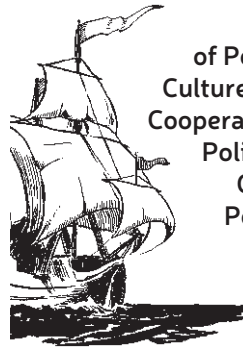


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Polish American Heritage Month

A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation with the Polish American Congress and Polonia across America



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**A MODEL OF SUCCESS POLONIA CAN FOLLOW • WARSAW UPRISING REMEMBERED • POL-AM EDUCATORS HONORED
WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO? • "WALKING" ON A WASHINGTON STREET • POLISH OPERA COMES TO DETROIT
"CUT-A-LOUSE-KEY" OR ANGLO-MANGLING • ILLINOIS POLONIA LOSES AN ADVOCATE • KOSCIUSZKO GOES MISSING**

Newsmark

BIEDRZYCKI NEW VFW COMMANDER. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) concluded its 116th National Convention by electing Pittsburgh-native John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. as its new national commander.

Biedrzycki served in the U. S. Army from 1967-1970. He served in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division, and his decorations include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Medal. He is a VFW Legacy Life Member and served in elected and appointed positions at the post, county, district and department (state) levels prior to his elections to national office. He has been a member of the VFW for 46 years, having first joined the VFW at Post 418 in McKees Rocks, Pa., in 1969.



PHOTO: POST-GAZETTE

In his acceptance speech, the VFW's new leader called on the organization's nearly 1.4 million members to recommit themselves in service to others, which was one of the primary reasons his organization's founders formed in 1899, and formerly merged here in Pittsburgh in 1914. He also urged everyone to consider how much poorer the country would have been had the VFW never existed.

A retired high school history teacher, Biedrzycki also stressed that "freedom isn't free" — something America tends to forget.

ROBOT HELPS YOUNG CP PATIENTS. Two young Polish scientists were honored for creating a robot, which aids in rehabilitating children afflicted with cerebral palsy.

Grzegorz Piątek and Bartłomiej Wielogórski, both graduates of Krakow's AGH University of Science and Technology, were awarded a cash prize of one-hundred thousand dollars in the competition launched just this year to recognize innovative business ideas and inventions.

The contest was part of the fifth Investment Forum in Tarnow, instituted within the framework of the ongoing Krynica Economic Forum.

The "automatic gait trainer," initially constructed by Grzegorz Piątek four years ago, is now in production, manufactured by Prodrobot, and recently became available for purchase.

GOOD NEWS. Poland's unemployment rate is expected to fall to single digits this month, said Labor Minister Kosiniak Kamysz, quoting Labor Ministry estimates. The rate fell to 10.0% in August at which time it was predicted that from September on the rate would continue to fall.

RADIO REPRISAL. Poland and the Netherlands are joining forces to counter so-called "Russian propaganda" with a new Russian-language "content factory," after U.S. Senator John McCain insisted that propaganda is key to "winning the Cold War" without a single shot.

The Dutch-Polish news agency will offer TV, radio, and online content in the Russian-language across in the countries of Russia and Eastern Europe. It is planned that the agency will start working next year, with the Netherlands and Poland hoping that other EU States will join them.

The project will "give the tools and the capacities for Russian language [media] and Russian social media to work on the basis of objective information ... with the exchange of different viewpoints", said Bert Koenders, the Dutch foreign minister. Koenders added that that there was a "broad support" for the endeavor from EU foreign ministers.

The new news agency will be "something which doesn't use the language of propaganda or aggression, but which has real, reliable information," said Polish Foreign Minister, Grzegorz Schetyna.

"One of the key elements of winning the Cold War without firing a shot ... is the propaganda — the message, the social networking," said McCain.

Hagel to Address Conference



CHUCK HAGEL, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, will deliver the keynote address at this year's conference hosted by the American Polish Advisory Council.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Polish Advisory Council (APAC), a Washington-based nonprofit, bi-partisan organization with a mission to politically engage Polish Americans, announced that former U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Chuck Hagel will be the keynote speaker at this year's Polish American Conference.

The 2015 conference will take place on October 10, 2015 at the Atlantic Council Headquarters located at 1030 15th Street Northwest, in Washington, D.C.

APAC's Conference is held in a different city each year and focuses on some of the most pressing issues concerning Polish Americans, as well as those shaping the U.S.-Poland strategic partnership. This year's program, in addition to remarks by Secretary Hagel and Ted Kontek from the State Department, will include a panel discussion on the importance of the ethnic vote in the U.S. presidential elections and on the potential implications of the

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership on trade, jobs and energy independence. The conference will be opened by the Honorable Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States.

This year's panelists include: Dr. James Zogby, president of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council; Mike Wild, Deputy Director on Redistricting for the Republican National Committee; Adam Wilczewski, political strategist and consultant; Katarzyna Klimasinska, energy expert at Bloomberg TV; Ted Bormund, Ph.D., from the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at the Heritage Foundation; Dr. Jeffrey Mankoff, Deputy Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Eric Stewart, President of the U.S.-Poland Business Council.

Participants will also be updated on efforts to secure Poland's membership in the U.S. see "Hagel ...," page 4

Poland Still Bypassed by Refugee Mainstream

"Promised land" Germany is the Main Destination

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—For months, the refugee crisis has been a constant theme of Poland's TV news programs. There have been harrowing images of drowning children, refugees crossing the Mediterranean aboard rubber rafts, being herded on and off trains and beaten by police. An endless stream of weary, bedraggled refugees with children in tow is regularly shown trudging on foot to "freedom and prosperity." Syrians fleeing their war-torn country usually travel through Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary,

the border of the European Union. There they have easily penetrated a razor-wire barrier border and clashed with Hungarian police.

The refugee traffic skyrocketed overnight after German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany would welcome 800,000 refugees by the end of the year. The German government even released a video in Arabic and other languages showing a refugee being welcomed by German border officials giving him money, a place to stay and asking: "What else can we do for you?" The response was overwhelming. Thousands of refugees were soon pounding on Germany's See "Refugee ..." page 5

Holocaust Survivor Repays Ultimate Debt

Helps Resettle Christians in Warsaw

LONDON — A Jewish Barron in Britain, who was rescued by Christians from his homeland of Austria during the Holocaust in 1938, has established an effort to rescue over 2,000 Christians at risk of being killed by the Islamic State terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria.

Ninety-five-year-old Lord George Weidenfeld, who once faced very similar circumstances — the possibility of being martyred simply for one's faith — said he had a debt to repay.

He established the Weidenfeld Safe Havens Fund,



Lord George Weidenfeld

which is an initiative designed to help at least 2,000 at-risk Christians flee to safety in Poland.

See "Warsaw ...," page 4

Wisla Gives Up Her Secrets

WARSAW— A World War II Russian fighter plane, pieces of Jewish tombstones, bridges, boats, and ceramic objects dating as far back as 700 BC have been uncovered as Poland's rivers dropped to record lows this summer. The Wisla (Vistula) is among Poland's rivers at their lowest levels since measurements began in the late 18th century.

Firefighters worked to retrieve the remains of a Soviet fighter plane, its pilots, and Jewish tombstones from the Vistula and its tributaries.

"The Vistula river is hiding no end of secrets. They are everywhere," said Jonny Daniels, head of the Jewish foundation "From the Depths," who waded into a shallow area of the Vistula, picking up fragments of stones bearing Hebrew script.

The remains of the Soviet fighter plane were discovered in the Bzura river, a tributary of the Vistula near the village of Kamion in central Poland. The pieces have been placed in a museum in nearby Wyszogród. Additional recovery work is planned. Director of the Vistula Museum, Zdzislaw Leszczyński, said parts of Soviet uniforms, a parachute, a sheepskin coat collar, parts of boots, a pilot's TT pistol and radio equipment and a lot of heavy ammunition were found. The inscriptions on the control panel and on the radio equip-

See "Wisla ...," page 4

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October Październik



"It is not enough for a Christian to condemn evil, cowardice, lies, and use of force, hatred, and oppression. He must at all times be a witness to

and defender of justice, goodness, truth, freedom, and love. He must never tire of claiming these values as a right both for himself and others."

— **Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko**, a pro-Solidarity Polish Roman Catholic priest, who was murdered on Oct. 19, 1984 by three agents of the Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

- 1 1608. First Poles arrive in America aboard the *Mary & Margaret* to work as skilled craftsmen at settlement in Jamestown (Virginia).
- 2 1944. The Warsaw Uprising collapses after 63 days.
- 3 **ST. JOHN DUKLA (1484)**
1501. Union of Mielnik, an attempt to unite the Kingdom of Poland with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
- 4 1705. Stanisław Leszczyński crowned King of Poland, the first crowned in Warsaw.
- 5 **ST. FAUSTINA**
- 6 1882. Birth of composer Karol Szymanowski.
- 8 1960. U.S. stamp issued to honor Ignacy Jan Paderewski.
- 9 1435. Death of Paweł Włodkowic, model for Shakespeare's Polonius (Hamlet).
- 10 1733. France declares war on Austria over the question of Polish succession.
- 11 1779. Date traditionally observed in American Polonia as Pulaski Day in honor of death of Casimir Pulaski, 34, Polish-born American patriot, who died from battle wounds suffered at Savannah, Georgia.
- 12 1840. Birth of Helena (Modjeska) Modrzejewska (d. April 8, 1909), Polish American stage actress, in Krakow, Poland.
- 14 1903. Birth of Stefan Jarosz, geographer who explored Alaska.
- 15 1817. Death of Tadeusz Kosciuszko (b. 1746), Polish Lt-Gen. and American Revolution freedom fighter, in Solothurn, Switzerland.
- 16 1384. Coronation of Jadwiga.
1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, 58, named Pope John Paul II.
- 17 1849. Death of Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Chopin, 39, in Paris.
- 18 **ST. LUKE**
Folklore says all field work should be completed by this day.
- 20 1982. Death of Korczak Ziolkowski, sculptor of the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
- 22 1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła of Krakow, Poland is installed as Pope John Paul II.
- 24 1795. Third Partition of Poland which removed the country from a political map of Europe.
- 26 1940. Death of painter Olga Boznanska.
- 29 1611. Hetman Stefan Zolkiewski returns to Warsaw from conquering the Muskovites brings with him the captured Czar.
- 29 1944. Polish 1st Corps, commanded by General Maczek, takes Breda, Holland as part of the Allied invasion of Western Europe.

This paper mailed on or before **October 1, 2015**
The November edition will be mailed on or before **October 30, 2015**.

VIEWPOINT

A Model of Success Polonia Can Follow

In just over a year, America will elect its 45th President. What role ten million strong American Polonia will play in that process is open to question.

For the past three months, we have offered concrete ideas to increase Polonia's participation in the 2016 election. We called for Polonian organizations to work with local groups to get Polish green card holders on the path to citizenship. We urged each of those organizations to conduct a voter registration drive during at least one of their events this fall. We recommended a common media pool to put Polonia's concerns in front of both major parties' primary candidates and again before their nominees, and we suggested some ways of getting that information out to Polonian voters.

This month, we call for creation of a League of Polish American Voters.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920, just before the 19th Amendment gave women the vote in the United States. The LWV was created to help newly enfranchised women to exercise their civic responsibilities. It does this in two ways: getting people registered and disseminating information about candidates' positions.

The LWV is not, contrary perhaps to some peoples' ideas, position-neutral. It takes very definitive positions, e.g., promotion of abortion. That's not the issue here; the issue is that not only do they get voters registered, but they do identify certain positions and make people aware where the politicians stand on them.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

What Do You Have Planned for October?

What do you or your organization have planned for October? Hopefully, you are looking for ways to reinvigorate your area's Polonia. Preparing for the upcoming elections by organizing voter registration drives (see this month's "Viewpoints," above) would serve our community on many levels. If circumstances prevent you from doing so, perhaps you can reach out to some of Polonia's "lost sheep" — those who only embrace their heritage during the holidays (for the most part), but don't think twice about it the rest of the year.

We would love to share how you celebrated Polish Heritage Month. Please send photos and captions and/or a few paragraphs on your activity. We will run a "Heritage Month Roundup" in the next edition. Deadline is October 8th. Email is preferred. Send to: info@polamjournal.com.

NOW WHY CAN'T WE DO THAT? Over 50 U.S. Congress members met with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Israel in August, part of a plan to sabotage President Obama's Iran nuclear deal. The trips (one for Democrats, another for Republicans) were organized by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

AIPAC hoped to persuade the members of Congress to undermine and vote against the deal, although Obama vowed to veto any attempt by

That is just what Polonia needs.

We need a bipartisan body that (1) gets Poles naturalized, (2) gets Polish Americans registered, and (3) gets out information about where politicians stand on the Polish American agenda. Our current organizations, for whatever reason, just are not doing this and certainly not doing it on the sustained basis necessary to make Polonia a force in American politics. And *that's simply stupid*—because Poles make up at least five per cent of the electorate in at least eleven states with 143 electoral votes—more than half the way to the White House. Add the states where Poles make up at least three percent of voters, and you have 16, with 187 electoral votes.

WE NEED A VOTING RIGHTS organization that is there and that stays there. We do not have the luxury of reinventing this process at every election. We need a group whose job it is to get out information on citizenship and voting, to maintain a website where you can find out what you need to do to get signed up in your state, and which will go to federal politicians—let's start with the Presidency and eventually include at least Senators—to get information about their positions on Polonia issues.

And what are those issues? The League of Polish Voters should not be partisan, it should not get involved in larger issues about which Poles may disagree. But most Poles will agree that: Poland should be a Visa Waiver country; Russia threatens Poland and American foreign policy should restrain the bear; the continued oc-

cupation of Ukraine is unacceptable; American ties with Poland should be broader and deeper on the political, economic, and strategic levels; and Americans are underrepresented at virtually all levels of American government. There's the agenda.

Any such organization is going to face two big problems. One is institutional jealousy: lots of other organizations want to be the "voice of Polonia," and we wouldn't deny them a forum. But any sober observer will admit that American Polonia is politically disorganized and ineffective. A League of Polish Voters need not compete with anybody. It can cooperate with everybody to do the work nobody is doing effectively right now. And, as a supra-organizational non-partisan group, it should also be able to rely on money from existing groups as well as Polonia at large: we are not going to punch above our weight politically on five dollar donations, which barely cover the cost to mail ten first class letters. We are ten million strong—let's show it.

In this Polish Heritage Month, we can — and should — do all the traditional things to celebrate our heritage. We should march in Pulaski parades, give speeches, lay wreaths, and do all the things we Poles have been doing. But if that heritage is to endure, if it is to be more than a nostalgic autumn trip down memory lane, if Polonia is going to punch politically above its weight (and it can, given its potential strategic electoral advantages in 16 states) then the best thing we could do as a result of this Heritage Month is to get organized politically.

the legislature to do so. Congress would need a two-thirds majority in order to override the president's veto. (Incidentally, Sen. Barbara Mikulski's (D-Md.) support for the agreement gave the White House the votes it needs to prevent Republicans from scuttling the treaty).

Whether or not you agree with Obama's decision, the AIPAC trip made us wonder when was the last time a Polish American organization paid for a trip to Poland for our political leaders? There are many points to explore, from the ubiquitous U.S./Poland issue of visa waivers, to the current refugee crisis facing Europe. With Russia at Ukraine's door, the issue of security for Poland and other neighboring countries is once again a topic the United States must address.

HATS OFF TO CONSUL GENERAL KAPUŚCIŃSKA. Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, has addressed *Crain's Chicago Business* for misinformation it printed in a Sept. 4, 2015 article "A Chicago Family's Search for Art Lost to the Holocaust."

The author, Shia Kapos, said Wrocław (which she spelled "Wroclaw") was annexed by Poland after World War II. The city and surrounding territories were Polish until the War of the Austrian Succession in the 1740s, at which time most of Silesia was annexed by the Kingdom of Prussia.

It remained under Prussian and German control—along with almost all of Lower Silesia—until Potsdam Conference, when it became the biggest city of the Recovered Territories.

Kapuścińska said Kapos overlooked the circumstances of post-World War II borders, and Poland's loss of almost 20 percent of its pre-war territories.

Kapos also failed to mention that claims for property in the former repatriated province have been available through Polish courts since shortly after the downfall of Communism and the rebirth of independent Poland.

Michael Arndt, editor of *Crain's*, said he would print corrections, but felt saying Wrocław was annexed "seems to be properly used in the article," and a comment in the article made by a claimant ("both German and Poland had 'washed their hands' [of restitution]") was not made by Kapos.

Some may say such issues are just semantics or moot points, but they are not. To quote former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Felix Frankfurter: "All our work, our whole life is a matter of semantics, because words are the tools with which we work, the material out of which laws are made, out of which the Constitution was written. Everything depends on our understanding of them."

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VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

A Few Things to Think about During Polish Heritage Month

by Robert Strybel

Many PolAms say “I’m proud of my Polish heritage,” but some may get a bit tongue-tied if asked for the reason why. If your daughter or grandson, a neighbor or acquaintance asked about that, would you have a ready answer?

You might start with hospitality. During their first visit to Poland many PolAms can’t get over their relatives’ high-powered, can’t-do-enough-for-you “gościnność.” Poles are probably the only nation to have actually deified house guests, as reflected by the saying: “Gość w dom, Bóg w dom” (When a guest enters the home, God enters the home).

With the exception of its brief occupation of the Kremlin in the early 17th century, Poland has almost never been an aggressor, but the bravery of Polish freedom-fighters has become proverbial. In fact, on several occasions the valor of Polish fighting men actually altered the course of European history. At the Battle of Legnica in 1241, the armies of

Henryk Pobożny (Henry the Pious) stopped the Mongolian invasion of Europe. In 1683, forces under the command of Poland’s King Jan Sobieski routed the invading Turkish hordes at the gates of Vienna. In 1920, Polish armies under Marshal Józef Piłsudski rolled back the Red Army trying to spread the bloody Bolshevik revolution across Europe.

Never forget that we are descendants of a great nation, whose contributions have made a positive imprint on mankind.

Polish cavalymen amazed Napoleon at Somosierra, Spain, and impressed the Allies at Monte Cassino during World War II. At times, the Poles’ readiness to stand up against overwhelming odds (to mention only the 19th-century insurrections and the 1944 Warsaw Uprising) may have seemed foolhardy to more “rational” nations. But that sense of

commitment enabled Polish fliers to down more German planes per capita in the Battle of Britain than the British. And stubborn Polish resistance to the Soviet-imposed regime eventually led to the peaceful Solidarity revolution which led to the collapse of the Iron Curtain.

At a time, when the hyper-commercialized pursuit of profits, pleasure and creature comforts has come to dominate our lives, perhaps traditional Polish attachment to religion and basic family values could add some balance and stability to the turbulence and confusion of modern times. A similar role is played by time-honored traditions – something that gives meaning to life and provides a more stable foundation to build on than fly-by-night fads, gimmicks and gadgets.

BACK TO OUR ROOTS. Perhaps some of the old-fashion, more natural Polish peasant foods – whole-grain breads, groats, root

vegetables, sauerkraut and various home-made specialties – could provide a healthier alternative to eating habits centered round over-processed, high-additive-content foods. And perhaps everything from traditional Polish squared-logged houses (which breathe and insulate naturally) to decorator items incorporating natural wood, bark, straw and home-spun fabrics could provide a healthier, more ecological alternative to the toxic “Made in China” synthetics that now surround us at every turn.

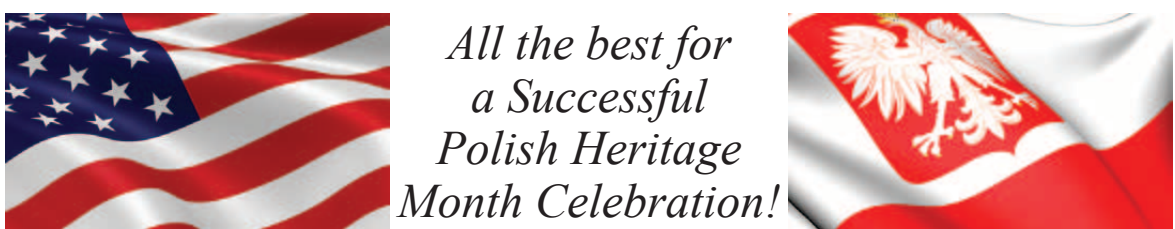
Our immigrant ancestors have transplanted traditional Polish patriotism to the New World, where it has not been at variance with their love of America. This has been indicated over the years by the number of American flags flown on patriotic occasions from private homes in Polish American neighborhoods. Also by the disproportionately large number of Polish Americans, who have volunteered for service in the

U.S. Armed Forces.

THE SLOGAN “For your freedom and ours” has expressed Polish solidarity with the underdog. Medieval Poland became a haven for Jews and Protestants fleeing persecution in the West. Kościuszko left his American estate for the liberation and education of Negro slaves, but unfortunately slave-owning Thomas Jefferson failed to carry out that bequest. Polish soldiers in the employ of France changed sides and supported the Black Haitian rebels in the early 1800s.

