the first Polish Catholic Church in Philadelphia founded in 1882.

John's parents moved to the then Polish Church of Our Lady of Calvary where he attended grade school. John went to Holy Ghost Prep for High School and acquired a BS in Biology at La Salle College and a subsequent BSN at Holy Family College where he met his wife, Pat. They were married in 1979 and had four children: Denise, John, Matt and Andrew.

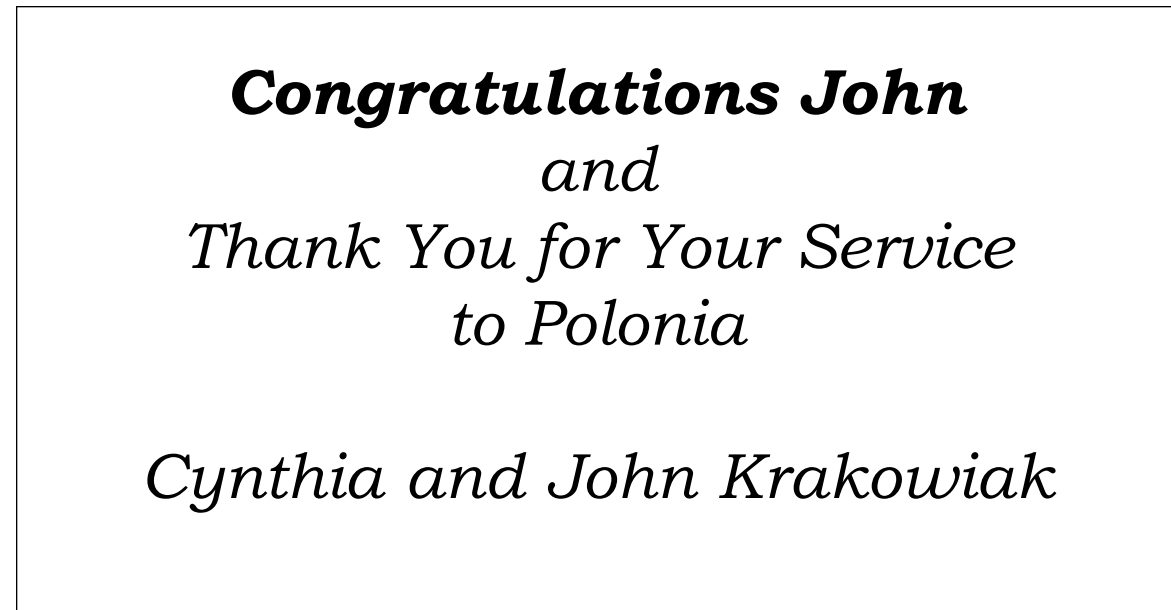
John attended Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School in the 1960s. He was a member of the Polish Intercollegiate Club of Philadelphia and a long-term member of

Polish American Congress of Philadelphia and the Associated Polish Home where he has been on the Board of Directors the past several years. John is a member of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and the Kosciuszko Foundation.

He pursued his professional career as a Nurse Anesthetist after graduating from Nazareth Hospital's School of Nurse Anesthesia in 1981. Throughout his career, John was a clinical and didactic educator of nurse anesthesia students at both Nazareth Hospital's Program and MCP/Hahnemann and subsequent Drexel University's Program of Nurse Anesthesia. John also served as Assistant Program Director and Director of these Anesthesia Programs.

John acquired his MS in Health Education from St. Joseph University and an MSN from Allegheny University of the Health Sciences. He was the proud recipient of the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2000. John guest lectured at the Crozer-Chester/Villanova University, Jefferson University, and Montgomery Hospital/La Salle University Nurse Anesthesia Programs. He likewise has engaged in the clinical practice of nurse anesthesia for over 40 years.

During his career, he served numerous years on the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthesia





All are Warmly Invited
Saint Ephrem Parish

POLISH DINNER

Saturday, January 4, 2025

6:00 – 10:00 pm

5400 Hulmeville Rd., Bensalem, PA 19020

Fun and Fellowship – Family & Friends!
Polish Cuisine ~ Live Music ~
Christmas Caroling ~ Basket Raffles
Historical Reenactors

TICKET INFORMATION:

\$25 per person; \$10 for children ages 6 to 12
TICKETS: after Mass, at the rectory, or contact
Terri at 267-608-7978; wwojcik1@comcast.net
Parish Fundraiser - All proceeds go to St. Ephrem Church!



