

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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PAGE 6

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK
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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

EASTER-FOOD BLESSING PRAYER • A FEW TASTY ŚWIĘCONKA SHORTCUTS • NATION MOURNS FOLLOWING RAIL DISASTER
LADY WITH AN ERMINE • NAPOLEON'S POLISH LEGION • BISHOP BARTCHAK EXPLAINS HHS MANDATE TO POPE
FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS • MEET TIM FIRKOWSKI - A FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVE

NEWSMARK

KAPTUR WINS, KUCINICH LOOSES. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), the eight-term congressman lost his primary election for Ohio's newly created 9th district to Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio).

The loss also deprives the nation of a general election contest between two national polarizing figures, as Kaptur will be facing off against the winner of the GOP nomination, Joe Wurzelbacher — better known as “Joe the Plumber” — in the general election.

Kaptur and Kucinich were victims of a congressional redistricting process that combined their seats. Because of the population losses recorded by the 2010 U.S. Census, Ohio lost two congressional districts and the borders of the remaining districts were redrawn. The new map combines the districts of Kaptur, who represents what is currently the 9th district, and Kucinich, who represents the 10th.

According to the count on the official Ohio secretary of state website, Kaptur had won four out of the five counties in the district.

ALLIANCE ALUMNI PLAN FOR REUNION. Graduates and their families are invited to come and reminisce at the Alliance College Centennial Reunion 2012, Oct. 5-7 at the Riverside Inn, Cambridge Springs, Pa.

The gathering will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the former Polish American college.

In addition to the Centennial Reunion, planners will recognize the 50th Reunion for Class of 1962, and the 25th Reunion for Class of 1987, the last graduating class.

For details, registration, and other information, visit www.alliancecollege.com or contact Michaeline at (508) 823-4080 or mbsdyga@msn.com.

TENSION IN PARLIAMENT. Former communist officials refused to honor Polish freedom-fighters known as “accursed soldiers” whose day was officially celebrated in Poland recently for the second year in a row. The term “accursed” or “doomed soldiers” (“żołnierze wyklęci”) refers to the some 30,000 Poles killed by the communist regime for resisting Poland's post-war Sovietization. Representatives of the post-communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) deliberately showed up late so they wouldn't have to observe parliament's one minute of silence honoring the heroes.

GLEMP ON THE MEND. Retired Polish Primate Józef Glemp is recuperating at home following two recent operations to remove a lung tumor. On the Warsaw Archdiocese website, the 82-year-old cardinal thanked people for their prayers and said he had had reservations about submitting to surgery at his age. He took over as Primate of Poland from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in 1981 and shepherded the nation through the tumultuous Solidarity and martial-law periods to independence. He now holds the honorary title of Senior Primate.

THE NUMBERS ARE IN. Poland's economy expanded by 4.3% in 2011, marking one of the highest growth rates in the European Union. This gross domestic product surpassed market expectations. Poland's economic growth was fueled in great part by domestic demand which rose considerably in 2011 and by substantial growth of net exports.

EXPANDING EAST. Polish food will be coming to China as Amber foods opens a restaurant named Sarmatia, offering premium Polish cuisine in the city of Foshan, located in the Guangdong province in southern China.

It accommodates 222 diners and serves predominately lighter traditional Polish meals which include wild game. Other food products and alcohol are imported from Poland.

Company plans include the opening of five restaurants in China — in Beijing, Canton and Shanghai — within three years. Further plans for the long term involve developing a network for the distribution of premium Polish foods marketed under the Sarmatia brand name.

Wesołego Alleluja!



EASTER TRADITIONS

The Holy Week – Wielki Tydzień

by Staś Kmieć / PAJ Kultura Editor

On a Holy Saturday morning in my youth: dressed up in fine clothes, my brother and I prepared to bring our first Easter basket to church to be blessed at the parish *Święconka*. My mother and father assembled and arranged the contents according to tradition and upon entering the church hall; we were introduced to an ancient Polish ritual and what would become an annual commitment. With each year, the baskets became more elaborate, and eventually embodied the full extent of the custom. Extended family members living four

See “Holy Week,” page 5

Happy Easter!

Obama to Break Promise on Visa Waiver

by Peter Gentle
WASHINGTON, D.C. (Polskie Radio) — After talks with Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski in Washington, U.S. secretary of state Hilary Clinton admitted that Poles would not be included in America's visa waiver program by the end of 2012.

Despite promises by President Barack Obama last December that Poles would not have to obtain visas to enter the United States by the end of his presidency; Hilary Clinton admitted that this promise may have to be broken.

“I know the President pledged that this would be

done before the end of his presidency, and probably that will be a little longer than the end of this year,” Clinton told reporters at a joint press conference with Minister Sikorski, March 7.

President Obama faces elections in November.

“But we are going to continue to work very hard to see that it is accomplished,” she added.

“We are working very hard with Congress to try to get that legislation through. I will be very honest with you. We have strong support and we have strong opposition, and so we need to work together to redouble our efforts,” she

said. Minister Sikorski, meanwhile, thanked the United States for its condolences after 16 people died in the train crash in southern Poland at the weekend: “Likewise, we regret the death of the American journalist Marie Colvin, and I am pleased that our diplomats were able to be helpful in taking her body out of Syria,” he said.

On the situation in Syria — and Belarus, where relations with the West are deteriorating — Sikorski said that he: “agreed with [Secretary Clinton] that the democratization agenda is something that

See “Visa,” page 10

Court Says St. Stanislaus Owns Its Assets

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — St. Stanislaus Kosta Catholic Church will have control over its assets and property instead of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a local circuit judge ruled, March 15.

Several years ago, St. Stanislaus was stripped of its standing as a Roman Catholic Church in a dispute over



FR. BOZEK

the church's charter. An 1891 agreement between the parish and archdiocese would allow the church to handle its own finances, but still allowed the archbishop control over pastoral and board appointments.

In 2001, the local parish board attempted to amend that agreement, voting to deny the archbishop's ability to appoint or fire the pastor or board members.

Two years later, the Archdiocese of St. Louis asked the church to conform to a dynamic consistent with other churches in the archdiocese. However, St. Stanislaus board members were unwilling to alter that original deal

See *St. Stanislaus*, page 10

American Pastime a Hit with Poles, Former Bloc Countries

WARSAW — Two hundred children from six former East Bloc countries came to Poland to compete for the Presidents Cup. A crystal vase, with a Polish eagle etched on it and under the patronage of President Komorowski, was presented to the winner of the three-day tournament.

Each team came by minivan from their respective country, (Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia), with Russia winning in the last 40 seconds of the game, much to the disappointment of the Lithuania team. All these young boys and girls put in their best effort.

See “Baseball,” page 10



(l. to r.): William Heidt, Allen Heidt, Stasia Ratajczak, Al Kopuski, and Janina Zyznowski.

ALMANAC



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April ❖ Kwiecień

*Nie ja biję, wierzba bije
za tydzień, wielki dzień
Za sześć noc, Wielkanoc.*

I don't strike, the willow strikes
In one week, the great day
In six nights, the great night, Easter.

— Old Polish Palm Sunday saying,
used when hitting a person with a
pussy willow or palm branch.

1 **PALM SUNDAY**

Niedziela Palmowa

1967. Death of three-time world
wrestling champ Zbyszko Cy-
ganiewicz.

2 2005. Death of Pope John Paul
II,

3 1981. First issue of *Tygodnik
Solidarność* with Tadeusz
Mazowiecki as editor-in-chief

1849. Death of Polish poet and
dramatist Julius Slowacki, in
Paris.

4 1794. Polish forces under Ta-
deusz Kosciuszko are victorious
in the battle of Raclawice.

5 **HOLY THURSDAY**

Wielki Czwartek

6 **GOOD FRIDAY**

Wielki Piątek

*Deszcz w Wielki Piątek,
zapewnia każdy kątek*
*Rain on Good Friday,
brings a good harvest*

7 **HOLY SATURDAY**

Wielka Sobota

8 **EASTER SUNDAY**

Wielkanoc.

Wesołego Alleluja!

He Has Risen!

1943. Mass graves of Polish of-
ficers murdered by Soviet se-
curity forces are discovered at
Katyn. The discovery was an-
nounced five days later.

9 **DYNGUS DAY**

Poniedziałek Oblwany

13 1986. Pope John Paul II meets
with Rabbi Elio Toaff, chief rab-
bi of Rome, at the Synagogue of
Rome, the first pope to do so.

16 1935. Birth of Polish American
singer Bobby Vinton ("Red Ros-
es," "Blue Velvet," "Melody of
Love.")

18 1025. Coronation of Bolesław I
Chrobry

1802. Birth of conduc-
tor and composer
Leopold
Stokowski
(right).



19 1943. War-
saw Ghetto
Uprising
begins.

23 **ST. ADALBERT**

1989. Beatification of Blessed
Mary of Jesus the Good Shep-
herd (Frances Siedliska), found-
er of the Sisters of the Holy
Family of Nazareth.

25 **ST. MARK**

1333. Casimir the Great crowned
King of Poland.

26 1941. No. 307 Polish Squadron
of the Royal Air Force arrives
in Exeter, England and defends
that region for almost two years.
1902. Birth of pianist, compos-
er and Dana record company
founder Walter Dana (d. March
4, 2000).

28 1925. Birth of panorama painter
Adam Styka

30 1309. Birth of Kazimierz III,
King of Poland (1333-70).

1632. Death of Sigismund III
Waza

*Kto z ul dmuchnie,
temu pysk spuchnie.*
*He who blows into a hive
will have a swollen face.*

VIEWPOINTS

A Beautiful Custom of National, Religious and Family Unity

Poles and Polish American are
blessed indeed to have both a cul-
ture rich in tradition and many ways
to express their pride in it. Those
expressions — our customs — have
been handed down through the gen-
erations yet remain a strong part of
our lives.

Because these practices are wov-
en into the fabric of our religious
belief, the important role customs
play in our lives rings particularly
true during the various holiday sea-
sons we celebrate. Throughout Pol-
and's history, particularly in those
times when foreign forces wiped
Poland off the map, the church was
charged with maintaining not only
the national identity but also the
customs held so dear by the Polish
people. It is for this reason that most
of our beautiful traditions are asso-
ciated with feasts such as Christmas
and Easter.

"Religious Festal Days became
the inspiration for these traditions,"
said Rev. Walter Klos in the Polish
American Journal in 1971. "They
have imbued them with their spirit,
and have created them a form." And
so, with the Feast of the Resurrec-
tion of Christ, *święcone*, (blessed
food), we keep alive this tradition.

As in Poland, and like our par-
ents before us, we Americans of
Polish descent practice the bless-
ing of food at Eastertime. The most
important food in our Easter basket
is the lamb with its red flag, (*ba-
ranek z chorągiewką*). Then pisanki,
decorated eggs in a variety of col-
ors. Strings of *kielbasa*, fresh and
smoked sausage, ham and horse-
radish. Right in the middle of this
aromatic array is the *babka*, a most
delicious cake that, like the other
food in the basket, seems tastier
once blessed. While it is tempting
to sample the foods after fasting, no
one is allowed to touch them until
Easter breakfast.

IT IS ONLY AFTER Resurrection
Mass on Easter Sunday that the *szym-
anie* (treasures) with the special
food are opened. The family gathers
at the table set with the household's
finest silverware and china. The fa-
ther takes into his hands a plate with
a blessed Easter egg cut into small
pieces and shares it with every

member of the family, extending his
sincere wishes of a "Joyful Allelu-
ia!" The mother does the same, then
all the members of the family share
the blessed egg with one another.

THOSE OF US who have shared
such traditions with parents and
grandparents know full well the
warm feeling that encompasses the
gathering. It is a gift of our heritage
and one for which we are grateful.
This lovely custom was brought to
America by Poles who left their fa-
therland to seek freedom here. It is,
therefore, not only a reminder of the
joys of one's ancestry, but also of
the greatness of the United States,
which allowed our ancestors the
freedom to practice their beliefs.

This custom passes from genera-
tion to generation, and today, third-
, fourth- and even fifth-generation
Americans of Polish descent hurry
to church like their ancestors with
baskets to have their food—that
gift of God—blessed. "Is this not
a beautiful custom of national, reli-
gious and family unity?" asked Rev.
Klos.

It is up to you, our readers, to
keep this tradition alive in your fam-
ilies. Let us strive to maintain this
tie to our ancestors, our heritage,
and Our Lord.

Wesołego Alleluja!

FR. ROBERT
WITKOWSKI

St. Edmund Church
14025 Twelve Mile Rd.
Warren, MI 48088

Chrystus
zmartwychwstał!
Prawdziwie
zmartwychwstał!

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① Wesołego Alleluja

Easter Vigil

Extraordinary form Mass : April 7, 8:00 PM

Easter

Extraordinary form Mass : April 8, 9:30 AM

Ordinary form Mass with Eucharistic Procession : NOON

St. Josaphat Roman Catholic Church

Fr. Darrell Roman, S.Ch Administrator

715 E. Canfield Ave. at Chrysler (I-75) Service Drive

Detroit
Michigan



StJosaphatChurch.org Personal Parish
National Registry of Historic Sites: # 82000555
Michigan Registry of Historic Sites ID: P4504

(1) Above the casket during funeral mass and above
the catafalque during All Souls Day masses is our
Resurrection ceiling painting.

(2) The painting of The Holy Trinity is above our
High Altar.

(3) The Passion Implements wood carving is atop
our Three Franciscan Orders Altar.

Ad Design / Sponsors : Rita and Dean Wiśniewski

Wesołego Alleluja!
Chrystus Zmartwychwstał!

Very Rev. Canon Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., M.Div., M.S. Ed., J.C.L.,
Chancellor-Rector

and

The Orchard Lake Schools

Smacznego Jajka!



Thank You!

We wish to thank all who so generously helped in making this Special Easter 2012 edition possible, especially our clergy, with whom we rely upon to help us maintain our sacred and treasured Easter traditions and customs. *Niech Bóg błogosławi was wszystkich!*

A Prayer for Priests

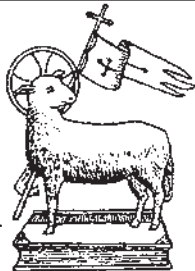
O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep Thy priests within the shelter of Thy Sacred Heart, where none may touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Thy Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with Thy Precious Blood. Keep pure and unworldly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood. Let Thy Holy Love surround them from the world's contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit, and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here and their everlasting crown hereafter. Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us: obtain for us numerous and holy priests. Amen.

Zmartwychwstał Pan z grobu, Alleluja!
Który za nas wisiał na drzewie krzyża, Alleluja!
W zmartwychwstaniu Twoim Chryste, Alleluja!
Niebo i ziemia się raduje, Alleluja!

ST. COLMAN CHURCH, Middlefield, Conn.,
and NOTRE DAME CHURCH, Durham, Conn.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Truly He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

REV. FATHER JAMES JOSEPH SUCHOLET
Easter Joy and Blessings to All!



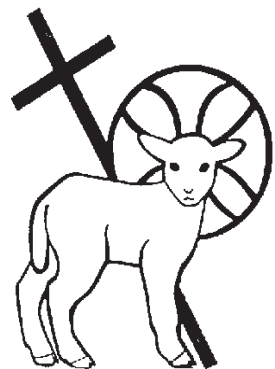
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MOST REV. EDWARD U. KMIEC
AND THE FAITHFUL OF
THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

Oto Baranek Boży
Wesołego Alleluja!



