



Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum

“Honoring the forgotten heroes of Stalin’s war on Poland”



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Stefan Wisniowski, Chairman (Sydney, Australia).

Stefan has 25 years business experience as a sales and marketing executive, management consultant (ex-McKinsey), corporate and non-profit board director, and serial new venture developer. He was born in Montreal, Canada, where he started his career as a professional architect before completing an MBA with Distinction at Canada’s Ivey School of Business. Stefan founded the Kresy-Siberia Group in 2001 as an international special interest group concerned with research, remembrance, and recognition of the Polish Citizens of all faiths and ethnicities that were persecuted by the Soviet Union during the Second World War.

Stefan’s father was deported as a 9 year old on 10 February 1940 from his eastern Polish home in Brody to Archangel, Russia. After the “amnesty” his father was evacuated with Anders Army to Iran, where he joined the Polish cadet school in Palestine and then England. Stefan’s mother’s family survived the war in Warsaw, while her father, a Polish Olympic Ski Team member, was an officer in the Polish Army that retreated through Romania in September 1939, regrouped in Lebanon as the Polish Third Carpathian Rifles and engaged Nazi German forces at Tobruk and helped push the German army out of Italy as part of the Second Polish Corps under General Anders.



Lucyna Artymiuk, Fundraising (Melbourne, Australia).

Lucyna has 18 years experience in community development work as a Multicultural Service Officer, including extensive work with Holocaust survivors. A product of Polonian upbringing, including scouts, school, dance groups and other organizations on regional, youth, state and national levels. She has been involved in many historical and genealogical endeavours, including an exhibition on post-war migration to Australia, two genealogy email groups, and Polish-Jewish dialogue groups. She is the moderator of the Yahoo e-mail group for descendants of Polish airmen. She is a former Vice President of the Polish Community Council of Australia and has a B.A. (Hon) in comparative Slavic studies.

Lucyna’s maternal grandmother was from Wolyn – a family which she can trace back to 1507. Her paternal great grandmother, two great aunts and two of her father’s first cousins were deported from near Kamieniec Litewski to Archangielsk. Her father and his brother were both in the Polish squadrons in the UK. Her mother survived the war in Brzesc nad Bugiem and was in Warszawa as a civilian when the Warsaw Uprising started.



Aleksander Domaradzki, Commercial (Warsaw, Poland).

Aleks is qualified as a UK Chartered Accountant and is a Partner in a boutique transport and supply chain advisory practice in Warsaw. He is a Board member of the Frogs & Co Warszawa Rugby Club and the Frogs & Co Warszawa Rugby Club Foundation, and also serves as Audit Committee Chairman of the Warszawa-Mazowsze Regional Rugby Union. Aleks is Secretary of the Oxford and Cambridge Alumni Society in Poland.

Aleks was born in Chiswick, London, as the youngest son of parents who were deported with the families aged 12 and 6. His father served with the Polish cadets and then the Polish Navy before being demobilized in the UK. His mother’s family left Soviet captivity after the “amnesty” and was evacuated with Anders Army to Iran. She spent the war in the Koja Camp in Africa before coming to the UK.



Carol Celinska Dove, Marketing, Promotion, Fundraising (Connecticut, USA).

Carol has spent 12 years proving the efficacy of Therapeutic Treatment Foster Care as a program to provide troubled children with stable and loving homes when their families are unable to do so. She is also an active member of Lions Clubs International, a network of 1.3 million people who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world. In her spare time Carol achieved an associate degree in psychiatry/sociology, and held the Presidency of All American Stone Corporation.

Carol’s father, Witold (Walter) Celinski, was just 6 years old on February 10, 1940 when he and his family were separated and deported to Siberia. Carol’s grandfather, Czeslaw Celinski, was born in 1900 in Rzym, Poland and fought in WW1 on the front line under Jozef Pilsudski and when Poland defended its independence in the Polish-Soviet War of 1920, the “Miracle on the Vistula”. For this service he was given an estate on the newly regained lands known as “Kresy”. When amnesty was granted to the deportees in Siberia, Czeslaw set to work setting up the Polish Armed Forces on Russian soil, working in the main mobilizing center in Buzuluk. His fight for a free Poland continued as part of the 2nd Corps under joint allied command. In 1949 Czeslaw continued to serve in the Polish Resettlement Corps, and with no hope left of a free Poland in 1951 migrated to the USA. Carol continues the family tradition in her quest to bring to light the Soviet crimes inflicted on millions of innocent Polish families in Eastern Poland.