Those are some of the things we can think about during Polish Heritage Month. Never forget that we are descendants of a great nation, whose contributions have made a positive imprint on mankind. Be proud of your roots and share your heritage with family, friends, neighbors, your local community and America at large.

“Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła...!”



GENERAL PULASKI MEMORIAL PARADE

- September 26th, 2015 - 6:00 p.m. **PARADE BANQUET**
Marriott Marquis - New York, NY
- October 4th, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. **PARADE MASS**
St. Patrick's Cathedral - New York, NY
- October 4th, 2015 - 10:30 a.m. **PARADE BREAKFAST**
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www.pulaskiparade.org

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SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Memories from Deportation to Kazakhstan – Adjusting to Daily Life in Krutoyarka

Editor's note: As a result of the secret protocol of Ribbentrop-Molotov non-aggression pact, Poland was invaded from the west by Nazi Germany and later from the east by Soviet Russia in September 1939. The German attack to Poland on September 1, 1939 is also considered the beginning of the World War II. Although the attack by Germany was anticipated, the Soviet invasion (September 17) caught Poland and the Western world by surprise. The invasion of Poland from both sides concluded a fourth partition of Poland. The Soviet invasion was followed by massive involuntary deportations of the Polish population, especially so called "social enemies" to the East. This operation was done by NKVD and involved about one million people. The women and children were usually sent to the remote settlements of Siberia or Kazakhstan, while the men were sent to labor camps where they worked in inhuman conditions, and many died. The memoirs presented here depict very well the fate of these people through the example

of one family, the Borsts.

Since 1938, Stefania, along with her husband, Edward Borst and their two children, lived in Stanislawow, in the Southeastern part of Poland. Edward Borst came from an influential family of textile manufacturers from Zgierz (Lodz area). He was a Polish officer of the reserve. In 1939, his military unit was caught by Soviets during the attempt to cross to Romania after the Soviet invasion, and he was sent to a forced labor camp in Komi republic, where he later died of dysentery.

Last month's installment described life with Kazakh families.

Part III

The Village of Krutoyarka is located on two lakes, one with good, tasty, drinkable water, another which is salty. The animals – horses and cattle – drink water from the "good" lake. When Spring starts, the sheep is washed in the lake before shearing. In spite of all these different uses we also drank this water and never became sick from the millions of bacteria there. The salty lake is overgrown with weeds,

its water has a brown color with a marshy-herb like smell; definitely not drinkable.

Excerpt from my postcard from June 5, 1940: "We are healthy but boils irritate our skin. All of us have these nasty boils. My arm is slowly getting better but I had to wrap it with a bandage since it hurts at each touch. There is almost no water at the lake now. We have to walk from the forest to the wetlands. The travel there and back takes about 1.5 hours and I can carry only two buckets with us. This has to be a sufficient amount. The harvest prognosis is good. This is important since this guarantees that we will have enough bread. The heat is awful with temperatures up to 45 C (113 F). Villagers go to spend nights on the steppe, since it is almost impossible to stay inside due to the heat and flies."

Until July we received four parcels 8 kg each with food and one with medicines. Our good friends and neighbors from Stanislawow sent them.

Another excerpt: "I am trying to get any information about my hus-

band via NKWD in Stanislawow and Moscov. My husband was a reserve officer and a director and a representative (CEO) of a large textile factory in Lodz before WW II. He was arrested in December 1939 during an attempt to cross the Polish-Hungarian border. I am not receiving any response, so I am uncertain and tormented. We also try to get a permission to return to Poland through NKWD. I am so thankful to God that Marysia (our family maid) is here with me. How can I repay for her voluntary exile. She helps tremendously and makes our life (mine and two children) easier. She is our "hoarder" who brings us everything she can to help feed us."

Excerpt from my postcard sent June 23, 1940: "It is good that we have barley and flour. We also eat vitamins: juice and birch bark, some grass, herbs, chive in the forest. We pick up wild strawberries on the steppe, which we dry for summer and mushrooms."

Excerpt from my postcard sent August 9, 1940: "After three weeks of hard labor in the fields I sit at

home and rest. I work in the kolkhoz from sunrise to sunset with only one hour break for lunch. This is a horrendous work. They treat us wretchedly. We Poles are selected to do the worst, most disgusting and dirty work. For the whole week I had to clean a manure ditch, 7 meter deep and 4 meter wide using my hands only. There were two of us. The next week I worked with hay, after that we have to help with the harvest. Marysia went to work in the brickyard. After three weeks of hard labor she walked 30 km on feet to get home. She walked three days through the empty steppe with no roads, no villages, no alive person around. She came home with injured legs. She is laying down with no feeling in her legs for the last two weeks. I found a lotion in our home medicine box and I am trying to cure her by applying two times daily."

❖ ❖ ❖

Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us

Hagel to Address APAC Conference

continued from cover
visa Waiver Program as well as the Polish American Agenda, a document that is drafted every four years and presented to presidential candidates ahead of the elections.

"We are pleased to have such an exciting speaker lineup for this year's event," said General Ed Rowny, APAC's president. "Because of its geographic location, Poland is on the forefront of strategic plans for deployment of NATO troops and military equipment in response to the conflict in Ukraine and Russia's escalating aggression. Mr. Hagel will be able to shed light not only on Poland's role in addressing the crisis but on how that role will impact the U.S.-Poland partnership," added Rowny.

"With just 13 months separating our conference and the next presidential election, a large portion of the day will be dedicated to the discussion of how Polish Americans can play an active role in electing the next president, not only as voters but as participants in the numerous campaigns.

At 10 million member-strong, Polish Americans represent one of the largest ethnic groups in the nation," said Agnes Marczak, APAC's Political Director. According to Marczak, Polish Americans represent one of the largest ethnic blocks in the country and make up one of the largest ethnic communities in key swing states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania or Florida.

Registration for the conference will open at 9:30 am and the program will last from 10:15 am until 4:00 pm with a break for lunch and will be followed by a reception at the Washington Plaza Hotel. The cost is \$55 for adults and \$35 for students and pre-registration is required. More information about the conference can be found at www.americanpolishadvisorycouncil.org/annual-conference.

The 2015 conference is sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Trade & Investment Section of the Polish Embassy in Washington and the Andrew Kaminski Law Office PC.

Warsaw a Haven for Christian Refugees

continued from cover
Weidenfeld, who was knighted in 1969 and recognized as a life peer in 1976, told *The Times* that when he first arrived in Britain as a five year-old, he had no more than a few shillings to his name but was provided clothes and food by Christians.

"I had a debt to repay," Weidenfeld explained to the *Times*. "It applies to so many young people who were on the Kindertransports. It was Quakers and other Christian denominations who brought those children to England. It was a very high-minded operation and we Jews should also be thankful and do something for the endangered Christians."

Although his fund faces criticism for favoring Christians, Weidenfeld defends the choice to only rescue Christians.

There has been much debate in Poland and other EU countries about accepting refugees.

In June, the European Commission called on Poland to accept 3,700 of them, the country announced that it "refuses to submit" to European Union quotas, which were intended to be compulsory. As other countries also balked, Brussels had to opt for lower, voluntary



A young Christian Syrian couple with their seven-month-old daughter flank Miriam Shaded, a Polish church charity worker, who is helping families resettle in Warsaw, Poland. Shaded has a Syrian Christian background and works for the Esther Foundation, a young women's residential health, development and leadership program.

and unenforceable quotas.

Eventually, Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz declared that the country, as an expression of "European solidarity," would take in 2,000 people over the next two years, mainly from Syria and Eritrea.

"We benefited from the solidarity of our European partners when we had our own refugees. We cannot forget about that, we cannot be immune to this disaster," she said. She added that Poland should help share the burden, as it may need help when faced with a larger influx

of refugees from Ukraine.

"But just as we cannot await the impossible, they cannot await the unrealistic from us," she said. "Our solidarity has to be responsible and has to bear reference to our capabilities."

Weidenfeld understands the politics and fiscal strains involved, which is why he established his Safe Havens Fund.

"The primary objective is to bring the Christians to safe haven," Weidenfeld said. "I can't save the world but there is a very specific possibility on the Jewish and Christian side. Let others do what they like for the Muslims."

Wista Gives Up Her Secrets

continued from cover
ment are in Cyrillic.

"There are pieces of marble and stoneware and fragments of fountains, window sills, columns, concrete slabs, cannonballs," said Hubert Kowalski, a researcher at Warsaw University's archeological institute.

"It's mainly fragments of carved stones that the Swedes tried to steal in the 17th century during their 1656 invasion," Kowalski said.

"But they failed to get them out of the country because the Vistula's water level was too low" to keep their boats afloat.

Meanwhile a small patrol boat from World War I washed up in the San River in the country's southeast, complete with ammunition and three guns more than a century old.

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Vigil of Holy Days / Msza Wigilijna.....	5:00 p.m.
Holy Days / Dni Swiete:	9:00 a.m.

Refugees: Europe's Biggest Crisis Since World War II

continued from cover
 door, got welcomed in and began placing unforeseen strains on the country's infrastructure.

Liberals applauded Merkel's gesture as humane, compassionate and heart-warming but the refugee invasion soon got out of hand, and realists began viewing her generous offer as a politically ill-considered move. Seeing that Germany could not handle the crisis alone, with the support of the French president Merkel got the European Union to issue refugee quotas to its 28 member states. Poland originally offered to take 2,000, but was pressured by Brussels to accept many times that number.

The refugee invasion has been greatly expanded by the number of economic migrants among them who are not fleeing war zones in fear of their lives but only in search of a better life. More than half of those arriving in Germany are coming from impoverished countries such as Albania and Kosovo where no wars are being fought. They exploit the general mayhem to piggy-back their way into the EU. There may also be individual Muslim terrorists among the crowds. For that reason Poles are much more willing to receive Syrian Christians than Muslims from whatever country.

MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS have been held in cities across Poland both in support of and in opposition to forced refugee quotas with opponents outnumbering those in favor. European Union Chairman, Luxembourgger Jean-

Claude Juncker, scolded Poland for its reluctance saying: "Twenty million Polish people are living outside Poland as a result of economic and political emigration. Europe is the people at the Munich train station applauding and welcoming refugees."

But the Polish government was not about to be blackmailed. "We will accept as many refugees as we are able," replied Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz and laid down certain conditions. The prospective refugees must be properly screened to separate them from economic opportunists whose life is not threatened. And the EU's external borders must be properly safeguarded. "Unless we find a way of stopping the illegal migration, soon there may be three to four million economic refugees knocking on Europe's door," warned Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Szcetyna."

For Poland, coping with the new influx may turn out to be a temporary problem, since nearly all the newcomers want to go to the "promised land" — affluent Germany, which offers housing, jobs and the best welfare benefits. Many refuse to register in Hungary fearing they would have to stay there. Even fairly well-to-do Denmark had to close a rail line to stop refugees from fleeing to neighboring Germany.

Hungary is most refugees' point of entry into the EU, but when the situation got out of control, Hungarian soldiers tried to roll back the excessive influx, but Serbia also sent out its troops to keep the refugees out. The borderless travel of which

the EU was so proud has ended with police with canine backup patrolling newly built walls and razor-wire barriers slicing across the continent.

AT THIS STAGE is it impossible to predict how things will develop. If the influx continues, will Germany and Europe in general be able to cope with masses of difficult to integrate newcomers? Will they readily assimilate or create ethnic slums in European Germany's cities? Maybe huge refugee camps will have to be built or at least some of the newcomers will get sent back to where they came from. Whatever the case, what is probably Europe's biggest crisis since World War II is not likely to go away anytime soon.

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As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad.

Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.



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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Investigating Planned Parenthood and Rethinking Abortion

In the wake of revelations about the brutal and dehumanizing abortion procedures used by Planned Parenthood to harvest sellable human organs and tissues for medical researchers, a House committee is investigating the record of Planned Parenthood and “asking hard hitting questions” of Planned Parenthood head **Cecile Richards**, according to **Anna Paprocki** (inset, left), staff counsel for the Americans United for Life. U.S.

Rep. **Elijah Cummings** (D-Maryland), also on the House committee, is insisting that the Center for Medical Progress be investigated for their role in acquiring videotaped evidence of the callous and brutal abortionists' work. Paprocki calls this tactic of the 100% supporter of abortion a diversionary tactic and a deliberate distraction from the main issue. Springfield's **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** stated that “our nation is in need of national humiliation, fasting and prayer” to atone for our sins, especially those of abortion, racism, assaults on natural marriage, greed, gluttony, anger, envy, lust, laziness, pride and he condemned the president's silence on the human remains trafficking scandal. In the meantime, **President Obama** is cutting funding to Kansas in retaliation for the suspension of funding for Planned Parenthood there.

Dr. John Bruchalski, an obstetrics-gynecologist in Fairfax, Virg., who had routinely performed abortions, visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a friend and heard a voice asking him “Why are you hurting me?” He brushed this off but tried to ease his conscience by volunteering at a pregnancy center. A neonatologist said to him, “I've seen you with your patients. On one hand, you take such good care of them, and on the other hand, when they don't want the baby, you give me garbage. These are children, and they deserve better.” The words of a woman from a Belgium pro-life group finally changed his heart when she said, “I have some messages for you from the Blessed Mother. You're a doctor, and you're supposed to help ... Practice excellent medicine, see the poor daily and follow the teachings of my Son's church. If you can do these three things, you will help my Son renew the face of the earth.” “All of a sudden, the scales came off my eyes,” he said and determined to protect lives from that day forward.”

BISHOP AFFIRMS CATHOLIC TEACHINGS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** of the RC Diocese of Springfield, Ill., published formal standards to which he expects all parents of children enrolled in Catholic schools to sign their agreement. The agreement stipulates areas of morality, material support for the Church, and the expectation

that Catholic students be educated according to Church principles regardless of their parents' lifestyles. In reaction to student, parent and teacher protests against the enforcement of Catholic identity in schools, such as that in San Francisco against **Archbishop Cordileone**, the agreement stipulates the “parents/adoptive parents/legal guardians and students who cause public scandal by actively promoting a moral or doctrinal position contrary to Catholic teaching or by making a public issue of their state in life contrary to Catholic teaching shall be considered in violation of the Family School Agreement.”

STO LAT TO ... Kathleen Sacilowski of Queen of Martyrs Church, Cheektowaga, N.Y., and **Fran Surowiec** of Nativity of Our Lord Church, Orchard Park, N.Y., on receiving the Ozanam Medal for outstanding service by the St. Vincent de Paul Society at their annual dinner.

PARISHES LINKED IN BUFFALO. **Bishop Richard Malone** of the RC Buffalo Diocese recently linked Pol Am parishes St. Bernard's and Our Lady of Częstochowa. While remaining independent parishes, the two churches have been entrusted to the Polish Pallottine Fathers who will assign a priest to lead both parishes. **Fr. Henry Szczesniak**, current pastor of Our Lady of Częstochowa will retire in October and St. Bernard's is under the care

Deacon Ted May, a temporary administrator. Not long ago, Bishop Malone placed St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church under the care of the Polish Pauline Fathers, who already serve Corpus Christi Church.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... The Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Polish National Catholic Church, Ware, Mass., who will observe his 65th anniversary of ordination to the holy priesthood on October 19. He was ordained in St. Stanislaus First Church in Scranton, Pa., by the late Bishop John A. Miaszerek receiving a special blessing from the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, organizer of the church. He celebrated his first solemn Mass at Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish, his home parish, in Chicopee, Mass. Fr. Senior Banas He began his priesthood career as an assistant pastor to the late Bishop John Z. Jasinski, pastor of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y. In May, 1977 he became pastor of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral. For a continuous 65 years he served God and God's people and the Church faithfully and zealously. Fr. Senior Banas who was elevated to this dignity of “senior priest” in August, 1964 by the late second Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski, served on many church commissions, community projects and represented the church as first delegate of the American Polish National Relief to Poland, an organization

founded by the late Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski and Dr. Karol H. Sitko, traveling to Poland and negotiating an agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs with Stanley Zawadzki in 1957.

REMEMBERING JAMES FOLEY. **James Foley**, journalist and human rights advocate decapitated by ISIS last year, was remembered in a scholarship fund at his alma mater Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisc. The first Jamws Foley scholar is **Jacob Zielinski** who said, “To receive an award in honor of someone so loving and selfless to all those he encountered as well as so brave and truthful in all of his endeavors was amazing ... James Foley is the type of man I strive to be every day, and I could not be more honored and humbled to be the first Foley scholar.”

CHAPLAIN PENS BOOK OF SERMONS. **Fr. Richard Zajac**, long-serving chaplain at Buffalo, N.Y.'s Sister of Charity Hospital, authored a fourth volume in his “Life Injections” series of sermons. “Life Injections IV” collects some of the sermons from his 39 years of priesthood. His sermons last some 15 minutes but keep the congregation's interest because they are full of stories. The average sermon takes 24 hours to write but he delivers it up to six times in local parishes and at the hospital. His books are available for adorners in a local parish's adoration chapel where persons like reading from them during nocturnal adoration. “Life Injections IV” is available from Buffalo's Catholic Union store or on-line. It is published by Parson's Porch & Company.

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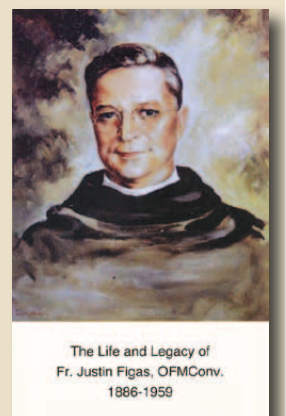
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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Warsaw Uprising Remembered



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ BARANIAK

Warsaw Uprising participants.

CHICAGO — Seventy-one years have passed since the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Today, those who survived this insurgency are few; many are in their 90s. Each anniversary of the Uprising leaves fewer to remember the heroic struggle and determination to survive under the rubble and canals of Warsaw.

Every year on August 1, the heroes of the Warsaw Uprising are honored. In Chicago, a special commemoration of the 71st anniversary was organized by the Home Army Soldiers on August 2 at **St. Constance Church**, with a special commemorative Mass celebrated by **Rev. Robert Frączek**, associate pastor.

The Warsaw Uprising, *Powstanie Warszawskie*, was a major World War II operation by occupied Europe's biggest and best organized resistance – Poland's Home Army, *Armia Krajowa*. Its goal was to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany before the advancement of Soviet troops.

In spite of being outnumbered by Nazi forces, the Poles fought for 63 days with little outside support. On October 3, 1944, the Uprising fell to the overwhelming Nazi forces, which would soon retreat from the devastated Warsaw. Over 250,000 Poles died defending Warsaw.

Many historical sources state that the Warsaw Uprising was the largest single military effort taken by any European Resistance during World War II. Most Polish Home Army fighters were persecuted and murdered after World War II by the NKVD, the Soviet Secret Police, and the Moscow-backed security service, *Urząd Bezpieczeństwa* (UB) installed in Poland. Some Warsaw Uprising fighters managed to escape the persecutions by emigrating, many to the United States.

Warsaw Uprising combatants **Tadeusz Gubala**, **Danuta Ingłot**, **Krystyna Zielonka**, **Andrew Zapalski**, and **Stanisław Stawski** each shared a story during the commemoration. After Mass, everyone was invited to the Old Warsaw Inn to share photos and reminisce.

ACPC HOLDS 67TH CONVENTION. The 67th annual convention of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) was hosted by **Jarosław Gołombowski**, President of the Chopin Society of Chicago. The four-day convention, filled with a series of business meetings, lectures, and concerts, was held from August 5 – 8 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois. The theme of this conference was **Polish Emigrant Composers and Musicians**. Keynote speaker, **Mark Dobrzycki**, Polonia activist and trustee of the village of Harwood Heights, Illinois, presented remarks on the involvement in and significance of Polonia in the daily lives within the Chicago community. Additionally, **Dr. Sławomir Dobrzański**, pianist and associate professor of music at Kansas State University, spoke about **Tadeusz Zygfryd Kasem** (1904-1957), a Polish-Jewish composer and his role in music instruction.

Attendees had the opportunity to tour Chicago's Northwest Side led by Daniel Pogorzelski, vice president of the Northwest Side Historical Society. The tour included the Jefferson Park Masonic Temple, the Ed Paschke Art Center, St. Hyacinth Basilica, and a last stop at the New England Inn for a Polish-Czech style luncheon.

Music lovers at the convention were treated to a premiere performance of Jarosław Gołombowski's "Melody for Violin and Piano" performed by **Krzysztof Zimowski**, concertmaster of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and first violinist of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, and **Dobrzański**. The program also included a performance by mezzo-soprano **Katarzyna Sądej**, winner of the Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Voice Competition. Sądej sang melodies composed by Fryderyk Chopin, Ignacy Paderewski, Karol Szymanowski, Stanisław Moniuszko, Mieczysław Karłowicz, and Jerzy Petersburski, a composer renowned for his tangos, accompanied by **Dobrzański**. Jarosław Gołombowski and the Marcus Band, a Chicago-based ensemble, having both a classical and popular American and Polish style repertoire, provided additional entertainment. Also, Chicago Polish chanteuse, **Ewa Staniszevska**, offered her singing renditions of songs from 1930s Poland.