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Jeanette, PA 15644

Wesołego Alleluja!
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EASTER MASSES

Palm Sunday
Sun., April 1
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
St. John site

Holy Saturday
Sat., April 7

Basket Blessings:
Noon, St. Mary's site;
1:00 p.m. St. John Site
Vigil Mass 8:00 p.m.,
St. John site

Easter Sunday
Sun, April 8
8:00 a.m., St. Mary's site
10:30 a.m., St. John site

Fr. Robert Hora, Pastor
St. John's Rectory
(716) 941-3549

WESOŁEGO ALLELUJA!

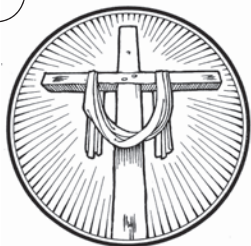


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WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. (Polish) •
10:30 a.m.
Rev. Pawel Kryszkiewicz



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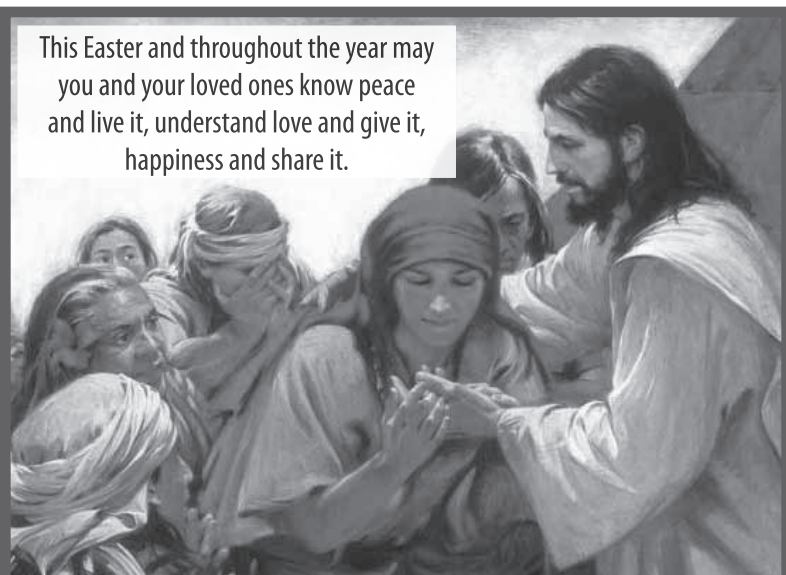
Wesołego Alleluja!

ks. Władysław Ptak — Proboszcz
ks. prałat Michał Dyląg, ks. Stanisław Flis
Asystenci i Ss. Felicjanki

Come visit us during Holy Week and celebrate our Faith in a Polish-American Parish.

Holy Thursday	Bilingual Mass at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	Tre Ore Services at 12:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil at 8:15 p.m.
Easter Sunday	Resurrection Mass
	Rezurecja at 7:30 a.m.
	Polish Mass at 10:00 a.m.
	Mass at 12 Noon

This Easter and throughout the year may you and your loved ones know peace and live it, understand love and give it, happiness and share it.



REV. CANON PHILIP S. MAJKA

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Duszpasterz Washington, D.C.
St. James Church, 905 Park Avenue • Falls Church, VA 22046
Call (703) 403-3723

"The Lord is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!"
May the Risen Lord fill your hearts and lives with Faith, Hope and Love!



"Chrystus zmartwychwstał! Alleluja, Alleluja!"
Niech zmartwychwstały Pan opromienia Was światłem wiary, nadziei i miłości!



2012 EASTER SCHEDULE

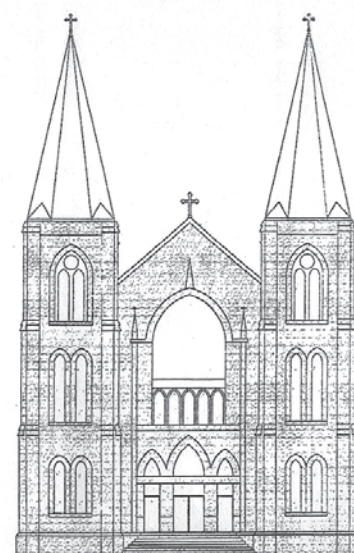
- APRIL 1: PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)- Blessing of Palms at each Mass.
- APRIL 5: HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm.
- APRIL 6: GOOD FRIDAY - Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 3:00pm. Stations of the Cross in English & Polish at 7:00pm. Divine Mercy Novena begins.
- APRIL 7: HOLY SATURDAY - Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:30pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Tomb, Confession & Blessing of food 9am to 6pm.
- APRIL 8: EASTER SUNDAY - Resurrection Procession and Mass at 8:30 AM in Polish. Polish Masses: 10am & 12:30pm. English Masses: 11am, 2:30pm & 5pm.
- APRIL 15: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - Divine Mercy Celebration begins with Holy Mass at 2:30pm.

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Wesołego Alleluja!
Christ Has Risen!

St. John Cantius Parish

Bridesburg,
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania



Rev. Joseph Zingaro
Rev. Konstanty Pruszyński
Staff and Parishioners

Celebrate Easter ... Polish Style

PITTSBURGH — Lawrence G. Kozlowski has gathered together a wealth of treasured Polish Eastertide practices gathered from the cities and countrysides of Poland and Polish American communities and parishes. The result is his new book, "Celebrate Easter ... Polish Style."

With early Slavonic origins as a backdrop, he takes the reader on a realistic six-week journey throughout festive celebration of Fat Tuesday, the fasting of Great Lent, culminating in a majestic Easter Sunday filled with grandeur, glory, radiance and splendor unequalled at any time or place in history.

For those familiar with Polish Lenten and Easter customs and still observe them, "Celebrate Easter ... Polish Style" explores each custom, ritual and practice with origins, folklore, recipes, and craft instructions. It is guaranteed to awaken the memories of a time when their observance filled the heart with indescribable piety, childlike awe and great joy.

For those not familiar with those practices, the book is an opportunity to become acquainted or to reestablish the time honored traditions of one's ancestors. It provides a wealth of charming illustrations, easy-to-follow folk craft instructions and recipes to celebrate the holiday. Included is

a section dedicated to one's own family tree, treasured family Easter traditions and favorite family recipes to personalize this book for future generations.

Kozlowski is a past recipient the Oskar Kolberg Folklore Award from the Polish Ministry of Culture for his achievements in the fields of Polish folklore and ethnography outside the country of Poland, including over five folkloric books covering Easter egg decorating, Polish paper cutting, Polish Christmas ornaments and Polish American palm weaving. The former director of the famed "Alliance College Kujawiaki" continues to perpetuate the rich folklore and folk arts of the Polish people with workshops, seminars, exhibits, demonstrations and classes at festivals in the Polish American community.

"Celebrate Easter ... Polish Style," a 33-page spiral bound book, is available for \$13.75 (postage and handling included) per book. Quantity orders are available for churches, clubs, gift shops, ethnic fairs, festivals and fund-raising. Please make check or money order payable to: Lawrence G. Kozlowski, 808 Phineas St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212. Additional information can be obtained through the mailing address or e-mail address lgk505@aol.com.



Najserdeczniejsze życzenia,
"Radosnego alleluja"
oraz smacznego święconego...
"Happy Easter"

BERNADETTE M. PRZYBYLSKI

New Castle, Pennsylvania



Easter Blessings
Wesołych Świąt
Wielkanocnych,
Błogosławieństwa Chrystusa,
oraz smacznego jajka.

**MEMBERS of the
AMERICAN POLISH
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

New Castle, Pennsylvania

www.polishnewcastle.org

Wesołego Alleluja!
He is Risen!

Blessed Easter
wishes from
JANE SHUBACK

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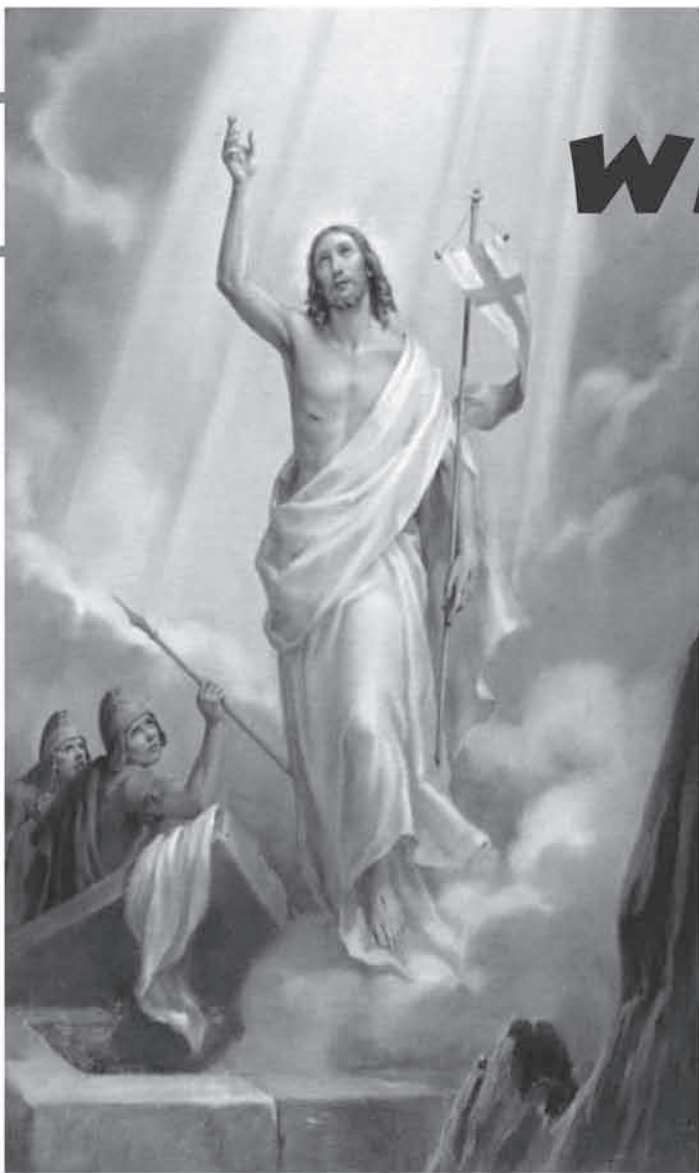
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WESOŁEGO ALLELUJA!

THE POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA EXTENDS OUR WARMEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER SEASON

From the Forty Days of Lent to *Rezurekcja*, *Święconka* and *Śmigus-Dyngus*, Easter is a time when Poles and Polish-Americans celebrate our extraordinarily rich heritage, our deep faith in God and our time-honored traditions.

We share the blessings of Easter with our members and friends as we uphold this fine heritage.

THE POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA

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THAN 120 YEARS.



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Holy Week: Intense Cleaning, Baking and Cooking

continued from cover

hours away had the privilege to have visits from the parish priest, who would travel from house-to-house to personally bless the Easter table and leave with an envelope in hand.

Two sisters made our family complete, and each year a basket was blessed in either location. As the years went by and elder relatives passed away, celebrations centered at our hometown. Then the Polish parish was closed, and the observance was relocated to a church of merger.

The American priest welcomed this tradition — one he had never heard of. With Polish blessings translated into English by our displaced Polish pastor, the custom continued, and American baskets containing chocolate bunnies, marshmallow peeps, and jelly beans were added. The Polish choir sang, as many parishioners looked in fascination at the odd Polish baskets filled with lambs made from butter or sugar, intricately decorated eggs, sausage, ham, smoked bacon, *twaróg* white cheese, *babka*, bread, horseradish, salt, a candle, and water to be blessed. Unlike the other baskets with cellophane grass, these baskets were decorated with fresh flowers, pussy willows, ribbons, and sprigs of greenery and covered with white eyelet embroidered doilies.

The cherished *Święconka* tradition is one of many Easter traditions that are identifiable and unique to Polish Catholicism.

PALM SUNDAY — *Niedziela Palmowa*. The last Sunday of Lent — the beginning of Holy Week, is also known as *Kwietna* or *Wierzba*, and begins a series of important rituals and ceremonies directly connected to the celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ.

Around the world, people bring palms to church to be blessed to commemorate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where he arrived with his disciples for the Passover before his crucifixion. Palm trees, not indigenous to Poland, are substituted with greenery found

in the fields as a representation. In many areas vertical bouquets and posies are made of pussy willow — considered to be a plant loving life since it grows in the worst conditions. Other areas use evergreen branches of arborvitae, spruce, boxwood, and yew. This greenery is attached to a pole or branch and then carried to church. Since flowers are not in bloom, artificial ones are made from tissue and crepe paper and fastened between the tall, green branches. Tall and stately, the *palmy* can reach 6 to 10 feet in height. A longest palm compe-

tion is held in Łyse in the Kurpie region.

Popular are the "palms" from Wilno (now in Lithuania) that take the shape of slender colored bouquet-sticks (*walki*). Of varying height and thickness, they are intricately arranged with dried flowers, and spikes of various grasses and mosses. They are now known throughout the country.

Although the blessing of decorated "palms" is administered in the church memory of Christ's entrance, the palms themselves have another semi-magical meaning in the countryside, where the Easter period is the rich setting of pagan spring feasts.

In many homes the palm is placed over a sacred image or above the front door to protect against fire and all evil. Early in the morning on Easter Sunday or Easter Monday in southern Poland (particularly in the Sącz and

Rzeszów areas) particles of palm or palm crosses, along with blessed eggs are placed or buried in the fields and garden to bless and defend them from the hail and pests.

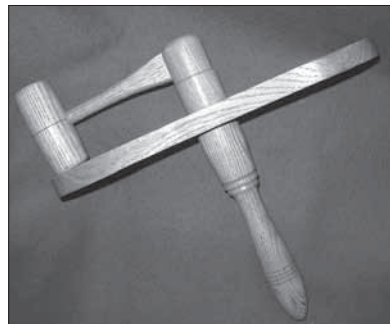
Jezus Palmowy or *Jezus Lipowy* is a celebration held in the village of Tokarnia near Myślenice, where a figure of Christ riding a donkey is placed on a cart and transported in festive procession. The custom was popular between the 15th and 18th centuries, especially in Kraków

where the cart was pulled by the most prominent citizens, town councilors and the wealthy burghers. Accompanying crowds shouted "Hosanna," and threw flowers and pussy willow branches under the wheels of the trolley. Eventually this turned into a raucous party with the rejoicing becoming disruptive; carriage figurines were banned by Church authorities in 1781, and the custom was abandoned. After a two hundred year break, it was revived by a local priest in Tokarnia and has enriched the spectacular celebrations in this village.

Groups of young men and boys go from door-to-door in the villages of the Kraków region beating rhythms with sticks and delivering humorous, senseless rhymed orations. They collected donations of eggs for the forthcoming Easter, coins, and sometimes pastries. Known as *Pucherocy*, they are disguised with their faces painted black and wear high conical straw-plaited hats trimmed with colorful ribbons, a straw corded sash and carry a walking-stick and an alms basket. The name derives from the Latin *puer* for "boy."

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of preparations for Easter. Holy Week is "cleaning week." Through fasting and prayer, bodies and spirits are prepared, and it is an intense week of cleaning, baking and cooking.