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Krystyna Piotrowska Freiburger, Fundraising (Waterloo, Canada).

Krystyna retired from teaching with the last 15 years being her favourite as an administrator of International Language Schools. She was very active in the International Language Educators Association in Ontario. Krystyna is well known in the local Polish community as a major organizer of Polish exhibits, celebrations and events. For this work she has received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland. Krystyna is dedicated to recording and telling the stories of WWII Polish survivors particularly of those deported to the Soviet Union.

Krystyna's parents, older brothers and a large extended family were deported from Wola Goluchowska, Tarnopol to a camp near Murashi, KOMMI, USSR in February 1940. Many of her family died there. Krystyna's father left the USSR with General Anders Army. He was a member of the Polish Second Corps and fought in Monte Cassino. After arriving in Iran, her mother and brother were sent to a refugee camp in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia). After a seven year separation Krystyna's parents were reunited in England after the war in 1948, where Krystyna was born. In 1958 they came to make a new life in Canada.



Aneta Hoffmann, Program & Partner Liaison (Warsaw, Poland).

Aneta is an M.Sc. graduate of International Relations in Warsaw School of Economics, specializing in CEE Countries relationships and history. Professionally Aneta has over 10-year experience in Office and Human Resources management in international companies. She has been a member of the Kresy-Siberia Group since January 2007, acting as the group's unofficial translator and representative in Warsaw.

Aneta is the grand-daughter of a Kresy resident taken by the Nazis to Germany in 1943 as a forced labour worker. Other members of the family were deported to Siberia and survived hard Gulag conditions. Aneta has several years of experience in traveling to Kresy area and has lots of personal contacts there -- she's been a co-founder (in 1999) and project manager of small, niche and ambitious Travel Agency specializing in trips, pilgrimages and journeys to former Kresy and former USSR countries, responsible for tailor-made itineraries, especially dedicated to former Kresy inhabitants. Since 2002 she is an independent historical and archive researcher with lot of successful researches done. She speaks Polish, English and Russian.



***Krzysztof Hoffmann, Co-General Manager-Kresy Siberia Foundation (Warsaw, Poland).
Responsible for integration with overall Virtual Museum***

Krzysztof is an M.A. graduate in History studies at Warsaw University. For several years he has been heavily involved with research in the former Kresy (Borderlands) of Eastern Poland. In the 1990's he coordinated a program of humanitarian aid to Poles living in the former Kresy (nowadays Belarus and Ukraine) and led a series of trips to Kresy for the "Klub Inteligencji Katolickiej" in Warsaw. More recently Krzysztof founded a travel agency specializing in guided tours for groups, families and individuals to Kresy area. Krzysztof is an experienced archival researcher in the areas of the former Kresy, including Poland and the countries of the former USSR. He is the founder, author and moderator of Internet portal www.RootSeeking.pl dedicated to Kresy research and travel. He is very committed to the promotion of this part of Poland's historical heritage. Krzysztof has many years of experience in project and budget management, and he speaks English, Russian and Ukrainian.

Krzysztof's maternal grandfather was arrested by the Soviets in 1939 and sent to a POW camp near Nizny Nowgorod, from where he escaped and came back on foot back home. He was then a very active officer of the "Armia Krajowa" (Polish Underground Army), and part of the reputed "Jezyki" unit during the Warsaw Uprising. Other members of the family were also deported to Siberia and Krzysztof's paternal grand-uncle was a Polish airman, who served during Battle of England.



Lynda Kraar, Fundraising (New Jersey, USA).

Lynda is the President of Kraar Associates in Fort Lee, New Jersey, a consultancy specializing in non-profit organizations. Lynda has worked in the non-profit sector since the 1980s, mostly in marketing, public relations, programming, event planning and fund raising. She is also a professional musician, music teacher, and writer. Member of the Kresy-Siberia Group since 2005.