PHOTO: JACKIE KOŁOWSKI

ACPC CONVENTION (l. to r.): Gołombowski, Mary Ellen Tyszka, Dobrzański, Sądej, Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, and Alicia Dutka.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze Band.

Convention business included the installation of new officers and the presentation of ACPC awards. This year's Founders Award honorees were **Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki** of McLean, Virginia, and **Camille Kopielski** of Arlington Heights, Illinois, for their commitment and service to the ACPC. The Cultural Award was presented to **Dr. Paweł Checinski**, pianist and teacher, for his lifetime dedication to music. The Distinguished Service Award recipient was **Dr. Zbigniew Sobol** for his long service as a physician to those in need in Poland through his financial aid to hospitals and institutions.

The ACPC officers for 2015-2017 are: **Thomas Payne**, president; **Robert Synakowski**, first vice-president; **Alicia Dutka**, second vice-president; **Judi Tompkins**, treasurer; and **Marcia Lewandowski**, recording secretary. Board members elected were: **Robert Dutka**, **Raymond Glembocki**, **Jackie Kolowski**, **Cecilia Larkin**, **Peter Obst**, **Patricia Skurzynski**, and **Ted Wiecek**.

Next year's convention will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., with tentative dates of August 24-28.

36TH ANNUAL "TASTE OF POLONIA." Since 1979, the Copernicus Foundation has sponsored its annual "Taste of Polonia" festival. This four-day Labor Day Weekend event offers live entertainment, Polish-cuisine options, and carnival-style games for all ages. This year's entertainment featured over 35 local, national and international groups playing music to satisfy all who attended. Those who attended the Friday, September 4, opening enjoyed perfect weather and the high-energy polkas of the **Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze**

Band.

The weekend's cross-cultural entertainment included polka and rock and roll, reggae and classical music, as well as folk dancing presentations. Diverse musical attractions included Pan Franek and the Polka Towners, the Polkaholics, Hudobni (Tatra Mountains-style string quartet), the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, X Beat (A Gypsy Kings Tribute), Gizzae Reggae Band, Marika (the first lady of Polish dancehall music), Clodie-Krakow Rock and 80's Sound, and the Polanie and Wawel Polish Folk Dance Ensembles. The groups performed on three outside stages or inside the Gateway Theatre. Four performances were geared to Polish-speaking audiences.

A special entertainment area sponsored by Krakus catered to the youngest of guests during the day, and jazz, reggae, and dance music was provided by popular club DJs in the evenings. In addition, the "Taste" offered original Polish arts and handiwork and other imported items for sale.

A special *dzieńkę bardzo* to major sponsors Krakus Ham, AT&T, T-Mobile, Polski AM/FM Radio, and Okocim.

This annual event enables the Copernicus Foundation to fulfill one of its missions by familiarizing festival-goers with the richness of the Polish culture through its customs, culture, traditions, and language. "Taste of Polonia" has grown to be the largest Polish festival in the United States visited by over 35,000 annually.

POLISH POETRY AT ITS BEST.

There are a few places in Chicago where poetry lovers can meet to share and hear good literature, including good poetry. A combination of poetry, music, and an excellent Mediterranean-Polish cuisine, promises to create a wonderful evening. **Thanks to Elizabeth Chojnowska**, a poet and teacher, poets and their poetry are promoted every last Friday of the month. Members and non-members of the Polish Arts and Poetry Association in Chicago gather at the Alibaba Retro Restaurant on Chicago's Northwest Side to hear outstanding poetry, and listen to the music of Marek Kulisiewicz.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Pulaski Association Honors Pol-Am Educators

Batavia soprano **Brittany Mruczek** performed in the Rochester Lyric Opera's production of Mozart's "The Impresario" ... Past President **Charles Peszynski** has been appointed the managing director of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo. He will oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization ... **Dr. Tomasz Pudlocki** of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow will be teaching "HST 325 - Introduction to Polish Culture" and "HST 232 - Migration and Diaspora in the U.S." at Daemen College in Amherst during the Fall semester ... Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** was appointed to the position of Judicial Division Liaison to the American Bar Association Science and Technology Law Section ... WNYers have a new purveyor of pierogi in the area, **Stella's Old Fashioned Pierogi**, which can be found at the Facebook page of the same name ... The members of the **Syracuse Polish Home** came together to watch the Poland v. Germany UEFA Euro 2016 match at their clubrooms on Park Avenue on September 4 ... On the 5th, the Mississauga District of the **Canadian Polish Congress** presented its first "Mississauga Polish Day" featuring performances by Anna Cyzon, Henryk M., Faza, Konsocjum, Margaret Maye, Michael Penkul, Rezonans, Adriana Serra, Konrad Swierczek, Harnasie, Lechowia and Radosc-

Joy at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre.

Radosc-Joy greeted Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper with salt and bread during his visit to the John Paul II Polish Community Centre in Mississauga on September 7 ... The 24th Annual "**Farewell to Summer**" benefit for Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan, was held at the Millennium Hotel on September 10 ... The Polish Consulate hosted a "**Passport Day in Buffalo**" at Cheektowaga's Millennium Hotel on September 10 and 11 ... The **General Pulaski Association** honored educators of Polish descent, including Joseph Bieron (Canisius College), Chet Frey (Gates Chili Central Schools), Hon. Kenneth Graber (Lancaster Board of Education), Deborah Przepiora-Graham (Ledgview Elementary School), Elaine Kolbert (Highgate Heights School 80), Kerri Szczpaniewicz Nowak (Huth Road Elementary School), Edward Reska, Jr. (Warsaw Central Schools), Donna Skobjak (Southside Middle School), Teresa Sokolowski (Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School), Heather Brandon Sondel (Beach Tree Elementary School), Wanda Slawinska (Buffalo State College), Anna Szczesny (Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School), Mira Szramel (Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School)

and Dr. Andrew Wise (Daemen College), at its dinner at the Creekside Banquet Facility in Cheektowaga on September 11. The keynote address was given by Dr. James Pula of Purdue University.

Tom Dudzick's sequel to "Over The Tavern," "King O' The Moon" opened at the Kavinoky Theatre in Buffalo on September 11. This story of the Pazinski family will continue through October 4 ... The Hamilton Branch of the Canadian Polish Congress hosted its "**Dozynki Harvest Ball**," featuring the Korona Band, at the Polish Alliance Hall in Hamilton, Ontario on September 12 ... Also on the 12th, St. Gabriel's Parish in Elma hosted a **Polish Genealogical Society** of New York State's seminar for local family tree climbers ... The **Jedliniok Polish Folk Ensemble** from Wroclaw performed at the Syracuse Polish Home on September 12, and Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church Hall in Orchard Park on the 13th ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** met at the Pitass Center at St. Stanislaus Parish on Buffalo's East Side to consider amendments to its local by-laws on the 17th ... Also on the 17th, **Lisa Florczak**, the moving force behind Water Bikes of Buffalo and Ice Bikes of Buffalo at Canal-side, was recognized with the Busi-

ness First of Buffalo's Woman of Influence Award in the category of "Creativity" at the Grapevine Restaurant in Depew ... On the 18th and 19th, an interdisciplinary conference examining the impact of World War I, focusing on the Galicia region was held at Daemen College in Amherst ... **Kabaret To I Owo** will present "Zagrajmy to Razem Jeszcze Raz" at the Hamilton Dom Polski on the 19th ... **Boy Scout Troop 107** from St. John Kanty Parish on Buffalo's East Side marked its 90th anniversary with a dinner at the Matthew Glab American Legion Post in Lackawanna on September 19 ... Also on the 19th, the Fulton Polish Home hosted its annual **Fulton Polish Fest**, featuring the Buffalo Concertina All Stars ... The Corpus Christi "**Dozynki Polish Harvest Festival**," which included the 8th Annual Buffalo's Best Pierogi Contest, took place on September 19 and 20 on the parish grounds on Buffalo's East Side. This year's festival featured performances Al Kania's Band, and Special Delivery.

The **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** took place in Toronto also on September 19 and 20. This year's event included a screening of the Polish film, "Bogowie," and exhibits on the works of photographer Stanislaw Wiktacy and cinematog-

rapher Agnieszka Holland ... The board of the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College met at the college on September 24 ... **Broadway Fillmore Alive** sponsored "A Walk in Old Polonia" through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on September 26 ... The "Rodzina" art exhibit, featuring the works of **Frederic** and **Mary Ann Skalny** continues at the Patricia Ross O'Keefe Gallery of the Joseph Skalny Welcome Center on the St. John Fisher campus in Rochester until October 9 ... The Polish baroque orchestra **Il Giardino d'Amore** performed "Venetian Heroes, Pirates and Nymphs" under the sponsorship of the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies and Nazareth College at the Wilmot Recital Hall in Rochester on September 29, and under the auspices of the Polish Singers Alliance of America at Canisius College's Montante Center in Buffalo on October 1.

UPCOMING. The Pallottine Fathers will be providing a priest to serve as pastor of our **Lady of Czestochowa Parish** in Cheektowaga and **St. Bernard Parish** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood in early October ... The **Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser** will be held at the Lily of the Valley Hall in Cheektowaga on October 3 ... Government and business leaders from Buffalo have been invited to participate in the "American Culture and Business Week" in **Rzeszow**, Buffalo's sister city, from October 4 through 11. More information can be found at the "Buffalo-Rzeszow Solidarity Group" Facebook page.

The **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on October 17 ... The **Chopin Singing Society** will present its 116th Annual Concert at Assumption Church in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on October 18. The theme of this year's concert is "On Wings of Polish Song" ... **Dr. Andrzej Rozbicki's** Celebrity Symphony Orchestra and Polish rock star Natalia Kukulska will present their "Film Music Gala" at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on October 24.

The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress will host its Second Annual **Zupapalooza** at the Fr. Justin Knight of Columbus Hall in Cheektowaga on October 25 ... The AAA of Central and Western New York will offer nine day Christmas Market Tours including **Krakow, Wroclaw** and **Kutna Hora** during November and December of this year.

The **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies will present its annual Polish Film Festival at the Little Theatre in Downtown Rochester from November 5 through 9. The festival program will be available at www.rochester.edu/College/PSC/CPCEs/ later in October ... The University of Buffalo Center for the Arts has announced that the **Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra** from Gdansk will perform at the Center on February 9, 2016.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. October 6 for the November issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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Donations to the PAJ Press Fund will be acknowledged in the paper unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Gerald V. Dajnowicz**, Detroit; **Caroline Kowalczyk**, Mineola, N.Y.; **Margaret A. Szuch-Stadler**, N. Royalton, Ohio; **Richard and Pearl Wilgosz**, Hollywood, Fla.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; and one **Friend of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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What Are You Willing to Do for Polonia's Future?

by Joseph Mikolaj Rej, Jr.

I feel it is safe to assume most people want their children and grandchildren to have a better life than theirs. While working toward that, we must attend our own needs, such as addressing retirement and estate planning. I feel most of us know these things need to get done, and know the consequences if they are not. We do these things so our wishes will be honored, and our loved ones will not be hindered.

What about our Polish community? What about our Polish organizations? Do we have a succession plan? What are you doing to keep our Polish culture, heritage, and traditions alive? Do we care about the future of our Polish community?

I am from the Buffalo, N.Y. area, a community that has over 200,000 people of Polish heritage. I can see by what is left of Buffalo's Polonia community, neither me nor my peers will experience it as it was in its heyday. My travels, networking, and involvement in organizing events, tell me I can safely say what is happening here is also taking place in other Polish-American communities throughout the country. Organizations are faced with aging and declining membership, treasured churches are being closed, iconic buildings face demolition, and long-time businesses are closing their doors.

Do we ever stop and think why is that is happening? Is our community focused on the harvest we reap or the seeds we plant? Did we eat the fruits and then fail to plant seeds for the future so they can enjoy the same fruits? Is it not right to give the next generations a better Polonia?

This was addressed by Poland's U.S. Ambassador, Ryszard Schnepf, in May 2014 at the 70th anniversary celebration of the Polish American Congress, held in Buffalo. "I have a message from Poland to the Polish Americans: we no longer need your packages. What we need is for you to support your youth, who have the energy and ambition to be involved in your businesses, your politics and your Polish organizations."

Many of you, your parents, or grandparents did send packages to Poland because relatives in Poland needed things. Well, Poland is now asking us to take care of our own Polish American youth. They are the future, and the future for greater relations with a country we all love, Poland.

Are we listening to Ambassador Schnepf? If we look around the answer is clearly "no."

Why? Did our ancestors come here and help build amazing Polish communities just for themselves, or did they want to provide a taste of home for the future as well? No matter what some people may say, I believe we have some leaders who want their Polish community to die with them. They are only interested in their titles and protecting their own legacy. Such selfish behavior has pushed active, selfless people away, and delivered less and less hope for a stronger Polish community for the future.

If we want our children and grandchildren to have a better life than ours, why aren't we willing to give them a better Polonia? Is it right to tell our younger leaders to "wait your turn"? When are the people who care about the past, present, and future going to get the support to make a difference? What happened with the mentality of *Gość w dom, Bóg w dom* (A guest in house is God in the house)? Isn't it the right thing to do — to allow all those who want to make a difference to have a seat at the table?

Recently, I attended the Polish Remembrance Mass. There were approximately 100 people in attendance. I was one of three who were under 45 years old.

What do we get from that? Some might want us to believe young people don't care. If that is the case, then why is that? Do we get mad at the ground and tree because it bears no fruit, even though we did not water and prune?

I am only 35, but I can tell you, I care. I have talked your children and grandchildren, and they care, as well. What are we doing for them? Are we planting seeds?

A few weeks ago, Buffalo's *Am-Pol Eagle* newspaper printed the headline "City to Demolish Fronczak Home." Is it possible — as a community — to save a building, when there is a mentality to not care

about the future?

We have one thing in common, and that is our Polish heritage. Think about the force 200,000-plus people of Polish heritage could have. And that is just in Buffalo. Multiply that by all the Polish Americans in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, New York, and Philadelphia ... the list goes on. We can set an example for all who take pride in their roots, if we all really cared about the future. If we were organized, we could act when another church, building, or social service faced elimination. We could vote for leaders who support closer relations with Poland.

I would like you to ask yourself: do you really care about the future of our Polish community? If so, what are you doing for it? Is your organization getting younger or old-

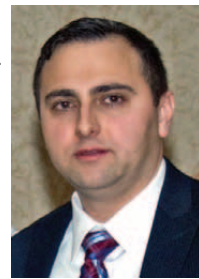
er? Are you doing anything to get new members? Are you being held accountable for our results or lack thereof? Do you have a plan?

It is time to start doing more than thinking. If nothing is done for the future, eventually no one will be going to cemeteries. No one will remember or care about the things you did, the food you loved to make, the music you loved to listen to, or care to know where your family has come from. It is time for us to change. We have no other choice. I believe losers look for excuses and winners find a solution. It is time for us to be that solution. I believe tough questions get good answers. It is time for us to ask ourselves these tough questions and only settle for nothing less than great solutions.

Those who came before you cared about you. Let's not be selfish.

We are a great people. Let's start planting seeds for a better Polonia today. I can promise you I will be grateful, as will my peers, and our future offspring. Let's give them a chance at a better Polonia.

Joseph Mikolaj Rej, Jr., is president of United Cultural Society, 501(c)3 non-profit, which organizes cultural-related events throughout the United States. His monthly Polish Happy Hour Buffalo event attracts crowds as large as 1,000 people. A successful businessman, he is a direct descendant of Mikolaj Rej, the "Father of Polish Literature."



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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Polish Thrower Gets Back his Gold



If you heard the story about the Polish hammer thrower who paid for a taxi ride with his gold medal from the World Championships, **Pawel Fajdek** (above) wants to tell you that it isn't true.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) held its World Championships in Beijing recently, and Fajdek, a hammer thrower, defended his title with a monster throw of 80.88 meters. The next day the state-run Xinhua news agency, citing Chinese news site Tencent, said that the 26-year-old had paid a taxi fare ride with the medal. It reported that Fajdek had been drinking a lot in celebrating his win that night, and had swapped his gold for a cab ride. News services around the world carried the report, but the two-time world champion took to Facebook to refute the taxi fare claim. He said that he had posed for a photograph with the driver, who then left with the medal. He criticized Chinese media for making up the story. "They wouldn't describe their own citizen as guilty because it's easier to blame it on the other side," he continued.

Fajdek contacted the police from his hotel early the next morning, and they tracked down the driver after checking surveillance tapes in that area. After about an hour, the medal was returned to Fajdek's hotel.

He went on to say that he was not drunk, but in a state of euphoria, which is what led to the confusion and subsequent loss of the medal. On his official page, Fajdek asserted that the cab driver "probably drove off with the medal unknowingly." He said that the driver was among those outside the hotel asking for photos with the gold medalist.

Almost forgotten in the controversy was Fajdek's dominance of the men's hammer this year with two throws over 80 meters. None of his rivals have gotten past the 80-meter mark this year, and Fajdek's winning streak has now been extended to 16 competitions.

THROWING POLES. Other Polish throwers besides Fajdek did well in Beijing as Poland finished sixth in the medal count. **Wojciech Nowicki** won bronze in the hammer, **Piotr Malachowski** won gold in the discus, and **Robert Urbanek** won

bronze. **Anita Wlodarczyk**, the first woman in history to throw the hammer over 80m, also won gold. Also, **Adam Kszczot** won silver in the 800-meters, **Pawel Wojciechowski** and **Piotr Lisiek** tied for the bronze in the pole vault.

American **Jenn Stuczynski Suhr** tied for fourth place in the pole vault at the World Championships after suffering a groin injury during the competition.

CANDY MAN. When you heard about former NFL defensive lineman **Mike Lodish**, it has usually been about the fact that he was the first man to play in six Super Bowls. However, both *Sports Illustrated* and *Fortune Magazine* recently featured Lodish for his new line of work — making candy.

Lodish, a native of Birmingham, Mich., was an All-Pac-10 defensive tackle at UCLA and a 10th round pick in the 1990 draft. He played for the great Buffalo Bills teams of the 1990s, mostly as a reserve. He was a member of the team that played in — and lost — four straight Super Bowls. Then he went to Denver, where he played in — and won — two straight Super Bowls.

After retiring and completing his college degree in history with a minor in business administration, Lodish went back to Birmingham and tried several new careers before deciding to produce peanut brittle based on his mother's family recipe, which went back several generations. His mom's brittle is lighter than most, with air bubbles that give it a nice crunch. He also marketed his candy as locally made and relatively health-conscious, since it's all-natural, vegan and gluten-free. Lodish's football career helps market the product, called Lodish's Champion Brittle.

All the profits go back into the company. For now, Mike's the sole full-time employee; he relies on contract workers from JLM Manufacturing, which owns the facility where his brittle is made. Lodish doesn't pay himself a salary, and currently has a side job as an account manager at Nexlink Communications. Sales are increasing steadily in Michigan, with the company selling 700 to 1,000 pounds most weeks and as many as 2,500 pounds per week during peak demand in the fall. Packages retail for \$7 per half pound.

A hard-working, tenacious "bulldog" of a man, Lodish says he learned a lot from his football days. He said that the championship defeats he suffered with the Bills let him know that nothing would come easy. "You need the disappointment in order to teach you and to test your resolve," Lodish says. "Losing four Super Bowls taught me to say, 'You know what? Don't ever give up,

keep going, there's always another day tomorrow.'"

GOING BACK HOME. ESPN recently aired a fascinating feature on Alabama kicker **Adam Griffith**, who was born **Andrzej Debowski** in Poland. Not long ago, as a 13-year-old Polish orphan, he found a new home in the United States with parents he met just two months before.

He had lived in Stargard Szczecinski, in one of the Poland's poorest provinces. His mother was an alcoholic and father was in prison, so the courts put him and his six siblings in an orphanage. He frequently ran away from the orphanage, only to be returned by police. Andrzej was featured in an adoption web site, as the agency attempted to accomplish the challenging task of getting someone to adopt a Polish teenager. Tom and Michelle Griffith, both math teachers from Georgia, were looking for a toddler when they saw the site and fell in love with Andrzej. He eventually became the only Polish teenager adopted by a U.S. citizen in 2006.

It was a tough adjustment, but he eventually settled into his new home. He took on a new name, Adam, to symbolize his new start. He had played soccer in Poland, and took to placekicking in the U.S.. He became a star kicker in high school and was heavily recruited, and went on to kick at Alabama. Still, he felt a degree of guilt for the family he left in Poland and wanted to return.

The seven-minute segment on ESPN showed the former Polish orphan returning to his homeland, reuniting him with his birth parents who had to give him up as a child. He, his adopted family, and journalist Gene Wojciechowski went to Poland with an ESPN crew for the emotional reunion.

