

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON, DC | NOVEMBER + DECEMBER 2012

#21-22



FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Readers,

We had a busy end of the year, filled with official visits and events. Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a visit to Washington, DC at the end of November, during which he also met with U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon. Poland's Undersecretary of State Jerzy Pomianowski continued the U.S.-Poland dialogue in DC in mid-December.

The month of November marked the establishment of a U.S. Air Force Aviation Detachment in Poland. We celebrate this cooperation as visible proof of U.S. contribution to Poland's defense, one which will strengthen joint inter-operability through regular aviation training exercises by Polish and U.S. pilots stationed in Poland. This will be the first permanent U.S. detachment in Poland, and an expanded dimension of the dynamic U.S.-Poland relationship.

I traveled to the West Coast for a series of events in November around the delivery of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner to LOT Polish Airlines. LOT will be the first European carrier to fly this ultra-modern machine, and the events included not just the plane's official delivery from Boeing to LOT, but also a seminar on U.S.-Poland Aerospace Industry Cooperation and the inauguration of an exhibit at Seattle's Museum of Flight on Polish aviation pioneers.

The Seattle events coincided with Poland's Independence Day, celebrated annually on November 11. The holiday honors Poland's independence in 1918 following 123 years of partition, and is a day when we remember other moments in history when our independence was lost and won again. We also honor the countless Poles who dedicated their lives to Poland's independence. I spent this day with the small but dedicated Polish-American community in the state of Washington.

Back in DC, the Embassy hosted a reception for the Polish-American community celebrating Independence Day, during which I presented Polish state awards to ten distinguished Polonians on behalf of Poland's President Bronisław Komorowski. One of our special guests that evening was Polish-American nestor Władysław Zachariasiewicz, who had just celebrated his 101st birthday.

As 2012 comes to a close, I would like to wish you and your loved ones all the very best for the upcoming holidays, as well as a wonderful new year.



Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf

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Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Radoslaw Sikorski paid a working visit to Washington, DC on Nov. 29-30, 2012, during which he met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon.

POLAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER IN WASHINGTON, DC

Minister Sikorski's talk with Secretary Clinton focused on Poland-U.S. relations and the European Endowment for Democracy (EED). U.S. partners have expressed vivid interest in the EED, an initiative designed to foster democracy-building in EU

neighborhoods, and put forward by Poland during its Presidency of the EU Council. With Security Advisor Donilon, Minister Sikorski exchanged views on energy security, and Poland-U.S. cooperation in the field of security and Afghanistan.

The Minister took part in a conference organized by Foreign Policy to mark this year's [100 Top Global Thinkers](#) list. The list [includes Minister Sikorski](#). U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is also included (for the fourth year in a row), and said during the conference that the Minister's inclusion is "well deserved because of the careful, comprehensive views he's developed over many years of hard work about issues as fundamental as freedom."

Minister Sikorski told Polish press that he considers his listing as proof of Poland's growing international position, and the fact that its voice is heard not just in the region and Europe, but also across the Atlantic. During his visit, Minister Sikorski also met with Bloomberg News' editorial staff, and held meetings with key foreign policy individuals, including President of the Atlantic Council Fred Kempe.



MINISTER SIKORSKI HONORS JAN KARSKI

On Nov. 30, 2012, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Radoslaw Sikorski lay a wreath at the

gravesite of Jan Karski at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington, DC. Afterward, the Minister declared his patronage and financial support for the building of a new gravestone for the hero of Poland's World War II Underground.

In 1943, Jan Karski – as an emissary of Poland's government-in-exile – was among the first to deliver eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Jewish-American leaders. Mr. Karski's reports, based on firsthand experience, provided crucial and numerous details about the Warsaw Ghetto, into which he was smuggled twice by Poland's Underground – the first and most significant resistance movement in war-torn Europe. Mr. Karski also eyewitnessed the German Nazi Izbica camp, and was dispatched to Western Allies to report on what he'd seen.

"I know that many people will not believe me, will not be able to believe me, will think I exaggerate or invent," Karski wrote. "But I saw it."

Mr. Karski detailed his experiences in [Story of a Secret State](#), published in 1944 and republished in 2011. For his extraordinary courage and bravery, he was honored with the [U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom](#), Poland's Order of the White Eagle, and as Righteous Among the Nations.

After the war, Mr. Karski chose not to return to Poland, then ruled by communists. He earned his PhD at Georgetown University in DC, and taught there for four decades.

Jan Karski's gravestone project is to be completed by 2014, the centennial of his birth, and is supervised by a specially appointed Honorary Committee.



Min. Sikorski thanked representatives of the Polish-American community for their commitment to honoring the legacy of "one of the prominent Poles who imparted the course of our country's history in the twentieth century." He also said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively promotes the memory of Jan Karski and expressed financial support for publications by Karski, as well as ongoing preparations for the opening of a Jan Karski exhibit in the foyer of the UN building in New York.

U.S. AVIATION DETACHMENT IN POLAND

Poland took place Nov. 9, 2012 at the 32nd Air Base in Łask, Poland.

The Aviation Detachment's mission is to strengthen cooperation between key NATO allies through regular joint training exercises and a rotational deployment of U.S. military aircraft, beginning in 2013.

The types of visiting U.S. aircraft will vary: Squadrons will include F-16 or C-130 planes and be accompanied by up to 250 uniformed military personnel and civilian contractors. The aircraft and personnel will rotate on a quarterly basis. The Aviation Detachment's presence in Poland will also make it possible for Poland to host other Allied Air Force elements, and to serve as a regional hub for air training and multinational exercises.

Ceremony participants included:

- Poland's Minister of National Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak
- New U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Stephen D. Mull
- U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Derek Chollet
- Commander of U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe Adm. James Stavridis
- Poland's Chief of General Staff Gen. Mieczysław Cieniuch
- Commander of Poland's Air Force Lt. Gen. Lech Majewski
- Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt

The goal of this increased cooperation between U.S. and Polish Air Forces is to strengthen interoperability as NATO Allies through regular combined training exercises and military-to-military engagement.