Lynda was born in Toronto, Canada, as the daughter of Ann Frajlch Siedlecki, who went to Siberia as a 14-year-old girl with her older brother in 1939, and stayed there until 1946, when she returned to her hometown of Lodz alone. Her brother had died after his arrest and incarceration in Gulag, where he became ill with tuberculosis. He was buried in a potter's field in Leninogorsk.



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Marty Kraar, Fundraising Advisor (New Jersey, USA).

Marty brings more than four decades of expertise and success in world-wide organizations of the Jewish and other communities. Most recently, he completed ten years as Executive Vice President of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science. Marty also served for ten years as Executive Vice President of the Council of Jewish Federations, the umbrella organization for 189 federations through North America. He is currently President of the Israel Center for Excellence Through Education (formerly the Society for Excellence through Education), an innovative educational organization that provides programs and services for excelling and highly-motivated students in Israel. He is a frequent lecturer and facilitator for organizations both in and outside of the Jewish community, addressing issues such as board/staff relationships, leadership development, and non-profit management.

Marty’s Mother-in-Law survived the war in Siberia and she never let him forget it.



Janusz Lukasiak, Information Technology (Warsaw, Poland).

Janusz has a MSc and PhD in Physics, and for some 15 years held various teaching and research posts in academic institutions in Warsaw, Groningen, Amsterdam and Manchester. Later he worked on the development and support of a communication software package for the UK academic community, and was employed for many years by the University of Manchester computer centre as a project leader, Networking Applications Team manager and computer security officer. Having taken early retirement from the university job he became a self-employed IT consultant in Manchester for some three years, and continues this activity on a voluntary basis for the Comenius Foundation, a Warsaw-based NGO.

Janusz passionately believes that everything possible should be done to preserve personal histories of Kresy and Siberia survivors , as there isn't much time left before there will be nobody alive who could describe that ordeal.



Witold Lukaszewski - Program Advisor (The Woodlands, Texas USA).

Witold received his PhD in International Relations and Soviet Area Studies from Columbia University, NY, in 1973, where he studied with Zbigniew Brzezinski. He taught at several American universities, and is now semi-retired and teaching part time at Sam Houston State University, in Huntsville, Texas. Witold is a former Vice-President for Polish Affairs of the Polish American Congress.

Witold was deported by the Soviets with his mother from eastern Poland to Kazakhstan on 13 April, 1940. He left the USSR with General Anders' Army, where his father was a member of the Polish II Corps. He then transited through Iran, India, and the UK, and settled in the US in 1950.



Aneta Naszynska, Media Production (London, England).

Aneta is a film-maker who co-produced the ground-breaking documentary “A Forgotten Odyssey” with co-producer, the late Jagna Wright. The film has been screened countless times on The History Channel as well as in festivals and special showings in dozens of major cities around the world, and was instrumental in catalyzing the creation of the Kresy-Siberia Group in 2001.

Aneta and Jagna also produced the courageous film “The Other Truth” about Polish-Jewish relations before and during the Second World War. She is currently working on additional historical film projects with Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance. Aneta also enjoys mountain trekking, including in the Himalayas and Chile’s Andes mountains.



Jurek Neisser, Project Management (Manchester, England).

Jurek is an Information Technology manager based at The University of Manchester. He has a B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Physics from Manchester and 6 years research experience in physics as well as over 20 years experience in computer communications and networking research, development and service provision. He is the joint founder of IT company Mutiny Limited (www.mutiny.com), and the former Chairman of local SPK Polish Combatants Society branch.

Jurek’s mother was born near Wolkowysk, some 20 miles due east of Bialystok. She and her family were deported to Archangielsk on 10th February 1940. Her brother perished in Siberia whilst her mother survived only to die in Teheran. Following many trials and tribulations, she and the surviving members of her family arrived in England in the late 1940s and settled there Jurek’s father was born in Poznan and came to England in 1944 where he joined the 1st Independent Polish Parachute Brigade.



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Elzunia Gradosielska Olsson, Partner Liaison (Alingsås, Sweden).

