



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Volume 62

October, 2011

Number 10

The Voice of an Autonomous Lodge of the Polish National Alliance

CHICAGO SOCIETY CANDIDATES CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
October 19, 2011
6:00 P.M.**

**Copernicus Foundation
5216 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, Illini**

**RESERVATIONS
BY OCTOBER 17
TO (847) 823-8747 OR
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
ARE MANDATORY**

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, October 31, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 19—
General Meeting
Copernicus Foundation

Thursday, November 3—
Candidates Corned Beef
and Cabbage Dinner
Copernicus Foundation

Thursday, November 10—
Night at the Races
Maywood Park Racetrack

The Chicago Society Candidate's Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner has already attracted many candidates seeking office for the November elections. Please make your reservations as soon as possible due to the fact that the seating capacity is for only 100 guests.

The Candidates Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner will be held on **Thursday, November 3, 2011**, at the Copernicus Center, King's Hall, 3rd Floor, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with a premium liquor open bar and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Harrington's Catering will be serving its world famous corned beef with cabbage, red potatoes, pumpernickel bread, and apple pie with coffee for dessert.

Tickets cost **only \$30 per person**, yes; you read it correctly, only \$30.00 per person for dinner and an open bar from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend Polonia's premier political event: members, family, friends, candidates, business associates, and significant others.

The highlight of the evening is the Chicago Society Executive Grand Raffle which offers exotic prizes.

For reservations or raffle donations please call chairmen Charles Komosa at (773) 286-7123 or John Cieslik at (312) 859-5404.



ON YOUR MARK. GET SET. GO ...

To the Copernicus Center to join in the Polish Beer Tasting on Friday, October 28, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Compare your favorite Polish beer to several other brands and types. We will have everything between Pilsner and Porters from several brewers. This is a joint venture between the Copernicus Foundation and the Chicago Society. Bring your friends. Let's see if we can make this an annual event.

The State of Illinois limits the tasters to 96 ounces of beer. Serving size is 2 ounces per serving.



We will be passing out 8 serving tickets at a time to the beer tasters. You have a punch card that allows you to receive an additional 8 tickets at a time up to the limit.

We will have a selection of a Chicago Hot Dog, chili dog, sandwich roll, stick of Kabanos sausage or a bowl of Polish Chili for our food offerings. There will be two food preparation demonstrations at 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on how to prepare Polish Chili. If you wish to have a large glass of beer with your food you'll have to pay 8 tickets. There will be sit down tables in our food area.

We suggest you to have a designated driver in your group, as some of the beers are powerful. Also, if you have someone who would like wine or mixed drinks for purchase, the main bar is open until 11:00 p.m.. Tasting closes promptly at 10:00 PM.

Ticket price: \$15.00 in advance or \$17.00 at the door for the Polish Beer tasting.

Designated driver \$5.00 (unlimited soft drinks). Wine and mixed drinks \$5.00

Visa and MasterCard accepted. Payment may also be made via PayPal at our website.

You may order advance tickets by phoning the Copernicus Foundation at (773)777-8898. All advance tickets will be held in your name at the door.

Don Gutowski is Chairman of the Event.



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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**SEND YOUR NEWS
TO THE FORUM EDITOR**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen,

We are headed into October. Fall is in full swing. The leaves changing color put on a wonderful display of tranquility. Hope you had a chance to spend a Sunday afternoon just driving through the woods observing the fall colors. How peaceful. Baseball is almost over for the season. Of course our hometown teams are not to be found in the October madness. So, as always, there's next year. Football is in full swing. Homecomings, parent's weekends, enjoy the atmosphere of a college game. Rounding out October, of course, is Halloween. The ghosts and goblins and other assorted characters will be making their rounds looking for their treats. Be safe supply the treats and spare yourself the tricks. Plus do not forget the first ever Polish beer tasting to be held on October 28 at the Copernicus Foundation. This event is being sponsored by the Chicago Society and the Copernicus Foundation. Volunteer or at least come out and join us for a fun night.