U.S. and Polish officials continue to work on implementing arrangements that will further detail the cooperation, such as coordinating objectives for each rotation. The Aviation Detachment facilitates bilateral and eventually multinational joint training exercises while optimizing the use of Poland's ranges and airspace and enhancing the interoperability of both countries' flight tactics and maneuvers. The detachment will also enhance daily interactions at all levels (officer/NCO cooperation and education), and capitalize on U.S.-Poland processes to continue to build strong partnerships. The Aviation Detachment will also support joint and coalition forces with fast, reliable transport and medical evacuation.

The ceremony of activation of the first unit of U.S. Forces permanently stationed in

Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary of State Jerzy Pomianowski paid a working visit to DC Dec. 6-7, 2012. The main focus of his discussions and meetings were Polish diplomacy's commitment to supporting democracy around the world, cooperation with the U.S. in the framework of the European Endowment for Democracy, and the political and economic transformation in the EU's neighborhoods.



The Deputy Minister's consultations followed up on talks held by Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski in November, and were intended to promote the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) among representatives from U.S.-based NGOs. The EED – a European project initiated by Poland – will enable Poland to become more engaged at the EU level in promoting democracy and democratic transformation.

Poland initiated the EED in response to freedom movements in the EU's neighborhoods, said Minister Pomianowski at the panel discussion *Democracy Promotion: Applying Successful Approaches from Central and Eastern Europe*, organized in the U.S. Congress by the Bertelsmann Foundation on December 7.

"We shall continue to support the EED by engaging in efforts to advance democratic transformation around the world," Minister Pomianowski said. "Our history has taught us that help based on the solidarity of the international community is very important in fighting against authoritarian regimes."

Other panelists included Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy and Francois Rivasseau, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the U.S.

POLAND PROMOTES EUROPEAN ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE U.S.



UROCZYSTOŚĆ OBJĘCIA DOWÓDZTWA
ORAZ
AKTYWACJI
PODODZIAŁU LOTNICZEGO
SIŁ POWIETRZNYCH STANÓW
ZJEDNOCZONYCH W POLSCE

32. BAZA LOTNICTWA TAKTYCZNEGO
ŁASK, POLSKA
9 LISTOPADA 2012

ACTIVATION AND
ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND
FOR THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AVIATION DETACHMENT IN
POLAND

32nd TACTICAL AIR BASE
ŁASK, POLAND
9 NOVEMBER 2012

DELIVERY OF THE FIRST BOEING 787 DREAMLINER TO LOT POLISH AIRLINES

A series of events on the West Coast in November celebrated the delivery of the first Boeing 787 Dreamliner to LOT Polish Airlines.

The plane was delivered to LOT on November 12 in the state of Washington, site of Boeing's commercial

plane division. On November 14, the Dreamliner had its inaugural flight – from Seattle to Warsaw. Four LOT pilots and two Boeing instructors were aboard the flight, which touched down in Warsaw's Chopin International Airport the morning of November 15.

By the end of March 2013, LOT Polish Airlines will be operating five Dreamliners. The first transatlantic flight will take place Jan. 16, 2013 from Warsaw to Chicago, followed by Warsaw-Toronto on February 1 and Warsaw-New York on February 3. European trips will include Munich, Frankfurt, Hanover, Kiev, Budapest, Brussels and Vienna.

EVENT ORGANIZERS + CO-ORGANIZERS

The events were the culmination of months of collaboration between U.S. and Polish partners, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, the Embassy of Poland in the U.S., LOT, the Polish American Chamber of Commerce Pacific Northwest, the Boeing Company, the Marshal's Office of the Małopolska Region and the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

U.S.-POLAND AEROSPACE INDUSTRY SEMINAR

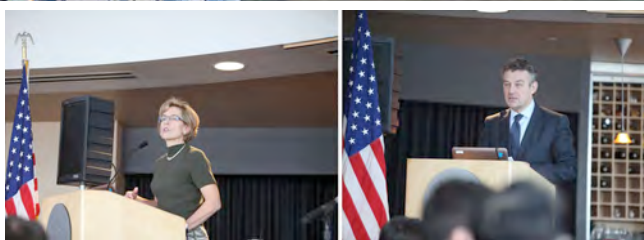
"U.S.-Poland cooperation in the aerospace sector: innovation through partnership" was held in Seattle on Nov. 13, 2012.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Beata Stelmach, who with Poland's Ambassador to the U.S. Ryszard Schnepf opened the seminar, said that U.S.-Poland political and economic ties stretch across the centuries, and that Poland being the first European country to fly the Dreamliner should provide new opportunities for strengthening bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and Poland.

"We are, after all, not just the recipient of American aerospace products, but also a supplier of technologically advanced services, products and innovation," Minister Stelmach said.

"The history of mutual cooperation in the aerospace industry, supported by the creativity, skills and talents of Polish aerospace immigrant engineers" allows us to better understand the Poland-U.S. relationship and mutual interests, Ambassador Schnepf said.

During the seminar, representatives from LOT Polish Airlines, the Aviation Institute, the Association of Aviation Valley Bumar Group, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling, Warsaw University, Jeppesen Poland, the Institute of Economic Sciences and the Katowice Special Economic Zone discussed ongoing and successful programs and projects in the aviation sector in Poland.



Emphasis was placed on the growing importance of Poland as a provider of advanced technology solutions for the aviation sector, with such examples as optimal trajectory modeling approach for landing aircraft by the [Institute of Mathematical and Computational Modeling at Warsaw University](#) as well as aircraft engines by the [Polish Institute of Aviation](#).