Elzunia grew up in England and moved to Sweden in 1977. After 20 years as a stay-at-home mum with three daughters, she now works as a secretary. She is a co-founding member of the Kresy-Siberia Group and Administrator of the Memorial Gallery. She is also the co-ordinator of the translation project of “Wspomnienia z Osad Wojskowych 1921-40” (“Memories from the Military settlements 1921-1940”).

Both of Elzunia’s parents are Sybiraks. Her mother, Danuta Maczka-Gradosielska, was born in Osada Krechowiecka, Wolyn and was deported on 10 February 1940 as a 14 year old to logging camps around Kotlas, Archangel in Russia. After “amnesty” and evacuation to Iran, she trained as a driver in the 316 Transport Division of the 2nd Polish Corps, serving in Palestine, Egypt and the Italian Campaign. Her mother’s awards include the Pro Memoria Medal and Kombatancki Krzyz Zaslugi (SPK). Elzunia’s late father, Jerzy Gradosielski, was a POW in Komi, USSR. He was a sapper in the 5 KDP, 2nd Polish Corps, serving in Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Italy. He fought at Monte Cassino and was awarded the Military Cross and the Virtuti Miliari. Both of Elzunia’s parents have been very active with the Polonia in London, where her mother still lives.



Sabina Posadziewski, Information Technology (Edmonton, Canada)

Sabina has over twenty-five years combined experience of both general management and Information Management and Technology (IMT), supporting both the public sector and a variety of industries across Canada, the USA, and Europe, including Scandinavia early in her career. She achieved her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Alberta (1980), and followed later with an MBA from Canada’s leading School of Business, Queen’s University in 2000. Sabina is also a charter member of the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) with an Information Systems Professional (I.S.P.) designation. Her current role is as Chief Information Officer for a Canadian Federal department, and she is a director and past-President of CIPS Alberta, leading the amalgamation project of three sections under one governance body. She also volunteers for events to encourage young women to pursue Science and Math for non-traditional careers. Sabina is results-oriented and passionate about professionalism, service, lifelong learning, change, and mentorship.

Sabina was born in Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada. Her father, aunt, and grandmother were deported by the Soviets in February 1940. They left Krzemieniec by train for Arkhangelsk, Siberia and were there for almost 18 months. Taking the train from Kotlas to Uzbekstan, her grandmother joined the Polish Army in the south of the Soviet Union and served as a nurse’s aide accompanying sick/wounded soldiers to Bombay, India. The family was reunited in Bombay, traveled to Africa and lived in Rongai, Kenya from 1942-1949. They then went to France, living in Marseille, Nice, and Charmes, prior to emigrating to Canada about 1956. No other family members have ever been found.



Tom Ravensdale, Treasurer, (Warsaw, Poland).

Tom is a Chartered Accountant, ex-PwC and ex-KPMG and is the founder and CEO of a successful company that assists inward investors to Poland. He was born in London, the youngest of 4 children. The family moved to Zambia and Tom was educated at St Georges College, in then Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Rhodes University in South Africa. He moved to Poland in 1998. As part of his current position Tom sits on numerous Boards of multinational companies and is involved in various charitable organisations in Poland.

Tom’s mother Halina Kokoszko was deported at age 3 with her family to a camp near Zamzor in the Irkuck region, Siberia on 10th February 1940. Her father had been arrested earlier in October 1939 and sent to the Gulag forced labour camp in Ercevo in the region of Archangelsk. All survived and escaped with General Anders’ army to Persia where unfortunately her grandmother died a few days after arrival and is buried in Teheran. Halina with her mother and two other sisters were later transferred to a refugee camp in Valivade, Kolhapur in India, while her father Wladyslaw and brother Jan served with the Second Polish Corps during the Italian Campaign. After the War Wladyslaw was awarded the gold ZIW PSZ Insignia of Honour for his dedication to fund-raising for Polish ex-combatant invalids, their widows and orphans. Halina still maintains the Polish memorial at Bwana Mkubwa in Zambia (Northern Rhodesia).



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Barbara Soja Revoet, Marketing and Communications (Connecticut, USA).

Barb is an avid researcher and communicator, both inside the group and with outside groups such as the “Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation”. She is the editor of the monthly Kresy-Siberia Review and a prolific contributor of relevant information to group members. She has a background in sales and marketing and has run her own business. She has been a member of the Kresy-Siberia Group since 2002.