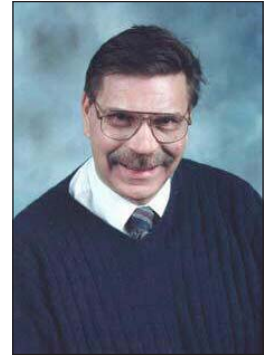
Finally, remember October is Polish Heritage Month. Try and spread our heritage. Attend the different observances. Let others know about our rich history and be proud.

The September meeting with our members' business expo was a true success. I would like to especially thank Brother John Cieslik for being chairman of this event. He did not hesitate when asked if he would do so. He coordinated, with Brother Cwiakala, the members who were setting up their tables. Brother Cwiakala also did an outstanding job. I think everyone was amazed at the variety of businesses that are run by our members. I am sure everyone is more aware of the types and now will be able to support brother members. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to display their business.

Now be prepared for a fun November. First we will be having our Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner chaired by Brother Komosa on November 3. Next will be the Chicago Society's Night at the Races on November 10, which is chaired by Brother Koziol. So make plans and join us for some great fun and camaraderie.

It is my understanding that at one time we had a share the ride program. I would love to see us resurrect this program. So please think about volunteering to give a brother member a ride to a meeting or function. Remember, we are the Chicago Society.

Fraternally yours,
Frank Czaja



FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

First I would like to join our President Frank Czaja in praising the organizers of last month's Business Expo for the superb job they all did. It turned out to be a very nice evening, although different from our traditional format. I am also glad to see the interest in continuing this initiative on an annual basis. I think it will become once again a great and frequent opportunity for us all to learn more about the professional aspects of our membership. Kudos to all involved!

I am writing this month's note from my home town of Legionowo which is located in the suburbs of Warsaw. It is always so great to come here and visit family and friends. It is amazing how much Poland is changing thanks to the economic boom and the many subsidies and investments from the European Union and foreign investors. For anyone who has a 10+ year gap of visiting Poland, the landscape here will be a completely new experience. I can guarantee it with confidence. My hope is that the human capital will be developing at a similar or hopefully even greater rate, to keep up with everything else. I would not like to see Poland in about 5-10 years be in a similar situation as Spain or Portugal are today.

It has been 10 months since I was elected to become the Director of Publications for the Chicago Society PNA. With still two more months to go, I have started to look back at the experience it has been for me, at things I was able to accomplish as well as at things that I haven't succeeded in implementing. Overall it has been a very rewarding experience. I got to know a

—Continued on page 5—

AROUND THE SOCIETY

One of the traditional functions of the selected St. Joseph recipient is to send get well cards, condolences, etc. to sick members, widows etc. If you know of any members who are sick, or recently lost a loved one, please contact Brother **Walter Pieciewicz**, who is our current St. Joseph and ask him for a get-well card or a phone call that he could make on behalf of all of us.

Warmest wishes have been sent to us from Ms. Danuta (nee Zukowski) Lusinski, daughter of the late **Joseph Zukowski**, (1913-1984), who was a former active and dedicated member of the Chicago Society for many years, as well as from Mrs. Lillian Zukowski, wife of late Brother Zukowski. Mrs. Zukowski receives the Chicago Society Forum and together with her daughter they both read it with avid interest. Having spent 25 years as an employee of the NEIU (Department of Music and Dance), Mrs. Lusinski is moved to read of our generous grant to NEIU (picture and note in September Forum), recognizing their collaborations with the Polish American Community in Chicago.

Lillian Zukowski, purchased and dedicated the mahogany wood carving of "Stare Miasto in Warszawa," in her husband's memory, to the Copernicus Foundation when **Mitch Kobelinski** was president. Very kind words have been sent to our organization in general, but a few of our members were mentioned by name. These include: **Don Gutowski, Richard Ciesla, Ro Matuszczak** and **Frank Gondela**, all former friends of late Joseph Zukowski.