During the seminar's opening session, Todd P. Schwartz, U.S. State Department Deputy Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs, and Eric Stewart, President of the U.S.-Poland Business Council, spoke of the rapid progress of the Polish economy, new investment opportunities and an improvement in commercial and business environment in Poland. Nicole Piasecki, Vice President of the Business Development and Strategic Integration at Boeing said that Poland is a very promising market for civil aviation.

PHOTOS

Left: Nicole Piasecki, Boeing VP

Right: Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf

OPENING OF EXHIBIT ON POLAND'S AVIATION PIONEERS IN SEATTLE

An exhibit on Polish aviation pioneers who contributed to the development of the aviation sector in the world, *Frank Piasecki and other Polish Aviation Designers*, opened Nov. 11, 2012 at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington.

U.S.-born Frank Piasecki was an engineer and helicopter aviation pioneer, National Medal of Technology awardee and a U.S. Army Hall of Famer. He and his work are well-known in the West, according to the Museum's website, but "what about the contributions of other Polish aviation designers? This exhibit explores the life and work of individuals who contributed to the development of iconic flying machines, including the Concorde, the deHavilland Comet, the Sea King helicopter and even the Space Shuttle."

The exhibit was opened by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Beata Stelmach, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and Marshall of Poland's Małopolska Region Marek Sowa. As part of the opening ceremony, Witold Alexander Herbst – a member of the legendary WWII [Polish 303 Flying Squadron](#) – was awarded the *Pro Memoria* medal for his outstanding contribution to perpetuating the memory of Poles and their struggle for Polish independence.

The exhibit is organized by the [Museum of Flight in Seattle](#) and the [Polish Aviation Museum in Kraków](#). The ceremony took place in the Museum's main gallery, and included a performance by [Poland's Witkiewicz Theatre](#).

The exhibit is on display at the Museum of Flight in Seattle through February 2013. If you're in Seattle, we highly recommend you check it out!

PHOTOS

Clockwise from top: Piasecki exhibit at the Museum of Flight in Seattle; Piasecki H-21B (CH-21B) Workhorse on display at the Museum of Flight Restoration Center in Everett, Wash.; Logo for the Piasecki exhibit; the Piasecki exhibit in Seattle; Poland's Witkiewicz Theatre performance at the exhibit's opening; Undersecretary of State Beata Stelmach with Witold A. Herbst – 303 Flying Squadron pilot.

LEARN MORE

[About the exhibit on the Museum of Flight's website](#)



**FRANK
PIASECKI**
AND OTHER POLISH
AVIATION DESIGNERS



SCIENCE + INNOVATION CONFERENCE: DESTINATION EUROPE

Destination Europe was held Dec. 6-7, 2012 in San Francisco to promote the EU – including Poland – as a destination for pursuing scientific careers and investments related to innovation and advanced technologies.

An Embassy delegation presented information about Polish research institutes, mechanisms for funding science as well as job opportunities. This part of the program, titled [Research & Go! Poland](#) was jointly organized by Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Foundation for Polish Science and Poland's Embassy in the U.S.

The session included testimonies by eminent Polish scientists working in the U.S. and Poland: Prof. Maciej Konacki from the [Toruń Center for Astronomy at Nicolaus Copernicus University](#) and Prof. Waldemar Priebe from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Scientific job opportunities were also presented at a Polish booth during the two-day fair organized with the conference.

The second conference in its series, *Destination Europe* was co-organized by the European Commission and Member States.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science opened the conference via a video message that mentioned Poland as a worthy European destination for scientists.

Other speakers, including Dr. D. Dingwell, Secretary General of the European Research Council, and Dr. David Stonner, Acting Director for International Collaboration of the National Science Foundation, highlighted the need for intensified U.S.-EU Science and Technology collaboration.



POLAND'S TOP 500 INNOVATORS



The [Top 500 Innovators Program](#) was launched in 2011; by the program's end in 2015, 500 of Poland's brightest young scientists will have completed two month programs at top U.S. universities. The 2012 edition sent Poles to UC Berkeley and Stanford University in California. We spoke with an academic director, an administrator and a participant to learn more. The Embassy facilitated the program set up at both universities, and these interviews were made possible thanks to an Embassy delegation visit to Silicon Valley during the program.

PIOTR MONCARZ is a consulting professor at Stanford University. He holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from Stanford, and works as an engineer at Exponent. He is the Academic Director of Stanford University's Top 500 Innovators program.

What's the Top 500 Program?
The Top 500 Program was created by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to bring skills to Polish scientists, academics and people involved in technology transfer – skills that make the transfer of intellectual achievement of Polish universities to industry easier. We know that Poland has excellent science and academic programs, however, very little of it trickles to the Polish economy. The program selects applicants who are mostly PhD, post-doc assistant, associate professor level, and people who work in technology transfer offices at universities. Teams of 40 [go] to leading universities in the world for professional development.

They learn designed thinking, intellectual property management and protection, marketing skills, and not just how to speak smoother and more elegantly but also how to prepare yourself for that speech –

what market study you should do before you consider taking your idea into a product effort.

Does the program also teach the participants how to have innovative ideas and bring them to life?

They are from schools of medicine, engineering, electronics, mining, environment. We cannot teach them how to have ideas in their areas of specialty, but we can teach them how to evaluate the idea, whether it is ripe for implementation in the commercial world.

There's one more very important aspect: teamwork and team building. When they come for nine weeks with us, we really work hard to make a group of 40 people on the same team. The ultimate goal is, of course, when the Ministry is done with the Top 500 program we are going to have in Poland a team of 500.

Has the program changed over time?

We learn with them, there is no doubt. We know for instance that what they really need is a maximum of workshop environments. They need to come back to Poland and implement – they didn't come here to get a certificate, they came to get tools they can immediately use.

MOLLY NAGLER is the Director of Strategic Alliances at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

How would you rate this program with similar projects?

This is the most complex and longest program we've ever done. The Top 500 is part of our customized portfolio, where we work with specific organizations and design something for them. The customized programs certainly can be longer than five days, [but] any given module is never longer than ten days. This is definitely a complex and exciting and high-profile and long program.