HOLY THURSDAY — *Wielki Czwartek*. Also known as *Święta Kapłanów* (the feast of the priests), this day is known for when the sacrament of the priesthood was instituted at the Last Supper. Everything is known except the twelve feet that will be washed in a reference to the gesture of Jesus, who washed the feet of his twelve disciples. There is the consecration of oils; all bells are silenced following "Gloria" and replaced by *kolatki* (wooden hammer or rotating rattle boxes) as a sign of mourning, but also representing the betrayal of Judas; the organ is not played; and at the end of the



On Holy Thursday, the chaos that followed when Roman soldiers captured Christ, is heightened by *kolatka*, a wooden noisemaker.

Mass the altar is stripped bare. Dark matins cover religious artifacts and statues, and all candles are extinguished. Traditionally, the organ is silent from Holy Thursday until the Easter Vigil, as are all bells or other instruments; the only music during this period being unaccom-

panied chant.

Priests would hit the altar top as a sign of the chaos that followed when the Roman soldiers captured Christ leaving the disciples terrified. This high rite was an excuse for young boys prone to mischief, and who could hardly endure the Lenten seriousness to run through the streets making noise with their own *kolatki* and by banging sticks on fences and gates.

A straw or stuffed effigy of Judas with thirty pieces of broken glass in his pocket (symbolizing the thirty pieces of silver) was hung, or thrown from the church tower where on-lookers would catch the figure and wander through the streets shouting "Judas!" The effigy is beaten until completely destroyed; the remains are burned or thrown into a pond or river.

GOOD FRIDAY — *Wielki Piątek*. Holy Friday is the day of deepest mourning and a strict fast is observed. Traditionally a time of silence and prayer is observed from noon until 3:00 p.m. In church during afternoon service, a coffin with a cross and surrounded by candles is prominently displayed, and a ceremony of adoring and kissing the Cross is observed at the conclusion. At Stations of the Cross the martyred Christ is offered to the grave. In cities and towns, people visit various churches to view representations of Christ's tomb, which are often beautifully and artistically arranged and decorated in flowers. Honor guards (*Turki Wielkanocne*) consisting of local fraternities, students, scouts and even the army keep watch in shifts through the night.

It was thought to be a good day for planting seeds — a reference to the Gospel about the seeds which must be planted in the ground to bear fruit as a metaphor for Christ's necessary death and his burial on this day.

Staged events of the Passion often occurred, along with a procession accompanied by *kapnicy* who publicly scourged their bare backs and shoulders. Their faces were covered with hoods with holes cut for eyes, nose and mouth. This custom was abandoned in the last century, but the Mystery Plays are staged at several shrines (including Kalwaria).

It is believed that on this day, water has healing properties. Before

sunrise in rivers or lakes, baths were taken scrubbing carefully to insure a year free from hand, foot and mouth pain.

Not only was there abstention from meat dishes, but also a single meal fast. The devout voluntarily refrained from eating and drinking, or would drink only water and eat dry bread.

PREPARATIONS AND PISANKI. Good Friday is a day of very intensive preparation in the households, particularly with regards to the preparation of the decorated eggs, the cleaning, cooking and baking. All Easter delights should be ready as early as Friday and at the latest before noon on Holy Saturday.

In many cultures, the egg is a symbol of life. The earliest painted eggs found on Polish territories date from the 10th century, and were found in archeological sites in the vicinity of Opole and Wrocław. The egg is a part of ancient fertility rites. In Christian faith, it is interpreted as a representation of Christ Resurrected.

Eggs, dyed in different colors and decorated with a pattern, constitute a remarkable example of ritual art and are a beautiful element of the Polish Easter table decoration. *Drapanki* or *skrobanki* are made with an engraving technique based on scratching out a pattern with a sharp tool on a previously dyed egg. The *batik technique* sketches out a design on the egg shell with a very thin funnel instrument (*pisadelka*) by applying heated beeswax. The egg is then dipped in a dye and finally the wax is removed. A multi-color design is obtained by covering the egg with wax in multiple stages. Between stages the egg is dipped in different color dyes, beginning with the brightest color, and so on. Ancient patterns include solar signs, rosettes, cross, pin-wheel, and tree of life. The eggs are generally called *pisanki*.

Colored Easter eggs without pattern are called *kraszanki*, *malowan-ki* or *byczki*. They were once made from natural plant dyes: oak bark, walnut shells, alder cones (black); scales of onion (shades of yellow and brown), beet juice (pink); mallow flowers (purple); nettle (green); elderberry berries (red); carrot, pumpkin (orange); blackthorn berries (blue).

In Kurpie and Podlasie regions, *oklejanki* or *wyklejanki* eggs are decorated by applying bulrush and strands of yarn. Popular in Łowicz are *naklejanki* or *nalepianki* — decorated with petals of elderberry, colorful paper, wycinanki cut-outs, and patches of cloth.

HOLY SATURDAY — *Wielka Sobota*. The blessing of water, fire, thorns and food takes place on this day. The mother of the family or an older child carries a basket filled with Easter offerings to be blessed by the parish priest. Holy water for home use can be taken from the church.

Historically, only the rich had food blessed in their homes, while the poorer rural and urban population wrapped food and traveled to



Using a recipe similar to *babka* is the traditional *paska* bread with its intricately-crafted braided top

churches, where the priest blessed them. The poorest brought only bread, salt and eggs. The richer set their entire tables to be blessed directly. In rural areas, the size and contents of a basket was a matter of pride and standing in the community.

In Poland, blessing of the baskets is a practice dating to the 15th century or earlier, and one which is still maintained by Polish families today. The Easter lamb made of butter, sugar, pastry, marzipan, clay, plaster, blown glass, or wood stands for Jesus, the Paschal lamb. The hard-cooked eggs symbolize new life or Christ rising from his tomb. Bread represents the bread of life given by God. Meat and sausages are symbols of the resurrected Christ, horseradish acknowledges accepting the bitter with the sweet in life. Salt is to add zest to life and preserve us from corruption.

Liturgically speaking, Holy Saturday lasts until 6:00 p.m. or dusk, after which the Easter Vigil is celebrated. The service begins with a fire and the lighting of the new Paschal candle. During the "Gloria," the church statues and icons, which had been covered during Passiontide, are dramatically unveiled, the organ plays and bells ring once again.

EASTER SUNDAY — *Niedziela Wielkanocna, Święto Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego*. The celebration begins with a solemn Resurrection Mass, followed by Easter breakfast (*Święcone*). It was imperative that every member of the family have a taste of all the blessed foods and tradition forbids women to cook during this day, so all the food is prepared during the week before.

The table is covered with a white cloth and the centerpiece is the Easter lamb (*angusek* from the Latin *Angus*). The custom of setting the table with a lamb holding a red flag was introduced in the sixteenth century by Pope Urban V in the 16th

continued on next page



Traditional Polish Easter foods prepared each year by the Kmieć family of Haverhill, Massachusetts.



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Easter Traditions

continued from page 5
century. Today, a Polish red and white banner is sometimes used.

A single blessed egg is divided and shared with each person at the table to ensure health, happiness and prosperity. *Bialy barszcz* (white soup) is served with hard-boiled eggs and often meats, white cheese and horseradish from the Easter basket are added. A variety of sausages, sliced cold meats and roasted meats are served, along with side dishes such as: pickled mushrooms (*grzybki marynowane*) and beet and horseradish relish (*ćwikla*). Cakes include *mazurka* – a decorative, flat cake covered with almond paste and other nuts, colorfully iced and decorated with jam, nuts and raisins, *sernik* cheesecake, and in southern regions – *piróg* cake with a rice or *kasza* filling.

The traditional tall *babka* egg bread, which is baked in a scalloped form, is wonderfully light with a slightly sweet flavor. Using a similar recipe is the *paska* bread with its intricately-crafted braided top. In Podlasie and southern regions, a sponge cake known as *sekacz* is baked above a flame on a rotary spit. As a result of pouring layers of dough on the spit, its spikey form resembles a pine tree.

Traditional games using eggs are enacted such as: rolling eggs on the table, or *walatka* or *wybitka* – gently tapping the eggs thus scoring points and wins, for the longest period without a crack. A hill rolling game occurred in Upper Śląsk; while in Śląsk and Pomorze, according to German custom, baskets were prepared with surprises for the children.



In Limanowa, Poland, *dziady śmigusne* or *słomiaki* — wearing high hats and outfits braided from straw — go through the village in silence asking for offerings. Those who refuse are doused much like they have for centuries, albeit without the aid of a fire hose, as here in 1988.

EASTER MONDAY – Poniedziałek Wielkanocny

The second day known as *Lany Poniedziałek* (Wet Monday) or *Śmigus-Dyngus* is a favorite among younger people. Breaking from the solemnity of Lent, youths find ways to douse each other with water. Some believe this originated in pagan times, while others derive it from the baptism of Poland in 966. *Śmigus dyngus* starts at the break of dawn. Traditionally, only men doused girls with water. Maidens soaked on that day would have a greater chance of getting married that year. It is essentially a marriage of two old Easter rites. “Dyng” meant redemption; “Śmigus” (a word probably of German origin) was to hit one another with green branches, and douse with water.

Various local customs became connected to Easter Monday. Just like caroling at Christmas, *chodzenie po dyngusie* meant traveling from

house-to-house, reciting verses of the Passion, singing, and expecting a donation.

In Kraków, *Emmaus* established in memory of the walk of the apostles on the road to Emmaus with the risen Christ. Processions of religious brotherhoods carry a statue of the risen Christ holding a red banner. Also in the vicinity, men smeared with soot walked along country roads and city streets hooking arms, holding, or kissing those passing by. On Tuesday, residents meet on the right bank of the Wisła River, where the townspeople with their own hands once heaped the grave of Krak in a custom is called *Rękawka*.

Siuda Baba refers to the rites of spring, and the legend of a pagan temple in Lednica near Wieliczka where a priestess, who guarded the fire in it, would go out once a year in search of successor. She is black with soot, as the year-round duty had not afforded her time to wash. This custom is now preserved with a man dressed as a disheveled woman in tattered clothes. He carries a large cross in hand, strings of beads made of chestnuts or potatoes around his neck, and a large basket on his back wrapped in a sheet.

In Kujawy there is *przywoływek dyngusowych*, where at dusk on Easter Sunday or Easter Monday morning, boys affiliated with the *Stowarzyszeniu Klubu Kawalerów* (Bachelors' Club) walk in procession to the village square with a large orchestra. On a platform, high tree, or the roof of the inn, they recite verses about the local girls. Praising or ridiculing them, they accept how much water will be shed to secure a meeting with a girl or to protect her from malicious mischief.

In the southern Małopolska area, mainly in the area of Limanowa, men disguised called *dziady śmigusne* or *słomiaki* wore high hats and outfits braided from straw and went through the village in silence asking for offerings. As according to legend – emissaries who did not want to believe in the resurrection of Christ and proclaim the good news, lost their voices as a punishment. In the area of Mielec silent *mówiące* beggars pour water from containers with wishes for a good harvest.

In central Poland — Rawa Mazowiecka, Łowicz, Sieradz and Łęczyca, and also in the Śląsk and Wielkopolska regions, *kurkiem po dyngusie* is observed. A clay or stuffed rooster is placed on a decorated red two-wheeled cart. In ancient times a live rooster was sacrificed to the deities of fertility and harvest. *Kurcarskie* celebrations are held in the spirit of courtship and intended to promote the pairing of young couples to provide descendants. The rooster for centuries has been a symbol of strength, beauty and masculinity. Songs and jokes were rewarded with eggs, sausage, cakes and money.

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Queen of the Masked Ball

by James Conroyd Martin

MILWAUKEE — The Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee gathered for its Silver Anniversary Bal Maskowy in February, an event that also celebrated the birthday of their artistic director, Ada Dziewanowska. Ada, as she is lovingly known, turned 95 and opened the celebration by dancing with her son.

Despite the fact that the male dancers did not form a circle to toss Ada into the air, as they did at the ball five years ago when she was a mere 90, Ada moved gracefully and spryly about the ballroom to the delight of the attendees.

Ada is a true Polish heroine, having come to the United States with her husband in 1947, bringing with her both a wealth of knowledge of dance and Polish culture, and great talent. Having taught Polish at Harvard and Polish folk dance in Boston she, with her husband, relocated to Milwaukee in 1979. There, Ada became the artistic director of the Syrena Ensemble and retains that position to this day.

Besides being active in promoting Polish folk dance within the United States and in many other countries, she has seen to it that the culture of Poland is celebrated in the areas of song, traditions, folk art, folklore, and costuming.

When the ball goers were preparing to sing "Sto lat"



The author with the Queen, Ada Dziewanowska.

to the 95-year-old Ada, the birthday gal asked that the song be revised to "Dwa Sto Lat." Clearly, Ada Dziewanowska has no intention of slowing down.

Martin is the author of the Polish themed novels, *Push Not the River* and *Against a Crimson Sky*. He has received a Gold Medal from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

In Polish and English ...

Easter-food Blessing Prayer

by Robert Strybel

The blessing of Easter food on Holy Saturday and the sharing of blessed eggs after Easter morning Mass rank among the most popular Paschal traditions both in Poland and Polonia. The baskets contain a sampling of traditional Easter fare and usually include some or all of the following: hard-cooked eggs (colored or plain), sausage and other meats, bread, cheese, Easter cakes, an Easter lamb (made of butter, sugar or non-edible material), salt & pepper, horseradish and possibly also a small cruet of vinegar,

When the priest arrives for the blessing, the linen or lace napkins covering the baskets should be removed. He begins with the Sign of the Cross and then proceeds with a special prayer whose abridged versions are presented below in both Polish and English:

Panie Jezu Chryste, Ty w dzień przed męką i śmiercią kazałeś uczniom przygotować paschalną wieczerzę, prosimy Cię, daj nam z wiarą przeżywać Twoją obecność między nami podczas świątecznego posiłku, abyśmy mogli się radować z udziału w Twoim życiu i Zmartwychwstaniu.

Chlebie żywy, który w Komunii dajesz życie światu, pobłogosław ten chleb i wszelkie świąteczne pieczywo na pamiątkę chleba, którym nakarmiłeś lud słuchający Ciebie na pustkowiu, a po swym Zmartwychwstaniu przygotowałeś dla swoich uczniów.

Baranku Boży, który zwyciężyłeś zło i obmyłeś świat z grzechów, pobłogosław to mięso, wędliny i wszelkie pokarmy, które spożywać będziemy na pamiątkę Baranka paschalnego i świątecznych potraw, które Ty spożyłeś z Apostołami na Ostatniej Wieczerzy. Pobłogosław także naszą sól, aby chroniła nas od zepsucia.

Chryste, życie i Zmartwychwstanie nasze, pobłogosław te jajka, znak nowego życia, abyśmy dzieląc się nimi w gronie rodziny mogli się także wzajemnie dzielić radością tego, że jesteś z nami. Daj nam wszystkim dojść do wiecznej uczy Twojej, tam, gdzie żyjesz i królujesz na wieki wieków. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, who the day before your passion and death told your disciples to prepare the paschal supper, we implore You to let us in faith experience your presence amongst us during the festive repast that we might rejoice at taking part in Your life and Resurrection.

Living Bread, who gives life to the world in Holy Communion, bless this bread and all holiday baked goods in memory of the bread with which You fed people listening to You in the desert and which You prepared for Your disciples after Your Resurrection. Bless also our salt that it may protect us from corruption.