In last month's article titled Foundation Presents Check to North Eastern Illinois University (NEIU) a very important name was accidentally omitted. Standing in the middle of the attached photograph, and accepting the check from the Chicago Society is NEIU President, Dr. Sharon K. Hahs. We apologize for the error and once again hope the support and cooperation between the NEIU and Polonia community in Chicago will be growing stronger.

The Polish Heritage Celebration planned for October 21 at Northeastern University 5500 N. St. Louis had a date change. The new date is Friday, November 4, 2011. Admission is free but reservations are required. The event was started by Marlene and **Ken Gill**, fourteen years ago. Reservation number is 773-442-5449.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE SLATING OF 2011 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The nominating committee is putting together the slate for the election of 2012 officers and directors at large. As stated in the September Forum, if anyone is interested in running for either an officer or director at large position on the Chicago Society Board of Directors, please contact Stanley Jendzejec at (847) 823-0986 or send e-mail to him at smjen@comcast.net. The slate will be announced at the October 2011 general meeting.

If you are not slated by the committee and still wish to run, you must turn in a petition stating the position for which you are running to Stanley by the end of the October meeting. The petition must have your signature and the signatures of at least 10 members in good standing.

RULES FOR VOTING AND RUNNING FOR OFFICE IF NOT SLATED

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee stresses that any member may run against a slated Candidate for a particular office. The procedures for doing that and its rules as stated in the Constitution, Article VII, Election of Officers and Directors.:

The nominating Committee shall select at least one candidate for each elective position who shall be required to sign an acceptance of nomination. At the regular meeting in October the nominating committee shall accept for nomination such additional lists of candidates for the respective offices as may be submitted by the petitions of ten or more members, provided however that the signed acceptance of each candidate is attached to each such petition. The adjournment of the meeting shall close the nominations in the absence of a motion for the purpose. Immediately thereafter the nominating committee shall submit, a list containing all of the names of the candidates to the Recording Secretary who shall cause the publicizing of such list to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the date of the November election meeting.

The President shall appoint five Judges of Election, if necessary, who shall prepare a ballot, have charge of the polls of election, canvass the votes and certify the results to the Recording Secretary.

Only members in good standing shall be eligible for election, signing petitions or voting. No member admitted to membership in the Society within five days of election shall be eligible to vote at the election.

POLISH TRIVIA

Name the figure of Polish politics who was commonly referred to by people in Poland as "dziadek," that's polish for grandfather. Hint: go see the movie "Battle of Warsaw 1920," you may see that person in that picture. It will be played in Chicago area starting in October.

If you know the answer, please email it to editor@chicagosocietypna.org. First person who emails the correct answer will be featured as the winner in the next Forum.

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HAVE YOU MADE YOUR MEETING RESERVATION?

THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE — 1920

The world's most important battle 1920 (1920 Bitwa Warszawska), a new feature film by legendary master of Polish cinema Jerzy Hoffman (Deluge, With Fire and Sword) will premiere in the United States on October 14th (Friday) and October 15th (Saturday) in magnificent Muvico multiplex in Rosemont, Illinois.

The first 3D action film production in Europe belongs presently to the most awaited movies. Counted as the most expensive film in a history of Polish cinema, this grand-scale epic saga follows the tradition of the genre's classics, such as *Gone with the Wind* or *War and Peace*. Also, that it remains a splendid lesson of history is characteristic for 79-year old director's works.

Impressive all-star cast assembled for the production include Borys Szyk, Boguslaw Linda, Daniel Olbrychski as Marshal Pilsudski, Aleksander Domagarov. Leading actress is Natasza Urbanska, extremely popular Polish dancer and singer, who debuts on a big screen by showing her magnetic beauty and incredible talents.