How would you rate the participants, their knowledge and skills, and their involvement and interest levels?

They're definitely on the high end in terms of interest, and expertise in their field. They're a joy to work with; they're articulate, they're ambitious, and they have boundless energy. They're very good natured and happy to be here. They certainly are learning a lot about the American way of doing business, and how informal things can be here, especially in California. Risk-taking has been a big learning curve for them, and

celebrating failure. That's where I've seen the biggest improvement in their skills, and recognizing the importance of the ingredients of innovation, and thinking about how they can take this back to Poland.

What's the most rewarding part of this program?

For us, it was seeing the participants blossom over the nine weeks, and enjoy themselves. We're in the business of changing lives and delighting customers. And I feel like we were able to do that, where people learned a new way of life and expanded their idea of what's possible in the world. I hope that their lives will change when they go to Poland and moving forward. And that's the next big question for everyone: What's next?

LUKASZ KUTRZEBA works for the Jagiellonian Center of Innovation in Kraków, Poland. He holds a double Master's in Biology and Environmental Biology, and a PhD in Political Science. He completed the Top 500 program at UC Berkeley on Dec. 14, 2012.

What was your favorite part of the Top 500 program?

I learned that a personal network based on relationship and trust is absolutely crucial. You can collaborate, you gain an ability to listen to people, you develop sharpness in starting innovation.

How do you plan to take what you learned in California and apply it to what you do in Poland?

An important part for JCI is to become more collaborative on a national level, more recognized through building that network, and my personal goal – to reach out to more people, to be more present at the universities. To preach, I would say, to young scientists and young entrepreneurs that we are all valuable. We are able to contribute to global change. I know that as Poles we have great potential, we need to trust each other and believe in ourselves. I'm pretty positive that change begun some time ago, esp. in the younger generation, will continue and become more and more present in the scheme of innovation.

What did you learn knowledge and skill-wise in the commercialization of development?

We don't have to be ashamed that we are not innovative – because as Poles, we are innovative. What we need to change in our mindset as Poles is a global perspective. We tend to think about our Polish market, our customers. Thinking on

a global scale and that we can really contribute change to the global society is something that we need to realize. We are capable. We have a lot of bright, intelligent people in Poland.

Today is your last day at Berkeley, right?

Yes. We are doing our group presentations today. We were assigned projects by the Ministry. My project was on leadership. Can you shape leaders in Poland? That was quite exciting – whether there's any difference in the U.S. and Poland, and a bigger question is, are leaders born or are they made? We came to the conclusion that leaders can be made, can be shaped. Lots of different mechanisms, but in general it happens through personal development or development with the help of others – coaching, classes. If you have a good background in terms of starting early, making decisions, being visionary, being goal-oriented, then you can build on that. Leadership is a constant learning process.

What about people without good backgrounds, can they still be leaders?

Yes. For some people, certain knowledge or skills come easier, and some people need to put more work into it. For some, learning math is a piece of cake. The same is with leadership – you may have some basics to build upon, and some people build these basics themselves. It all comes down to motivation. Like we discussed in groups, oftentimes leaders appear in times of crisis. If you have hard times to go through, and you want to contribute to change, or have significant input into your community, that's when leaders appear.

What about motivation – can that be taught? Decades of communism in Poland wiped out the notion of motivation – can that be re-taught?

We came to this same conclusion, that communism wiped out leaders, because being a leader was very badly received and it was punished. People can be motivated through coaching; coaching meaning shaping / helping someone to develop themselves. Motivation comes with inspiration – leaders motivate others by giving them examples.

– Justine Jablonska, the Embassy's Press Advisor, conducted the interviews.

PHOTOS

1. 2012 Top 500 at Stanford
2. 2012 Top 500 at Berkeley

BOOK EVENT: IN SEARCH OF POLIN: CHASING JEWISH GHOSTS IN TODAY'S POLAND



history of Poland's Jewish community, and the recent revival of Polish public interest in Jewish culture and traditions.

Mr. Schiff – who is also a distinguished cantor – led a brief Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony after his book presentation.

Gary S. Schiff presented his newly published *In Search of Polin: Chasing Jewish Ghosts in Today's Poland* at the Embassy on Dec. 12, 2012.

The book takes a multi-faceted approach to one thousand years of Polish-Jewish history, combining academic scholarship with the author's family history, insightful travel experiences and candid observations. The author describes his 2008 trip to Poland, where he traced his family history to the *shtetl*, or small town, of Ostrów Mazowiecka.

Mr. Schiff is a scholar, author and cantor who serves as Adjunct Professor of History at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland where he teaches courses on Jewish and Middle Eastern history. He is a widely published author and an avid traveler to Jewish communities around the world.

At the Embassy event, Mr. Schiff was introduced by Poland's Charge d'Affaires Maciej Pisarski, who underlined the long



On Nov. 19, 2012, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf met with members of the U.S.-Poland Business Council. The meeting provided a forum for a discussion about the ongoing and future cooperation between the Embassy of Poland in DC and the USPBC. Representatives from member companies also had an opportunity to present their business activities and investment plans in Poland.

In his remarks, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf spoke about the four most promising areas in the development of Polish-U.S. economic cooperation: defense, energy, transportation and health care. He said that the "current level of bilateral trade between Poland and the United States is disproportionately low in relation to the economic potential of our countries," and encouraged each of the companies to increase their business activities in Poland. The Ambassador also stressed the importance of finally including Poland in the Visa Waiver Program, which would contribute to strengthening Polish-U.S. economic relations as well as guarantee the growth of the tourism industry.

Eric Stewart, President of the USPBC, said that he counts on deepening Polish-U.S. cooperation in the coming years. He also highlighted a new vehicle for cooperation: some USPBC member companies are involved in a program offering valuable internship experiences to young Poles.