Lamb of God, who has conquered evil and cleansed the world

of sin, bless this meat and sausage and all the holiday fare we will consume in memory of the Paschal Lamb and the food of which you partook with your Apostles at the Last supper. Bless also our salt that it may protect us from corruption.

Lord Jesus Christ, our life and Resurrection, bless these eggs, the sign of new life, so that when we share them with our families we could also mutually share the joy that You are with us. May we all attain Your eternal feast there, where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

The priest now blesses the food with holy water, while the faithful make the Sign of the Cross as their baskets get sprinkled.

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In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled "We Love the Paj Press Fund" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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Nation Mourns Following Rail Disaster

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Polish President Bronisław Komorowski announced two days of national mourning following one of the worst train disasters in decades. At least 16 people died and 58 were injured in the crash which occurred when two speeding passenger trains collided head on near the small southern town of Szczekociny in Śląsk (Silesia) voivodship.

The explosion-like impact, heard up to a mile away, brought the residents of nearby villages out to investigate. They used cellphones to alert neighbors who began arriving at the crash site with axes and crow bars with which they smashed windows and pried open doors to free passengers trapped inside the wreckage. Others brought blankets and thermoses of hot tea in the sub-freezing weather for the dazed survivors. Soon thereafter the first fire-brigade rescuers began arriving.

Foreign citizens were among the some 350 passengers on board the two trains. A woman from the United States and one from Russia were among the fatalities. Four of the six Ukrainian passengers were

hospitalized, as was one Moldavian and Czech, but a few French, and Spanish citizens escaped unharmed. Hundreds of rescue workers, aided by a dozen sniffer dogs, worked late into the night sifting through the wreckage in search of bodies and survivors. About one half of those hospitalized were in serious condition with fractured limbs, spines and hips as well as head injuries.

"After we climbed out of the train, we could see the bodies of the dead and injured on the ground," said one unidentified man.

Polish prosecutors plan to charge a railway signal controller for unintentionally causing the collision. Prosecutors said the controller faces up to eight years in jail if found guilty of incorrectly setting the track mechanism. The controller, who has not been named, is under psychiatric supervision.

This was Poland's most serious rail disaster since 1990, when 16 died in a train crash in Warsaw. The worst post-war rail catastrophe occurred in 1980 near the village of Ołtoczyn in northern Poland's Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodship and claimed 67 lives.



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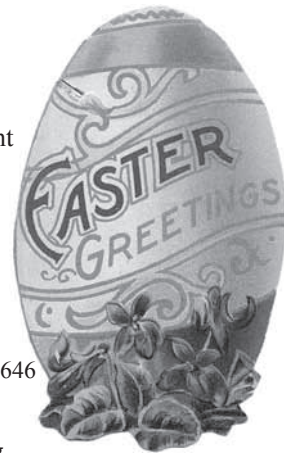
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"If we don't help our Polish children, who will?"
Ronald Syslo, President

Anna Fotyga Comments on the Smolensk/Katyn Catastrophe

by **Richard P. Poremski**
SILVER SPRING, Md. — Anna Fotyga, a past and first female Foreign Minister of Poland and a widely recognized expert in foreign affairs, was in Washington, D.C. recently to attend the 39th annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) that concluded on Feb. 10, 2012.

Afterwards, she held a meeting with 60 members the local Polonia that lasted for almost two hours, which was conducted entirely in Polish. She expressed her views and opinions, and answered a plethora of diverse questions, all very germane to past and present day Poland. Included were taxation issues, integration into the Euro monetary system, a stronger NATO partnership, the labor market, the economy, social issues, Catholic church/rights matters, and the immigration of Polish workers throughout Europe (EU).

Also on topic was the catastrophic airplane crash on April 10, 2010 near Smolensk, Russia, which claimed the lives of President Lech Kaczynski, his delegation and the air crew — 96 people in total. They were patriotic pilgrims en route to Katyn Forest to commemorate and honor the over 25,000 Polish Army officers, and other leading Poles, murdered there and at other locations by the Soviet Union (aka Russia) in 1940 during World War II.



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS WASHINGTON. Anna Fotyga (standing) addresses a Polonia audience at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Hall, located just north of Washington, D.C., Sat., Feb. 11, 2012. Seated is colleague Radoslaw Fogiel, vice chairman of the European Young Conservatives.

In her opening statement, Fotyga said: "That the discovering of the entire truth about the Smolensk plane crash is a vital matter for the future of Poland ... and it is equally important for the honor and dignity of the Poles. The tragic event is too consequential to surrender the investigation to a foreign country (Russia).

"The present Polish government and other involved and concerned

Polish institutions, have all experienced great difficulties in obtaining information about the crash, with no help or good will from the Russian side. Just minutes after the plane crashed the Russian Federation began a great disinformation campaign that mainly centered on blaming passenger Polish General Andrzej Blasik and the air crew," she said. "We now know that the Russian-dispersed information is not true and also that the false information initially influenced world-wide opinion in blaming only Poland. So far Russia has not apologized to Poland for any of its insulting behavior.

"The dignitaries who perished

at Smolensk built a strong Poland. The loss of their lives is a tremendous political and social loss for Poland in all respects. Finding out the whole truth about Smolensk is an important duty for us all."

Fotyga is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2006-2007, in the cabinet of President Lech Kaczynski. Her position on foreign affairs is based on the concept of Poland as a strong and independent country, poised to confront Poland's powerful Russian and German neighbors as an equal whenever necessary. She also pursued a policy of close alignment with the United States.

Currently Fotyga is a member of the Polish Parliament, a member of the Parliamentary Affairs Team to Investigate the Causes of the April 10th Presidential Plane Crash in Smolensk, Russia, and is vice president of The Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists. She has also served in other official Polish and international positions, and recently was a member of the European Parliament.

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Visa: Poland Strung Along by Washington

continued from cover

Poland and the United States can most effectively and fruitfully do together, because promotion of democracy is something that both of our nations feel in their bones.

"It's not our policy, it's what we are," Sikorski said.

"And we are doing it in both the southern and the eastern neighbor-

hood of the European Union."

Clinton thanked Poland "and in particular the minister for the very strong contributions that you have made to the fight against extremism in Afghanistan."

Poland's foreign minister also held talks with business leaders on Polish-American trade on his three-day trip to Washington.

Baseball in Poland

continued from cover

forts and each team took home a trophy for their city and school. Each participant was also given a small trophy, medals, and t-shirts as a remembrance of the tournament.

The closing ceremonies took place Sunday in the magnificent gymnasium of the No. 2 school in Dzialdowo, Poland. Coach Zdzislaw Ziolkowski of the Dzialdowo Yankees was the organizer and master of ceremonies.

William A. Heidt, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the United States in Warsaw, attended the tournament and presented the Presidents Cup to the 1st place winning team from Russia. Heidt at-

tended the event with his wife and son. His son plays baseball at the American School in Warsaw.

The Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation, a sponsor of the tournament and the provider of free baseball equipment to the Polish and Eastern European children for the last twenty years, was represented by Al Koproski of Stamford, Conn. Koproski is the national vice president of the foundation.

Koproski was surprised with a medal from the President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, the "Krzysztofem Oficerskim Orderu Zaslugi Rzeczypospolitej Polski," for his efforts in promoting baseball to the children of Poland.

Polish and British War Graves Destroyed

BENGHAZI, Libya — Libyan protestors vandalized a World War II cemetery in Benghazi containing the graves of British and Polish servicemen.

The systematic desecration of the war graves lasted for two days and was an apparent protest against U.S. soldiers burning the Koran in Afghanistan.

The destruction was shown in a video posted on the internet. In one section of the video shows a destroyed tombstone of Polish soldiers from the Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade, who fought in North Africa as part of the allied campaign against Nazi Germany during World War II.

The vandals destroyed over 150 graves in total. Around 20 armed men are shown in the video damaging the graves and shouting "Christians" and "dogs."



Dear Uncle Ed Lis,
Wesołego Alleluja!

With love and
best wishes,

Kerry, Ed, Stephanie, Curt,
Catharine, Leah, Carl,
Kassie, Sydney, and Emma

St. Stanislaus Wins Ruling

continued from cover

and changed the church's bylaws, thereby removing the archbishop's authority over them.

Then-Archbishop of St. Louis Raymond Burke removed the church pastor and declared St. Stanislaus Kosta could no longer be a Catholic Church. Several board members were excommunicated as a result.

The board hired its own priest, Father Marek Bozek, who was eventually excommunicated and defrocked as a clergyman.

Bozek reacted to the ruling saying, "We are very happy overcoming with joy that the fight is over

and we can move on and continue our life as a happy Catholic parish."

The Archdiocese of St. Louis filed suit against the historic Polish church to reclaim control over their finances.

The ruling upholds St. Stanislaus' ownership of its property and its right to craft bylaws that limit the authority of the Roman Catholic Church over its governance.

Current Archbishop Robert Carlson says, "We plan to appeal this decision and will take this case all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary."

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Please note that our next multidisciplinary conference, The 70th Annual Meeting, will take place on September 7-8, 2012 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

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Lady With an Ermine

Poland has for centuries been home to two of the most famous and admired paintings in the world. And they managed to survive hundreds of years of that nation's turbulent history, most remarkably the devastation of the second world war.

One of them is a secular work of art, the *Lady With an Ermine* by Leonardo da Vinci, one of about a dozen undisputed Leonardo paintings in existence. The other is the *Black Madonna*, also known as *Our Lady of Częstochowa* or *Matka Boska Częstochowy*. It has been revered by Poles generation upon generation and there is hardly a church in Poland, in America or elsewhere, that does not display a replica.

Lady With an Ermine was created by Leonardo

in 1489-90. It pictures the mistress of Italian nobleman Ludovico Sforza, whose grand-niece Bona Sforza was to marry Polish King Zygmunt

I in 1518, and become Queen of Poland. The painting's history for its first three hundred years is mostly unknown, but in 1800 it was bought by Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski while on a trip to Italy. The Czartoryskis were one of the most wealthy and influential families in Poland.



At first, invading Germans took only gold and silver objects hidden with Leonardo's painting, and simply tossed the painting on the floor. It was even trampled on and received a boot mark.

Prince Adam bought the painting for his mother Izabela, an art collector who lived in Puławy to the south-east of Warsaw. Upon receiving the portrait, she decided that she did not like the detailed background and so had it painted black. In 1809 she opened a small museum where the public could view the painting as well as other works of art in her collection.

When the Poles launched an uprising in November 1830 against the Russians occupying that part of Poland, Pani Czartoryski took *Lady With an Ermine* and other

pieces of art and walled them up in a basement for safekeeping. A short time later, the Czartoryski family fled to Paris with their artworks where they lived in the Hotel Lambert.

BY THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY the family had returned to Poland with the painting and opened the Czartoryski Museum in Austrian controlled Kraków, where the *Lady* was once again put on public display. When much of Polish territory became a battleground during World War I, the painting was sent to a museum in Dresden, Germany for safekeeping. That museum reluctantly returned it to the Czartoryski Museum in a free Poland in the 1920s.

After the German Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939 in the second world war, the painting was spirited out of Kraków and hidden behind a false wall in a country manor. But suspicious of trucks at the house, the Germans soon found its location. At first, they took only gold and silver objects hidden with it and simply tossed the painting on the floor. It was even trampled on and received a boot mark. Later, the Germans realized what they had and sent it to the Kaiser Friedrich Museum in Berlin.

But Hans Frank, the governor-general of occupied Poland, request-

ed the masterpiece to be returned to Kraków. He much admired *Lady With an Ermine* and hung it above a steam radiator in his suite of offices in Wawel Castle.

When the Germans fled the city ahead of advancing Russian troops in 1945, Frank took the painting with him to his country estate in

Bavaria. It was found by allied soldiers after the war and repatriated to the Czartoryski Museum. It hangs there on display today in Old Town Kraków, part of Poland's National Museum, as one of the jewels of world art. It has twice toured the United States, in 1992 and 2002.

BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Working through Pitchblende to Separate Radium and Polonium

continued

In the last article we talked about the scientific breakthrough – the discovery of polonium and radium. Marie and Pierre had still a long way to go to prove that they really discovered new elements. The amount of radium and polonium which they were able to extract were minute, they needed much more in order to establish their physical and chemical properties.

The ore from which they extracted polonium and radium came from the pitchblende deposits used to extract uranium salts for glass manufacture in St. Joachimsthal mine in Bohemia. The price of pitchblende was high but the value of the residue left after extracting uranium salt was low since the ore was considered useless. In that time St. Joachimsthal was a part of the Austrian empire. There were many problems to deal with: arranging permission to transfer massive amounts of ore from Austria to France, paying for the ore and for its transportation. Besides, Marie and Pierre did not even have a good quality laboratory at the Sorbonne University, only a small shack with no floor which was used for animal dissection in the past.

The Curies were very lucky: although they could not count on the French government or the Sorbonne's officials, they got help directly from Austria. The reply for their request to obtain the residue ore was also positive. First of all, the residue was not scattered around but piled up near the mine. And secondly, the Austrian government, thanks to intercession of Prof. Suess and the Academy of Science in Vienna, decided to give a ton of ore to the Curies for free. They only had to pay for the transport and if they needed more they could get in on

the best terms.

The ton of pitchblende ore (dull brown mixed with some pines from Bohemia) was soon delivered in front of the School of Physics in Paris one morning. The Curies were excited. The next four years of their life (1898-1902) would be devoted to separating radium and polonium from the ore and studying their properties. This was quite a heavy task considering that the shed in which they were working was a hothouse during the summer, and leaking from rain and cold during the winter.

Marie and Pierre decided to split their duties. Whereas Pierre tried to determine the properties of newly discovered elements, Marie decided to do the man's job — she was treating the mass amounts of the raw ore material with precipitates and liquids in order to separate measurable amounts of radium and polonium.

In spite of this arduous job, this was a happy time for the Curies. They shared the excitement of what they were able to find, and believed that they were on the road to great discovery. Marie and Pierre spent long hours together in the laboratory, but they also tried to spend valuable time with Irene, who was growing up quickly. Irene was under the care of Pierre's father during the day. During 1899 and 1900 they published reports of a discovery of "induced radioactivity" due to radium, another on the effects of the radioactivity and also on the electric charge carried by the rays.

Because there was a lot of competition in the field of radioactivity development at this time, the Curies needed coworkers. Andre Debierne, who would later discovered a new element, actinium, became the most famous of their assistants.

Much of the laboratory work,

if the weather permitted, was done outdoors in order to avoid fumes since there was no ventilation system in the shed. Eventually more and more concentrated products were obtained. Marie was working on the very final stage of the fractional crystallization. Finally in 1902, forty-five months after the existence of radium was announced by the Curies, Marie was able to separate 1 decigram (0.1 g) of pure radium. The Curies were able to determine the atomic number of the new substance, 225. Now we know that since radium consists of several radioisotopes its atomic number will not be an integral.

At the time that the Curies were working on radium separation, no one was aware of the dangerous effects of radiation exposure. Pierre and Marie, by working with concentrated radium from the ore as a final product, were exposed to harmful doses of radiation which affected their physical state. They were often tired, without knowing that radioactivity was harmful for their bodies. Just for a comparison, Uranium-238 (the most common radioisotope of uranium,) radioactivity is about three million times less than Ra-226 (the most common isotope of radium). At the time, though Marie and Pierre were perplexed by a beautiful bluish color emanating from the radium, they considered it a magic, but did not realize how harmful it might be for their own bodies.