Griffith stopped by the house he shared with family before the orphanage. With no idea what he'd find, Griffith discovered his birth parents lived there. You can check it out at *ESPN.com*.

A GREAT NIGHT FOR THE POLISH. Poland's **Krzysztof Glowacki** upset Germany's Marco Huck in Huck's bid to defend his WBO cruiserweight title a record 14-straight times. In what many proclaimed "the fight of the year," Huck (38-3-1, 26 knockouts) and Glowacki (25-0, 16 KOs) put on a great show for the national audience on American Spike TV, with both fighters suffering knockdowns. Behind on points, Glowacki put on a furious comeback, stopping his opponent at 2:39 of the 11th round. The largely Polish crowd attending the bout at the Prudential Center in Newark was overjoyed.

In all it was a great night for the Polish as junior lightweight **Kamil "Little Tyson" Laszczyk**, unbeaten middleweight **Maciej Sulecki**, and heavyweight contender **Artur Szpilka** all had impressive wins on the undercard.

A number of Polish boxers have risen to prominence in recent years, many of whom trained in the United States. The most prominent has been **Tomasz Adamek**, a former light heavyweight and cruiserweight champion who retired last year following a loss to Szpilka. However, Adamek will come back into the ring in September to face countryman **Przemyslaw Saleta** in Lodz. Other top Polish-born fighters include cruiserweights **Krzysztof Wlodarczyk** and **Mateusz Master-**



US OPEN GOES POLISH. Radwańska, Wozniacki, and Radwańska.

For the sixth year, **Polish Consul General Urszula Gacek** hosted a party for some top tennis players from Poland and of Polish descent at its Beaux Arts De Lamar Mansion in Manhattan.

The organizers invited a number of top players who are Polish or of Polish heritage. They included: **Agnieszka Radwańska** of Poland, current number five in WTA singles ranking, the 2014 US Open finalist **Caroline Wozniacki** of Denmark, the 2013 Wimbledon men's semi-finalist **Jerzy Janowicz** of Poland, the 2013 Wimbledon quarter-finalist **Lukasz Kubot** of Poland, the Australian Open 2015 women's doubles quarter-finalist **Klaudia Jans-Ignacik** of Poland as well as the 2013 Wimbledon ladies finalist **Sabine Lisicki** of Germany, **Angelique Kerber** of Germany.

Also invited were such tennis standouts as **Mariusz Fyrstenberg**, **Alicja Rosolska**, **Magda Linette**, **Marcin Matkowski** and **Urszula Radwańska** of Poland, **Aleksandra Wozniak** and **Gabriela Dabrowski** of Canada, **Dominic Inglot** of Great Britain, and **Tim Smyczek** of the United States. The master of ceremonies was former two-time Australian Open Champion Johan Kriek of South Africa. Kriek's wife, **Daga Mrozek Kriek**, was born in Poland, and was a top junior tennis player.

The party featured live music by Polish violinist Electra Kurtis, and the event was sponsored by SG Doyen LLC Strategic Consulting, Inglot Cosmetics, Amber Steak House, Żywiec Beer, Charlotte Patisserie, Donnay, and the Johan Kriek Tennis Academy.

nak, light heavyweight **Andrzej Fonfara** and heavyweight **Mariusz Wach**.

PEDDLING POLES. Last year a pair of 24-year-old Poles became major cycling stars. **Michal Kwiatkowski**, a former junior world champion time trialist, finished 28th at the Tour de France and became the world champion of elite men's road races. Unheralded **Rafal Majka** entered the Tour de France as a late substitution and finished 44th, becoming the first Pole to win the mountains classification. He then returned to his homeland to win the 2014 Tour de Pologne. A Pole hadn't won that race since Cezary Zamana in 2003.

This year Kwiatkowski and Majka were both scheduled to compete at the 2015 Tour de Pologne, and Polish fans were anxiously looking forward to it. However, Majka chose not to compete after a grueling 2015 Tour de France in which he finished 28th. Kwiatkowski, who dropped out late in the Tour de France, tried to compete in Poland despite only having about a week to recover. Eventually, Kwiatkowski was forced to withdraw in the second-last stage with stomach problems.

The Tour de France took place from July 4 through 26 in 21 stages, covering more than 2000 miles. Poles **Michal Golas** and **Bartosz Huzarski** were 95th and 108th respectively. The overall winner was Britain's Chris Froome.

The Tour de Pologne was held in seven stages from August 2 through 8, covering over 600 miles from Warsaw to Krakow. The top Polish finishers were **Tomasz Marczyński** (22nd) and **Maciej Paterski** (27th). **Maciej Bodnar** won the 4th stage (from Jaworzno to Nowy Sacz), **Marcin Bialoblocki** won the individual time trial, and Paterski captured the mountains classification. This year's TdP was won by the Spanish cyclist **Jon Izagirre**.

Despite the recent disappointment, Kwiatkowski and Majka are leading a resurgence of Polish cy-

cling. In addition, the Tour de Pologne, under the direction of former Polish cycling champion **Czeslaw Lang**, is gaining recognition as a top international competition.

DOMBROWSKI JOINS RED SOX. It didn't take former Detroit Tigers President and GM **Dave Dombrowski** long to find a new job. He was pursued by three other teams and, just two weeks after being fired, the 59-year-old Chicago native became the new president of baseball operations for the Boston Red Sox.

In 1988, Dombrowski became GM of the Expos and was at the time the youngest general manager in MLB. After rebuilding the Expos, he left to become GM of the expansion Florida Marlins and eventually led them to win the World Series in 1997. Dombrowski is considered an old-school executive who relies on scouting more than analytics. He also has a reputation as one of the sport's best negotiators, "Deal-in' Dave" came to the Tigers in 2002 and led the team to two American League pennants and four consecutive division titles.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Polish soccer player **Jakub Zablocki**, a native of Chelmno, died of a heart attack at age 31 ... In August the Oakland A's recalled outfielder **Jake Smolinski** from Triple-A Nashville ... lefty **Brian Matusz** has been very solid for Baltimore ... in the month since joining Toronto, shortstop **Troy Tulowitzki** has not only been great at the plate, but he hasn't committed an error along with 59 assists ... Tigers prospect **Kevin Zimomek** recently lost a no-hit bid with two outs in the seventh, but continues to pitch well for Class A Advanced Lakeland ... Hard-throwing right-hander **Mike Foltyniewicz**, a 2010 number one pick of Houston, was called up by Atlanta in July ... **Bob Rogucki** is in his seventh year as the Baltimore Ravens' head strength and conditioning coach ... rookie fullback **Aaron Ripkowski** made the Green Bay Packers' roster.

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A great stocking-stuffer!
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Shown actual size

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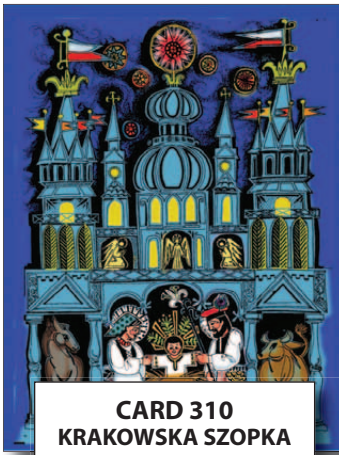


Produced by the Polanie Society — \$7.95

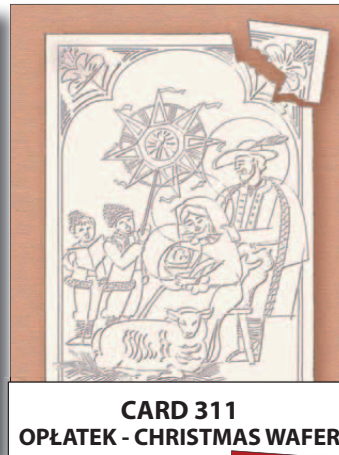
- Chica Noc
- Dzisiaj w Betlejem
- Do Szopy Hej Pasterze
- Gdy sie Chrystus Rodzi
- Lulajze Jezuniu
- Gdy Sliczna Panna
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- Wsrod Nocnej Ciszy
- Pojdzmy Wszycy do Stajenki
- Oj Maluski
- Przybiezeli Do Betlejam
- We Three Kings
- What Child is This?
- The First Noel
- Joy to the World

POLISH-ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

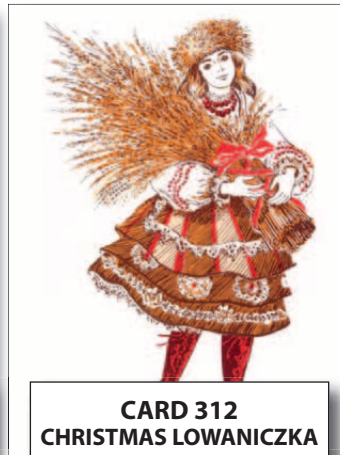
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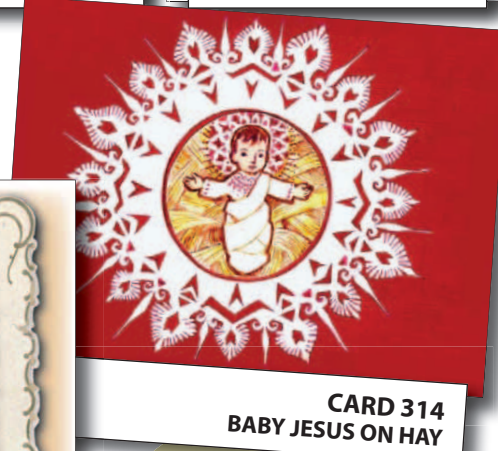
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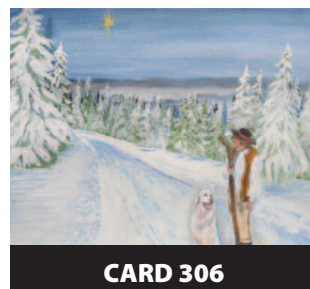
CARD 203



CARD 205



CARD 305



CARD 306



CARD 206



CARD 301



CARD 304



CARD 307



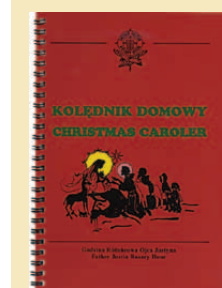
CARD 308



CARD 309

CARD ASSORTMENT 1
Two each cards 102, 103, 201, 202, 203, 205, 206, 301, 302, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, and 309. (30 cards total) plus extras
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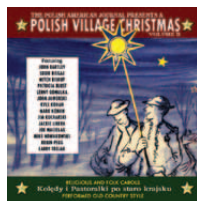


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Traditional Straw Ornaments



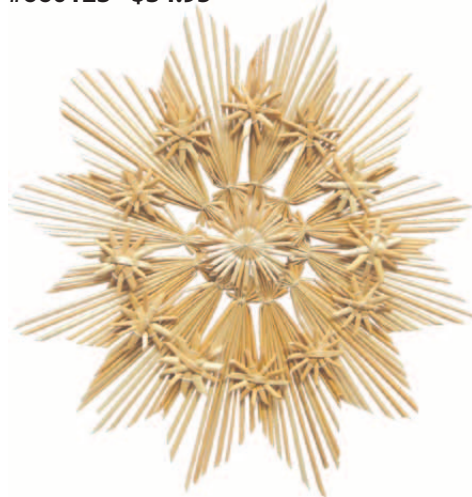
Set of 44 pieces, Glitter Stars
Ornaments measure 2" H - 2.3" H.
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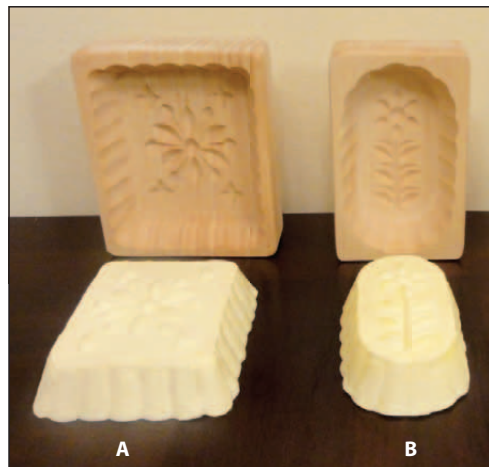


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Based on traditional Polish straw ornaments held together by string.
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This beautiful mold features popular Christmas motifs on each side: a Christmas tree, a shooting star, a candle with holly, and a fish. Measures 2.7" L x 2.7" W x 2.8" H
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Resin statue measures 7.75" H.
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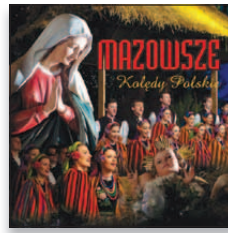


Virgin Mary: Immaculate Heart
Resin statue measures 8" H.
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Resin. Measures 5.9" H.
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Christmas Carols on CD



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19 of the most well known Christmas Carols performed by Poland's most popular folk music group
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Harfa Mens Choir - Najpiękniejsze Kolędy Polskie
These 18 Polish Christmas songs were preformed by the Harfa Men's Choir directed by Jan Węcowski. Recorded in the PWSM Concert Hall in Warsaw, February 1997.
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Bayer Full - Ida Swieta, The Holidays Are Coming
9 Polish Carols performed by the Bayer Full group. **Songs include:** *Świąteczny remix, Idą Święta, Wspaniała matka, Zimowa miłość, & more.*
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Piech & Sinski - Wesolych Swiat koledy tradycyjne
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Each set of cards displays a Polish sentiment on the inside. Designs vary, so you may not get exactly what is shown. Envelopes included.



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Polish Holidays: An Introduction
This handy introductory guide to Polish holidays provides factual information in an easy to digest packet. Contained within is information, recipes, and/or songs for the Harvest Festival, All Saints' Day, St. Nicholas' Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, Three Kings, Carnival, Fat Thursday, and Easter. SoftCover. 8.5" x 5.5", 28 pages. English.
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Polish Carols Songbook with CD
Holding on to the beautiful tradition of singing Polish Christmas carols, we give you a large collection of the most beautiful Polish carols. You will find in it lyrics and musical notes to 51 compositions.
Songs include: *Wśród nocnej ciszy, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, W żłobie leży, Anioł pasterzom mówił, Bracia patrzcie jeno, Hej, w dzień Narodzenia, & more.*
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COOKBOOKS

PIEROGI LOVE
New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food
By Casey Barber
\$19.95
Hc; 128 pp.
8.3 x 8.1 inches
Full color photographs

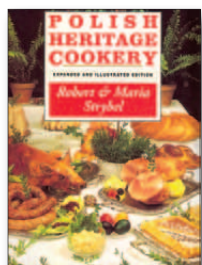


This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pie-rogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.

on the market."
— *Polish Cultural News*

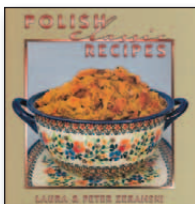
A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.



incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

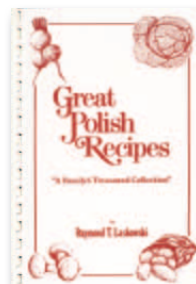
Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES



\$16.95
by *Laura and Peter Zeranski*
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by *Matthew Aron Roth*

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.



GREAT POLISH RECIPES
by *Raymond T. Laskowski*
\$10.00
Spiral bound, s.c.
62 pp., index
8.5 x 5.5 in.

Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.



POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS
\$16.95
By *Laura and Peter Zeranski*
2013, 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100

color photos
Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

POLISH CHICAGO: OUR HISTORY, OUR RECIPES

\$29.95
by *Joseph W. Zurawski*
240 pp., hc., 720 photographs
G. Bradley Pub.

Since the 1830s, millions of Poles have come to Chicago. This work recounts by vivid prose, rare photographs and poignant anecdote the amazing story of these indomitable people. The volume turns a spotlight on 36 Polish American restaurants and families who opened up their kitchens to share time-tested, delectable Polish recipes.

POLISH PIEROGI:
From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood
\$10.00 by *Eva Gerweck*, 48 pp., sc.

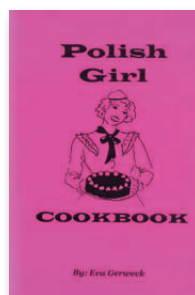
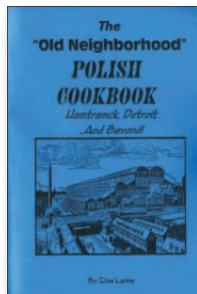
A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!



THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:

Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by *Elna Lavine*, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.



POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00 by *Eva Gerweck*, 44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

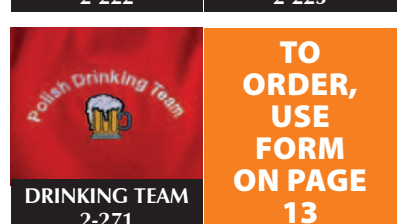
POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
\$10.00
by *Jonathan Becklar*, 44 pp., sc.

This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.



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Hanging towels. Machine embroidered designs. Useful and attractive. Red with white towel (cloth may vary).

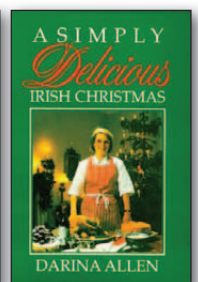


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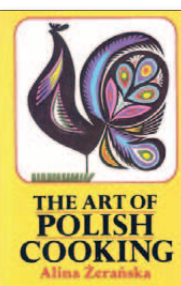
INTERNATIONAL



SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Cooking Secrets of Italian Villages
by *Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano*
Fuscaldo, 144 pp.
was \$15.95
now \$10.95



A SIMPLY DELICIOUS IRISH CHRISTMAS
by *Darina Allen*
Paperback, 100 pp.
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THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
By *Alina Zeranska*
Pub. at \$22.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95
Ethnic / Polish
384 pp.
8 1/4 x 5 1/2

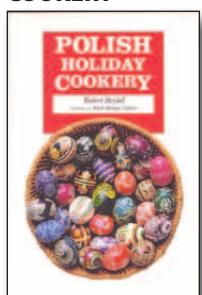
Reissued by Pelican Publ., *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

POLISH HERITAGE COOKERY

by *Robert Strybel*
\$49.95
h.c. 900 pp.
7.25 x 9.50 in.
Expanded Edition, ill. and full color photographs
"Polish Heritage Cookery is the best Polish cookbook printed in English

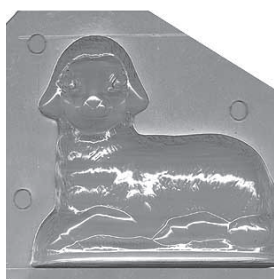
POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY

\$24.95
by *Robert Strybel*
248 pp., hc., Hippocrene Bks.
Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their



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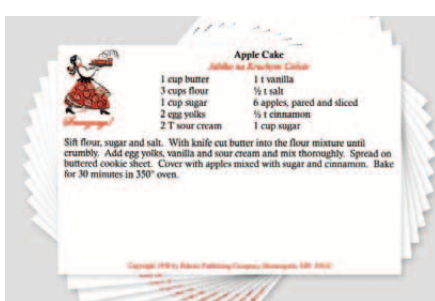
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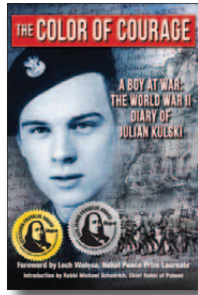
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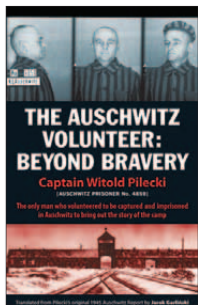
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NEW! THE COLOR OF COURAGE
A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski
Paperback by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012

496 pp., 6" x 9", pb,
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.



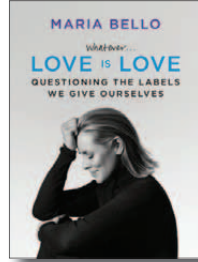
NEW! THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER
by Witold Pilecki
Translated by Jarek Garlinski
\$34.95
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., 6" x 9", pb,

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."

AMERICAN ORIGINALS
Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play
Editor: Timothy Borden
Pb. 258 pp.
The University of Toledo Press
9 x 6 inches
\$22.95

American Originals, an anthology of stories from Toledo Polonia will prove to be a favorite on any bookshelf devoted to the Polish-American experience. Eleven chapters discuss aspects of what makes Toledo's Polish community unique, such as the polka traditions, weddings, foods, neighborhoods, and culture. Importantly, American Originals provides an overview of the assimilation of the Poles into Toledo.

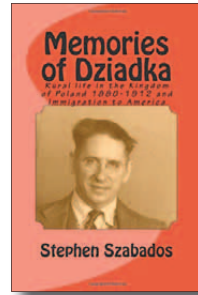
The University of Toledo Press published American Originals as part of its series on the various ethnic groups who settled in Toledo. Previous titles include Hungarian American Toledo, The Irish in Toledo, and Aran Americans in Toledo.



