



Piast Director Thaddeus Radzilowski, flanked by Virginia Skrzyaniarz of Piast and Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Paul Paruk, was the keynote speaker.

Patricia Mack addressing the crowd on behalf of Walter Chrusciel, who left \$20,000 to the library.



Karen Spang, former publisher of The Citizen, talks about life in Traverse City, where she now lives.

Library dinner

By Walter Wasacz

One by one the guest speakers and honorees at the Hamtramck Public Library's 87th Anniversary banquet came up to the podium to speak. But they all appeared to speak in the same voice: books, they said, helped them to become achievers in the paths that they chose to take in life. The banquet took place Nov. 10 at the Holbrook Cafe.

The keynote speaker, Thaddeus Radzilowski, grew up in Hamtramck, and earned a doctorate at the University of Michigan. He became a professor of history, and then a president of two colleges. He now heads the Piast Institute, an organization in Hamtramck devoted to Polish and Polish-American affairs. He talked about his lifelong love affair with reading that began with books he was first exposed to books at the library.

Another guest speaker was Karen Spang, who was the Publisher of the Citizen until 2002. Spang talked about her retirement to the Traverse

City area, and her involvement with a book group in Petoskey.

Also speaking was Patricia Mack, who was there on behalf of Walter Chrusciel, a longtime Hamtramckan who died recently and left a donation of \$20,000 to the library.

The guests and honorees to the library's Hall of Honor were introduced by Hamtramck 31st District Court Judge Paul Paruk. The honorees included:

- Frank Koscielski, who was born in neighboring Highland Park and raised on Detroit's east side. He worked at various jobs, including van conversion and sheet metal work, and pursued a side career as blues and jazz musician. He went back to college and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, and now works in Wayne State University's Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

- Dennis Orłowski, a native Detroiter, studied fresco painting at the University of Mexico with a former assistant of the famed muralist Diego Rivera. Orłowski has a Master's degree in

painting from Wayne State University and currently teaches in the Detroit Public Schools. His murals are visible around the city, including on the front of the Holbrook Cafe and on a wall next to the statue of Pope John Paul II on Jos. Campau and Belmont St.

- Robert Kaczmarek, an attorney with a law practice in

Hamtramck. Kaczmarek was unable to attend the ceremony.

Other speakers at the banquet included Library Director Tamara Sochacka; Raymond Bittner, president of the library board; Virginia Skrzyaniarz of the Piast Institute and Yvonne Myrick, Vice-President of the Hamtramck Board of Education.



Frank Koscielski accepts his Hall of Honor award from Library Director Tamara Sochacka.