American English Language and Culture
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volunteers for this unique and enriching experience abroad.
Knowledge of the Polish language is NOT required.

Learn more and APPLY online at:

<http://www.eagle-orzel.org>

Educational Programs where he also had a term as Vice-Chair. He likewise was of member of and subsequently chaired the AANA Certification Examination Committee and the Self-Evaluation Examination Committee.

John was active in the community as treasurer of the St. Jerome Home and School Association, a lector at St. Jerome, member of the Winchester Park Civic Association, and a member of Crispin Gardens Athletic Organization where he also served on the Board. He coached various sports at Crispin and was Director of the Boys Soccer Program. In 2004, he received the Francis McArdle Sr Memorial Award from Crispin Gardens for his outstanding service to the youth of the community.

St. Laurentius remained an integral aspect of John's life. In response to the merger of St. Laurentius into Holy Name of Jesus Parish in 2013, the closure of St. Laurentius for alleged safety reasons in March 2014 and the subsequent removal of St. Laurentius as a worship site by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in late 2014, John along with the late Tim Breslin founded the Save St. Laurentius Committee. The Committee coordinated an appeal to the Vatican and a subsequent recourse to the Vatican to reverse the decisions of the archdiocese but was unsuccessful. Through the Committee's efforts, though, the exterior of St. Laurentius was desig-

nated in the Philadelphia Registry of Historic Places in 2015. The Save St. Laurentius Committee received the John Andrew Gallery Community Action Award from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia in 2016.

After compiling an application with the Philadelphia Historical Commission for the designation of the interior of St. Laurentius Church as historical, John subsequently orchestrated a contract with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to coordinate placement of the reredos and murals from within St. Laurentius to interested entities. He likewise contacted Father Tadeusz Lizinczyk, Provincial of the Pauline Fathers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, to assess the stained-glass windows. Father subsequently directed purchase of the windows, and they have been installed in the Chapel at the Shrine where they were formally blessed and dedicated on February 17, 2024.



We have been recently informed by the Republic of Poland Consulate in New York, that RP President Andrzej Duda has awarded the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit to John Wisniewski, which will be presented to him at a future date.



Congratulations John

and

Thank You for all your work

on behalf of Polonia

Mary and Jacek Brach

and Family



Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland
 812 Lombard Street, Suite 12
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147

November 9, 2024

Peter Obst, President
 Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

Dear Peter,

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to you and to the members and friends of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and especially to the friends and family of our Honoree, John Wisniewski, as we gather together to express our pride and joy in our shared Polish heritage.

On a personal note, I'm delighted to offer congratulations and best wishes to the Society's Polonia Achievement Award recipient, John Wisniewski, with whom I have had the distinct honor and privilege of cooperating over these many years. I am proud to call John a friend and a mentor.

May the Society's Honoree, John Wisniewski, continue to share the best of our Polish heritage and culture with the entire community.

With every good wish for the Society's continued advancement of Polish heritage and culture in the Greater Delaware Valley,

Very truly yours,

Deborah M. Majka
 Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland
 Southeastern Pennsylvania

Best Wishes

*to Polonaise Ball participants and members of
 The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia
 Affiliate organization of the American Council for Polish Culture*



*Celebrating General Pulaski's Birthday at the Capitol in Washington, DC, March 6, 2012
 Edward Pinkowski (center), surrounded by an escort of Pulaski Cadets in white uniforms
 (l. to r.) Debbie Majka, Peter J. Obst, Jack Pinkowski, Delores Czaplicki and Paul Bosse*

Edward Pinkowski

In the mid-1990s he established the Poles in America Foundation which is dedicated to researching, documenting and publicizing the lives and achievements of Poles and Polish-Americans in the United States. He was among the group of people who began the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia in 1965. His research led to the discovery of the house where Kosciuszko resided in 1797-98. This would eventually become the Tadeusz Kosciuszko National Memorial under the United States Park Service. Later, he initiated research centered on the remains found in the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, GA. He passed away at 103 years of age in 2020 at his home in Florida.