Barb is the US-born daughter of Jozef Soja, a Siberian exile survivor who was born in Massachusetts to a family of Polish immigrants that moved back to Eastern Poland in 1926. Barb’s father served with the 5th Podhale Rifles Regiment of the 22nd Mountain Infantry Division in the September 1939 Campaign. Five months later, on 10 February 1940, her father and his entire family were forcibly deported to the Soviet Gulag near Omsk, Siberia, where her grandparents died of hypothermia and starvation. Jozef joined the 2nd Polish Corps under General Anders, where he remained until 1943. Then he was transferred to the 1st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment of the 1st Polish Armoured Division. After being discharged from the Polish forces in 1947, he returned to the United States and settled in Connecticut.



George Slawek, Technology (San Francisco, USA.).

George has almost 20 years of management experience in international business, technology, investment banking, and cross-border trade promotion and development. As senior consultant to Bank of America’s global derivative trading systems, George managed multiple large technology projects that included distributed project teams spanning the globe. He has held leadership roles in corporate finance, syndicated lending, risk management, project management, regulatory compliance and reporting, and risk-capital management. George is the co-founder of Market Street Associates, a software development company based in the Silicon Valley and Wroclaw, Poland (www.marketstreetassociates.com). George is also co-founder of ProVisa Inc., which provides U.S.-based technology companies with full search, placement, and immigration services for foreign-based technology workers. In addition, he is president of the US-Polish Trade Council, a Silicon Valley-based organization which is actively involved in promoting technology trade, investment and cooperation between the U.S. and Poland. George holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Behavior and an M.B.A-Finance from the University of San Francisco.

George was born in Leeds, England. His father’s family was deported from eastern Poland (now Belarus) to Siberia on 10 February 1940, evacuated to Persia in 1942, and then spent the war with the Junaki and in the African refugee camps.



Henry Sokolowski, Financial (Toronto, Canada).

Henry is a practicing community pharmacist and the co-owner and co-administrator of two pharmacies and two medical clinics. He is Acting Treasurer on the Head Executive Board of the Polish Combatants Association in Canada (Zarząd Główny, Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów w Kanadzie), a Member of the Board and Museum Curator for the Polish Combatants Association, Branch 20, in Toronto. Henry is webmaster of “The Soviet Invasion of Poland” (<http://felsztyn.tripod.com>) and has been a Kresy-Siberia Group member since 2002.

Henry’s father, Bronislaw, was an artillery officer, high school teacher and resident of Drohobycz, who fought during the September 1939 Campaign and was later deported to Siberia together with his family. Eventually he joined General Anders’ Army in Uzbekistan, fought in the Italian Campaign and was decorated with the Cross of Valour. In Canada, Lt. Col. Sokolowski worked tirelessly for many Polish organizations and was awarded the Kawaler Polonia Restituta order by the Polish Government in Exile. Henry’s mother was a schoolgirl in Dzisna (Wilno Province) at the outbreak of war and survived both Soviet and German occupations. Taken to the city of Chemnitz for slave labour in 1944, she and her siblings escaped during a heavy Allied bombing raid in the spring of 1945. They joined the Polish Second Corps under General Anders in Italy.



Martin Stepek, Commercial (Hamilton, Scotland).

Martin is ex-director and owner of a top 500 Scottish business, founder and CEO of the Scottish Family Business Association, and a Board director of private and charitable organisations. He is a teacher of leadership, strategy and values to social enterprises and a family business advisor. Martin is founder and CEO of the Scottish Polish Chamber, ex-leader and current overseer of Operations for the Scottish Green Party, a meditation teacher and practitioner, a poet and an artist.

Martin’s grandfather, Wladyslaw, was awarded the Cross and Medal of Independence for his part in Poland regaining independence in 1918. For his patriotic efforts he was granted land in the Kresy near Luck. On 10 February 1940 Martin’s father, aged 17, with his two younger sisters and their mother Janina were deported to near Kotlas in northern Russia. Released, they made it to Iran in 1942 but Janina succumbed to starvation and exhaustion, aged 40, in Teheran where she is buried. All three children survived and are still alive in Scotland and England, aged 86, 83 and 81.