NEW! LOVE IS LOVE
List price \$25.95
PAJ Bookstore price \$19.95
By Maria Bello
240 pages, 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.2 inches
Dey Street Books, 2015

The daughter of a working-class Roman Catholic Italian American father and Polish American mother, Mario Bello majored in political science at Villanova University. Following graduation, she honed her acting skills in a number of New York theater productions before moving on to become one of today's most successful actresses. Bello speaks often and highly of the influence her Polish American grandmother had on her.

In 2013, Bello was recovering from a life-threatening illness when she made a discovery that changed her life: She was in love with her best friend, a woman named Clare. In her new book, she examines the myths that so many believe about partnerships. She explores how many different relationships helped define her life.



MEMORIES OF DZIADKA
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95

pb. 134 pp.
6 x 9 inches

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95 / 128 pp., pb.

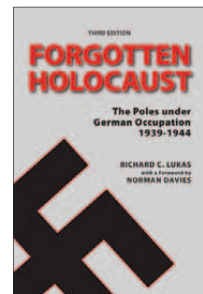
This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample docu-

ments, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.



POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95
164 pp., pb.

This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
\$19.95
358 pp. pb.
Hippocrene Books.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

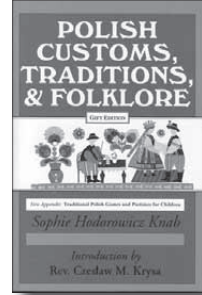


LAROUSSE POCKET POLISH-ENGLISH/ENGLISH-POLISH DICTIONARY
by Larousse
Published at \$6.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$5.50

608 pp. pb.
For anyone speaking, reading, or studying, the Larousse Pocket Dictionary is the ideal dictionary for everyday

use. With its handy, portable, paperback format, great price and clear, easy-to-use layout it's filled with up-to-date vocabulary in all subject areas.

55,000 words and phrases and more than 80,000 translations; hundreds of usage examples; abbreviations, acronyms, and proper nouns.



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE
\$16.95
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., pb.
Hippocrene Books

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



NEW! MY WAGGING TAIL
by Stanley Bednarczyk
\$19.95
476 pp., p.b.

There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of growing up in Camden, N.J. as the son of Polish immigrants (and the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier. "A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, *Polish American Journal*).



BE NOT AFRAID
by Heather Kirk
\$19.95
Borealis Press,
276 pp., pb.

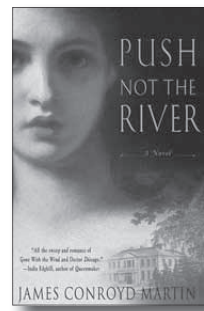
Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? *Be Not Afraid* is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It

killed no one.



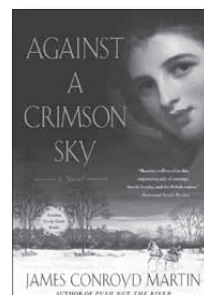
BOCHEK IN POLAND
\$11.95
54 pp., Polonie Publishing

A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



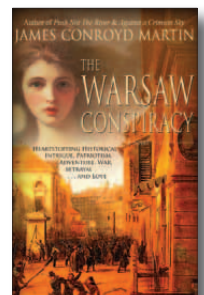
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press.
496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's *Gone with the Wind*."



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
\$15.95
St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

"You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY
Hussar Quill Press,
508 pp., pb.
\$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

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STAMFORD, Conn. — The Polish American Cultural Society (PACS) recently awarded scholarships to five students of Polish descent. Pictured (l. to r.) are President Jerzy Karwowski, Blazej Pulawski, Monika Znosko, Father Damian Pielesz, Alexandra Pasciak, Konrad Wasniewski and Chairman Patricia Koproski. Missing from the photo is Rafal Bierezowicz.

Bierezowicz, Pulawski, and Wasniewski will attend UConn. Pasciak will attend Elon University, and Znosko will attend Boston College. The students were selected for their academic performance, financial need and service to the Polish community.

The Polish American Cultural Society has been awarding scholarships since 1973.

"Walking" on a Washington Street



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

The bronze sculpture *Walking Figures* prominently displayed on New York Avenue, NW adjacent to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in our nation's capital.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As you stroll along, or drive on, the 1200 block of New York Avenue, NW just a few blocks east of the White House, you cannot help but notice an amazing sculpture displayed prominently on the street's wide, raised and landscaped median strip: *Walking Figures* (2009), a presentation of 10 headless figures sculpted by internationally acclaimed artist Magdalena Abakanowicz.

Each of the separately shell-cast bronze figures is several feet tall featuring unique bas-relief surfaces resembling rough tree bark, maybe even a much wrinkled face (said one critic), or possibly an exposed network of human anatomy. Whatever your take on it is, Abakanowicz has employed a clever technique granting individuality to each faceless torso. She also separated the identity of the figures by casting them in varying hues, and sculpting different sizes and shapes for their correspondingly large toed-foet.

In addition to the centerpiece *Walking Figures*, and anchoring each end of the New York Avenue Sculpture Project — NYASP, are two other works by Abakanowicz: *The Second Never Seen Figure On Beam with Wheels* (2001), and *Stainless Steel Bird on a Pole II* (2009) consisting of 3 separate large stylized birds: one flying east, two flying west. "Abakanowicz's monumental bronzes represent human figures and her dynamic stainless steel birds in flight exemplify universal issues: the power of nature, the force of destruction and the resiliency of hope" says the National

Museum of Women in the Arts statement.

The NYASP is mainly sponsored by the aforementioned and physically juxtaposed National Museum, along with other Washington agencies. It rotates the creations of contemporary women artists on an annual basis. Abakanowicz's work is the third such art installation to date on the Avenue.

Abakanowicz was born in Falenty, Poland (near Warsaw) on June 20, 1930. She attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw 1950-54, and is an expressionist extraordinaire working in many diverse mediums that include architecture, painting, sculpture, textiles and clothing over the past 60 years. Her work has been featured in over 40 solo exhibits worldwide, and honored with numerous awards.

"Abakanowicz's art is affected by her experiences in Poland under Nazi and Soviet occupation during World War II and its aftermath," says a short bio posted by the Museum, aimed to appreciate the artist's expressionism. "Although she draws inspiration from her autobiography, her sculptures possess an ambiguity that encourages multiple interpretations, speaking broadly to human experience."

Abakanowicz, 85, lives in Warsaw and continues to pursue a passionate affair with her ever-expanding expressionism in the arts.

*Dzień Urszula jak,
cała zima tak.
As on St. Ursula's
(Oct. 21), so all the winter.*

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Fall Favorites for Home or Tailgating

SAUERKRAUT

(*kapuśniak*). Prepare stock by cooking ½-¾ lbs meaty pork bones in 8 c water 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 2 t salt, 2 carrots, 1 stalk celery 1 onion, 2 bay leaves, 6 grains allspice and 10 peppercorns and cook until meat comes away from bone. Drain 1 qt sauerkraut (reserving juice), rinse in cold water, drain, pressing out moisture, chop and add to strained stock. Cook on med heat uncovered 30 min. Dice meat from bones, and add to pot then reduce heat and cook covered until sauerkraut is very tender. In skillet fry up 4 slices diced bacon with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and simmer until browned, stirring constantly. Dilute with several T soup and stir into a smooth paste. Add to pot, stir and simmer several more min. If soup is not as tart as you like, add some reserved sauerkraut liquid. Salt & pepper to taste. A t sugar and ½ t caraway seeds may be added.

SOUP

(*czernina*). Place the cleaned giblets (make sure to cut open the gizzard and remove any semi-digested grain lodged therein!), neck, wings and rump of 1 duck or goose and ¼ lb pork ribs in pot containing 7 c water and cook 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 portion soup greens, 1 bay leaf, 2 cloves 2 grains allspice and several peppercorns and cook until meat and vegetables are tender. Strain. Remove any meat attached to bones, dice giblets and return to stock. Add ½ c or more pitted prunes, ½ c diced dried apples and ½ c raisins and cook until fruit is tender. Remove from flame. Fork-blend blood of duck or goose (containing several T vinegar to prevent coagulation) with 1 T flour and stir into soup. Simmer briefly. Adjust to taste with a little salt, sugar, vinegar. Serve over egg-noodle squares or other egg noodles, potato dumplings or diced cooked potatoes. Roast the wingless, rumpless duck according to roast duck with apples recipe (below).

ROAST PORK WITH PRUNES

(*pieczeń wieprzowa ze śliwkami*). Rub a 4-5 lb tied, rolled, boneless pork shoulder roast all over with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1-2 buds crushed garlic. Place on rack in roasting pan and roast in 325° oven about 25 min per pound, basting occasionally. To drippings in pan add 3 quartered onions and 1-2 c unpit-

ted prunes, and baste meat with ½ c dark beer. Bake until meat is fork-tender. Serve with rice, mashed or boiled potatoes and a grated carrot, apple & horseradish salad (see below).

GRATED CARROT/APPLE/HORSERADISH SALAD.

Combine 4 washed, peeled finely grated carrots with 2-3 peeled, cored, coarsely grated apples. Sprinkle with lemon juice, toss and stir in 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with salt (sparingly), sugar and lemon juice. Lace with 2 heaping T sour cream or 1 T sour cream and 1 T mayonnaise.

ROAST DUCK WITH APPLES

(*kaczka pieczona z jablkami*). Wash a 4-5 lb duck and pat dry. Rub inside and out with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 bud crushed garlic. Let stand in covered roasting pan at room temp 2 hrs. Stuff tightly with unpeeled, cored quarters of tart cooking apples. Sew up duck's neck and tail openings. Place duck on rack in roasting pan and roast in preheated 450°-500° oven 10-15 min, turning over to sear on all sides. Reduce to 350°-375°, sprinkle with 2 T water, prick with fork to release fat and roast 90-120 min or until fork tender. Baste with pan drippings frequently. Since the apple stuffing shrinks considerably, prepare additional apples on the side. Place 2-3 additional, peeled apple quarters in a separate baking pan, drench with several T duck pan drippings, sprinkle with marjoram and bake in same oven the last 45 min. Mix separately cooked apples with those with which the duck was stuffed and serve in serving dish.

BREADED PORK CUTLETS

(*kotlety schabowe*). This is nearly everyone's favorite! Cut bones away six center-cut pork chops or slice

boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick. Pound with meat mallet on both sides until ¼" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately. Serve with boiled or mashed potatoes and sauerkraut (see below).

STEWED SAUERKRAUT

(*kapusta duszona*). Rinse 2 qts sauerkraut in a pot of cold water, transfer to colander and press out moisture. Chop coarsely, place in pot scald with 3 c boiling water, bring to boil and cook uncovered 15 min. Add 1 bay leaf, cover and cook on med-low 30 min. Add 1 mushroom bouillon cube and ½ t caraway seeds (optional). Dice and fry ¼ lb pork fatback or bacon. When pale-golden add a chopped onion and simmer until browned. Stir in 1 heaping T flour, brown lightly and add to sauerkraut.

POLISH PLUM CAKE

(*placek ze śliwkami*). Beat ½ c butter and 1 c sugar until smooth (about 2 min). Continue beating, adding 2 eggs 1 at a time. Mix 2 c flour with 2 t baking powder and ¼ t salt and sift into bowl. Gradually stir in the butter-sugar-egg mixture, ½ t vanilla extract and ¾ c milk, beating the whole time until smooth. Transfer dough to greased square or rectangular baking pan. Top dough with ripe Italian plum halves (*wegierki*) cut-side-up and sprinkle with a pinch of cinnamon. Dot with about 2 T cold butter and bake in preheated 350° oven about 40-45 min, or until inserted wooden pick comes out clean. You may dust with confectioner's sugar.

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"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" Psalm 150:6

Pro Arte League Celebrates 45th Anniversary

NEW YORK — The artistic, historic and literary aspects of the Kosciuszko Foundation have been met for 45 years by the continuous efforts of the officers and members of the Pro Arte League.

Established in 1970 by Wanda Senko and Krystyna Kusielewicz, the Pro Arte League has continuously put forth great effort in engaging and broadening the interest of the public at large. The volunteer members are the key component in the many years of the KF Townhouse restoration, especially in the richness of restoring the KFs Gallery's classic art collection.

Current League officers are: Misia Pyka Laskowski (pres.); Danuta Garlitski (v.p.); Teresa Wroblewski (treas.); Justyna Wroblewski (rec. sec.); and Aleksandra Mencil (corr. sec.).



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CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

Cross-Culture Warsaw Festival

The 11th Cross-Culture Festival is a tale about artists so passionate about music, that it becomes the essence of their lives. Warsaw will owe the pleasure of hosting great ethno-music stars from Iran, Nigeria, Mauritania, South Korea, Pakistan and Turkey. The Festival will be a week long, lasting September 21-27.

"Once again, the tent in front of the Palace of Culture will vibrate with the sounds of music from all over the world," said **Andrzej Matusiak**, director of Stołeczna Estrada, who has been organizing the Cross-Culture Festival for over a decade. "Last year, we celebrated our 10th anniversary. This year we are extending the form of our festival, we are adding up new sections and concerts and getting to new locations, as some of the events will be hosted in the most popular music clubs in Warsaw.

"The stars of Afrobeat will get us into energetic trance. For the first time in the history of the Cross-Culture Festival, Tajik artists will perform, presenting various types of music and dances, which have been practised in their families and tribes for years and which are preserved with almost no change. Our concert menu will be completed with several female figures, all being exceptional artists who often had to go against the will of their families and communities, in order to pursue their musical passion," said Matusiak.

"11 MINUTES" AT VENICE FILM FESTIVAL. The latest film from Jerzy Skolimowski – *11 Minutes* will fight for the Golden Lion in the main competition of this year's Venice Film Festival.

The movie is out five years after his *Essentials Killing*, a spectacular drama with Vincent Galo.

11 Minutes is a contemporary drama with Andrzej Chyra, Agata Buzek, Piotr Głowacki and Jan Nowicki. Since the director has not disclosed details of the plot, little is known about what the movie is about. The movie, whose budget was 9 million zloty (about \$2.4 million USD), is to be released this year.

THE AUTOR ROOMS IN WARSAW. The Autor Rooms, a hotel recently opened in Warsaw, has only four rooms. The place, situated in a townhouse on 17 Lwowska St. was designed by architect Mateusz Baumiller.

There's no television in the rooms, instead, the interiors are filled with book collections in different languages and CDs. The hotel was created by Mamastudio, a Warsaw-based studio of visual design. One of the hotel's purposes is to attract customers who, while staying in the city, want to have a close contact with artists and designers. Some furnishings can be purchased on site.

Polish Opera Comes to Detroit

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Mieczysław Weinberger's critically acclaimed opera, "The Passenger," will be performed at the Michigan Opera Theatre in downtown Detroit on November 14, 18, 21, and 22, 2015. "The Passenger" is based on a 1968 adaptation of a 1959 Polish radio play and later a novel by **Zofia Posmycz**, a Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz.

The published synopsis of the opera states: "Aboard an ocean liner in the early 1960s, a West German diplomat, Walter, and his wife, Liese, are bound for a new posting in Brazil. But unbeknownst to her husband, Liese served as an SS officer in Auschwitz. Haunted by her past, she is stunned when she thinks she recognizes a fellow passenger; is it really Marta, her former prisoner?...The action moves between two realms – from the pristine white deck of a luxury liner above to the dark horrors of the death camp below....Guilt and denial, lies and truth, fear and courage, and love – it's all here in an artistic and emotional experience you'll never forget."

"The Passenger" received its American premiere at the Houston Grand Opera in February 2014, but was staged for the first time in 2010 at Austria's Bregenz Festival, then again in Warsaw and London. It was performed at the Lyric Opera Chicago from February 24 – March 25, 2015. It is performed in multiple languages: Polish, Czech, German, Yiddish, Greek, French, and English.

"The Passenger" is a haunting and powerful opera that tells the story of one woman's courage, hope, and resilience. Critics have called it "deeply moving" and "heartbreakingly beautiful."

Flanagan's Dedication Cited



Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki (left), and Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski, with Mary Flanagan and her husband, Robert.

by Marion V. Winters

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — On Sunday, August 23, 2015, the "Pride of Polonia" award for 2015 was presented to Mary Flanagan after a Mass, during which Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y. presided, along with twelve additional priests.

Bishop Zglejszewski and Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki of St. Joseph Basilica, Webster, Mass., presented the distinguished award to Flanagan at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown.

The annual Pride of Polonia Award is given by the National Polish Apostolate Committee to an individual whose cultural, educational and charitable activities benefit the life of Polonia.

Mary Eleanor Witkowski-Flanagan (nee Lubienski) was born in Detroit, Mich. She holds a BA in Art History and an MA in Art History and City Planning. The thesis for the latter was on the Rebuilding of Old Town Warsaw after World War II.

Professionally, Flanagan worked as a congressional aide to former Congressmen Lucien N. Nedzi, John D. Dingell of Michigan, and Henry Nowak of New York. All are of Polish descent, proud of their heritage and voted in support of Polish issues and attended many Polish functions or sent Flanagan to represent them.

After retiring from "The Hill," she and her husband started a publishing and design business. They edited and published several newsletters for many years, which included those for the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), the Polish American Arts Association, and Friends of John Paul II Foundation. They also published and designed programs, ads and artistic decorations for the various functions of

these eminent organizations.

As president of the Polish American Arts Association (Washington, D.C.), Flanagan arranged a reception and display for several days of the traveling exhibit of contemporary works of Polish artists to raise funds for the School for the Blind in Laski, Poland. As president of the local Polish American Congress (PAC), she arranged a parade in Washington, D.C. in honor of Pulaski. Thanks to her fund raising efforts, the 40 foot mural by Jan de Rosen in one of Pittsburgh's Catholic churches, which was being closed, was saved and moved to Doylestown in St. Anne's Chapel adjacent to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. This spirited Polonian also authored the biography of famed Polish American Jan Henryk de Rosen, titled "With Paintbrush And Sword."

Flanagan has served on the Boards of Polish American organizations including president of local Polish American Congress, Polish American Arts Assoc., and Friends of John Paul II Foundation in Rome. She served on the Committee of Five, headed by John Cardinal Krol and Congressman Clement Zablocki to raise funds in the U.S. for the Polish Home in Rome as a gift to the newly elected Pope John Paul II. In all, \$6 million was raised worldwide.

Among her many awards, Flanagan was given the honor of Knight Commander of St. Sylvester by Pope John Paul II, and the Cavalier's Cross by the Polish Government. A long-time supporter of the Polish Seminary at Orchard Lake, Mich., and of their Polish Mission, at which she is a "Conservator" donor of two Polish Panorama figures: Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński and Stefan Batory.

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POLONIA PLACES

GREGORY L. WITUL

Polish Home of Houston

103 Cooper Road
Houston, Texas
Status: Closed

This month marks the 180th anniversary of the start of the Texas Revolution. Although fought 20 years before the settlement of Panna Maria, there were a number of Poles who gave their lives for the Texas cause. John Kornicky, Francis and Adolph Petruszewicz, and Joseph Schrusnecki were all killed at Goliad, and Felix Wardzinski saw action at the Battle of San Jacinto. With such a deep legacy in the Lone Star State it should come as no surprise that Houston once had its own Polish Home.

The roots of Houston's Polish Home began in 1891 with the formation of the Polish Social Club. This organization of eight Polish

Americans soon joined the Polish National Alliance and became the Kosciuszko Lodge 165. The lodge held its meetings at members' homes and functions at rented halls. As it grew, so too did the greater Polish American community of Houston. In 1918, Dr. Stefan Wagner Mieczkowski, a real estate developer, and the Kazmierowski family of builders began campaigning to create a "Polski Dom" for the city. The community was able to raise and borrow a total of \$1,200 for the venture. On June 2, 1918, the two-story wooden structure at the corner of White Oak Drive and Studewood Street was formally opened. One of the unique features of the first Polish Home was that much of the first floor was left open to be used as a stable for horses and a garage for carriages and later cars.

With a building dedicated to the Polish people, the Kosciuszko Lodge used the Home for its meetings and civic events. Soon other groups were formed, including the Polonia Society and the Polish Women's Group and the Home became a bustling center of Polish activity. These groups worked to-

gether to put on May Fests, Easter parties, and Christmas dinners. In April of 1925, the three organizations drafted a constitution for the Polish Home and a framework for everyone to live by. To help with the cause, the Polonia Society donated two lots of land to the Home. This constitution helped steer the Home through the Depression and the Second World War. In 1950, the "Polski Dom" was incorporated and legally became the Polish Home, Inc.

Shortly after celebrating the Millennium of Polish Christianity, the Home purchased five acres on Cooper Road in north Houston with plans for a new building. Club member Bruno J. Maciejewski prepared the plans for a 16,200 square foot facility with two dance floors, three meeting rooms, a bar, a children's room, a full kitchen, club rooms, offices, and more. On July 28, 1974 the new Polish Home was opened with a grand celebration including a Polish Mass, proclamations read from Governor Briscoe and Mayor Hofheinz, and a banquet of Polish food and Texas BBQ.