The film focuses on the 1920 clash between powerful Red Army and soldiers of newly reborn Poland resulted in a repulsion of Bolsheviks from the gates of Warsaw. The heroic effort of Poles led by Marshal Jozef Pilsudski defeated Soviets in the battle which shattered Lenin's dreams of conquering all Continent and introducing communism to the world. In the movie, fictional characters intertwine with great historical figures: Pilsudski, Petlura, Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky. The action reflects a participation of daring American pilots from the Kosciuszko Squadron as well as an important role of the Ukrainian troops.

The plot, however, is quite uncomplicated. Warsaw, 1920. Young Ola is a talented actress in a revue theatre and fiancé of Jan, a left leaning poet and flamboyant cavalryman. After being summoned to leave for the front to defend the homeland from the Red Army, Jan immediately proposes to Ola and decides to marry her immediately. The marriage in Saint Anna's Church is given by a young priest Ignacy Skorupka. The powerful Red Army marches to conquer the continent. During the fighting, Jan is accused of communist

sympathies and Bolshevik agitation. He is sentenced to death by martial court. Meanwhile, Ola is molested in the theatre by her ardent admirer Captain of military police Kostrzewa. Ola enters the Auxiliary Women Legion to serve as a nurse and defender of Warsaw. The girl still believes in finding her husband who vanished into the blue, supposedly killed.

Fabulous cinematography is a work of Oscar-nominated Slawomir Idziak whose credits include *Black Hawk Down*, *King Arthur* and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. The score is composed by Krzesimir Debski with a variety of popular songs from the time of action. The movie is produced by noted veteran Polish producer Jerzy Michaluk (*Nights and Days*, *With Fire and Sword*).

The World's Most Important Battle 1920 is not rated yet, and suggested age limit is 12 years old; it is a family cinema at its best. Dialogues are in Polish and Russian with English subtitles.

Muvico Rosemont 18 (9701 Bryn Mawr Rd. in Rosemont; River Rd. exit from I-90) is a part of the most luxurious theatrical complex in the country. Conveniently located by the city's main highways, 20 minutes from downtown, the venue has a free parking (with validation), elegant Bogart's Bar and air-conditioned 3D theatres with stadium seating.

The exclusive run will continue until October 20 with a number of screenings including matinee and special midnight Ghosts of War screening on Saturday, October 15th (with discounts for students thanks to the show's sponsors). VIP patrons have extra comfortable first class numbered seating in a small selected section at the balcony.

Tickets are available at <http://www.pffamerica.com>, in Polish bookstores, Polamer centers, at the Polish Film Festival in America main office and other selected sites. Also, tickets can be purchased by phone at (773) 486-9612.

Further information is available on www.pffamerica.com and by calling at 773-486-9612.

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BUSINESS EXPO – A GREAT SUCCESS

Last month's September Business Expo was a great opportunity for many of our brother members to promote their business profession. We had a very nice turnout of vendors and had a larger than normal attendance for the Expo. Special thanks go to our President Frank Czaja and Robert Groszek for their efforts in getting members to participate in the Expo.

I would also like to thank brother Andy Przybylo for changing the room size so that we could comfortably have dinner and still have plenty of room for display tables.

Finally, I encourage those members who didn't participate this year to please join us again next year. We need to help promote each other when at all possible.

Brother John Cieslik

WTTW POLISH HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAMMING

October 2011

"New Poland"

Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 p.m.

"Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers"

Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 p.m.

Rick Steves' Europe "Poland Rediscovered"

Sunday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Chicago Stories "Polonia: The Story of Polish Chicago"

Sunday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Grannies on Safari "Poland : Warsaw & Krakow"

Sunday, October 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Polish Film Festival Special

Saturday, October 29 at 10:30 p.m.

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POLISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION HONORS JOHN J. PIKARSKI, JR.