The [U.S.-Poland Business Council](#) groups 25 companies representing a vast spectrum of the U.S. economy including energy, defense and pharmaceutical industries.

AMBASSADOR SCHNEPF MEETS WITH THE U.S.- POLAND BUSINESS COUNCIL



CHRISTMAS CAROL + ADVENT SONG RECITAL



Opera and Virginia Opera, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, among others. Her successes in recent seasons have generated great admiration for her beautiful, burnished mezzo, technical ease and drama-inflected phrasing, according to the Baltimore Sun.

The recital she gave at the Polish Embassy was thoroughly enjoyed by an international audience. She introduced each song briefly, bringing to light less known facts about the origins of the pieces.

Ms. Wór was accompanied by the immensely versatile pianist and composer Misha V. Stefanuk, a Boston University and Moscow Conservatory graduate, whose many talents also include playing jazz and theatre organ concerts, and composing music for network TV, including *Good Morning America*, *All My Children* and *The Young and the Restless*.

On Dec. 5, 2012, the Embassy welcomed numerous guests, including representatives of DC's diplomatic, cultural and media communities to a special concert of international Christmas Carols and Advent Songs, performed in their original language by mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wór.

The very talented Ms. Wór is an accomplished Polish-born opera singer. She has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Washington National



RECEPTION FOR THE POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY ON POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



On Nov. 8, 2012, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC held a reception for the Polish-American community on the occasion of Poland's Independence Day.

At the invitation of Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of Poland to the United States, more than 250 people attended, including representatives of the Polish community in DC, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Florida.

During the reception, the Ambassador awarded 10 distinguished Polish-American activists on behalf of President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski.

In his welcome address, the Ambassador said that this was his first official reception at the Embassy and that he appreciates the important role of the Polish-American community, its activities and importance in many areas. He also expressed his willingness for cooperation and frequent contacts, and said to applause that without the support of Polish-Americans, "a Polish Ambassador can accomplish very little."

"You have a friend in me and a person who wants to work together for Poland and for the development of Polish-American relations," the Ambassador added, and encouraged joint projects and initiatives.

The Ambassador also gave birthday wishes to very special guest Mr. Władysław Zachariasiewicz, who had celebrated his 101st birthday the day before.

ABOUT POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Poland's National Independence Day is celebrated annually on November 11, marking the day in 1918 when Poland regained its independence after 123 years of partition.

Austria, Prussia and Russia partitioned Poland in 1795; this was Poland's third partition by foreign powers and despite national uprisings – including the November Uprising of 1830 and the January Uprising of 1863 – Poland did not regain its freedom till after World War I.

The day was decreed a national holiday in 1937, but celebrations were forbidden from 1939 (when World War II began) through 1989 (the end of communism in Poland). Today, Poles in Poland and around the world celebrate the day with pride.

Official celebrations in Poland are held at Piłsudski Square in Warsaw, including a ceremonial changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Throughout Poland, the day is marked with gatherings and parades.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

ANNA SUŁKOWSKA – KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF REBIRTH OF POLAND (POLONIA RESTITUTA)

For outstanding contributions to Poland's democratic changes and for achievements in professional and social work that benefit Poland

ALVIN MARCUS FOUNTAIN II – KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

For outstanding achievements in the development of Polish-American cooperation and for work in the Polish-American community

CECILIA GLEMBOCKI – OFFICER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

In recognition for outstanding services to the Polish-American Community and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

RAYMOND THOMAS GLEMBOCKI – OFFICER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

In recognition for outstanding services to the Polish-American Community and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

WALDEMAR MARIAN IZDEBSKI – OFFICER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

In recognition for outstanding services to the Polish-American Community

IRENA IZABELLA KARPINSKI – OFFICER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

In recognition for outstanding services to the Polish-American Community, and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

LESZEK ŁADOWSKI – OFFICER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
In recognition for outstanding services to the Polish-American Community, and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

ZDZISŁAW ZIELIŃSKI – OFFICER'S CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

In recognition for outstanding services to the Polish-American Community, and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

ANNA PAULINA FIRSOWICZ – GOLDEN CROSS OF MERIT

In recognition for services to the Polish-American Community, and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

DOROTA PONIKIEWSKA – GOLDEN CROSS OF MERIT

In recognition for services to the Polish-American Community, and for promoting Polish culture and traditions

MR. WŁADYSŁAW ZACHARIASIEWICZ



Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf hosted Mr. Władysław Zachariasiewicz at a luncheon at the Embassy of Poland in Washington, DC on Oct. 31, 2012.

A prominent Polish-American activist, Mr. Zachariasiewicz is a WWII veteran and gulag survivor who has received numerous awards in Poland and abroad – including the *Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta*.

He recently celebrated his 101st birthday. The Ambassador thanked Mr. Zachariasiewicz for his long and fruitful work in the Polish-American community, and underlined his immense and positive energy.

A nestor of the Polish-American community, Mr. Zachariasiewicz remains strongly involved in various projects and travels extensively.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

1911 – Born in Kraków

1936 – Becomes member of the *World Association of Poles Abroad (Światopol)* in Warsaw. Leads training programs for youth, organizes annual knowledge exchange programs about Poland. Is the last surviving member today.

1938 – Military service at the Divisional School of Infantry in Grodno, cadet courses, military maneuvers with the Kraków 5th Armored Battalion

1939 – Mobilized with the 2nd Armored Battalion near Przemyśl; takes part in September campaign. Attempts escape through Romania to join the nascent Polish Army in France. Arrested by the Polish-Romanian border, imprisoned.

1940 – Transported to and imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

1941 – Convicted *in absentia* to 10 years hard labor and sent to labor camp.

Released 6 months after the Sept. 1941 Sikorski-Maisky amnesty for Poles imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

1942-1945 – Becomes head of the Polish social care facility in the Urals. Transferred to Poland's Embassy in Kuibyshev, appointed as delegate to Kazakhstan.