After the opening, the Home hosted Friday night dances, visiting



The first Polish Home at 2706 White Oak Drive, shortly after opening in 1918.

dignitaries, and scores of parties. But as more families assimilated and social organizations became less important in people's lives, the Home saw a decline in membership. By the mid 2000s, it became clear to the board that they could no longer sustain the large facility. A large par-

ty was held for the 80th anniversary of the Home but shortly thereafter the Polish Home was closed and the building was put up for sale. It sold on February 26, 2007 to a Pentecostal congregation, ending a chapter of Polish culture in the Bayou City.



The newly completed Polish Home at 103 Cooper Road in early 1974.



A streetside view of 103 Cooper from 2014.

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Pilgrims Prepare for World Youth Day

by Jessica Kisluk

AKRON, N.Y. — Members of St. John's Pilgrims for Poland attended a retreat at Camp Turner in Allegany State Park to help them

prepare for World Youth Day in Poland next year.

Camp Turner is a summer camp for youth seven to sixteen years old that is run by the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo.

Members from St. John the Baptist, who participated were: Julia Wrest, Catherine Kisluk, Christine Garas, Jessica Kisluk, Michelle Kisluk, and Jean Czerniak.

During the weekend, participants discussed how to prepare for their pilgrimage physically and spiritually. They took a hike to test the endurance that will be needed to walk almost 10 miles daily in Poland. There were many group sessions where participants had a chance to meet new people and discuss their preparations. Father Matt Nycz also shared a lot of information about the history of Poland, St. John Paul II, Sister Faustina, the Divine Mercy painting, and relics. Participants had the opportunity to venerate a relic of St. John Paul II. At night, participants attended a bonfire and prepared to sleep under the stars, which will be happening one night during the World Youth Day festivities next year.

Donations to offset the group's cost of attending World Youth Day can be made by contacting Michelle Kisluk at skisluk@rochester.rr.com or by calling (716) 983-5084.



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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

Talk to the Care-givers Now, Not Tomorrow

We all have family stories that give insights into the lives of our ancestors. Some are entertaining and others are more historical in nature. Many others are celebrations of our ethnic and cultural heritage. Pieces of these stories are lost as families pass them down from generation to generation. Writing a family history will save them for many generations.

A great deal of family history is passed down orally and it is critical that it be saved as soon as possible once you begin your genealogy research. Most of these stories come from our older relatives and we need to interview our older relatives as early as possible to capture these stories because the memories of our older relatives are at risk of being lost.

One important person who should be a priority is the descendant of the care-giver for your immigrant ancestors. The care-giver is the person who took care of their elderly parents before they died. When their parents died, the care-giver usually was the person in charge of making the final arrangements and they saved the family bibles, immigration papers and letters from the old country.

Contact your relatives now to arrange visits. Try to schedule the visits for dates in the near-term. Tomorrow may be too late. I have had three relatives die within three months after my visit but another

relative died six days before we were to meet. For this last visit, we waited three months for the meeting to coincide with a previously scheduled trip. Do not wait like I did, meet with your relatives as soon as you can.

Prepare for your interview by developing a list of topics to cover. Organize your research by putting your documents and pictures in ring binders or folders to show your relatives. Reviewing your research with your relative will help establish rapport and help them recall the family history that they have in their subconscious.

Remember that memories often fade and facts get confused with other facts. The information you obtain through oral interviews must be taken at face value. Some of the facts may not seem accurate but remember that some parts are probably true. You should include the entire story and add your concerns. Future researchers may be able to find facts that sort out your concerns and resolve the problem.

To save your family history, talk to your relatives now. Do not wait; tomorrow may be too late.

Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

"Cut-a-Louse-Key" or Anglo-mangling

Ever since the first significant numbers of Polish immigrants began arriving in America in the latter half of the 19th century, many of them came into contact with a hitherto unknown situation which we might refer to as "Anglo-mangling." Back in the Old country Nowak was NO-vahk, Przybyszewski was Pszi-bi-SHEF-ski and Borecki was Bo-RET-ski. Now, all of a sudden they were being called things like NO-whack, Priz-bi-SOO-ski and Bo-REK-ee.

When Mrs. Strzyżewski's turn came up, the receptionist in the doctor's waiting room might say: "Mrs. Stirs..., Striz., Strish...how DO you pronounce it?" Time and again they would be asked: "Could you spell it?" In the army the drill sergeant would shout out to PFC Czyżykiewicz: "Hey alphabet, get your butt over here!" In public school little Johnny Dombkowski would be taunted with things like "Does your dumb cow ski?" People with names like Brzoszkiweicz, Baraniak and Byczyński often ended up being called "Mr. B." And a John Przybysz was sometimes humorously referred to as "Johns needs some vowels."

Many PolAms meekly accepted the distorted version of their family names. But whenever he heard her last name mispronounced, Chicago bank employee Cynthia Wróblewski would reply: "Rob a loose key? Hell, I wouldn't even rob a tight key!" The Anglo-mangler often turned red and muttered. "You mean that's not how it's pronounced?" She then patiently explained: "It's vroob-LESS-key. Everyone can pronounce that."

Polish immigrants and their U.S.-born descendants dealt with the problem in a variety of ways.

Some corrected the Anglo-manglers: "Its MA-CUFF-ski (Makowski), not Ma-COW-ski! But what if the name was Chrzęszczykiewicz or Szczębrzeszyński?!"

Although to the Polish ear, names ending in -ski have traditionally had a classy, ennobling ring to them, in America to many it was only an added headache. Some PolAms shortened their names without obliterating their ethnic origin so Bednarkiewicz became Bednarek, Kołodziejczak got trimmed down to Kołodziej and Nowakowski to Nowak.

Many PolAms meekly accepted the distorted version of their family names.

At times, Polish surnames were respelled to make them more pronounceable. For instance, since the letters "j", "w", "ch", "cz" and "sz" were pronounced differently in Polish and English names such as Jabłoński, Chomiński, Czajka, Wittek and Szymański were respelled as Yablonski, Hominski, Chayka, Vitek and and Shymanski. Those with the nasal vowels ("ą" or "ę") were often respelled from Bąkowski and Dębkowski to Bonkoski and Demboski. Incidentally, dropping the "w" from the "-kowski" ending got rid of the "cow." Without the "w" Makowski, Borkowski and Lubkowski came out sounding exactly as they should: Makoski, Borkoski and Lubkoski.

Then there were those who chose a similar-meaning equivalent. Nowak, Zimiński, Lato, Bednarski, Pietrzak, Andrzejewski, Kwiatek, Mikołajczyk, Piekarski, and Szymczak became Newman, Winters, Summers, Cooper, Baker,

Peters, Andrews, Flowers, Nicholson, Baker and Simpson. There were also similar-sounding choices. In this group Szutkowski > Sutter, Kupczak > Cooper, Rogacz > Rogers, Obyrcki > O'Brien and Malarczyk > Mallory.

To end things on a positive note, probably the best off are those who didn't have to do a thing about how they are called. Surnames such as Adamiak, Bosak, Dobek, Duda, Dudek, Klepka, Kudela, Sobek and (with the exception of the trilled "r") Borsuk, Krata, Kurek, and Rudek are pronounced almost identically in both languages.

WORDS OF WISDOM Jak zwał, tak zwał!

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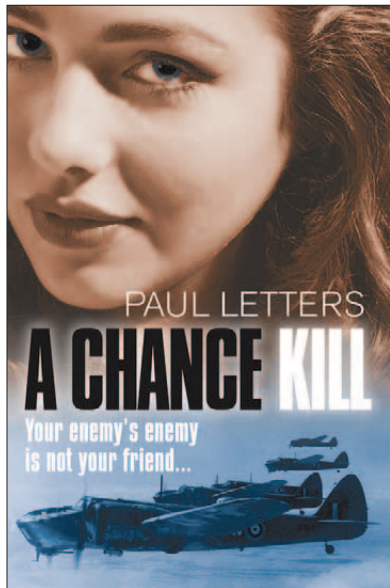
by Paul Letters
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Brought together and then thrown apart by war, Dyta Zając and Tom Hubbard must fight against the forces that separate them. Dyta, only seventeen years old, must leave her family behind in Warsaw because of her family's connection to the Polish resistance movement. Tom, a young pilot in the Royal Air Force, is a reluctant fighter bound by loyalty.

In 1939, Dyta is sent away from Warsaw to live in Paris where she finds part-time work keeping house for a portrait painter. Soon after, she learns the horrible fate of her father at the hands of an SS officer's brutal interrogation. Spurred on by the city's apparent surrender in 1940, Dyta travels through France and boards a boat to Britain where she meets Tom, a British pilot. Despite the language barriers they become very close and Tom arranges for Dyta to stay with one of his friends.

While in England, Dyta begins working for the Polish government-in-exile, at first translating German newspaper reports then private communications to and from the Czechoslovakian government-in-exile. Eager to avenge her father's death, she participates in secret training to become a spy, learning how to use firearms, how to blend in a crowd, and how to kill someone if necessary. Tom, in contrast, is haunted by the crash he survived after being shot down during an early British offensive. He is an unenthusiastic participant in the war, driven by the need to do his part for his family and country.

A Chance Kill is filled with expertly composed fast-paced, action-



packed scenes, but Letters is also skilled in writing descriptive passages. The excerpt below concerning Dyta's experience in Paris is typical of his writing style.

"She busied herself in the city's heart and forged characterful but uncertain routes for her errands, reassured by the steadfast beacon of La Tour Eiffel. After the warm colors retreated, Paris moved through sepia shades and then bitter white. Winter had extended into April and flower buds still resisted bloom."

A Chance Kill by Paul Letters is available on Amazon.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Originally from England, Paul Letters now lives and works in Hong Kong as a freelance journalist. He regularly writes for the *South China Morning Post* and Radio Television Hong Kong. Paul has attended the University of Wales, Oxford University, and Hong Kong University where he studied History, Education, and Literary Journalism. *A Chance Kill* is his debut novel and Letters is currently working on a story about the mass escape from Hong Kong during World War II.

The Remarkable Story of Elizabeth Frankowski

For the Baby Boomer generation, the concept of Polish American heritage is often far removed from the experience of living in Poland, whether in good times or bad. My grandparents, for example, traveled to America in the early 1900s, met and married in the ethnic enclave known as Old North Dayton, and settled down and started a family well before World War I.

When I was growing up, my father told stories typical of a first-generation Pol Am, such as how he fought with the Lithuanians and Hungarians in the neighborhood due to cultural differences, or the time when my grandfather won a first raffle prize of a live pig at a neighborhood bar. How I thrilled to hear Dad talk about his mother, my grandmother, fattening up the pig for its inevitable end as the meat the family lived on for months to come.

Stories such as these are quaint by today's standards, and difficult to envision in our plugged-in society, where true cultural activities may take a back seat to connecting with others electronically. Thus, it was an unexpected pleasure to have the privilege of attending a very special event on Tuesday, September 1st at the West Toledo Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, when long-time Toledo resident Elizabeth Frankowski was the guest of honor at a reception honoring the story of her life during World War II.

The reason for the reception was the digitization of Frankowski's diary, self-titled *Tears of Faith*. In it, the 88-year-old Frankowski wrote of her experiences after the Soviets invaded Poland in 1939. Although her family saw its share of death, including the death of her father when her mother was just weeks away from delivering a baby, Frankowski, her mother, and several of her siblings managed to survive. She wrote of her experiences in Polish, and illustrated much of it with her own drawings.

"Stalin's holocaust is one area where so much more needs to be told."

— Elizabeth Frankowski

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library recently obtained a new digitization lab, and Director Clyde Scoles provided opening remarks about Frankowski's remarkable story and the value of technology in telling it. In a combination of technology and history and memory, Frankowski's diary is now available for public viewing.

After Scoles spoke, U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who has long-standing roots in the Toledo Polish community, started to talk about how she first met Frankowski. She had gotten an invitation to meet her at her home, which sits on a pristine lot in a quiet West To-



ELIZABETH FRANKOWSKI, right, 88, right, gives Representative Marcy Kaptur (D - OH), left, a hug during a reception to honor Frankowski and to present her childhood Polish diary, which the library has digitized at the West Toledo Branch Library on September 3, 2015.

ledo neighborhood, with the assistance from members of Toledo Sister Cities International. Kaptur discussed how Frankowski instructed her to "go to the drawer and get a Ziploc bag." Perplexed, Kaptur, did as her hostess said. Next Frankowski said "see that book," and pointing to a cloth covered edition, said "that's a diary."

And thus began the journey of the book from her kitchen to the library's lab. Frankowski wrote the book after what was left of her family and she were relocated to Iran in 1942 after liberation from the camps. At the conclusion of Kaptur's remarks, Frankowski addressed the packed house. At 88 years old, she spoke eloquently and clearly about her experiences and horrors as if they happened yesterday.

"Many things about the war are known, but many more are still hidden," she said, bringing tears to the eyes of some in the audience. "Stalin's holocaust is one area where so much more needs to be told."

"What got us through was faith. Seventy-five percent of the people died." As she spoke, the appropriately titled *Tears of Faith* was held up for those in the crowd to see.

As the crowd broke into applause and a soulful rendition of "Sto lat," Frankowski's children and grandchildren who were present came up and presented her with flowers. Others who addressed the crowd in acknowledgment of her bravery were Toledo City Councilman Tom Waniewski, and Toledo-Poznan Alliance leader Tom Sorosiak.

To read *Tears of Faith* in its entirety, and also to hear an oral history, go to <http://toledolibrary.org/frankowskidiary>.

POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

Poland is Reborn

A few months before the outbreak of the First World War, Polish socialist leader Józef Piłsudski predicted that Germany and Austria-Hungary would defeat Russia in a new war and that they in turn would be defeated by Western powers. Out of the ruins of those three partitioning powers of old Poland would emerge a new Poland, but only if the people were ready.

Believing that such a war was near, Piłsudski began organizing an armed force, mainly through the Sokol (Polish Falcon) chapters in Austrian Poland. They started out as rifle clubs but soon evolved into the kernel of a small army, under the watchful eye of the Austrian government. Once the war broke out, Piłsudski offered to organize his men, then 10,000 strong, into a Polish Army under Austrian command to fight Russia. His offer was accepted.

Different groups had existed in partitioned Poland to preserve Polish culture and by the late nineteenth century they began contemplating an independent Poland. By the eve of the war they had coalesced into two factions, Piłsudski's liberal socialists and the National Democrats, a conservative group headed by Roman Dmowski.

While Piłsudski was anti-Russian and believed that an armed force had to be ready to take control of Poland when the opportunity arose, Dmowski thought an association with Russia was the Poles' best hope and he worked hard to convince the czar to support an autonomous Poland.

The Poles were in a unique situation during the war. Two of the partitioning powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary, fought against

the third, Russia. All three conscripted Poles into their armies, who faced off against each other across Polish lands. As a result, Polish support was critical to them.

In August 1914, only a few weeks after the start of hostilities, Russia issued a proclamation calling for a united, autonomous Poland. It took till November 5, 1916 before Central Powers Germany and Austria issued a similar decree, but from the beginning of the war they eased up on germanization of the Poles under their dominion and gave them expanded rights.

While Dmowski and his supporters worked in Western Europe and America for the Polish cause, Piłsudski continued to fight against the Russians and was eventually appointed head of military affairs on the Council of State, a body created by the Central Powers to advise on the puppet "Kingdom of Poland" created under their November 5 declaration.

The Russian Revolution that dethroned the czar in March 1917 changed the dynamics of the war and the U.S. entry in April altered its course just as profoundly.

By May, Piłsudski was giving secret orders to his troops to sabotage the Central Powers' war effort. The revolution had weakened Russia's military position and now Piłsudski saw his chance to help weaken Germany and Austria by turning against them.

A SERIES OF EVENTS occurred during summer 1917. A Polish army corps formed in Russia that recognized Piłsudski as leader. Haller's Polish Army was organized in France. On July 9, Piłsudski and most of his troops refused to take an oath of loyalty to



Piłsudski

"Kingdom of Poland." On November 7 occurred the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia that effectively ended Russian participation in World War I. In March 1918 the Central Powers and Russia made a separate peace and signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. This ceded all of Russian Poland to Germany and Austria. The Germans could now concentrate on the Western Front, but the influx of American might overwhelmed them there.

By the fall of 1918 things began to deteriorate quickly for Germany and Austria-Hungary. Battlefield losses led to demoralized, war-weary troops who were ready to desert. On the homefront, civilians were tired of wartime sacrifices and protests and unrest increased, leading to confusion and disorder. Germany requested an armistice on October 4. By late October Austria-Hungary had for all practical purposes ceased to exist.

For the Poles, events began to rapidly fall

into place. On September 5, 1918 Bolshevik Russia acknowledged Poland's "inalienable right to independence and unity." In early October the Regency Council took authority over the German-commanded Polish Army and organized a military department. This force had constituted a German "Polnische Wehrmacht," most of Piłsudski's men and new recruits. By late in the month this army was disarming Austrian troops on Polish lands.

On October 28 a group of Poles assumed power over Western Galicia in Kraków. On November 6 a Polish military group took over the Austrian occupation government in Lublin and declared a People's Republic.

Meanwhile, on November 7 the German people overthrew their kaiser in Berlin and two days later released Józef Piłsudski from prison. He arrived in Warsaw on November 10 to a hero's welcome as the German military structure was collapsing. The Lublin and Kraków governments submitted to Piłsudski.

November 11 was Armistice Day that ended the war, and on that day Piłsudski was appointed Marshal of all Polish military forces by the Regency Council. What was left of the Germany army surrendered its weapons and staggered home from Warsaw, and Piłsudski declared an independent Poland. There were celebrations in the streets.

In the following days Piłsudski was appointed head of state of the new Poland and the Regency Council resigned.

The Great War had ended and Poland's independence was restored. But it would take several more years to stabilize, as it formed its government, established its borders and healed from the war's devastation.

Krowka Steps Down after 31 Years

EAST AURORA, N.Y. — **Ronald J. Krowka** has retired as chief of the East Aurora, N.Y. Police Department, a position he has held since 2007. He had been a member of the force for 31 years.

Chief Krowka is a native of Tonawanda, N.Y. Both sets of his grandparents were born in Poland.

After earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Buffalo State College, Krowka worked as a public safety officer at the College. He then joined the East Aurora department as a patrol officer, and was promoted to police lieutenant in 1986.

Chief Krowka's experience in law enforcement has been varied, including serving as a K9 officer for five years. He also was a member



of the Town of Aurora's Disaster Advisory Board and Traffic Safety Committee for many years. Krowka

has also been active in various police organizations including the Erie County Association of Chiefs of Police, where he served as secretary/treasurer for seven years.

Chief Krowka lives in the Town of Aurora with his wife. His son works as an analyst, and his daughter is in medical school.

East Aurora Mayor Allan Kasprzak said that Chief Krowka was known for his ability to deal with difficult problems effectively and with a calm, professional demeanor.

"Whatever the problem, he never lost his cool," said Kasprzak. "His professionalism and competence took a great load off the shoulders of the Village Board. His retirement will be a big loss."

OBITUARIES

Illinois Polonia Loses an Advocate

Thomas Ronald "T. Ron" Jasinski-Herbert, born in Chicago on November 1, 1938, passed away on August 17, 2015. He was the son of the late Leona "Lee" Jasinski Herbert and the late Thomas H. Herbert. He graduated from Chicago's St. Viator Grammar School and St. George High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts and law degrees from DePaul University, establishing a career as a divorce lawyer. But journalism and improving his community were his life's passions.

If you were a friend of T. Ron or on his emailing list, you were not all surprised to open your computer, get on the Internet, and notice that T. Ron had sent you an email during the late-night hours or well after the midnight. It was during those hours that he created his wonderful editorials for his on-line newsletter, "Polonia Today," or wrote for the Chicago Society's monthly newsletter, "Forum." He was the webmaster of both.

T. Ron was not just a dues-paying member of nearly 20 organizations. When he became a member, he became an active participant, often taking on leadership roles. As Richard Ciesla, a Chicago Society friend, recalls, "Ron gave his attention to making anything and everything better for all."

Jasinski-Herbert was an active member of the Polish National Al-



liance, where for the past 10 years he was its public relations director. He was also national director of the Polish American Congress, President of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, and a director of the International Polka Association. He was an active member of various Democratic Party organizations and many more organizations. He produced several documentaries on Polish topics, and was a well-known social and political commentator as a television, print, and on-line journalist.

Charles Komosa, national secretary of the Polish National Alliance, fondly remembers T. Ron taking Polish language lessons from Komosa's grandmother, Wanda Rozmarek-Komosa. Being fluent in Polish, German, and Russian, led him to host tours to Poland, Germany, and Russia.

