



Left: PAHA group at the Kościuszko House in Philadelphia.

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

Several members of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia (PHSP) took part in the annual conference of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) which took place in Philadelphia at the Marriott Hotel on January 5-7, 2023. PHSP president Peter Obst arranged for PAHA members to visit the Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial, a museum devoted to the national hero of Poland and America. Normally closed during the winter season, it is operated by the National Park Service and located in the historic quarter of Philadelphia at 3rd and Pine Streets. Afterwards, the group was treated to lunch at the Polish American Cultural Center located just behind historic Independence Hall hosted by center president Michael Blichasz.

On Saturday, January 7th at the Awards Banquet of the Polish American Historical Association in Philadelphia at the Associated Polish Home a number of deserving persons and organizations were presented with awards in recognition of their accomplishments. The PHSP received the Skalny Award for its mission of fostering interest in Polish history and culture, and spreading an awareness of the accomplishments of Poles and Polish-Americans, most especially in the United States. In recent years the Society sponsored three Historical Markers, approved by the Pennsylvania Historical

and Museum Commission (PHMC).

It should be noted that, at the general meeting of PHSP on Sept. 21, 2022, president Peter Obst made an informative presentation about the Polish-themed historical markers in Pennsylvania. He stated at the time that he had submitted new applications for markers to the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. In mid-December the commissioners issued letters of approval for two markers. These were for:

- **Edward Piszek** (1916–2004), Springfield Township, Montgomery County, Piszek, founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, a pioneer businessman and innovator in producing and marketing frozen "heat-and-eat" convenience seafoods. A strong advocate of our Polish American heritage, his philanthropic efforts supported the establishment of the Thaddeus Kościuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia and a major anti-tuberculosis campaign in Poland in the late 1960s.
- **Hilary Koprowski**, M.D. (1916–2013), Philadelphia. Koprowski was a Polish American virologist, immunologist and director of the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, 1957–1991. A pioneer in the use of monoclonal antibodies, he developed the rabies vaccine and an early polio vaccine. His work is recognized by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and domestic and foreign medical organizations.

The Polish Heritage Society will install the Piszek marker at the Piszek Nature Preserve in Fort Washington, PA. The one for Dr. Koprowski will be placed near the Wistar Institute on the University of Pennsylvania Campus in Philadelphia by the local Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation. Dedication ceremonies will most likely be scheduled later in 2023. More information on will be forthcoming and interested parties should check the website: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html>

The first general meeting of PHSP on January 22, 2023, included a lecture on European Archeology,



Photo at right: Attendees at the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) awards banquet on January 7.