

# The Polish Cultural Foundation

Clark, New Jersey



## History

**The Polish Cultural Foundation was incorporated in the state of New Jersey in 1973 as a non-profit cultural foundation with the purpose to enrich both American and Polish cultures by sponsorship and encouragement of sponsorship of national, social, educational, scientific, cultural, and other events contributing to accomplishments in these areas.**

It was founded in 1972 by a group of visionaries in New Jersey who recognized that changes in the very make up of Polonia and social changes including population shifts, especially in states like New Jersey were forcing older, more traditional Polish organizations out of existence. They felt a need of forming a new, strong organization.

In 1982 the Foundation purchased a school building in the suburban township of Clark, New Jersey. The Foundation is located there up to now. Strategically located in central New Jersey, off Exit 135 of the Garden State Parkway, the facility is ideally located to meet the Foundations' mission. It is close to major transportation arteries, making it easily accessible from other areas of concentrated Polonia in this largely suburban state. The added convenience is the ample parking space on the property.

## The Clark Foundation Today

The Foundation's stated mission is the appreciation and preservation of Polish Culture.

There are over 1000 members in the Foundation's membership roles. Since this figure includes families and organizations, the actual number of individual members

is much higher. The members come from approximately 60 different New Jersey communities.

**The Foundations' activities and programs are varied to serve a diversified Polonia.**

- **The Foundation's Supplementary School** (*Szkoła Doksztalcająca*). With more than 500 students in grades K through 11, it is the largest Polish school of its type in the metropolitan area. It has earned nationwide and international educational acclaim for its work.
- **The Foundation's Skulski Art Gallery.** Directed by a remarkable, on-site Polish artist, it is host throughout the year to exhibits primarily by Polish artists from all over the world.
- **The Marianczyk Library.** Open to members and the general public, it boasts a collection in excess of 15,000 Polish and English books. Included in this collection are many volumes dealing with the Second World War, Polish history, and Pope John Paul II.
- **Polish Scouting Groups.** They are headquartered at the Foundation. Boy and Girl scouts, ages 7 through 17, meet weekly and participate in scouting bivouacs and jamborees.

## Facilities

**A Grand Hall, a Banquet Hall and other rooms are available to members for weddings, birthdays, graduations and other family functions. Meeting rooms are also available to accommodate professionals and organizations.**

- **Polish Athletic Club of the USA.** The club sponsors Olympic style events for members of all ages and participates in the games sponsored by the Polish government every four years.
- **The Foundation's Scholarship Program.** Totally funded from endowments, the scholarship program makes awards to qualified Polish students. Annually, a number of \$2000 each undergraduate scholarships are awarded from the Lubomir and Irene Zabalski and the Joseph A. Rozanski Endowments.

- **An Adult Studies Program.** Offers courses in English, Polish & French languages (beginners, intermediate and advanced level), preparation for Citizenship, workshops in ethnic crafts: *Pisanki*, *Wycinanki*, etc., art and music courses, social dance classes for children and martial arts for all ages.
- **Social Services.** Long available at the Foundation they include: a Polish AA group, translation services, and referrals to professional services.
- **Cultural affairs and trips.** They include such events as concerts and recitals, commemoration of patriotic holidays, bus rides and accompanied Tours of Poland.

## Future Foundation plans include:

- **Assistance to members in social service areas.** The entire program of social services will be formalized and broadened to include areas such as: immigration, citizenship and employment related issues.
- **Initiating a Work Studies Program.** Would include Polish students from local colleges and universities who are currently engaged in social studies or related subjects.
- **A Small Business Development and Advisory Group.** It is in the process of being organized. The project will draw upon the professional, paraprofessional and business members of the Foundation to share their expertise in various fields with prospective Polish businessmen.
- **To build a unified Polonia.** Conduct meetings, seminars and discussion groups to promote mutual understanding among the different groups of Polonia helping to bind it into a cohesive Polish community.

The Foundation is open for new members, at:  
**The Polish Cultural Foundation**  
177 Broadway Clark, NJ 07066

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