Arrested in Kuibyshev, imprisoned and interrogated for months. Released at the Embassy's intervention, expelled from the USSR. Recovers in Tehran, works with the Polish government-in-exile at Poland's Consulate General in Constantinople.

Transferred to London, works with Prime Minister Tomasz Arciszewski, then sent to Rome as delegate of Poland's government to take care of refugees in Italy. Works closely with the Polish Second Corps headed by Gen. Władysław Anders, and organizes two large camps for refugees able to enter Italy.

1946 – Evacuated to London with the Polish military, put in charge of immigration and asylum issues in Prime Minister Gen. Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski's cabinet. Resumes pre-war activities with the *World Union of Poles Abroad (Światopol)*.

1948-1960 – Emigrates to the U.S. as political refugee. Becomes Executive Director for newly created Polish Committee for Immigration and Aid in New York, which facilitates the emigration of thousands of refugees – incl. former concentration camp prisoners and the military.

Elected to Executive Committee of the American Council for Aid Abroad. Active in many Polish-American organizations, incl. as VP of the Polish American Congress in New York and member of the Congress of Polish Affairs in Chicago.

1961-1978 – Appointed Director of the Dept. of Nationalities in the National Committee of the Democratic Party; coordinates activities of several ethnic groups in the election campaigns of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

Appointed Special Assistant of International Relations to the Postmaster General, represents the U.S. Post Office at International Philatelic Exhibitions (incl. in Poznań in 1973, the year of Polish astronomer Mikołaj Kopernik). Coordinator of stamp for the Millennium of Polish Christianity in

1966; 130 million printed. The stamp's issue becomes an opportunity for the Polish-American community to manifest its support for Polish independence.

1978-1989 – Retires but continues philanthropic work; elected to Board of Directors and the Program Committee of Radio Free Europe; member of New York's National Press Club.

Honorary Advisor to the Postal Directorate in Taiwan. Upon John Paul II's papacy, founding coordinator of the Committee to Fund John Paul II Polish Home in Rome. Appointed by the Pope to John Paul II's Foundation Board.

1989-today – Travels to Poland regularly since the fall of communism. Guest of honor and speaker at the inaugural session of the III Congress of Polonia and Poles Abroad in 2007. Works closely with the *Association Polish Community (Wspólnota Polska)* in Warsaw. Appointed by Poland's Speaker of the Senate in 2008 to the Polish Diaspora Council.

2000 – Nominated for rank of Captain in Poland's Reserves at the request of the Embassy of Poland's Defense Attaché; in 2005 appointed Major of the Polish Army reserves.

2010 – Formally transfers his legacy (documents, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings) to the Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw at a ceremony held at the Polish Senate.



READ

[An interview with Mr. Zachariasiewicz in Polish](#)

PHOTOS

1. Ambassador Schnepf with Mr. Zachariasiewicz at our Embassy this October.
2. Mr. Zachariasiewicz celebrates his centennial at our Embassy last year.

ANNA FERENS' DOCUMENTARIES SCREENED IN CHICAGO

Documentary filmmaker Anna Ferens visited Chicago in November at the invitation of the Polish Consulate General in Chicago, which organized a series of screenings of her documentaries. Viewers had the opportunity to meet with the director following the screenings.



WHAT CAN DEAD PRISONERS DO 2010

The film details the fate of Soviet POWs captured by Poles in the 1919-1920 Polish-Soviet War, after the Polish Army stopped the Soviet invasion of Europe at the gates of Warsaw. The documentary investigates the POWs' fates, and documents how their experience shaped Polish-Soviet relations for the future.

Screenings:

- Nov. 26, at 5:30–7:15 pm, Recital Hall, Northeastern Illinois University
- Nov. 27, 2:30–4:15 pm, Loyola University Chicago, Lake Shore Campus, Crown Center 104, 1032 W. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60660
- Dec. 11, 7 pm, the Marquee Theater, Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street, Madison, WI
- Dec. 1, 9:00 am–12:00 pm, St. Ferdinand School, Chapel, 3131 N. Mason, Chicago IL 60634 (screening for students)
- Nov. 30, 6:30–8:15 pm, The Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago
- Dec. 4, 7:00 pm, Polish Mission Orchard Lake, Michigan, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake Village

WHERE DO WILD STRAWBERRIES GROW 2006

The film explores the story of a burial ground in the forest outside of Kiev, Ukraine, where ~30,000 people were murdered by the Soviets between 1937–1941. Among the dead were thousands of Poles. In 2006, Polish archeologists were allowed to carry out research in this unexplored site for the first time. The documentary includes the memories and perspectives of the local Ukrainian population on past events. It also tells the story of a quest by Krystyna and Jan to find the grave of their fathers, who disappeared in September 1939 when the Soviet army invaded Poland.



Screenings:

- Nov. 28, 6:30–8:15 pm, Copernicus Center, 5216 West Lawrence Avenue Chicago, IL 60630
- Dec. 4, 7:00 pm, Polish Mission Orchard Lake, Michigan, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake Village



JEWES IN THE WARSAW UPRISING 2004

The film recalls the breakout of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, when 40,000 soldiers (some Polish Jews) of Poland's Home Army engaged in open battle against the Nazi German occupants of Poland's capital.

Screening:

- Nov. 29, 6:30–8:00 pm, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, IL 60077 (screening is free with a Museum admission ticket)

JAN KARSKI EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

The Jan Karski Educational Foundation was launched in Chicago on Nov. 12, 2012. Its mission: Education across the U.S. about Jan Karski, who during World War II was sent as an emissary of Poland's Underground government to warn the West about the then-secret Holocaust against Poland's Jews. He undertook his clandestine, dangerous mission at great peril and later wrote a book about his fact-finding missions into the Warsaw Ghetto, *Story of a Secret State*.



