

# Memphis in Poland – Fighting the Unknown 2021/22



The purpose of “MIP-Fighting the Unknown” is to create virtual opportunities for cross-cultural engagement between youth from Memphis, TN and the Sopot-Gdańsk-Gdynia Tri-Cities, Poland, focusing on musical, artistic, and civil rights topics in response to the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, potential future pandemic threats, to climate change and to social global issues. Encouraging young people to express their views artistically through music, poetry, and art will give them the necessary social and emotional platform to positively maneuver through this difficult time and think how to make our planet a better place to live. The prize for winners in this contest would be a trip to Memphis from Sopot, Gdańsk and Gdynia to Memphis. We hope that the involvement of young people will allow them to deal with difficult emotions, and that the teamwork will have a positive effect after such a long retreat.



Sopot



Gdańsk



Gdynia



Sopot



Gdańsk



Gdynia



# Memphis in Poland Festival 2017



“MIP Fighting the Unknown” continues the tradition of the cross-cultural “Memphis in Poland” festival begun in 2017 by the cities of Memphis, TN, Sopot and Gdańsk, Poland. Memphis in Shelby County and Sopot, with its neighboring Gdańsk, have much in common culturally and they played major roles in the fight for human and civil rights in the two countries. We want to develop a strong Polish-American partnership providing educational and cultural exchange especially for the young generation.



Sopot



Gdańsk

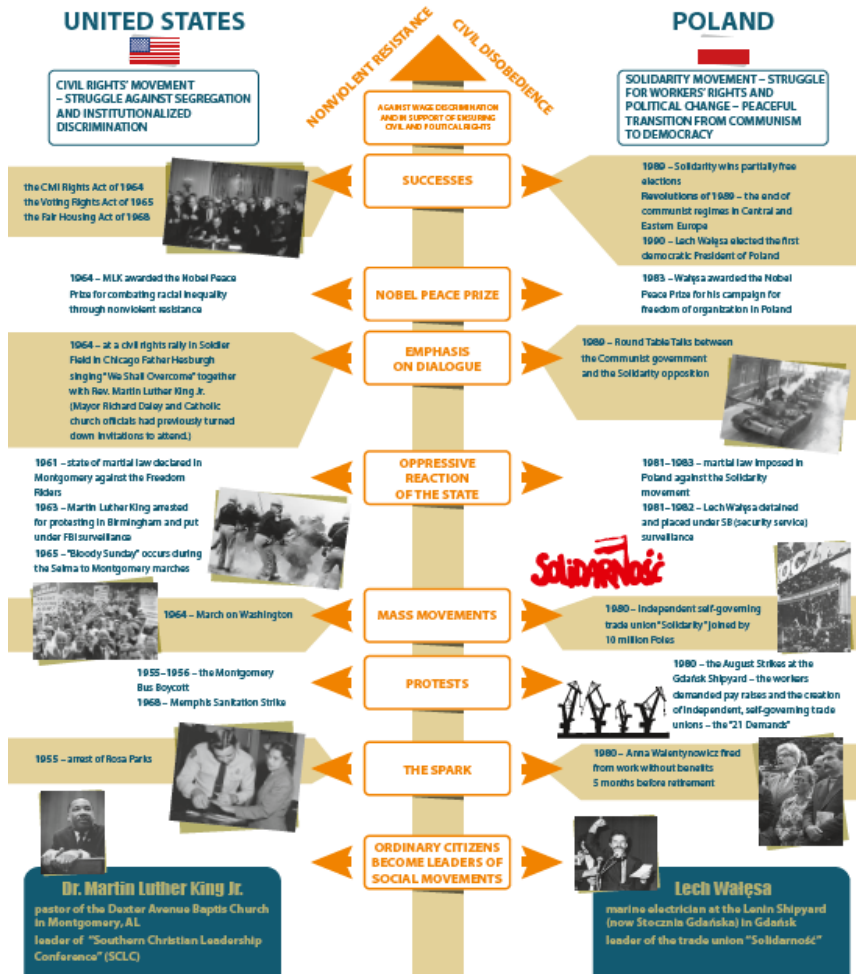






Amb. R. Schnepf

**HOW WE FOUGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS**  
Polish and American Ways in the Struggle for Civil Rights



The educational aspect, with an emphasis on the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance has been the most important element of our project. In 2019, a group of high-school students from Sopot went to Memphis to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King. They presented a poster about the heritage of the Polish Solidarity movement and the road to freedom. The aim of this project was to show the similarities between the struggles for democratic ideas in Poland and for the civil rights in the U.S.





## Other Cities Participating in the Memphis in Poland Festival



Warsaw



Bielsko-Biala



## Memphis in Poland Festival 2017-2021



The “Memphis in Poland” project has had many sponsors who made donations and contributions in various ways, both financially and as active participants (e.g., The City of Sopot, The City of Memphis, City of Bielsko-Biała, US Embassy in Warsaw, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau, Polish-American Society, National Civil Rights Museum, University of Memphis, European Solidarity Center, Pink Palace Museum, International Paper and other industrial enterprises and individuals).



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





*Music:*

*J.Dutkiewicz, M.Arendt, R. Arendt*

*Lyrics:*

*R.Schnepf, J.Dutkiewicz, M. Dutkiewicz Vaughan*

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## **FIGHTING THE UNKNOWN**

Something hits me in the face, hard to breathe, no one comes.  
You strike back right in the air, empty space, it's not fair.  
You move straight then turn around, no one's there, it's out of mind.

*Ref.*

You need me and I need you  
To win the war, to fight the unknown.

There is hope and there is doubt. Will you come when it's time?  
I can hear a voice like mine singing soft my song's line.  
I turn round and there is you, reaching out but it's not true...

*Ref.*

Shooting arrows in the dark. Standing strong, won't give up.  
I feel fear but push along. I hear the voice sing my song.  
A new day will pave the way to win the fight with the unknown.

*Ref. (2x)*