Chicago (PMN)—The Polish American Association (PAA) will host its Benefit Gala and Auction on November 12, 2011, at Café La Cave in Des Plaines, where the 2011 Presidential Award will be presented to John J. Pikarski, Jr., Past President and Honorary Director of the PAA Board.

Pikarski, who is a member of the Chicago Society, is being recognized for his long standing commitment and generous contributions to the PAA, as well as the many other charitable causes that he and his family support in Chicago and the Polish American community.

He has served as Board Chairman of the Polish Welfare Association (now renamed as the Polish American Association); Secretary Treasurer of the National Advocates Society, an association of attorneys of Polish heritage) and Co-Chairman of the National Polish American/Jewish American Council. He received the Cavaliers Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

President Clinton appointed Pikarski to the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the United States Commission on the Preservation of America's Heritage Aboard. He has been a member of several Presidential and Vice Presidential delegations aboard. He is a consultant to the Democratic National Committee and has been active in many presidential and local political campaigns. Pikarski was appointed to the Chicago Plan Commission and is a former Chairman of the Cook County Board of Ethics.

John J. Pikarski, Jr. is the principal and founding co-partner of the law firm of Gordon & Pikarski, which limits its practice to zoning, real estate taxation, condemnation and related real estate matters. He has made thousands of

appearances before local governmental bodies across Illinois and his council has earned billions of dollars in real estate development throughout the state.

He is a lifelong resident of the City of Chicago, receiving his Doctor of Law (J.D.) from the Illinois Institute of Technology-Chicago Kent College of Law in 1969. He is married to Sandra Sliwinski and they have four children and nine grandchildren. He is joined in his law practice by a daughter, two sons and a son-in-law.

Since 1922 the PAA, originally created by the Chicago Society as the Polish Welfare Association, continues to be the only social service agency that has specifically served the Polish community, the second largest ethnic group in Chicagoland. More than 13,000 clients a year are helped through 28 programs in the areas of education, employment, immigration and social services.

The Benefit Gala is supported by over 300 political and corporate leaders. This year state funding has been substantially reduced, which makes individual and corporate support even more critical.

SHARE A RIDE

It has come to my attention that we used to have a share a ride program. Also, some members voiced their interest in this idea. I think it would be worth trying to implement it again. There are a few brother members who would be able to attend a meeting or function but for whatever the reasons are not able to drive anymore. They are usually brothers who have been members 20+ yrs and just cannot drive.

I think this would be great good will and help to those members who have participated and done a lot for the club. They still would like to contribute to the club and this would help them to do so. I think this is who we are as the Chicago Society. If any member would be interested in coordinating a share the ride program, please contact me. Also, if any one would be willing to volunteer to give a member a ride a few times a year let me know. If we are able to get a coordinator then he would be able to match the members needing a ride to those offering to give a ride.

Thank you and we are the Chicago Society.
Frank Czaja, President

SUPPORT YOUR BROTHERS

EDITORIAL (Continued from page 2)

lot of the members more and I like to think that I made some good friendship along the way too. After a very serious and thorough consideration I have decided not to run for the second term as the Editor. The decision has been largely influenced by the commitments that I have in my professional career. Things on that end of my life require an ever growing amount of time in order to be able to sustain and extend my business. At our October general meeting I will present my 10-months report card. Still, I promise to keep it short and concise and usual.

Last but not least, please browse the pages of this issue and take a look at the Polish Trivia. The question there was inspired by my current visit to Poland. I hope you will find it enjoyable and puzzling.

Fraternally,
Norbert Barszczewski

NEWS BRIEFS

Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) was awarded the Roman Pucinski Award for Congressional Leadership on September 15, 2011, the first ever granted by the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC). Pucinski was a U.S. Representative from Illinois (1959-1973), and an alderman from the highly Polish 41st Ward of Chicago (1973-1991). The award was bestowed upon Kirk in recognition of his efforts to help the Polish community, notably on the Polish Visa Waiver Program.