We will continue Marie and Pierre's story in the next Polish American Journal issue.

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

References:

Eve Curie "Madame Curie"

Barbara Goldsmith: "Obsessive Genius"

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Legion Holds Its Cotillion



l. to r.: Horwath, Boratyn, Gwizdz, Lenart, Kacik, Czapla, Początek, Niedziński, Tomal, Kawalkowski, Wieckowski, and Gawlak.

CHICAGO — Over 450 guests filled the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago to join the Legion of Young Polish Women as it hosted the 73rd Annual White and Red Ball and the presentation of this year's twelve debutantes. The young women presented on February 18, participated in a 67-year-old Polish American tradition, the *en masse* presentation of debutantes.

Ball committee members and their partners danced the traditional Polonez with this year's Ball Chair, Sharon Orłowski, and the Ball's choreographer, Richard Owsiany, leading the dance, followed by the Legion's President and Ball Co-Chair, Teresa Skawski, and Marian Skawski. The formal presentation of the debutantes was announced by this year's Master of Ceremonies, Jack Skaja, co-owner of Skaja Funeral Homes and a longtime supporter of the Legion.

The debutantes were Jacqueline Boratyn, Irina Cholewinski-Horwath, Octavia Czapla, Michelle Gawlak, Joasia Gwizdz, Nathalie Kacik, Nicole Kawalkowski, Becky Lenart, Victoria Niedziński, Melissa Początek, Melanie Tomal, and Jessica Wieckowski. Last year's queen, Aleksandra Kurzydłowski crowned Irina Cholewinski-Horwath, as the 2012 queen. Joasia Gwizdz was first runner-up and Melanie Tomal was second runner-up. The Ball ended with a fiery and emotional *Biały Mazur* led by the 2011 Ball queen, Aleksandra Kurzydłowski and Thomas Tarnowski along with fifteen other post-debutantes and their partners. Income from the Ball will be used to help those in need both locally and nationally, as well as those abroad. The Legion donates its earnings to promote Polish cultural, historical, linguistic, and philanthropic causes. It also goes beyond its ethnic scope, donating wherever there is a need.

Among the guests at this year's Ball were Rev. Marek Kasperczyk, Rector of the Bishop Abramowicz Seminarby Aleksandra Podowska.

On another Legion note: The LYPW announced that its Second Annual Fashion Show, will be held on Sunday June 24, 2012. For information's contact Sharon Orłowski, legionball@hotmail.com.

PULASKI DAY CELEBRATION.

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) hosted its annual Pulaski Day celebration in its Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. This was a day to pay tribute to Casimir Pulaski, as a true American hero. Masters of Ceremony were Joseph Drobot, Jr., chair of the PMA and its president, Maria Ciesla. Tributes were made to honor this American Revolutionary War Hero, but this year's emphasis centered on the importance of



Jewel-Osco Scholarship recipients.

the U.S. Congress' passage of the Visa Waiver Bill HR 3855. Many state, city and county officials were in attendance. Also in attendance were Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw, Poland and Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Andrew Wypych. A highlight of this celebration was Brian Huff, President of Jewel-Osco and Miguel Alba, Public Affairs Director of Jewel-Osco, presenting the PMA with a \$5,000 donation, as well as presenting five Jewel-Osco scholarship recipients with a \$1,000 check. The scholarship winners were Kamil Plecki, Anna Mikulski, Marta Budzikowska, Agata Turowski, and Joanne Dynak. The first Monday in March is an Illinois state holiday. State and municipal offices are closed, and children attending some public schools have a free day.

CELEBRATING KING

STANISŁAW. The King's Dinner, held at Chicago's Maxim's Restaurant and hosted by the Warsaw Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI), was a tribute to Poland's last ruling monarch, King Stanisław August Poniatowski. During his reign, the king hosted weekly dinners which were considered the most brilliant social functions in Warsaw. His Thursday Dinners, *Obiady Czwartkowe*, were the meeting places of Poland's intellectuals, artists, and statesmen. The dinners were first held in the Royal Castle of Warsaw, then later held in the Water Palace, *Palac Łazienkowski*. This March 6 event at Maxim's brought together approximately 150 guests from Chicago Polonia's philanthropic, educational, governmental, and business worlds. Preparing the evening's culinary adventure were Kazimiera "Kasia" Bober of Chicago's famous Kasia's Deli, Mark Grosz, Chef/Owner of Oceanique Restaurant in Evanston, Michael Lachowicz, Chef/Owner of Michael of Winnetka, and Tomasz Rybinski, Executive Chef/Owner of Professional Prepare, Inc. Lavishing the guests with pâtisserie was Bogna Solak, Pastry Chef/Owner of Oak Mill Bakery. The evening's honored guests were Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw and Most Reverend Andrew P. Wypych, Aux-

iliary Bishop of Chicago. The Chair of this King's Dinner was Thaddeus Makarewicz, attorney.

Established over fifty years ago, the CSCI has been in the forefront of cultural, educational, and business exchanges between twenty-eight sister cities. The CSCI is committed to promoting Chicago as a global city, developing international partnerships and sharing best practices on a city-to-city basis. In 1960, Warsaw was designated Chicago's first sister city.

"THE POPE'S MAESTRO." At a press conference held on March 7, at the Arts Club of Chicago, **Sir Gilbert Levine**, world-renowned conductor, announced that a special concert, **"Peace Through Music – In the Spirit of John Paul - Chicago 2012,"** will be performed on April 23, 2012 at Chicago's Orchestra Hall. This special concert will be performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, and a quartet of internationally celebrated vocal soloists, under the direction of Sir Gilbert Levine. The concert will honor the one-year anniversary of the beatification of Pope John Paul II. At the press conference, Sir Gilbert Levine was joined by Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, along with representatives from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, WFMT Radio (Chicago's Classical music station), the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, the Consulate General of the State of Israel, and the American Jewish Committee. For additional information about this historic event, please contact Father Casimir Garbacz, SVD at (312) 534-8301 or cgarbacz@archgchicago.org.

OY! OY! OY! KLEZMER MUSIC.

The Polish Consulate was overflowing with klezmer music lovers, all there to hear Chicago's famous Maxwell Street Klezmer Band Quartet. Hosted by the Consul General, Zygmunt Matynia, and the Board of Directors of the



Maxwell Street Klezmer Band Quartet.

Lira Ensemble, approximately 100 guests listened and joined in the celebration of Yiddish and Polish songs, from the bittersweet to the joyous. The audience was mesmerized by the singing of *"To Ostatnia Niedziela"* Tango sung in Polish by Alex Koffman. The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, which specializes in Ashkenaz-style folk music, was founded in 1983 by Lori Lippitz, the Band's founder, bandleader, and vocalist. The other members of the quartet are Alex Koffman, violinist and musical director, Donald Jacobs, clarinetist, and Gail Mangurten, pianist.

Attending this soirée was Marta Ptaszynska, professor of music from the University of Chicago and world-renowned composer and percussionist. During this concert, Lucyna Migala, artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble, announced that Dr. Ptaszynska has been commissioned by the Lira Ensemble to compose a cantata for the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising which will be performed by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra in April 2013.



Tim Wambach, KOKO president, and Maria Ciesla.

KOKO AWARDS. Almost 200 guests attended "March Forth: A Celebration of Perseverance" luncheon, sponsored by "The Keep On Keeping On Foundation" (KOKO), to honor three outstanding individuals who, in their own unique way, overcame life's challenges to become special in their own right. On March 4, the banquet center of the Holiday Inn in Skokie was filled

with those honoring Fern Frank, Bob Love, and Maria Ciesla. Mrs. Frank spent years teaching children with developmental disabilities and mental challenges. Bob Love, a three-time NBA All-Star basketball player, who spent nine years with the Chicago Bulls, is the Bulls' Director of Community Affairs, and overcame a severe stuttering handicap. Maria Ciesla, President of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), began her volunteer activities in the late 1970s as a PMA docent. From that point on, she spent every year as a volunteer and active leader in Chicago's Polonia organizations, numerous civic organizations, and an advocate for ovarian cancer awareness. Her leadership with Polonia is unmatched by no other.

PULASKI ROAD REVISITED.

On Pulaski Day, celebrated in Illinois on the first Monday of March, Michael Zalewski, Illinois State Representative, announced that he will file Illinois House Resolution 830. This resolution is to honor the legacy of American Revolutionary War Hero, General Casimir Pulaski, by designating the entire length of Pulaski Road, including those stretches of the road currently named Crawford Avenue, which extends to Wilmette, Illinois, in honor of Pulaski. Also urging the passage of the resolution was U.S. Congressman Rep. Dan Lipinski, who stated "As a proud Polish American, I believe the entirety of Pulaski Road should bear his name, in recognition of his bravery in combat, his love of liberty, and his contribution to the founding of our country." Zalewski said "General Pulaski's bravery and heroism should be honored by all Illinois cities, towns, and villages..."

Back in 1935, after a heated debate, which was settled by the Illinois Supreme Court, Crawford Avenue, named after early pioneer and real estate speculator, Peter Crawford, was changed to honor Pulaski. However, the street name change took place only within Chicago's city limits.

In 2009, Congressman Lipinski helped pass a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives proclaiming Casimir Pulaski as an honorary U.S. citizen posthumously, citing his heroism in fighting on the side of the American colonists against the British in the American Revolutionary War. There are only six other honorary U.S. citizens, two of whom are Winston Churchill and Mother Teresa.




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DID YOU KNOW? The bud of a **blessed pussywillow** swallowed on Palm Sunday was once believed to ward off illness and ensure good fortune.

The custom of boys called *pucheroki* making house-to-house rounds on Palm Sunday was common to only a few villages of the Kraków area. Dressed in mock-military uniforms with soot-streaked faces, they recite nonsensical poems in exchange for treats.


Sprigs cut from the boxwood shrub (*bukszpan*), an evergreen with small green leaves, are a typical Polish Easter decoration. They adorn not only food baskets but also the food platters and serving dishes on the Easter table.

Wesołego Alleluja! – Happy Easter!



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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszk

Poles in the Civil War Discussed

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On February 12, **Gregory Witul's** new book "Adorned In Light: The Stained Glass of Corpus Christi Church, Buffalo, NY" was launched at Corpus Christi Church, and the **Canadian Polish Congress and Polonia Youth General Meeting** was held at the University of Toronto's Hart House ... Hamburg Assemblyman **Kevin Smardz** has been appointed to the post of Ranking Member of the NYS Assembly Committee on Local Governments ... "Poles in the Civil War" was the topic discussed at the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on the 15th ... Polish classic rock group **Czerwone Gitary** performed at the Polish Hall in St. Catharines, Ontario on February 15, and the Hala Litewska in Mississauga, Ontario on the 17th ... The **Podhale Parents and Youth Association** held its "Sweetheart Zabawa" at Corpus Christi Church in Buffalo on the 18th ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** presented their 15th Annual "Paczki Day Celebration" at the Hearthstone Manor in Depew

on February 19. The Bedrock Boys provided music for the festivities ... The **Chopin Singing Society** hosted its annual tribute to the genius of Frederick Chopin at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW Post in Cheektowaga on the 21st ... Many local Poles prepared for the beginning of the Lenten Season by celebrating **Paczki Day** with too many jelly doughnuts on Tuesday, February 21 ... On February 25, Polish actor and performer **Emilian Kaminiski** presented an evening of cabaret at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga ... "Waterfront Glimpses", an exhibit of the photographs of **Gene Witkowski** at the Market Arcade in Downtown Buffalo, closed on February 29 ... Retired NYS Appellate Division Justice and Chopin Singing Society President **Ann Mikoll** is recovering from injuries sustained in a recent fall ... **Rev. Ronald Bagienski** will serve as the new pastor of St. John Kanty/St. Adalbert Oratory on Buffalo's East Side ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** unveiled a new logo in late February. It can be seen on the group's website, www.polishheritagerochester.org, and Facebook page ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** elected the following officers for 2012: Rob Synakowski (pres.), Matt Olszewski (v.p.), Steve Synakowski (v.p.), Joe Arlukiewicz (treas.), Lillian Sadlocha (fin. sec.), Marian Poczobutt (sgt.-at-arms) and Nancy Cummings (rec. sec.).

St. Casimir's Oratory in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood hosted a four day celebration of its patron saint's feast day ("Odpust") beginning March 1. The celebration included the unveiling of the oratory's newly restored painting of St. Casimir, special Masses and a Homecoming Benefit Dance featuring music by "PhoCus" ... WNED-TV, WNY's PBS affiliate, broadcast an episode of "World War II in HD Color" entitled "Closing the Ring" about the **Polish Uprising** on March 1 and 8, and "**Irena Sandler: In the Name of Their Mothers**" on the 22nd ... The General Pulaski Association remembered its patron with a wreath-laying ceremony at the **Casimir Pulaski statue** in Downtown Buffalo and the group's installation banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on March 2. WKBW-TV meteorologist Mike Randall served as the master of ceremonies for the dinner. Cheektowaga Town Justice Paul Piotrowski administered the oath of office to the group's officers and directors. NYS Supreme Court Justice Deborah Chimes and Erie County District Attorney Frank Sedita were the keynote speakers. Sgt. Mark Hajduk was honored and the Karamanoukian Scholarships were awarded to Nicole Komin and Peter Anthony

Bognar ... On March 3 and 4, the Fahrenheit Center for Study Abroad hosted a **Polish Universities Fair** at the Hart House on the University of Toronto campus. Representatives of a number of Polish universities were present to discuss upcoming opportunities for study in Poland with Canadian students.

Papal biographer George Weigel discussed the life and legacy of **Blessed John Paul II** during the March 4 episode of "Matters of Faith" which aired on WIVB-TV Channel 4 in WNY ... **St. John Gualbert Parish** in Cheektowaga hosted a Polish Retreat featuring Rev. Jacek Mazur from the 5th through the 8th of March ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association's** board elected the following leadership for 2012: Gregory Mazurowski (pres.), Stanley Gajewski (v.p.), Michael Emser (treas.), Ralph Maraszek (fin. sec.) and Walter Stepien (secretary). John Pawlak, CPA and Thomas Sabatino addressed the organization's general membership meeting at the Polish Villa II Restaurant in Cheektowaga on the 6th ... The **Penderecki String Quartet** performed at WLU in Waterloo, Ontario on the 15th and at the Registry Theatre in Kitchener on the 17th.

The **Polish Scholarship Fund** celebrated and honored Polish singing star Stan Borys for 50 years on stage, and his 70th birthday, with the screening of his documentary film "Wonosc jak Plomien" ("Freedom Like a Flame") at the Palace Theatre in Syracuse on March 18 ... Also on the 18th, the **Polish Students Association** of the University of Toronto presented "Spring Soiree: A Concert for Polish Studies" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga. 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Polish Students Association at the University of Toronto ... The Penguin Repertory Theatre sought donations for its Off Broadway production of WNY native **Tom Dudzick's** comedy play "Miracle on South Division Street" from the public on the Internet during the month of March.

St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, was named an official shrine dedicated to Blessed John Paul II. A relic of the first Pope of Polish descent, a drop of his blood, is currently displayed in the church. Special celebrations will be held on April 2 every year to mark the Holy Father's death. There are plans to add permanent displays in the church to honor four other Poles: St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska and Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko in the near future.