He easily captivated everyone with his infectious laugh. A friend and mentor to many generations, he was a strong defender of all things Polish and a great friend of Polonia.

Jasinski-Herbert is survived by his aunt/godmother Loretta Sobocinski, an uncle, Michael Jasinski, and numerous cousins. (G.B.C.)

Henry J. Szymanski, Judge, Veteran, and Marathon Runner

Henry J. Szymanski, 91, died Aug. 21 after a long life and a short illness. Szymanski was born Feb. 6, 1924 at home in Detroit.

He graduated from Western High School in 1942, and worked for the Ford Motor Company until he was drafted into the Army in 1943. He was assigned to the 21st Weather Squadron, 10th Photo Reconnaissance Group, 9th Air Corps in support of Patton's 3rd Army.

After the war, Szymanski worked on the assembly line at Ford, then attended Wayne University (now Wayne State) and its Law School on the GI Bill. After passing the Bar Exam in 1951, and marrying Jacquelyn (Jackie) Cummings in April 1952, he worked for Chrysler as a military contract negotiator.

Szymanski then moved to the Ellmann law firm and later started his own law practice.

In 1965 he was appointed to the Detroit Commission on Community Relations and later that year became the legal advisor to the Wayne County Sheriff. In 1966, Szymanski was elected to the Detroit Common Pleas Court. He served on that bench until he was elected to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1980. He served as a circuit court judge until he retired in 1989 to take care of his wife, who died in 1993.

In the late 1960's Szymanski started jogging for exercise and ran his first marathon in 1970. Over the years he ran in 20 marathons, including Boston six times. He often would finish near the top of his age group. He ran his last marathon in 1979 at the age of 55.

You can subscribe or renew your subscription on-line at www.polamjournal.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydowski

October is Important to Pol-Ams

October means autumn. It is the last gasp before the winter winds set in and snow starts to fall, but it is also Polish Heritage month. Looking at the calendar, the arrival of Poles in Jamestown, Virginia and the death of General Casimir Pulaski, are noted.

The first Polish immigrants came to the Jamestown colony in 1608, twelve years before the Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts.

John Smith traveled from England to Poland in 1603 to find artisans for his voyage to America. They included workers skilled in glass blowing, pitch and tar making, soap making and timber work. These six Polish men traveled with him in 1603; although their names were never known definitely until 1943, when historian Karol Wachtl searched through historical pamphlets in war torn France dating back to the mid 1800s.

Captain John Smith noted that two craftsmen helped save his life during an Indian attack that occurred near the glasshouse. An excavation done in 1948-1949 found four Hessian crucibles and large quantities of "common green glass." Also found were glass remains of window panes, bottles and drinking jugs. The Glass House and glass manufacturing industry was started and operated exclusively by the Polish workers.

Polish settlers launched a labor strike in 1619 against the Virginia Company and were successful in reaching an agreement. The skills of these Polish colonists were vital to the new settlement, as the House of Burgesses ultimately recognized in 1619. During its deliberations, the House excluded the Polish community from voting rights. In reaction, the Poles launched the first recorded strike in the New World.

In need of their industries, the House of Burgesses extended the "rights of Englishmen" to the Poles. Historians have identified this struggle as a historical first in many respects: as an American labor strike, a fight for civil rights and voting representation, and the origin of the first ever trade apprenticeship in the American colonies.

Subsequently, the Poles established the first bilingual schools in the New World, teaching both Polish and English and later extending the curriculum to include Latin and German. The political and economic power of the Polish community declined, however, with the increased colonial warfare with Native Americans.

COUNT CASIMIR PULASKI. In 1777, Pulaski volunteered his services to Benjamin Franklin in Paris.

When his offer to fight in the Continental army was accepted, Pulaski sailed to America. There, on September 11, 1777, he distinguished himself during the Battle of Brandywine. His reward was a commission as a brigadier general. The man now had the rather unique title of Brigadier General Count Pulaski. In early 1778, Congress approved his plan to raise an independent cavalry. Drawing on his experience with the Knights in Poland, he gained the support of the people, who wished to aid the struggle for freedom.

Although Pulaski lived a short life, he left many memories behind: not only his military actions on behalf of his own people, as well as those of the American colonists, but also his generous contributions of money to the colonists and his awakening American generals to the need for a better cavalry. He died October 9, 1779.

MUSEUM CORNER. The Polish American Museum in Port Washington will be celebrating Polish Heritage month on Sunday, October 25. Currently on display at the museum is an overcoat worn by the late General Haller and minerals and stones from the Earth Museum in Poland. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ROOTS. The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast will hold a Polish Genealogy Conference on October 2 and 3 at the Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut. For additional information go to www.pgscnet.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx.

ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' DAYS. Are you making plans to visit the cemetery next month? All Saints' Day (**Wszystkich Swietych**) is an annual national holiday in Poland to celebrate the saints on November 1. It is also known as the Day of the Dead, as many people remember dead family and friends on this day. Special church services are held to commemorate the saints in various towns and cities in Poland. Many people in Poland lay flowers and candles on the graves of deceased family members and friends in cemeteries. This tradition continues through to All Souls' Day (**Dzien Zadusny** or **Zaduszki**), which is on November 2, but it is not a public holiday.

All Saints' Day is an official public holiday in Poland, so schools, banks, government offices and most private businesses are closed. There is a trade prohibition on public holidays in Poland.

Music Festival for Youth

BUFFALO — The Polish Singers Alliance of America, the Canisius College Music Department, and the Kosciuszko Foundation of WNY presents a Music Festival for Youth featuring the Il Giardino d'Amore Baroque Chamber Orchestra at the Montante Cultural Center on the Canisius College Campus.

The orchestra is an interesting mixture of young instrumentalists and vocalists from Poland, Italy, Spain and France who play on original instruments and copies of original instruments from the baroque era.

The Festival begins with a concert featuring Il Giardino d'Amore on Thurs., Oct. 1, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. (10) and concludes with a Festi-

val Concert on Sun., Oct. 4, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. featuring the Orchestra in concert with students joining in the Early Music Lab Master Classes held at the Canisius College Campus, the Harmonia Chamber Singers, the Nichols High School Choir and the Radosc-Joy Vocal Dance Group from Mississauga, Ontario. (Free Will Offering).

Student admission is free for both concerts. For tickets or information and registration for Master Classes in voice, harpsichord and organ, theorbe and guitar, and violin, contact Mary Lou Wyrobek at wyrobekm@canisius.edu.

Visit www.ilgiardinodamore.org to enjoy hearing performances by the baroque orchestra.

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New TV Show, "Polka Buzz" Debuts This Month

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Chris Musial, Vice President and General Manager of WBBZ-TV announced that Western New Yorkers will be dancing to the "Polka Buzz," beginning Sun., Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Personality Ron Dombrowski, host of "Drive Time Polkas" (Mon-Sat 5:00-7:00 p.m. on WXRL 1300 AM and 8:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday on WECK 1230 AM and 102.9FM), will bring his unique style and knowledge of polka music to the television screen. Dombrowski has been broadcasting polka programs since 1979 on both radio and television.

"Polka Buzz" will celebrate this genre of music as a recorded dance party program, featuring the top pol-

ka bands in the country. Programs will be recorded from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. at the Gratwick Hose and Fire Company, 110 Ward Road in North Tonawanda, featuring different artists. The public is welcome to purchase tickets to these tapings with the following bands:

Thurs., Oct. 8 Phocus
Thurs., Oct. 22 New Direction
Wed., Nov. 18 Special Delivery
Thurs., Dec. 17 The Knewz
Thurs., Jan. 21. Concertina All Stars

"Polka music stirs the spirit in a positive way. It brings people together to dance, and share a rich cultural experience," said WBBZ-TV Vice President of Sales, and polka aficionado Angelo Ciatello. "I am proud to help bring people together

with this exciting new show!"

Information about the bands, and television tapings, will be posted to www.wbbz.tv

WBBZ is seen throughout Western New York over-the-air on digital channel 67.1. Ch. 5 on Verizon FiOS (HD 505); Ch 5 Dish; Ch. 67 DirecTV, and these Time Warner Cable channels: Buffalo-Niagara Falls: Channel 5 (HD 1230); Batavia - Genesee, Wyoming, Orleans Counties Channel 71 (HD 1230); of Erie and Niagara Counties Channel 71 (HD 1230); Dunkirk Channel 99 (HD 1230); Olean Channel 21 (HD 1230); Fredonia-Jamestown Channel 72 (HD 1230); and Alfred-Angelica-Avooca-Bath-Bolivar Friendship-Hornell Ch. 71 (HD 1230).

Dynatoners LPs Coming Alive

COHOES, N.Y. — Call it "reunion fatigue." It's a malady caused by prolonged exposure to a polka band — any band, really — playing the same songs over and over at reunion shows. To avoid such an affliction at an upcoming Dynatoners weekend in Cohoes, the band is taking a page from the playbook of some prominent rock groups. On the second day of the 10/24-10/25 weekend, they will be performing two of their LPs, *Six Million Dollar Band* and *Introducing the Dynatoners*, in their entirety.

"While this is a great opportunity to give Dynatoners fans some different material, it's also a chance for us to perform some tunes that haven't been played in a long while and many which have never been done live," said Larry Trojak, the band's drummer. "We really enjoy getting together every couple of years to do shows like this, but have usually relied upon Dynatoners classics and *Live Wire* tunes to carry the night. This year, we decided that different material was in order, and those are two recordings that hold a special place in our hearts."

Introducing the Dynatoners, the band's debut LP, was recorded in 1969 on Bel-Aire Records and featured ten original tunes. While several of the songs did find their way into the band's repertoire at the time, many did not. "We did 'Suzanne Come Back,' 'Whitey's Oberek' and 'Happy Go Strange' as part of our regular rotation, but that was really about it," said Trojak. "So, to re-work all ten of those songs and make them come alive again is kind of like dusting off some old furniture in storage. You know there's something good there, you just have

to take some time to clean it up a bit."

By comparison, *Dynatoners: The Six Million Dollar Band* did find a broad audience upon its release in 1976, eventually winning "Album of the Year" honors from both the IPA and USPA.

Dynatoners front-man and recent IPA Hall of Fame inductee Mark Trzepacz said performing the full LP in Cohoes should rekindle some memories, particularly for people from nearby Massachusetts.

"As was pointed out in a recent Scrubby tribute in Ludlow, Mass., the Dynatoners really hit their stride after the release of *Six Million Dollar Band* and were named "Polka Band of the Year" by the late Johnnie Libera on radio station WESO in Southbridge, Mass.," Trzepacz said. "So this region was really a hot spot for the band and *Six Million* helped drive that popularity. Unlike *Introducing the Dynatoners*, however, many tunes off *Six Million* — 'Goral,' 'Beethoven's 9th,' 'You Gotta be my Baby,' 'In the Woods Oberek,' 'Harvest Time Waltz' — did find a regular spot in the Dynatoners' rotation. But being able to bring those songs back — and do the balance of the LP which also has some great tunes — should be a treat for everyone, including the band."

The Dynatoners — Al and Robbie Piatkowski, Mark Trzepacz, Dave "Nigel" Kurdziel, Tom Wanderlich, Matt Rosinski and Larry Trojak — will be performing on October 24th and 25th at the Ukrainian-American Citizens Club hall in Cohoes.

For information and tickets, contact Deb Rymanowski at (518) 235-8356 or email to lilhruku@aol.com.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

A Special Delivery of Solid Polkas

The phrase "special delivery" generally conjures up images of someone coming to your door bringing something good. In polkas, it also applies to a group of five Buffalo musicians who, collectively, have many decades of musical experience in the Nickel City and who have just dropped a classic at our musical door.

Special Delivery, Blueprints for Dancing presents a lucky 13 tracks designed to bring back memories, keep you dancing, and make your polka heart beat just a little faster.

Contents of this package include "Chrome Dome" polka, an all-but-forgotten gem from Jerry Pietranczyk's Polka Sharps; "Alvin's" polka; the classic standard "Iron Casket" oberek; and a tribute to one of my favorites, Happy Richie Bojczuk, with the "Happy & Rich Medley." Guaranteed, this one will warrant multiple repeat plays.

These guys know the music and know how to present it — essentially, they have the blueprint for keeping the dance floor full.

Special Delivery are Tom Goldyn on drums and vocals, Mark Kohan on bass guitar and vocals, Dave Miesowicz handling sax and clarinet, Jay Skiba on trumpet and more vocals, and Ted Szymanski on accordion, piano and, yes, vocals.

Special Delivery: Blueprints For Dancing is on the Sunshine label and definitely belongs in your musical

library. *Ding dong*. Solid polkas on your doorstep.

The CD is available on the band's website, www.thespecialdeliveryband.com.

REDISCOVERED TREASURES. Every time Chet Schafer of Chicago Polkas fame goes on a treasure hunt, he seems to find gold and he recently discovered a master tape that truly represents some "Rediscovered Treasures."

When Ridgemoor Record Company was sold to Chicago Polkas, the assets included a master tape recorded by the Casey Siewierski Orchestra that was overlooked and never released. In this, their last recording sessions, they recorded in a style far different from any of their previous albums. Joe Oleksy, who normally played trumpet, switched to violin. He provided the rhythm, coming in on the offbeat. No drums were used, replaced instead by a bass fiddle. The result was polkas that are clean, smooth, and authentic.

Creating a unique sound and feel in this studio session, Casey Siewierski and the band treat the listener to music that is truly old country. Polkas such as "Silly Goose," "Ruffled Feathers," "Leaving Krakow," and "Loving Mary" as well as "Once Around" oberek, and seven others make us hope Schafer never stops searching for polka gold. A find like "Rediscovered Treasures" makes it all worthwhile.

WSKG Considering Expansion of Popular "Let's Polka" Show



THE MAESTRO'S MEN made a visit to New York's Souther Tier, recording for WSKG, and then performing at the Spiedie Balloon Rally.

by Steve Litwin

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Public Television is more than "Masterpiece Theater," "Antique Roadshow," "Sewing with Nancy" and "This Old House." In the greater Binghamton area, public television is also the place to watch "Let's Polka," a 30-minute, Saturday evening polka television program that features polka bands performing live in the WSKG studios.

The idea for "Let's Polka" originated from the current WSKG CEO, Brian Sickora. A trumpet player himself, Sickora is originally from Pennsylvania where polka music was part of everyday life.

In 2009, WSKG partnered with local polka DJ Bill Flynn and the first polka show was recorded featuring Tony's Polka Band from Albany. Since then, WSKG has been recording three to four groups a year creating 9-12 episodes.

Other bands appearing have included, John Stanky & the Coal Miners, Joe Stanky & the Cadets, The Piatkowski Brothers, The GoldenTones, and Fritz's Polka Band.

All tapings take place at station's studio, with an audience of members dancing and enjoying the band.

Recently, a "Let's Polka" club has been formed.

"Let's Polka" airs Saturday nights at 6:30 on WSKG-TV and is one of WSKG's most highly rated local programs. In fact, WSKG has indicated an interest in widening the broadcast region for the show.

In August The Maestro's Men from New England were in the WSKG studios to record three shows for future telecasts. The day after the studio performances The Maestro's Men were on stage in Binghamton at the Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally. (The spiedie, by the way, is marinated cubes of meat, chicken, pork, lamb, veal, venison or beef and the festival began in 1983). The band demonstrated its versatility playing a variety of polkas, big band standards, pop, and more for dedicated fans. The Maestro's Men did a superb job on stage with local radio personality Bill Flynn handling the M.C. job. Watch for their performance.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Two Sides of Polka Promotions

Our first visit to the WSKG studios in Vestal, N.Y. was to participate in a "Let's Polka" taping with the Maestro's Men in the studio. Names of folks I've been emailing and talking with on the phone now had faces and personalities. Alexandra, Brian, Andy and others present a professionalism backed up with the knowledge of their jobs and everything happening in this complex compound. The tour of the audio/video rooms was highlighted with the calm, professional way these pros captured the live performance of The Maestro's Men on the sound stage. Local radio personality Bill Flynn was always in the right place at the right time, adding his personal touches to the entire package and production. Recording three studio performances by The Maestro's Men will provide three individual 30-minute programs for television viewing, starting in October.

For more information on WSKG visit their website: <http://wskg.org/program/lets-polka/>.

Just one day later, Sunday, found The Maestro's Men on the large stage at The Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally in Binghamton. The band came prepared and provided a superb cross-section of music. A group of dedicated fans gathered early, stage front, for this outdoor venue.

Unfortunately, the handling of the entrance to the fenced in area was not the best, and didn't allow all polka fans into the stage front area.

The appearance of the Maestro's Men at the festival should have been publicized across a wider area. This would have certainly have brought in polka fans from the region. With a first-class band like this, the audience should have drawn fans from throughout Central New York and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

East Coast Legend Joe Pasiaka Passes

MYSTIC, Conn. — Polka musician Joseph Pasiaka, 83, of Mystic, died Sunday, Aug. 23, 2015, at his home with his wife and his faithful dogs by his side.

Pasiaka married his wife, Carol Brown, June 26, 1992 in the Bahamas.

Pasiaka was born in Middletown, on May 21, 1932, the son of Joseph A. and Frances (Lima) Pasiaka. He served in the U.S. Army, and worked for many years in the sales department of M.J. Sullivan, retiring in 1997.

Pasiaka was an outstanding saxophone player and played sax and clarinet with many of the top polka bands on the East Coast, including Gene Wisniewski, Walt Solek, Ray Henry, Frank Wojnarowski, and Dick Pillar throughout the fifties and sixties. In 1970, he started his own band, the Joe Pasiaka Orchestra and performed from Maine to Maryland and beyond with his band. Health problems forced him to retire.

He is survived by his wife, Carol, and six children and four siblings.



DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

IPA Returns to its Roots in Buffalo



Mark and Cherie Trzepacz



Ed Guca, Ed Szela, and Chet Kowalkowski



Grazyna and Peter Danielczuk



Ed Kutas, Mike Nowakowski, and Robin Pegg



Rick Rzeszutko and Dennis Polisky



Rob Bonczkiewicz, Jerry Miesowicz, and Dave Bonczkiewicz

BUFFALO, N.Y. — As the summer polka season starts to wind down, Buffalo was very proud to be chosen as the host city to this year's **International Polka Association (IPA) Convention**.

A while back, upon hearing this, I was reminded of stories I had heard about a polka convention being held here years ago. Thanks to the Kutas family, I was able to do some research. Ed Kutas, Sr. had been hosting polka bands at his bar, the **Warsaw Inn**, for years even being the first place in Buffalo to feature **Eddie Blazonczyk**. He had a vision for a polka convention in Buffalo over 50 years ago when he urged his friend Johnny Hynzy to bring his organization, The International Polka Convention, to Buffalo. This organization, which existed before the creation of the IPA, was the largest polka association at the time. Through a good deal of work and effort on the part of Kutas, it was decided that the convention would be held in Buffalo in 1965, at the famed Broadway Market. However, after much red tape with city ordinances, and issues with alcohol laws, it was decided that the event would be held under large tents at the Thruway Plaza in Cheektowaga. This convention was unbelievably successful with over 8,000 people attending the festivities over the course of the weekend. Admission was a mere \$2.50 and the bill of talent was show stopping. Lil' Wally, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Happy Louie, Marion Lush, Ampol Aires, and Walt Ostanek headlined the convention with several other smaller and local bands also taking part in the weekend. Unfortunately, after all of his work in getting this gala to Buffalo, Ed did not live to see his plans come to fruition. However he will always be remembered for bringing this landmark event to Western New York. After its success, it returned to Buffalo in 1967, but soon after the IPC disbanded and, in 1968, the IPA was born. Now after 46 years of conventions, the spotlight turned once again to the Nickel City and the Millennium Hotel to highlight the ongoing support of polka music in Western New York.

THE EVENT STARTED with a kick-off "Welcome to IPA Polish Happy Hour" on Thursday with **John Gora** and **New Direction** providing the music. I arrived around

6:00 to a packed ballroom and a diverse group of out of towners, local polka fans, as well as the loyal Polish Happy Hour following. Music, food, and entertainment provided a nice mixer to get everyone hyped up for the weekend's event.

ON FRIDAY, Polka Family and the **Knewz** shared the stage for the opening night. Words cannot capture the feeling of walking into that ballroom and seeing so many familiar faces from all over the country. Excitement filled the air as we were ready to start this milestone event for Buffalo and the polka community. Hank from Polka Family always provides the highest energy when playing and the band was magnetizing from the stage. Jumping, singing, and playing, fans swarmed the stage screaming out their favorite Polka Family songs for them to sing. Always willing to take time to make the fans know how much he appreciates them, Hank tried to get every request out to his anxious crowd. The Knewz was the perfect partnership for this high energy Friday. With their innovative style, hypnotic personalities, and brilliant musicianship, they can always draw in their crowd. When I watch a band like the Knewz and see all of their young fans, it gives me hope that polkas are here to stay for a long time.