According to the *Puls Biznesu* [Business Pulse] newspaper, Polish companies have been cutting full-time employment and instead hiring employees on a part-time basis since the global economic crisis. Some are even outsourcing to temporary and employment agencies on a more regular basis. Experts say this will help firms maintain more flexibility in the event of a downturn.

Poland's Ministry of Justice wants to raise the fines for driving offenses. The number of driving violations has increased by 25% over the last three years and police issued over 2.5 million tickets in 2010. Statistical data from Police Headquarters shows that on average, the number of violators grows by 35,000 each year. Currently, although a few violations cost about \$310, generally the highest fine is \$155.



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MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. would like to wish the following members, who are celebrating their birthday this month, a greeting of *Sto Lat*.

Richard Ciesla	10/2
John Cieslik	10/2
Victor Kay	10/2
Christopher Kurczaba	10/2
Robert Dutka	10/5
Edward Kuk	10/6
Richard Kula	10/6
Richard Jadczyk	10/7
John Pikarski, Jr.	10/8
Andrew Golko	10/9
William Folak	10/10
Theodore Sanders	10/10
Stanley Sawa	10/15
Frank Cizon	10/18
Wojtek Skonieczny	10/20
Dariusz Kozłowski	10/22
Mark Orwat	10/26
Kazimer Swierz	10/30
Philip Oerke	10/31

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. would like to commend the following members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month, for their many years of membership.

Joseph Bauerle	1981	30 years
William Sufanski	2001	10 years

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. would like to wish the following gentlemen, who were sworn in last month, a greeting of *Witamy!*

Joseph Drobot sponsored
by Brothers Ciesla and Gill

Zbigniew (Tony) Jackowski sponsored
by Brothers Hercik and Czaja

POLISH PRESIDENT MEETS WITH PAC LEADER IN N.Y.

New York (PMN)—On September 23, 2011, the President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and Polish American Congress (PAC) President Frank J. Spula met in New York City to discuss a wide-range of issues important to the Polish Diaspora living in the United States, including the need to dramatically improve the U.S. Visa Waiver program.

The approximately hour-long private meeting, which took place following President Komorowski's address to the United Nations General Assembly, allowed Komorowski and Spula to exchange views on upcoming national elections in both Poland and the United States, as well as for Spula to express his gratitude to the Polish leader for his country's support for Polonia overseas.

"The chance to get together amidst several international crises was itself a sign of the unwavering support that the Polish government gives to Polonia and to the Polish American Congress," Spula noted.

Spula added, "Both President Komorowski and the Polish Senate have been closely monitoring Polonia's situation and have been instrumental in supporting where possible our vitality and organizational health."

Komorowski was invited by Spula to attend upcoming events organized by the Polish American Congress, including a conference scheduled for early 2012 in Chicago, as well as the PAC's 70th anniversary gala celebration to be held in 2014.

WORLD NEWS

PAPAL TRAIN HIGHLIGHTS LIFE OF JOHN PAUL II

Krakow (PMN)—A "papal train" left Krakow on a three-week journey to Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic on September 9, 2011. A spokesperson for the local regional train company, Malopolskie Zakłady Przewozow Regionalnych [Malopolska Regional Transport Facilities], in Krakow said that the journey will allow the faithful from the Visegrad Group countries to get acquainted with the life and pastoral service of Blessed Pope John Paul II. The train returned to Krakow on September 28.

FILM "IN DARKNESS" IS POLAND'S OSCAR ENTRY

Warsaw (PMN)—"In Darkness," Poland's pick for best foreign language film at this year's Oscar ceremony, made its international debut at the Toronto International Film Festival in mid-September, 2011.

Director Agnieszka Holland's most recent film depicts the story of Leopold Socha, a Polish sewer worker played by actor Robert Wieckiewicz, who helps a group of Jewish people hide in the sewers of Lwow (now Lviv, Ukraine) during World War II, risking his life in the process.