April 9 is **Dyngus Day** this year. WNY will be blossoming with Polish pride and spirit. The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester is planning a bus excursion to Buffalo to participate in the 2012 Dyngus Day Parade. For the latest news on Dyngus Day activities and events, please check: <http://www.dyngus-daybuffalo.com>.

Wesołego Alleluja!

If you have any item that you would like to have included in future installments of this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (ie. April 6 for the May edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszk@verizon.net.

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PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Presentation is Everything

In my mind, I'm a high paid underwear model with magnificent oratory skills and abundant financial and political power. Well, the underwear model part is true. Well, I'm high paid. Well, I am paid.

How do you carry yourself and how do you come across to others? What kind of an impression do you make? Presentation is *not* everything but it is important.

St. Louis lost one of the great Polonians a few months back when Mike Jegliwski died. Mike was a leader in the rebirth and restoration of St. Stanislaus Church and that is where I met him. The thing is, with Mike, you never really knew what he was thinking (smiley face inserted here). Born into humble circumstances and living on the North side well after it was ravaged by urban blight, he was direct and tough but a good and decent man. And he loved that church.

There are a number of images I have of him, but one that will always remain with me is how he handled himself leading the parish meetings, how he spoke to the crowd, and how he fielded questions and comments. I recall that he worked in a machine shop when he was part of the labor force. That information heightened my admiration for him as he stood in front of the congregation, in his three-piece suit, giving progress reports on the restoration, the financial status of the project, and information regarding issues and activities related to St. Stan's. He wasn't a lawyer or professor but Mike spoke exceptionally well with the microphone and projected himself quite nicely in the leadership role.

Presentation is important in food service, business, sales, and in public speaking. The best tast-

ing dish will remain untouched if it looks like a pile of glop-glop. Persona resonates either negatively or positively with family, friends, and various kinds of associates. I am not advocating being something you are not or acting like a big shot (read - phony), but I think we all can agree that in certain situations how you come across makes a difference.

If I could make Polonia into a person, I would say we present ourselves in a generally good light. We clean up pretty well when we need to and that includes those still engrained in the culture and community, and those that have psychologically left. I believe there was a feeling at one time that to be "cool" you couldn't love polka, no Polish talk, and no acknowledging the ancestral family. Ultimately, whether the personality is hidden below the surface or reveals itself on the exterior, the Poles do well in the public arena, in various facets of behavior, in a variety of endeavors, and sometimes we actually carry the day. Just like I saw Iron Mike carry the day many times.



WELCOME TO THE HOTEL CALIFORNIA.

If you are an *Eagles* fan, you need to know that one of their most prominent and important producers was a fellow named **Bill Szymczyk** (left). He was born in Michigan and the original connection to this iconic American rock band was through rock star Joe Walsh, former

member of *The James Gang*. Walsh introduced Szymczyk to the *Eagles*, who wanted him to change the musical direction of the band, giving it a more rock sound. He became known in the industry for being "the sort of producer which pushes bands to expand their musical horizons." (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Szymczyk).

For more information about Szymczyk and his relationship with the *Eagles*, go to <http://eaglesonlinecentral.com/producers/szymczyk.htm>. Question for April, is he Polish?

POLISH OR NOT OR WHAT? If you are wondering how your favorite celebrity came to look so exotic, beautiful, or special, you might be able to solve the conundrum with a web site called *Ethnic Celebs* (<http://ethnicelebs.com>). It is a lot of fun and is hard to break away checking out those listed.

Couple of things to point out though: Some of the entries show the quote from the person confirming their background which is a good thing. Some of the celebs knowledge of their background is incomplete and some seem to be embellished a bit. In a way, the lat-

ter is not strange at all. Some of us prefer *pierogi* over pizza and there are some ethnic backgrounds which are more preferred than others.

For instance, we have Super Model Kate Upton's father's ancestry, but her mother's ethnicity is mysteriously missing. Another curious (and humorous) finding is how many of the celebs have some "Cherokee" in their family history. Hmm. My guess, "Cherokee" has become the new tribe of choice at the cocktail party.

Dziękuję bardzo to Stephen O'Connell for the note regarding Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski. *Wesołego Alleluja* to all PAJ readers. Hope you have a blessed and happy Easter.



If you have a thought about this month's topic, a question of your own, or interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139 ; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

N.B. If you send eMail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

Operation Market Garden and the Independent Parachute Brigade

Under heavy fire they paddled across the Rhine in the dark of night using rifle butts and spades as oars. Such was the determination of the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade in their attempt to come to the aid of their British comrades-in-arms during Operation Market-Garden.

Formed in Scotland in 1941 of Polish soldiers who had escaped Nazi-held Poland, the original mission for the 1st Parachute Brigade was to support the Polish Home Army in Warsaw at the moment of their uprising against the Nazi occupier. Under intense pressure from the British government, however, this mission was aborted and the brigade was ordered to join Allied forces in the largest airborne invasion of World War II, Operation Market-Garden, and drive a stake through the heart of Germany's industrial heartland.

As the operation got underway, the 1st Parachute Brigade, under the command of Col. Stanislaw Sosabowski, was ordered into action on 19 September, 1944. Its anti-tank battery was sent via gliders to Arnhem in support of British paratroopers at Oosterbeek. This, however, left the rest of the brigade without any anti-tank support. Worse yet, the brigade's light artillery battery never left England due to a shortage of gliders. The remaining forces of the 1st Parachute Brigade were scheduled to be dropped into Driel, but the operation was delayed two days because of bad weather and a shortage of transport planes. When the drop finally happened the British troops that were supposed to cover the landing zone were in a bad situation themselves and the Polish paratroopers took heavy losses from German fire.

Nevertheless, the Poles regrouped and overran Driel only to find that the ferry which was supposed to transport them across the

Rhine had been destroyed by the enemy. The brigade dug in and formed defensive positions while sending out patrols to try and find some boats. Eventually two small boats and four dinghies were procured – but no oars. Col. Sosabowski, determined to come to the aid of the beleaguered British troops on the other side of the river, ordered the crossing to begin with whatever means the Polish paratroopers could find to propel the boats. Under heavy German fire 53 of the Poles managed to get across the river that night. The following day other, larger boats arrived and another 150 men made it across.

Though Operation Market-garden ultimately failed and the Allies were forced to retreat, the two hundred Polish paratroopers who managed to cross the Rhine proved instrumental in covering the safe withdrawal of the British 1st Airborne Division. On 26 September, 1944 the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade, having lost more than a quarter of its men, was ordered to fall back to Nijmegen.

In 1945 the brigade joined forces with the Polish 1st Armored Division in the occupation of Northern Germany where it remained until it was disbanded in 1947. In 2006, more than sixty years after the war, the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade was awarded the Military Order of William by the government of the Netherlands for its "bravery, skill and devotion during Operation Market-Garden."

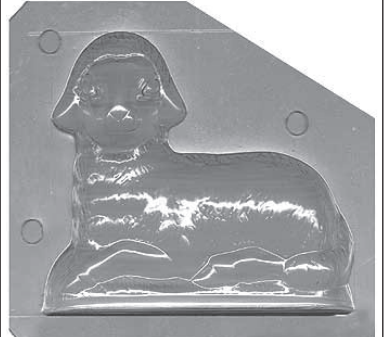


Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two and a frequent contributor to this newspaper. Jacobson's second historical novel set in Poland in World War II, The Katyn Order, was released in May, 2011.

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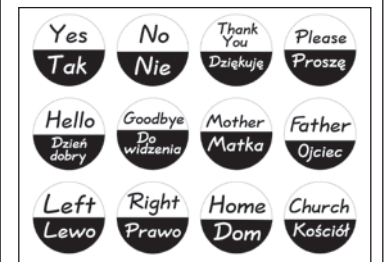
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I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

30 Years Already? (Joe, Joe, Say it Ain't So!)



There are some nights in polka history that will be remembered for decades to come. And one that seems like it happened just yesterday was the recording of the Dyna-Tones "Live Wire" album at the VFW Weber Post in Lackawanna, N.Y.

It's hard to believe that three decades have passed since Larry Trojak, Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak, Al Piatkowski, Chris Gawlak, Mike Evan, and David "Nigel" Kurdziel made polka history with their live session, recorded at what was arguably the height of their popularity.

The anticipation for the night was

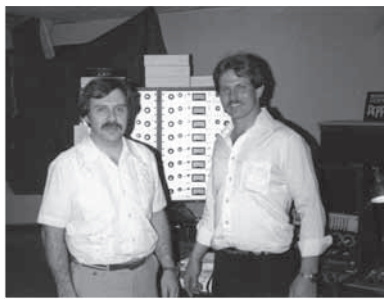
almost as exciting as the event itself. People talked about it for months and planned their trips to Western New York. This created a high-energy backdrop to one of the hottest versions of the Buffalo-based band to ever take the stage. With the help of Gary Rhamy of Peppermint Studios and WAM Records' Dave Zychowski, "Live Wire" became a hot-ticket item, being one of the first polka albums to include a fold-out poster with liner notes and lyrics.

Songs from that night's sets defined the Dyna-Tones for years to come. "Boys from Chicago," "Don't Fight Girls," "Dusty Shoes" and "Harvest Time" waltz are now as much the Dyna-Tones as they are their authors.

Looking back, it is sad to see that many of the faces that made that night so special are no longer with us. But their voices and applause will forever be part of polka history. That is part of the magic of our music: it really knows no one generation. That is something Larry, Scrubby and the boys knew when they took the stage that night. It was something all the fans knew, too. There is much more to being a polka musician or fan than just great music and great dancing. With their outstanding musicianship, between-



song banter, and approach to the recording, the Dyna-Tones provided the spark need to pull off this unique Polish American entertainment experience. "Live Wire" was and always will be truly an electrifying experience.



TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Good-bye Winter!

Spring signals the wrap up of the winter polka season in Toledo, and here are a few indoor events before the summer festivals begin:

April 9th is **Dyngus Day** this year, and once again, The Bull Pen at the Blarney will host Randy Krajewski and the Swingin' Dtkas. Coming off a very successful gig at the CPA- USPA Dance March 3rd, Randy will present his unique blend of music, fun, and top-notch entertainment from 6:00-11:00 p.m. This is a rare chance to get downtown and enjoy polkas in a unique pub atmosphere.

April 15th, the **International Music Association** presents Stas' Golonka's Chicago Masters, with doors open at 12:30 p.m., food at 1:00 p.m., and music from 2:00-6:00 p.m. The Toledo Area Polka Society presents Old School with

Frankie Liszka on Saturday April 21 from 6:30-11:00 p.m. Reminder, there is no meal served at Saturday night TAPS dances.

Sharon Zablocki's Polka Party will celebrate over 60 years of continuous polka broadcasting on the Toledo radio airwaves in April, date to be determined. For details, look for Sharon's Polka party on Facebook.

On Saturday April 28th, the Wyandotte PRCU Hall is the place to be for the **6th Annual "gift of Life" Dance** in honor of Lisa Marie Biskup. This event has grown immensely since its inception, and this year, music from 6:30 p.m. until 12:00 midnight will be provided by Chicago's Downtown Sound and The Knewz from Buffalo. Visit the website at www.lisabiskupmemorial.com for more details.

Doc Lula presents the "Boyz from Toledo" on Saturday May 5th for a **Mother's Day Dance** at the Friendship Park Community Center in Point Place. A full Polish dinner and dancing from 7:00-11:00 p.m. is included in the \$20.00 per person admission. For info, check out Doc Lula on Facebook.

Possibly the biggest event being talked about around Toledo for the past couple of years is the big **Toledo PolkaMotion Reunion** slated for Friday night May 25th at USPA. This is the "Grand Illusion" version of TPM, with Joe Zalewski, Eddie Biegaj, Michael Tylinski, David Kish, and Andy Pawlak. These guys have been rehearsing for several months, and by all accounts, this should be a fabulous event.

Happy Spring!

First Annual Spring Fling Dinner Dance

CHICOPEE, Mass. — The Polish parish of St. Stanislaus in Chicopee is sponsoring its first Annual Spring Fling Dinner Dance with Polish and American dance music provided by the Silver Moon Band. The proceeds will help the parish church in the repair of the stained glass windows.

The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing from 6:00-10:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets, reserve a table, or for more information, contact the St. Stanislaus Parish Office (413) 594-6669 or Eileen Dziok at (413) 594-6564.

2012 Festival and Craft Show

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. — The American-Polish Century Club is pleased to announce the American Polish Festival and Craft Show, July 6-8, 2012, on the grounds of The American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane

Featured will be live music and dancing with K-Tones, Tony's Polka Band, DownTown Sound, the Halka Dance Ensemble, Zajaczk Dance Ensemble, the Wawel Dancers, and the Zakopane Dance Ensemble.

There will be a Polish Kitchen, the Polish Pub-n-Grub, the Beer Tent and other vendors.

The outdoor craft show will offer over 50 different crafters. Admission to the festival is free to the public. There is a \$5.00 daily parking fee is required.

For more information visit the web site, www.americanpolishfestival.com, email: Amerianpolishfestival@yahoo.com, or call: (586) 264-7990.

Follow Directions CD

BUFFALO, N.Y. — One thing the musicians in The New Direction Band have done over the years is "Follow Directions." They have listened to their fans and followed their hearts playing some of the happiest music on earth.

Making the music is co-leader Jim Raczkowski on drums, co-leader Ron Urbanczyk on concertina, Bob Krupka on trumpet, Frank Zeczek on clarinet, sax and trumpet and Bill Barnas on piano and keyboard bass, fiddle and stand up bass.

There is one constant with this band; they all love to play the style of polkas known as Honky Style. The CD features six original songs with eleven traditional tunes.

For bookings in your area call Ron at (716) 675-6588 or Jim at 896-9063.

Meixner Present "Three Ring Circus"

PALM CITY, Fla. — Alex Meixner is one of the busiest touring performers in the United States today. "Three Ring Circus," his latest studio product, displays the current Alex Meixner Band, as well as an impressive list of guest artists.

From very traditional to all new contemporary selections, this CD captures a wide range of polka sounds mixed in with some expected and pleasantly unexpected pop, jazz, Latin, country, world folk and other sounds that might defy description. If you've seen a recent show of The Alex Meixner Band you'll already know the good times about to explode through this music, and if you haven't, this CD is a great introduction.

Visit Alex Meixner on the internet at: www.alexmeixner.com.

Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest this Month

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. — Patrick Henry presents the New Wisconsin Dells Polka Fest, April 27-29, 2012 at the first-class Chula Vista Resort on the Wisconsin River. A great weekend with eight entertaining bands: Lenny Gomulka and The Chicago Push, The Knewz, the Alex Meixner Band with Hank Guzevich and Ed Klancnik, Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen, Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo, Lenny Zielinski & The "D" Street Band, The Polish Connection, and the Bratwurst Brothers.

For details, contact: Patrick Henry at (773) 889-6811, e-mail: polkadj@sbeglobal.net.

New from Sunshine

BUFFALO, N.Y. — It's new-release time and the first is SNCD-248, "Follow Directions" by The New Direction. This is the first CD by this new Buffalo band. If you love Honky you will love this one. They are a group of seasoned polka musicians with 17 great songs.

Next is SNCD-249, "Carefree Polkas" by Walter Ostanek and His Band. This is another award winner by Walter and his all-star cast of players.