Illinois Governor Pat Quinn (left), who was a student of Karski's at Georgetown University, spoke of Karski's wartime mission, and recalled him as a modest man.

"His teachings, and his example of personal heroism, have served as an inspiration throughout my adult life," Gov. Quinn said.

Polish Consul Generals in Chicago and New York Paulina Kapuścińska and Ewa Junczyk Ziomecka (right) joined the governor as well as Chairman of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation Andrzej Rojek, President of the Foundation Wanda Urbanska, and representatives from Chicago business, academic, cultural, media communities at the launch, which took part in the Chicago offices of Baker & McKenzie. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel sent a letter of support.



The [Jan Karski Educational Foundation](#) is part of the [Jan Karski U.S. Centennial Campaign](#), which on May 29, 2012 reached its goal of the awarding of a Presidential Medal of Freedom to the late Jan Karski. The Foundation will work to instill the values of leadership, courage, integrity and humanitarian action, as exemplified by Jan Karski, and to promote his life and legacy.

WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS ON JAN KARSKI

A series of workshops for Chicago educators about the life and legacy of Jan Karski was held Oct. 25-29, 2012 in Chicago. The workshops presented the life and legacy of the Polish Underground's emissary and messenger to the West about the Holocaust. Dr. Aleksander Skotnicki and Ewa Wierzyńska, both Karski experts, took part in the workshops at the invitation of Poland's Consulate General in Chicago Paulina Kapuścińska.

Dr. Skotnicki is a world-class hematology specialist whose interest and activism on behalf of the Polish and Jewish culture and heritage have earned him recognition in Poland and abroad. He is a recipient of the *Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta* and the *Jan Karski and Pola Nireńska Prize* by YIVO Institute in New York and the *ŻIH Jewish History Institute* in Warsaw for his research on Polish-Jewish relations and the Jewish contribution to Polish culture.



Ewa Wierzyńska is an advisor to the director of the [Polish History Museum in Warsaw](#), and the leader of the Jan Karski Unfinished Mission – an educational and public awareness program that works to incorporate Jan Karski's legacy into school curricula and museum exhibitions. One of her achievements is the [Jan Karski U.S. Centennial Campaign](#), thanks to whose work Jan Karski was posthumously awarded the [U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom in May 2012](#).

The four-day series was organized thanks to the support of the Polish Consulate General in Chicago in cooperation with the Polish History Museum in Warsaw and a number of local educational partners.

Educators from Northeastern Illinois Univ., Chicago Public Schools, the Polish Teachers Association of America and Loyola University Chicago took part. The workshops concluded with a presentation on October 29 at Poland's Consulate in Chicago for representatives of the local U.S. administration, Chicago Jewish-American communities, business circles, university professors and teachers of Polish language schools in Chicago.



FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES WORKSHOP

A workshop titled *Facing History and Ourselves* was held Oct. 25, 2012 at Poland's Consulate General in New

York. The attendees were mostly from academic circles, including Monroe College and Canisius College as well as U.S. high schools in Buffalo, New Haven, New York and New Jersey.

Moderator Peter Nelson represented the 30-year-old organization [Facing History and Ourselves](#), which was also an event co-organizer. The Jan Karski Centennial Campaign, represented by Wanda Urbańska, and the Museum of Polish History with Ewa Wierzyńska, also helped organize the workshop.

Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka offered introductory remarks, while Wanda Urbańska and Ewa Wierzyńska provided insight into Jan Karski in the context of the geopolitical situation in Europe during WWII. They also spoke of the Polish Resistance movement – Europe's largest during the war.

The workshop was conducted in its signature "Facing History" method: Participants discussed the meaning of, for example, the term *resistance* in the context of the 1943

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. They also discussed the lack of Allied reaction to Jan Karski's intelligence about the existence of German Nazi concentration and death camps in occupied Poland. Workshop attendees analyzed the knowledge of the U.S. population, including younger generations, on these issues today, and came to the conclusion that a negative perception of Poland is due to, among others, insufficient historical knowledge about World War II.

Patrycja Slawuta, a PhD student in Psychology at the New School for Social Research, gave a presentation that dealt with the phenomenon of victimization, and by extension – the reconciliation of national and ethnic groups.



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS



The six main committees of the U.N. General Assembly held their yearly sessions this autumn, which is among the busiest of times at U.N. Headquarters in New York. Poland actively participates in these committees: Besides engaging in

internal EU coordination, Polish delegates present Poland's national views on various issues of the international agenda at the U.N., including Poland's position on *inter alia* counter-terrorism, international law and chemical weapons.

FOLLOW

The [website](#) of Poland's Permanent Mission to the U.N. and its [Twitter account](#) for U.N. news.

PHOTOS

- 1: The U.N. Building in New York
- 2: Non-Violence Sculpture outside the U.N. Building



POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN NEW YORK



Independence Day celebrations in New York kicked off in downtown Manhattan at the Roseland Ballroom on Nov. 10, 2012, where Polonians gathered at a Budka Suflera concert. The Polish rock band, which entered the music scene decades ago, remains widely popular and is most known for its rock ballads. The band performed with Izabela Trojanowska and Felicjan Andrzejczak. The concert organizers dedicated the concert to Hurricane Sandy victims. Concert admission was free for all veterans.

Poland's Consul General in New York Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka welcomed the concertgoers: "There is no joy without independence," she said.

Michael Hochman opened the event with Jewish songs as a symbol of tradition and common fate in exile.



Polish-American journalist Rita Cosby shared the story of her father, Richard Kossobudzki, a Warsaw Uprising insurgent, while Tomaczek Bednarek performed several songs in tribute to the 1944 Uprising insurgents.

On Nov. 11, 2012, the Consulate General of Poland held a reception to celebrate Polish Independence Day. Guests included members of various veteran organizations and Polonia representatives.