Based on Robert Marshall's book "In the Sewers of Lvov," Holland's movie aims to paint as realistic a portrait of the grim period as possible.

The film was shot in six languages, and largely takes place in almost complete darkness. The director also aims at painting a more complex picture of individuals than many films depicting the same period. Unlike several other Holocaust movies, the characters of "In Darkness" are morally ambiguous. The main character, for instance, starts as a mildly anti-Semitic crook who agrees to help Jews in exchange for money, and only later starts sympathizing with them.

"I was interested in showing how thin the line is between good and evil and how easy it is to step over into evil," Holland recently told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The Polish, German and Canadian production is Holland's third feature film on the Holocaust. Born in Warsaw to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother, Holland has strong personal connections to this dark part of European history. "In Darkness" is set to be released in Polish cinemas in January, 2012.

It is also Agnieszka Holland's third Academy Award nomination. She was nominated for "Bitter Harvest," which received an Oscar nomination for best foreign language film in 1986, and for a screenwriting Oscar in 1992 for "Europa Europa." More recently, Holland has worked in the U.S., directing cable series such as "The Wire," "Treme" and "The Killing."

CANDIDATES CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER — THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

BOOK CONNECTS HOLLYWOOD TO POLISH ENTREPRENEURS

Warsaw (PMN)—A new book entitled “Pollywood” that charts Hollywood’s surprising Polish connection is scheduled to hit the bookstores in November, 2011. The book is being published by Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN [Polish Scientific Publishers].

Few people know that the immigrants born in territories currently or historically Polish played a significant role in this process. In his book “Pollywood,” Andrzej Krakowski traces the Polish-born founders of Hollywood, such as Samuel Goldwyn, Louis B. Mayer and the Warner brothers. A film based on “Pollywood” is planned for production in 2012.

Authored by Andrzej Krakowski, a renowned Polish-born screen-

writer and director (“Triumph of the Spirit,” “Eminent Domain,” “Tides of War,” “Genghis Khan” and the recent “Looking for Palladin”) living in the United States since 1968, the book reaches into the origins of Hollywood and the American film industry.

Going back to the last quarter of the 19th century—the period of the Great Immigration, which brought more than 23 million immigrants to America’s shores—the author analyzes the socio-historical conditions of that era, wondering why it was not the Italians, the Irish, or the Scandinavians, but the Eastern European refugees (mostly Jewish) who became the founders of the new film industry. Some of his conclusions are quite startling.

The personalities in the book have been carefully selected. They were all true pioneers—the trailblazers responsible for the development of new sectors of the budding industry. Siegmund Lubin, the inventor of the first moveable projector; Samuel Goldwyn, producer of the first feature film shot in the town called Hollywood; Louis B. Mayer, co-founder of the famed Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio and the studio system; Nathan H. Gordon, creator of the first multi-screen movie houses; the Warner brothers, who brought sound and color to the otherwise silent and black-and-white films; the Shubert brothers—conquerors of Broadway and the first czars of the American theater; Al Jolson, the actor-singer sensation who broke “the sound barrier” and survived the impact; Pola Negri, the first truly international Hollywood female movie star who opened the doors for Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman; Paul Muni, the Oscar-winning first crossover from the Yiddish theater through Broadway to the mainstream cinema: an actor-chameleon, the precursor of “the method” in acting; and last, but not least, Billy Wilder, the multiple Academy Award-winning writer/director.

They all had one thing in common—they were born in the same area, relatively near each other: Poznan, Warsaw, Minsk, Vilnius, Krasnosielc, Wejherowo, Sieradz, Lipno, Lwow, Sucha and Beskidzka.

Based on the materials contained in “Pollywood,” a feature film is being planned for production in 2012. Penned by the book’s author and Michal Komar, it is being produced by Michal Kwiecinski for his Akson Studio (“Katyn,” “Zemsta,” “Tatarak,” “Wenecja”). The movie, which is scheduled to be shot in the English language, is currently being cast.

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