SNCD-250-45 is a sneak preview of the next Buffalo Touch CD, "Back In Touch. If you like the preview, the rest of the CD will really knock your polka socks off. If you don't, your socks will stay on. The full CD should follow in about eight weeks.

Last is SNCD-251 "Polka Celebration" by Joey Miskulin and Walter Ostanek. This is a first for Sunshine, having the great Joey Miskulin on the label. When you team up Joey and Walter on one CD, you get two multi-Grammy Award winners that produce a great musical product with a distinctive sound and quality.

Contact Sunshine at Box 652; West Seneca N.Y. 14224 for a new color catalog.

MPA Anniversary Dance, April 22

STILWATER, Minn. — Its the ninth anniversary for the Midwest Polka Association and everyone is invited to the celebration at the MPA Anniversary Dance on Sunday afternoon, April 22, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the historic Withrow Ballroom northwest of Stillwater.

Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo band will play for listening and dancing. There will be cake, coffee and door prizes. Admission is \$10 per person, \$8 per person for MPA members. For more information, email Jim Carlson at: k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call (651) 426-1079. For location directions, call the Withrow Ballroom at (651) 439-5123.

2012 Dates Set for Polka Fireworks

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. — Eddie Blazonczyk and Bel-Aire Enterprises have announced the dates for the 38th edition of the Polka Fireworks Festival at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, in Champion, Pa. The fest is scheduled for Friday June 29 thru Tuesday July 3, 2012. Visit www.polkafireworks.com for updated information.

More polka news on Steve's Polka Pages at www.polamjournal.com

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Cityside Wins Music Category



Rich and Jennie Kurdziel



Ron and Dolly Handzlik



Eleanor Pittner and Chet Kowalczyk



John Fomenko and Brian Urbanczyk of The Knewz

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Congratulations to all the outstanding individuals who were named Citizens of the Year by the Am-Pol Eagle newspaper. **Cityside** was the band that was selected in the Music category. Others that were honored in various categories were Tod Kniazuk, Kaminski & Sons, Mary Lanham, Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, Robert Johnson, Pomost International, Robert Giza, Henry Chimes, Bernadine Szymanski, Deputy Commissioner Charles Tomaszewski, Rick Franskiak, the Parishioners of St.

Adalbert Basilica, Candis Kapuscinski, and Katherine Rivard.

THANKS FOR COMING OUT. The **Hard Times Dance** featuring the Concertina All Stars on Feb. 12 at Potts was a big success! The band mentioned several times how very appreciative they were to all who came out. With a \$5 admission, \$1 beers, and \$1 baloney and onion sandwiches, you couldn't go wrong! Band sounded great! I was happy they played a couple of my favorite tunes – "Dark Forest" polka

and "Kochanka Jak Lalka."

GET YER PACZKI HERE! The following week on Feb. 18, there was a **Paczki Day** dance at Potts with the Rare Vintage band, which did a superb job of playing a wide variety of tunes. The delicious packi were a nice treat! It was good to see Tom Pazderski out with his son and daughter-in-law. Then, on Feb. 19, the **15th Annual Paczki Day** celebration at the Hearthstone Manor had a full house. The Bedrock Boys provided the music and the Pol-

ish Heritage Dancers performed. A kitchen with lots of Polish favorites served and satisfied everyone's appetites. Michelle Kisluk does a fine job with this annual party.

ditions and kept the band going as Jerry would have wanted. A "Catch and Release" party was held at Potts on March 30. A tasty fish and chips dinner was available as was the CD and dancing to the new and old tunes. There are sixteen selections on the CD with plenty of tunes that are sure to please everyone. Some of my favorites are "Bright Star," "Krakowiak," "My Pigeons," and "Eddie's" polka. Their sound is vibrant and full which makes it very motivating to get up and dance!

A NEW DYNGUS VENUE. Due to some changes, Val Bakowski is running a Pre-Dyngus day and Dyngus Day party at the Millennium Hotel at 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. It is billed as the World's Largest Dyngus Day for All Generations. Entertainment will be Polka Family, Piatkowski Bros. with Scrubby and Eddie Biegaj, John Valby, Al Krew, Jimmy K. and Ethnic Jazz and Joe & the Schmoes. The Leonard Post will continue their Pre-Dyngus and Dyngus Day festivities. Music will be by Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push, The Buffalo Touch and the Knewz.

For a listing of Dyngus Day events, please see ads on page 6, and listing on the next page.

WESOLEGO ALLELUJA! Happy Easter, dear readers! I hope the Easter Bunny is good to you! Enjoy your swieconka and have some fun at one of the many Dyngus day festivities!

UPCOMING

April 14. The Knights of Columbus St., Gregory Council is having a Post Dyngus Day dance at the Ministry Center at 100 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, N.Y. near Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital. The admission price of \$25 includes a sit-down pork chop dinner by Nowak's catering, beer, pop and wine and music by the Buffalo Touch from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. For more information, please call Ed Rajewski at (716) 633-4594

April 15. The Buffalo Touch are at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, N.Y. from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. 874-7734.

April 19 – Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. New members always welcome – Admission includes refreshments and music. Call Chris at (716) 892-7977.

April 21. The Buffalo Touch play at the VFW Post in Angola, NY from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

April 25. Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194.



Frank Zeczak of New Direction.

NEW POLKA FAMILY SITE. Hank Guzevich announced that the Polka Family Band has a new website at www.polkafamilyband.net and he asks everyone to change their bookmarks or records. Apparently someone fell asleep at the switch some months ago, so that when one went to the address of the old website, they got a page in Japanese for a currency trading firm. Now, however, Guzevich has a "yen" for a return to the internet.

IN SYMPATHY. Our deepest sympathy to the family of friends of long time polka fan, **Bill Gonsiorek** from Lackawanna, N.Y., who passed away on Feb. 25. Bill was a real gentleman who always had a kind word and a smile. Years ago, Bill used to help run the "Harvest Ball" dances that were held in St. Hyacinth's church and featured some of the area's best polka bands. Please remember him in your prayers.

MATKA MIA! A **Polish and Italian Celebration** dance was held at Potts Hall on March 3rd. There was a nice turnout for this one. Fabulous entertainment was provided by the Buffalo Touch and The Formula Band. Tommy Trigilio, Dino Falletta, Angelo Lagreca and Bob Accurso are the musicians in the Formula Band. For four guys, they project a big sound. Many nice slow pieces, waltzes, foxtrots, cha chas, tangos, sambas were played to perfection as were some jitterbugs and ethnic tunes. Both bands kept the dance floor full all evening.

BACK IN TOUCH. The **Buffalo Touch** has released a new CD, titled *Back In Touch*. This project was started with Jerry Darlak and has since made some changes and ad-

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POLKA PATTERN / Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

The Buffalo Touch was busy in early February working with the CD mix of the band's new "Back in Touch" CD. This project started with Jerry Darlak and they had some rehearsals with him at his home and put together some of the tunes. He wanted the band to continue and Buffalo Touch has not missed a beat.

John Gora, leader of Canada's Gorale band, is running a bus to Jimmy Sturr's Polka/Oldies Weekend on April 27-29, 2012. Music will be by Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra, Bill Haley's Comets, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, The Polka Naturals, Johnny Dee Orchestra and John Gora & Gorale. The bus will make pick-ups in Burlington, Hamilton, St. Catharines and Buffalo. For more information visit www.johngora.com or call Gora at (905) 336-3055.

Polka fans have to be aware of internet scams, too. Many fans received an e-mail supposedly from the well known IJ Derek Kaszuby apparently emanating from Malaysia. The e-mail message claimed he was in Malaysia, of all places, with his niece for a medical procedure and he was short \$1,200. Naturally, it asked for the money, which he would pay back quickly. In fact, Kaszuby was at home in London, Ontario, Canada. His Hotmail e-mail address, now closed, had been hacked and all the addresses that he had were stolen.

As of March 3, 2012, "It's Polka Time!" with Craig Ebel can be heard every Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. over WACD (FM 106.1) in Antigo, Wisconsin. Known as "Country 106 FM," the 10,000-watt station focuses on playing the top songs from every decade and country hits. WACD is also an ABC Radio Network affiliate and offers a wide variety of sports programming. "It's Polka Time!" is produced from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and is also heard on 24 other radio stations.

In related news, as a part of Craig Ebel's ongoing mission to promote and preserve polka music, he is sharing more polka memorabilia in the form of actual postcards. Go to www.itspolkatime.com/postcards.html to see these interesting historical pieces. The gallery holds unique promotional items and souvenirs by popular polka bands and musicians.

Polka musicians who have ever bought anything from U-Crest Mu-

sic Center in Cheektowaga, New York, will have to find someplace else. The owners say they will be retiring in a few months. It's a well deserved rest for them, but unfortunate for musicians who always got a great deal and service from them. As an example, U-Crest came to Brave Combo's rescue when they played the Cheektowaga Polish Festival a few years back. During the first night of the fest, one of the keys on Jeffrey Barnes' clarinet flew off mid-performance. Someone recommended U-Crest and they ran it over there the next morning. They repaired it while the band went to brunch and it was good to go for the show that night.

Talking about Brave Combo, the group performed a concert of old-style East Coast Polish big band polkas with the Denton High School jazz band in Texas on February 23, 2012. That may be one for "Ripley's Believe or Not," but it was a brilliant move on behalf of the polka field.

The International Polka Association (IPA) Benefit Dance at the Polish American Citizens Club (PACC) scheduled for February 26, 2012, was a complete sell-out by February 15. For information about the PACC and its polka calendar visit www.ludlowpacc.com.

Many of us east of the Mississippi had not heard of The Kava's Polish Band until recently, but the band now has a couple of songs on YouTube from its appearance on the "Mollie B Polka Party" TV Show. Some of the shows on

the Polka Jammer Network have also played cuts from the Kava's CD. The video clips can be found at youtube.com/watch?v=7pBZwLI3HEM and www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pBZwLI3HEM.

Bands have been announced for the 57th edition of St. Stan's A.C. Polish Fest, June 28-July 1, 2012. The musical groups include DynaBrass, Polka Riot, Polish Connection, Polka Generations, Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, Pan Franek and Zosia & the Polka Towners and the Steve Dzewicki Band.

Sunshine State Polkas

MIAMI — The **Polish American Club**, 1250 NW 22nd Ave., (305) 635-2240 will hold an Easter Spring Dinner-Dance, Easter Sunday, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Music by the Swingables Orchestra and DJ Music by Carl Kochanek. A buffet style dinner will be served. Admission is \$25.00 per person.

The **Polish American Pulaski Club**, 3621 International Speedway Blvd, West, Daytona Beach, (386)258-7059 will hold the following during the month of April. All dinner-dances are from 1:00-5:00 p.m.:

April 1. Music by The Melotones.

April 15. Brad Turk and the Northern Lites.

April 21. Membership Meeting with luncheon to follow from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

April 22. Music by Audry and the Polka Classics.

April 29. Music by Ed Belinski and the Sounds of the South.

Dyngus Day Doings

Polka events on Easter Monday, April 9. Compiled by the Polonia Media Network.

Arizona. Varitones at Pulaski Club Arizona, 4331 McDowell Rd., Phoenix, music 6:00-10:00 p.m., \$7 members, \$8 non-members.

Illinois. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Indiana. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at Crumstown Conversation Club, 59440 Crumstown Hwy., North Liberty, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

New York. Phocus (2:00-6:00 p.m.), and Bedrock Boys (6:00-10:00 p.m.). Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew (Buffalo). (716) 684-2373; Ed 984-1160; Tom 651-9195. www.polishfalconsdepew.com

New York. New Direction (11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.), Buffalo Touch (2:00 p.m.), Piatkowski Brothers (10:00 p.m.) Polish Villa 2, 1085 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga.

New York. Eddie Forman Orchestra and Polka Country Musicians. Mark's Bar and Grill, 151 Curry Rd., Rotterdam. 12:30-9:00 p.m. Tickets \$10.

New York. Those Idiots at Buf-

falo Central Terminal, 495 Paderewski Dr., Buffalo, N.Y. From 3:00 p.m. Check locally for details.

New York. Buffalo Concertina All-Stars and Stephanie & her Honky Band. St. Stanislaus B&M Church, Fillmore and Peckham Sts., Historic Polonia, Buffalo, from 4:00 p.m.

New York. Dyngus Day Parade with many polka bands. Parade route from Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark St. to Buffalo Central Terminal, 495 Paderewski Dr., Historic Polonia, Buffalo, 5:00 p.m.

New York. The Knewz and Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push. Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, 6:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Tickets \$10; Pussy Willow Pass location.

Pennsylvania. Li'l John & the ATM Band at Latrobe American Legion Post, 1811 Ligonier St., Latrobe, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania. Joe Stanky & his Cadets at Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania. Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals at Dupont VFW Hall, 401 Main St., Dupont, 7:00-10:30 p.m.



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Don Wojtila Orchestra
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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

The Tragic and Heroic Tales of Napoleon's Polish Legion

SONG OF THE LEGIONS

by Michael Large
Bayonet Books, London (Amazon)
2011, notes, bibliography, glossary,
360 pp., \$ 11.95

On the Third of May, 1791, King Stanislaus-August Poniatowski, sometimes called The Last King of Poland, signed the Polish Constitution, providing democratic rights to all citizens. Empress of Russia, Catherine the Great, the King's ex-girlfriend, was furious and sent her massive army to conquer the country.

Ignatius Blumer, a half-Irish, half-Polish Cavalryman in the Polish King's Guard is a drinking, gambling, womanizing leader when Poland is defeated. The Guard finds themselves exiled and hunted. They join Bonaparte's Legions and form the Polish Legions—Bonaparte guarantees he will restore Poland's freedom if they join him. But will he?

The book is filled with terrifying and daring raids and battles as the group struggles and fights for Napoleon, and Poland's freedom.

Published in London, it is the first book in a new series and the first in English to follow the story of Bonaparte's Polish Legion, one of the most tragic and heroic tales in military history.

WANTING TO BE JACKIE KENNEDY

by Elizabeth Kern
Hill House Books, 2011, 324 pp.

Kern combines early teenage memories of both Jackie Kennedy and her old Polish neighborhood in Chicago to tell a compelling story. Skillfully and humorously she compares her down-to-earth life with the privileged lives of the President and First Lady. She daydreams of close encounters with Jackie, sharing her pain with the death of her child and husband. These historical landmarks, and others, create a nostalgic story of a young Polish girl and her infatuation with Jackie Kennedy.

DOING MORE WITH LESS

The New Way to Wealth
by Bruce Piasecki, Wiley, 164pp., \$21.95.

Piasecki is founder and president of a management and consulting firm specializing in energy, materials and environmental corporate matters. Author of many books on business strategy, he offers an art to competitive frugality, following Benjamin Franklin's oft quoted maxims. Companies need to look at the world around them, not just the bottom line. The whole earth is seeking the same water, air, food and products. How will that be sustained as the population grows by staggering proportions, soon to reach seven billion people?

Companies must learn how to be frugal and yet profitable, to use materials wisely, eliminate waste, and generate employee loyalty through a commitment to social responsibility. Scarcity of goods will open up new markets developed out of necessity, not ones creating materialistic frivolity.

Piasecki challenges businesses to change their way of thinking only of profits, not using technology for technology's sake, but focus instead on creative solutions that scarcity demands.

Never before has the world faced such massive challenges in terms of resources, space and rapid growth. Everyone will be affected and need to learn to do more with less.