"[This] is a sad and joyful celebration," said Consul General Junczyk-Ziomecka. "Sad, as it leads to reflection and remembrance of those who died for freedom, and are buried in often unmarked graves around the world. Joyful, because on November 11, 1918, Poland regained its independence and returned to its right place in Europe."

Guests watched [An Animated History of Poland](#) by Tomasz Baginski, followed by remarks by University of Aberdeen in Scotland Professor Robert Frost, who said that Poland's history wasn't comprised entirely of battles and wars – but also of modern political thought. He gave the [Union of Krewa](#) as an example: The agreement, signed by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland in the 14th century, formed the Polish-Lithuanian state, which later became a formidable European power and lasted almost 400 years.

"It is notable," Prof. Scott said, "that the English-Scottish union will have beaten this record next year."

During the event, Kościuszko Foundation President Alex Storozynski presented the trailer for a new film on the life of Tadeusz Kościuszko, which is to be aired on PBS. Mr. Storozynski is the author of *The Peasant Prince*, a biography of Polish General Kościuszko.



PHOTOS

1. Budka Suflera concert; 2. Rita Cosby, Grzegorz Fryc, Izabela Trojanowska, Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Tomaczek Bednarek; 3. Maria Rasiej, Prof. Robert Frost, Marcin Rasiej, Janusz Romanski



POLAND-SILICON VALLEY TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

The tenth edition of the Poland-Silicon Valley Technology Symposium took place Nov. 15-17, 2012 and was organized by the [U.S.-Polish Trade Council](#) with support of Poland's Consulate General in Los Angeles.

This year's symposium dealt with revolutionary materials, sensors and energy. The newly created [U.S.-Poland Innovation Hub](#) – a U.S.-Polish Trade Council venture – at Palo Alto, California was presented and discussed extensively throughout the event.

The symposium's gather more and more key figures annually, both in the fields of science and economy. This year's event was the second also attended by participants of the Top 500 Innovators program, being held at Stanford and Berkeley universities in California.

PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL IN PASO ROBLES

The Paderewski Festival, held annually in Paso Robles, Calif., celebrates the eminent pianist and statesman's extraordinary legacy over a period of four days filled with concerts and events. The 2012 Festival was held November 8-11 with performances by young pianists from Poland and the West Coast as well as seasoned international stars.



Ignacy Jan Paderewski was also an avid winemaker and vineyard grower, and spent long periods of time in Paso Robles in the years 1914-1939. A highlight of the 2012 Festival was the unveiling of a 790-pound bronze statue of Paderewski at the historic Carnegie Library in downtown Paso Robles. San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Frank Mecham, Paso Robles City Council Member John Hamon, and Poland's Consul General in L.A. Joanna Kozińska-Frybes gave speeches to mark the event.

The last day of the Festival coincided with Poland's Independence Day, celebrated with a ceremony during which Consul General Kozińska-Frybes awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of Poland to Terry Tegnazian, President of [Aquila Polonia Publishing House](#).

During a Gala Concert, the founders of the Festival were honored with medals of the Meritorious to Polish Culture: Alice Theresa Cass, Krysta Karina Francis Close, Marjorie Ann Hamon, Norma Jean Della Moye, Barbara Leigh Partridge and Cri Cri Solak-Eastin.

A letter from Poland's Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski was read by Consul General Kozińska-Frybes, and the late Victoria Peterson – first president of the Paderewski Festival Organizing Committee and the Festival's founder – received special mention from Minister Zdrojewski.

PHOTO

Monument unveiling in Paso Robles; At the mic, Frank Mecham (supervisor, San Luis Obispo County), behind him – the Paso Robles school orchestra



AMBASSADOR SCHNEPF WITH WEST COAST POLONIA

While on the West Coast for the LOT Polish Airlines' 787 Dreamliner delivery, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf attended a series of events with local members of the Polish-American community: He



attended a Mass dedicated to the 94th anniversary of Poland's Independence Day at St. Margaret's Polish Church, and also lay flowers under a statue of Pope John Paul II and a Katyń Memorial.



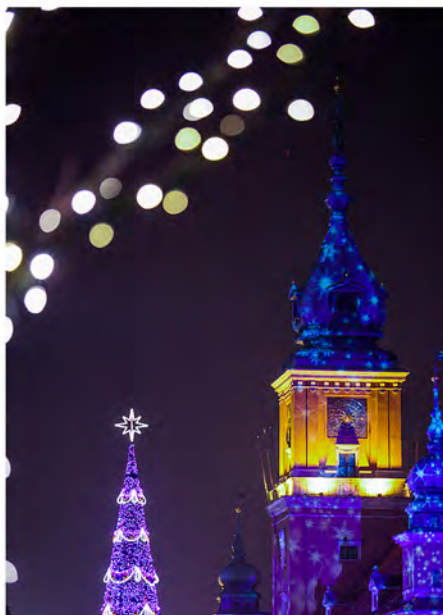
Polonians who had gathered at the Polish Home for a Sunday lunch.

The Ambassador visited the local Dom Polski, founded in 1918, where he viewed an artistic program (left) celebrating Independence Day by Polish-American Scouts. He also shared a friendly chat with local

Polonians who had gathered at the Polish Home for a Sunday lunch. The Ambassador accompanied Undersecretary of State Beata Stelmach on a visit to the University of Washington, where they met the President, Michael Young and President of the UW Polish Studies Endowment Fund, Krystyna Untersteiner (right).



The group discussed prospects for cooperation between Poland's major universities and the University of Washington. Poland's Consul General Joanna Kozińska-Frybes, as a host within the Los Angeles circumscription, accompanied the Ambassador at all the events.



A CHRISTMAS MARKET IN WARSAW

These lovely photos were taken in December in Warsaw, Poland at an annual Christmas market held in the city center.

Poles traditionally celebrate the holidays with friends, family, and plenty of good food and drink. We wish you all the very best for the coming holidays and a wondrous new year!

Photos by Mariusz Cieszewski



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