SATURDAY MORNING was the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony and Music Awards. A beautiful banquet laid the backdrop for this prestigious event. Music awards were won by **Polka Country Musicians, Kevin Adams, Lenny Gomulka, Molly B,** and **Maestros Men**. Every single one of the awards was well-deserved and listening to the recipients speak gave me an entirely new respect for the talents of these musicians. Each one thanked the fans for their support and God for their capability, demonstrating the compassion and choice that it takes to make a true polka musician. These musicians are talented enough to play with other genre bands where they might make more money, but they are committed to their fans and the music which they love.

Next was the grand event, the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. It worked out perfectly that this year, local iconic musician **Mark Trzepacz** was inducted into the IPA

Hall of Fame. It is an honor that is long overdue for this accomplished musician, vocalist, and band leader. I cannot begin to express how proud his Western New York polka family is of his accomplishments and his induction into this renowned group of polka royalty. Congratulations, Mark, on a job well done. I am beyond grateful to count you among my friends and to have been a part of your landmark day.

Other inductees were **Randy Koslosky, Florian Chmielewski,** and, in the deceased category, **Chester Budny**. Koslosky, Chmielewski and Trzepacz each outlined their accomplishments and there is no doubt that all of them are most deserving of their induction. I enjoyed getting to know more about all of them and hearing their inspirational words about being a musician. Thank you to everyone from the IPA for hosting a wonderful event and allowing me to be involved in it, it is an honor that I will never forget.

As the evening began, **Polka County Musicians, Maestros Men,** and **IPA Tribute Band** took the stage in rotating sets. The dance floor and the front of the stage were crowded with people set after set. During one of the Maestros Men performances, Hall of Fame inductee Randy Koslosky took the stage for an unforgettable rendition of "Sledzie," throwing packages of Swedish Fish into the crowd and causing an uproar. His charismatic personality and inner joy completely shine from the stage making his performances truly captivating. IPA Tribute Band also invited some guests up to share the stage with them, including Hall of Famers **Scrubby, Stephanie,** Mark Trzepacz, Randy Koslosky, and Florian Chmielewski. The room was completely enraptured as each took the spotlight for their time on the stage. Each of these Hall of Famers came alive on the stage as the crowd cheered them on, showing support as they received their well-deserved honors. Polka Country, of course, is always a crowd favorite, drawing all sorts of fans — whether polka lovers or not — to the front of the hall mesmerized by their professional talent and showmanship.

THERE WAS NO SIGN of slowing down as Sunday approached with another tremendous line-up. **Freeze Dried, Tony Blazonczyk's**

New Phaze and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push brought a close to the polka weekend. Freeze Dried has always had a knack for bringing an alternative concept to polka without disrespecting its roots. I am happy to say that hearing them again at IPA, they are still belting out innovative tunes with the same soulful heritage that exists in polkas and the fans cannot get enough of their music. Tony Blazonczyk presence on the stage is completely reminiscent of his father. As the leader of the band, it is easy to see his passion for the music with which his family name is synonymous. New Phaze's talent and likeable personalities makes them the band that everyone wants to befriend and grab a beer with.

Lenny Gomulka has been one of my very favorites since I began listening to polka music. In fact, I had to rebuy *Lenny Live* three times, having overplayed it by listening to it day after day. I was reminded of my obsession with this band after watching them perform at IPA. There was something personally invigorating for me in watching Lenny smile and play for the crowd. I could close my eyes and hear the devotion and pride in every note played by this group of accomplished musicians. I have a tendency to sometimes get lost in the social aspect of the polka community, but I'm grateful that I took the time to really stop, watch, and listen to The Chicago Push's performance. The band's musicianship and vocals are reminders that it is the fans' job to make the hours a band spends away from their loved ones and the miles traveled all worthwhile.

I feel lucky that Buffalo was host to this exceptional event and am looking forward to it being held here again next year. Mark your calendars for the IPA Convention, Sept. 2-4, 2016. I hope to see you there.

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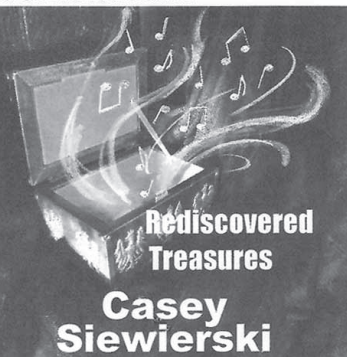
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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to johnzz@cox.net.

OCTOBER 10

- Jimmy Sturr. Hunter Mountain, Hunter NY. 1:00 p.m. (800) 486-8376
- Eastern Sound. Loon Mountain. Lincoln NH. 12-5. (603) 745-8111
- The Knewz/The Boys. Meadows Casino. Washington Pa. 7-12. (724) 503-1200
- John Stevens. Festhalle. Asbury Park NJ. 9-12. (782) 997-8767
- Ray Jay Carousels. Sacred Heart Church. Jennette Pa. 4:30 PM. (724) 523-2560
- Eddie Forman. St. Joseph's Polish Society. Colchester Ct. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
- The Atlanta Polka Band. Village Corner Restaurant. Stone Mtn. Ga. 5-8:30. (770) 498-0329
- Walt Groller. Grand Lodge. Cockeysville Md. 6:30-10:30 (410) 252-1386
- Mon Valley Push. Conneaut Lake Park. Conneaut Pa. 9pm. (814) 382-5115

OCTOBER 11

- Eastern Sound. Loon Mountain. Lincoln NH. 12-5. (603) 745-8111
- Andy Fenus TrelTones. Slovenian Hall. Yukon Pa. 3-7. (724) 722-9700
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- Maestros Men. Italian Center. Poughkeepsie N.Y. 2-6. (845) 454-1492
- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill, 2460 Clinton St. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30(716) 768-3246

OCTOBER 12

- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack. Farmington NY. 11-2. (585) 924-3232

OCTOBER 15

- Special Delivery Band. Buffalo Polka Boosters; Meeting. Polish Falcons. Depew NY. 8-10:30. (716) 684-2373
- Fritz's Polka Band. M&T Bank. Little Falls NY. 5:30-7:30. (315) 823-6202

OCTOBER 16

- Mike Surratt Continentals. Dominion Bldg. Richmond Va. 8-12. (804) 451-4344

OCTOBER 17

- Mike Surratt. Dominion Bldg. Richmond Va. 8-12. (804) 451-4344
- John Stevens. Maryland Zoo. Baltimore Md. 12-4. (410) 396-7102
- The Special Delivery Band. Polkasino Bus Trip. Donavan Post, Cheektowaga, N.Y. Ted. (716) 668-9101
- Eastern Sound. St. Thomas Church. Peabody, Mass. 5-9. (978) 531-6517
- The Atlanta Polka Band. High Hampton Inn. Cashier NC. 12-4. (828) 743-4012
- Maestros Men. Ocean Mist. Matunuck RI. 2-5. (401) 782-3740
- Fritz's Polka Band. Matinecock Lodge. Oyster Bay NY. (516) 624-9622
- Jimmy Sturr. Bear Mtn. Inn. Bear Mtn. NY 12:30-5:30. (845) 786-2731

OCTOBER 18

- Eastern Sound. Dom Polski. Lowell, Mass. 1-5. (978) 452-8262
- The NuTones. Polish Falcons Hall. Pleasant Pa. 3-7. (412) 922-2244
- Eddie Derwin Polka Naturals. Sacred Heart Parish. Cornwall Pa. 2-6. (717) 273-1574

- George Tarasek Polka Partners. VFW. Dupont Pa. (570) 6549104
- John Stevens. Fire Hall. Glenfield NY. 1-5. (315) 376-2135
- Dynabrass. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 583-6385
- The Continentals. Md. Oktoberfest. Timonium Fair grounds. Timonium Md. 12-6. (410) 252-0200
- John Gora. St John's Hall. Clymer Pa. 2-6. (724) 349-5625
- Maestros Men. Priscilla Place Hall. Trumbull Ct. 1-2:30. (203) 452-5065
- Fritz's Polka Band. Matinecock Lodge. Oyster Bay NY. (516) 624-9622

OCTOBER 21

- John Stevens. Best Western. Matamoras Pa. 11-3:30. (518) 491-3400

OCTOBER 24

- The Continentals. Saengerbund. Newark De. 7:30-11:30. (302) 366-9454
- Dynatones. Ukrain Am Club. Cohoes NY. 7-11. (518) 235-8356
- Dennis Polisky. Elks. Middletown NY. 6:30-10:30. (845) 294-9254
- John Gora. Marsh Street Centre. Clarksburg On. 6-11. (519) 599-7837
- Fritz's Polka Band. Bear Mtn. Inn. Bear Mtn. NY. 12:30-5:30. (845) 786-2731

OCTOBER 25

- Chris & Ronnie Polka Band. German Club. Pawtucket RI. 2-6. (401) 569-6427
- Jimmy Sturr. Elks Lodge. Brick NJ. 2-6. (732) 330-0624
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- Chicago Push. Rice's Bar & Grill. Commodore Pa. 3-7. (724) 422-4581
- Mike Surratt Continentals. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater NJ. 6-10. (410) 798-6807
- Eddie Forman. Ludlow PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Stephanie. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt Pa. 3-7. (724) 423-8558

OCTOBER 28

- New Direction Band. Leonard Post. Buffalo NY. 7:30-10. (716) 683-3639

OCTOBER 30

- Ray Jay/Jimmy K. Seven Springs. Champion Pa. (708) 594-5182

OCTOBER 31

- John Stevens. Festhalle. Asbury Park NJ. 9-12. (782) -997-8767
- New Phaze/Polka Family/The Knewz/Buffalo Concertina Allstars. Seven Springs. Champion Pa. (708) 594-5182
- New Direction Band/Polish Canadians. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga NY. 7-11:30. (716) 675-6588

NOVEMBER 1

- John Gora/Henny Versa J's. Seven Springs. Champion Pa. (708) 594-5182
- Dennis Polisky. Ludlow PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- The Shoreliners. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- John Stevens. Roselawn. New York Mills NY. 3-7 (315) 736-5030

NOVEMBER 6

- The Continentals. Ballroom Annex. Glen Echo Md. 8-11. (301) 634-2260

NOVEMBER 8

- Pennsylvania Villagers. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- Jimmy Sturr. Starlight Ballroom. Port

- Washington NY. 2-6. (516) 883-5553
- John Stevens/Walt Groller/Polka Quads. Allentown Fairgrounds. Allentown Pa. 12-8. (610) 433-7541
- Polka Country Musicians. Pineview Acres. Pottsville Pa. (570) 628-3207
- Dennis Polisky/Ray Henry Tribute Band. K of C. Saratoga Springs NY. 2-6. (518) 899-3061
- TBA. Appreciation Dance. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt Pa. 2-6. (724) 423-8558

NOVEMBER 10

- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack. Farmington NY. 11-2. (585) 924-3232

NOVEMBER 14

- Eddie Derwin Polka Naturals. Chamber Hill Fire Dept. Harrisburg Pa. 7-11. (717) 985-9461
- Lenny Gomulka. St. Joseph Polish Society. Colchester Ct. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
- Fritz's Polka Band. Utica Maennerchor. March NY. 7-10. (315) 7355882

NOVEMBER 15

- Special Delivery. Polka Mass. St. Andrew's RC Church, Sloan, NY 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill, 2460 Clinton St. (near Harlem), West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30
- (716) 768-3246
- Lenny Gomulka. German Club. Pawtucket RI. 2-6. (401) 569-6427
- Tony Blazonczyk. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 583-6385
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- 5 Bands TBA, Benefit Dance. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt Pa. 2-7. (724) 423-8558

NOVEMBER 18

- Special Delivery. "Polka Buzz" WBBZ Television Show. Gratwick Hose, 110 Ward Rd, N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

NOVEMBER 21

- John Gora/The Knewz. Polish Hall. Burlington On. (905) 639-3236

NOVEMBER 22

- The Boys. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 583-6385
- The Continentals. Sacred Heart Hall. Cornwall Pa. 2-6. (717) 273-1574
- Matty Rock/Johnny Jay. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- Dynasonics. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt Pa. 2-6. (724) 423-8558
- Jimmy Sturr. The Grandview. Poughkeepsie NY. 1-5. (845) 486-4700

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The **Polish Museum of America** is seeking sponsors for its fall/winter exhibit, *The Art of Nikifor Krynicki: Watercolors* from the collection of Alfons Karny. Originally from the Polish Lemko region, Nikifor (1895-1968) is considered one of the most outstanding native artists of his time. Many of the 50 works to be presented are from the Alfons Karny Museum of Sculpture in Białystok, Poland, and will only be seen at limited U.S. venues. The exhibit will open at the PMA on October 23, 2015, and remain on view through Jan. 17, 2016.

All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by tax laws.

There are two ways to donate: Online, click the donate button on the PMA's home page: www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org (please note "Art of Nikifor" in the Special Instructions box) or by check to: Polish Museum of America, Attn: Art of Nikifor, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE — Christopher Entertainment will present a **Piotr Rubik Concert**, Oct. 15, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will take place at Holy Rosary Church in Baltimore.

Ribik is a Polish composer of symphonic pop music for orchestra, films and theatre.

All are welcome. Tickets are \$70.00 per person can be purchased from Alina Cymek at (443) 540-5954 or at the Parish Office (410) 732-3961.

MASSACHUSETTS

FALL RIVER — **General Pulaski Memorial Parade Bus Trip** to New York City, Sun., Oct. 4, 2015. Buses will depart from Fall River at 6:00 a.m. from the Elks Club, 4500

North Main St. (off-street parking available). Additional passengers will be picked up in Central Falls, R.I. from St. Joseph's Church, 391 High Street. Buses will leave New York City at approximately 6:00 p.m.

The cost is \$56.00 per person (tip included). Checks can be made payable to "Kosciuszko Club" and mailed to the Kosciuszko Club, P.O. Box 6100, Fall River, MA 02724. For additional information call Brian Curt at (508) 678-0987 or go to www.kosciuszkoclub.org.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia 2015 Pulaski Observance Schedule

Thur., Oct. 1, 2015. 11:00 a.m.-noon. Live Radio Proclamation Ceremony Broadcast on 860 AM Radio from the Polish American Cultural Center, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia. Observances to mark the 407th anniversary of the first Polish settlers in America, 82nd anniversary of the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, 34th anniversary of National Polish American Heritage Month and the 28th anniversary of the Polish American Cultural Center Museum.

Following the broadcast, a Polish Celebration Luncheon will take place in the Museum Exhibit Hall. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call the Museum at (215) 922-1700.

On Sunday, Oct., 4, the Pulaski Day Parade steps off at 12:15 p.m. from 20th and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. It will march down the Parkway to 16th Street, u-turn on the Parkway, around Logan Circle and end at 22nd Street. Free seating at Logan Circle in the area of live television coverage on WPVI TV-6.

Wesley Musial was selected by the Polish American Congress as

2015 Parade Grand Marshal in recognition of his many years of participation with the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, and support of organizations in Polonia.

Once again, there is another milestone in Polish American history: the 2015 parade will have two families as Military Marshals: John, Fred and Noel Kwiatkowski; ad Jan and Jerry Slawomir and Jerry Ray Szymczyk.

For more information about Philadelphia area activities, contact the Polish American Congress office at (215) 739-3408 or call the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at (215) 922-1700, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



The **Polish American String Band** thanks all for their support of its Commemorative Tile campaign. The tiles will soon be installed on the outside of the club on both the Westmoreland Street and Salmon Street sides.

As such, all are invited to the grand unveiling of the tiles, Sun., October 4. Guests will also be able to see the improvements made to the club. Complimentary food and refreshments will be provided along with entertainment. The club will be open at 3:00 p.m., with the grand unveiling 4:00 p.m.

The PASB will march in the General Pulaski Memorial Parade, St. Adalbert Division, at 1:00 p.m. For more information about the band, or to donate to its tile campaign, call Walt Wojcik at (267) 608 7969.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The **Goethe-Institut** (812 7th Street, N.W.) and the **Kosciuszko Foundation** will cohost "An Evening with Danish Radio Producer Anna Elisabeth Jessen," Oct. 14,

from 7:00-8.30 p.m.

Anna Elisabeth Jessen is a director of radio and TV features and documentary films as well as a writer. Winner of several national and international documentary prizes, she works for Danish Broadcasting and also directs features in Germany. She will present excerpts from her internationally award-winning radio features, including "Doctor Tramsen's Report," a documentary about a skull exhumed from a mass grave in Katyn forest in Smolensk, Poland in 1940 and later discovered at a forensic institute in Copenhagen.

Free admission. To register, <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/goethe-institut-washington-3740212491>

English and original language scripts will be distributed.



The Kosciuszko Foundation will honor acclaimed, three-time Oscar-nominated Polish film director **Agnieszka Holland** with the Foundation's Pioneer Award for her contributions to both Polish and American cinema and television at their annual Fundraising Gala Dinner, Nov. 14, 2015 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel (1127 Connecticut Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C.).

Tickets for the Gala are \$150 (before October 14, 2015), \$175 (after October 14, 2015); student tickets are available for \$100. Proceeds from the Gala will support the programming at the Foundation's Washington, D.C. Center, located at 2025 O Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Holland is known for films such as *Angry Harvest* (1985), *Europa, Europa* (1990), and *In Darkness* (2012) and has directed episodes of *The Wire*, *House of Cards*, and *Treme*.

For tickets, call or visit (202) 785-2320; www.thekf.org.

Statue Stolen in Daylight

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. — The body of a statue depicting Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko has been vandalized.

The only part of the statue remaining were the general's shoes. The monument is at a public park named in his honor in the 5100 block of Indianapolis Boulevard.

Police recovered the statue a few blocks away in an abandoned garage, according to a probable cause affidavit that explained the charges filed against David Martinez, 35, of East Chicago.

According to the probable cause affidavit, the statue was removed and dragged out of the park in the afternoon, September 18. Acting on an anonymous tip, police heard the sound of metal being sawed and opened the door to what appeared to be an abandoned garage, where officers saw Martinez trying to saw off the head, while a second man watched, court records state.

City spokesman Steve Segura said he thought the statue could be saved. "If it's non-salvageable, we'll get an expert opinion and build a new one," Segura said. "We're trying to rescue him."

Kosciuszko was a Revolutionary War hero, who joined in the fight against the British. He was an engineering mastermind, and counted Thomas Jefferson among his closest friends



Kosciuszko statue: cut off at the ankles.

HELP US KEEP ALIVE OUR TRADITIONS! BE PART OF OUR ... CHRISTMAS 2015 EDITION

Dear Fellow Polish American:

It is at this time of the year that we call upon our loyal friends and supporters to participate in the Christmas editions of the Polish American Journal.

Your patronage shows your support for the Journal's mission—to preserve our treasured Polish traditions and customs. It also demonstrates your solidarity with fellow Polish Americans from coast to coast. Your contribution helps us to produce a paper worthy of Polonia's support, and allows us to publish the paper throughout the year.

With the passing of each generation, with jobs that take loved ones out of state, and with the closing or merging of our Polish parishes, some of our Polish traditions may become lost.

It is at these times that Polonia turns to its press to keep these practices alive, to keep this heritage alive. We count on you to help us in this effort.

Please complete and return the form below in the handy envelope we have provided. Deadline for placement in the Christmas issue is Tuesday, November 17. Tear sheets (pages with your advertisement on them) will be mailed by December 15.



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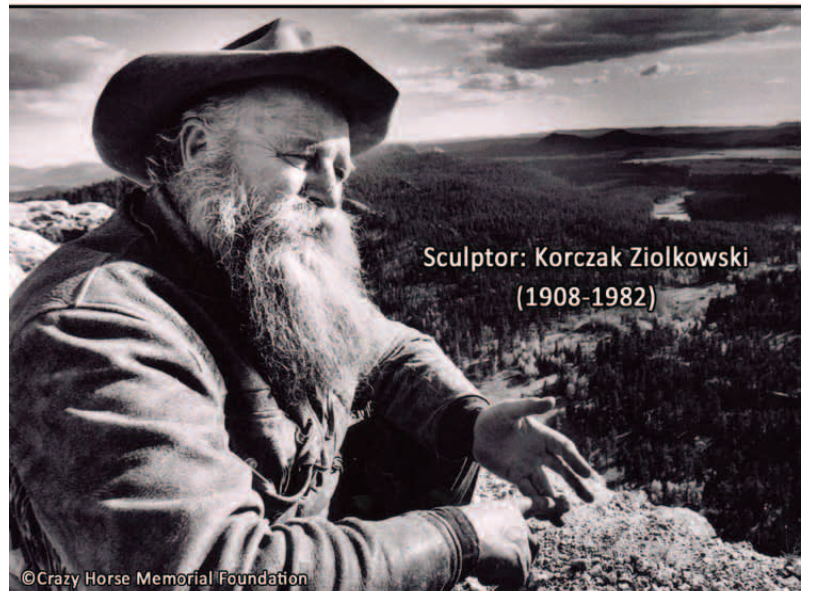
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