DID YOU KNOW? The typical Polish Easter soup is a tart white barszcz or żurek containing sausage and eggs.

A complete *święconka* (Easter-blessing basket) would contain decorated and/or plain hard-cooked eggs, sausage and other smoked meats, an Easter Lamb (made of butter, dough or sugar), horseradish, vinegar, salt and pepper and a slice of babka or mazurek.

A Fine Introduction to the Culture of Poland's Highlanders

TATRA HIGHLANDER FOLK CULTURE IN POLAND AND AMERICA: Selected Essays from "The Tatra Eagle"

by Thaddeus V. Gromada
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ:
Tatra Eagle Press, 2012
pp. 173, PB, \$14.95.

To order: \$17.45 (\$14.95 + \$2.50 shipping) to Tatra Eagle Press, 31 Madison Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604. (Subscriptions to "Tatra Eagle" @ \$20/year).

Speaking about "Polish" immigration, especially immigration in the late 19th/early 20th centuries, can be very misleading if one does not take account of the regions from which immigrants came. Remember that, at that time, there was no Poland: the country was cut up among Russia, Austria, and Prussia from 1793-1918. Polish speaking people identified themselves with their regions: with Małopolska around Kraków, with Wielkopolska around Poznań, with the Kresy in what is now Lithuania and Belarus. Even the earliest mass immigrants who came to America from Poland—in 1854 to Panna Maria, Texas—called themselves "Silesians." Many historians have pointed out that only when people from Małopolska, Wielkopolska, the Kresy, and Pomorze came together in places like Chicago, Detroit, and New York, did those immigrants begin to realize they had a lot in common because they were "Poles."

One of the important regional immigrations that make up American Polonia, which arrived during the *emigracja za chlebem* (1880-1920), were southern Poland's mountain people, the *górale*. These Highlanders have a distinctive *goral* identity, including a distinctive local speech. In contrast to other regional Polish groups, the *górale*, both in Poland and in America, have managed to maintain and preserve that identity.

Ted Gromada's new book provides a great introduction to the culture of the Highlanders, both in Poland and in the United States. The book is actually an anthology of Gromada's columns, published over the years in the New Jersey-based quarterly that he has published since founding it in 1947, the *Tatra Eagle* (*Tatrzański Orzeł*).

The 54 essays in this book (each about three to four pages long) provide a good overview of *goral* life and culture. Being *goral* wasn't always cool, and Zakopane wasn't always chic. The Highlanders lived in a remote and inaccessible part of Poland, and for a long time people were content to leave them alone there. Only in the 19th century did Polish "high" culture discover Podhale, the region of the Highlanders. Chalubiński "discovered" it as a tourist and recuperative area; Witkiewicz popularized the distinctive Highlander architecture; and Witkiewicz and Przerwa-Tetmajer introduced *goral* dialect into Polish literature. As Gromada points out, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Poland was partitioned and its great cities lay in competing empires—Warsaw in Russia, Poznań in Prussia, and Kraków in Austria-Hungary—Zakopane became a neutral territory, a piece of Poland where intellectuals from the three partitions could meet, talk, and promote Polish culture, somewhat removed from the eyes of imperial overlords. This was Zakopane's "Golden Age."

The essays are divided into four



Highland bagpiper.

sections, which include: a general introduction to Podhale, the Highlanders and American Polonia, short biographies of major Polish figures associated with Podhale, and a personal set of reflections on the Gromada family and its role in promoting Highlander culture in America.

How many people know that Poland had its own Robin Hood legend, the legends of Janosik? What are some of the special Easter and Christmas traditions associated with the Highlands? Where did Highlanders settle in America? (Hint: Mostly in Chicago). Who are some of the great Poles associated with the Highlands? The latter include Blessed John Paul II, the actress Helena Modjeska, great composers like Szymanowski and Górecki, and the first woman to win a Nobel Prize

in Science—Marie Skłodowska Curie.

Professor Gromada, emeritus professor of history at Jersey City State College, established a distinguished place for himself in American Polonia through his leadership over many decades of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in New York. PIASA, one of Polonia's two major scholarly organizations, carried on its work in large part because Professor Gromada contributed countless days, weeks, and months to it. Not until I read this book, however, did I learn how much he also invested in promoting the culture of the Polish Highlanders in America. His father formed a *goral* dance group in Passaic, New Jersey, which performed regularly for more than fifty years. So authentic was its repertoire that the Smithsonian tapped it to represent Polish Highlander folk culture during the 1976 Bicentennial celebrations in Washington. Gromada began the journal in which these essays were originally published back when he was a teenager, and has kept it going until today, years after he retired.

This book is a fine introduction to the culture of Poland's Highlanders, very interesting and readable. It's also quite affordable, and a useful little book that showcases a special corner of Polish culture. Strongly recommended.

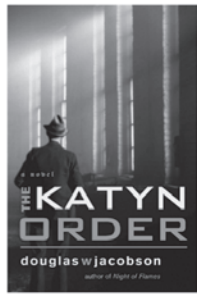
P.S.: Lest somebody accuse me of incomplete disclosure, the Grondelski family comes from Dominikowice, near Gorlice, in Podhale.

The fate of millions depends on them.

"Compelling authenticity and evocatively rendered detail will captivate history buffs and thriller fans alike."—*Library Journal*

"Jacobson follows his debut, *Night of Flames*, with another solid WWII thriller. The author makes the bloody fight for Warsaw both exciting and suspenseful."—*Publishers Weekly*

At the end of World War II, Polish-born American Adam Nowak joins the Resistance and meets covert operative Natalia Kowalska. After Germany's defeat, Adam and Natalia are ordered by British intelligence to find the 1940 Soviet directive mandating the executions of more than 20,000 Polish officers and civilians. If they can find the Katyn Order before the Russians do—they may change the fate of Poland.



"Jacobson brings an important but widely unknown chapter of the second world war to vivid life."—John Shors, author of *Beneath a Marble Sky*

"A heart-stopping love story set against the grotesque reality of the Warsaw Rising. A knockout."—James Conroyd Martin, author of *Push Not the River*

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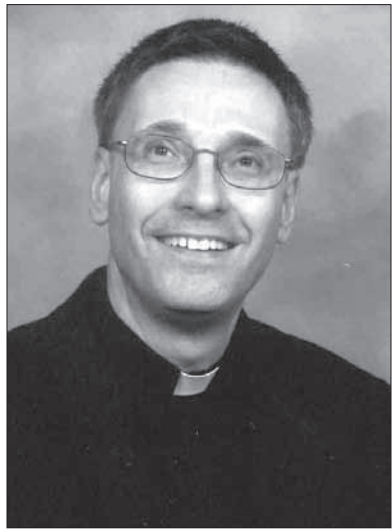
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Audience members who are relatives of Katyn victims and survivors of Siberian deportation will be recognized at the event.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Bishop Bartchak Explains HHS Mandate to Pope



On his recent *ad limina* visit to the Vatican, Altoona-Johnstown Diocese **Bishop Mark Bartchak** (above) explained to Pope Benedict XVI how the U.S. Catholic Church is concerned with religious liberty being challenged by the government, most recently in the recent Health and Human Services Department mandate on providing birth control and abortifacient drugs in the health plans for all employees of Catholic charitable organizations except for those in a narrowly defined exemption. The mandate is so threatening of religious liberty and freedom of conscience that staunch Obama supporter **Prof. Douglas Kmiec** has taken to reconsider his support of the president. **Rep. Dan Lipinski** (Dem-Ill.) has co-sponsored a House bill called the Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179) to prohibit the federal government from requiring a provider provide, participate in or refer for a specific health care service contrary to the provider's religious beliefs or moral convictions. A complementary bill in the Senate was recently narrowly defeated in a partisan vote in support of the president's imposition. All the U.S. Catholic Bishops, including Pol-Ams **Zubik, Listecki, Bambera, Wenski, Zurek, Paprocki, Kmiec, Melczek, and Stika** have formally opposed the mandate and the empty compromise offered by the president. The president's "accommodation" received support from **Sr. Carol Keehan** in the name of the Catholic Health Association. The association has clashed with the bishops on health care policy before. The Catholic Democrats organization also issued an endorsement of the president's mandate, even before the "accommodation" was offered. **Bishop Daniel Jenky** of Peoria, Ill., noted that politicians who call themselves Catholic, such as **Kathleen Sebelius** and **Nancy Pe-**

losi, have "utterly scandalized" him. He noted that "there are too many Catholic politicians in the United States who like to wear green sweaters on St. Patrick's Day and march or have their pictures taken with the hierarchy or have conspicuous crosses on their forehead with ashes but who then not only do not live their faith but their collaborate in the assault against their faith.

FR. KRÓLIKOWSKI'S E-AUTOBIOGRAPHY. Fr. Lucjan's eBook *A Franciscan Odyssey* is available for purchase for \$9.95 at www.BN.com. Deported by the Russians to Siberia along with hundreds of thousands of other Poles at the start of World War II, Fr. Lucjan was able to escape captivity along with thousands of others. He resumed his interrupted seminary studies in Beirut, Lebanon and then took up the work of caring for children who, like him, were able to escape the Gulag but who had no homeland to which to return. The book describes his years of caring for the children in African refugee camps and then his efforts to find them homes in the West rather than return them to communist Poland. His work with the children never ceased but he also took on other work, the last being a member of the staff of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour* in Buffalo, N.Y. He is now in retirement in Chicopee, Mass.

SENDER'S STORY ON PBS MAY 1. *Irena Sendler: In The Name of Their Mothers* is a documentary film about Polish heroine **Irena Sendler** and her wartime conspiracy of women who outfoxed the Nazis and saved the lives of thousands of Jewish children. It will make its national premier on PBS on Sun., May 1.

The social worker was 29 when the Germans invaded Poland in World War II. After Warsaw's Jews were imprisoned behind the ghetto walls without food or medicine, Sendler and those she most trusted smuggled aid in and began smuggling orphans out — hiding them in convents, orphanages and private homes in the city and the Polish countryside. Before the Nazis burned the ghetto to the ground, they rescued more than 2,500 children.

The film features an interview with Sendler before her death as well as archival footage, family photographs and re-creations shot in Warsaw which dramatize the lives of the hidden Jewish children, Sendler and her co-workers.

JOHN PAUL II REMEMBERED. Blessed John Paul II's photographer **Arturo Mari** gathered together with young people at Częstochowa at the unique Museum of Coins and Medals of Pope John Paul II. Mari noted that "the real power of John Paul II's pontificate was young people. You were his hope, his strength." He also recalled "the great importance that prayer, humility, love for another human being, but also suffering, had in John Paul II's life." After taking almost six million photographs during John Paul II's pontificate, Mari remembered that eight hours before the pope's death, "he turned his head toward me, touched my cheek and said in a low voice, 'Thank you, Arturo'."

THE CHURCH AND THE MEDIA. *Crisis Magazine* editor **John Zmirak** described the publication as "a firm, insistent voice on the rights of the laity and the dignity of the priesthood; a partisan of justice and prudence in the face of misguided compassion and ideology; a staunch advocate of the compatibility of reason and faith, of honest enterprise and Christian living, of American patriotism and orthodox Faith." His remarks came on the heels of the acquisition of the magazine by new owners, New Hampshire's Thomas More College and Atlanta's Holy Spirit College under the name of Sophia Institute Press. The magazine became an on-line only magazine in 2007 operating at the address www.crisismagazine.com.

Crisis Magazine.com and focuses on providing a Catholic perspective on politics, culture, business, faith and family life.

In Poland the attempt by the National Council of Polish Radio and Television to refuse a license for **TV Trwam** to broadcast on digital multiplex has brought public protests and an appeal from the Polish bishops for freedom to broadcast. TV Trwam is the country's only Catholic broadcasting station and has been operating for more than eight years with a well-established reporting staff, widespread public following, and a solid financial base. The bishops argued that "the exclusion of a Catholic TV station violates the principles of pluralism and equality before the law." In addition to reports on the life of the Church, activities and trips of the pope, the station also focuses on the condition of the poor and those who suffer injustices and illnesses as well as the work of charitable agencies to help them.

POPE PRAYER INTENTIONS. The General intention for April is "That the prayerful and public celebration of the faith may be a source of life for the faithful" and the Missionary intention is "That the particular Churches in mission territories may be a sign and instrument of hope and resurrection."

RIO'S REDEEMER STATUE TURNS 80. Young people at the

next World Youth Day in Rio in July 2013 will be welcomed by the statue of Christ the Redeemer, brought from France in 1931 in pieces and reassembled at the top of the 2,330 foot hill where it now stands. The statue was sculpted by French/Polish sculptor **Paul Landowski**. A small chapel at the statue feet is dedicated to Our Lady of the Apparition. Pope John Paul II blessed the site on his visit to Rio in 1980. The statue was renovated in 2000 with escalators, walkways and elevators to help make the ascent.

BISHOP PAPROCKI RUNS MARATHON. Springfield, Ill. **Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki** ran the Kansas City marathon to help raise money and awareness for pro-life work. This was the bishop's 18th marathon and the run helped raise \$12,500 for a Chicago legal clinic and \$3,700 for respect life ministries. In addition his donations supported youth scholarships to the January March for Life in Washington D.C., multimedia educational resources for diocesan youth and internet publicity about post-abortion assistance and healing. Other LIFE runners raised funds for the Sioux Falls, South Dakota-based Alpha Center pregnancy help bus which travels across South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and information about abortion alternatives. Contributions also went to the Kansas City Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic help bus.

DECRETA

Vatican Overrules Ohio Closings

CLEVELAND — The Vatican has overruled the closing of thirteen Northeast Ohio parishes by the Cleveland Diocese.

Attorney Peter Borre said the Vatican's Congregation of the Clergy ruled that Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon had failed to follow procedure in the closings that were announced in March 2009.

Lennon ordered the closing of 50 parishes — many in inner-city neighborhoods — in a downsizing that he said was prompted in part by a population shift to the suburbs and a shortage of priests. More than a dozen of the affected churches appealed to the Vatican and have been awaiting word on their appeals.

Those churches included the Po-

lonian parishes of **St. Adalbert, St. Barbara, and St. Casimir** in Cleveland.

The rulings announced could be appealed to the Vatican's supreme court.

LAST MASS. Five years after its 100th anniversary celebration, **St. Casimir Church** in Brier Hill, Ohio, closed, merging with St. Columba Cathedral.

Sandra Cika, who was baptized at the church, was among those who reminisced about the parish.

Many memories are rooted in ethnic traditions. "Koledy" (carols) highlighted Christmas services. Cika said the choir would prepare well in advance. The choir of

about 15 always sounded greater in number and received many compliments.

Cika said another custom is Christmas Eve dinner with oplatki, a communion-like wafer, then Mass. "Coming here and singing at Mass ... it feels like coming home," Cika said.

Another tradition is blessing of baskets with Easter foods. "We had no sweets and no meat during Lent. When we packed the basket, it just smelled so wonderful," Cika said.

The heritage reached outside the church. The late Florence Turowski organized the city's Polish Arts Club, which recently had its annual tea at Butler Institute of American Art. Mary Ann Mlynarski, a 63-year member of St. Casimir's, said the church kept the Polish language in use.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Help for Choral Students from Polish Singers Alliance

The Polish Singers Alliance of America is pleased to announce the establishment of the Leokadja Dombrowska/Polish Singers Alliance Scholarship. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Citizen or permanent resident of the United State of America or Canada
- Verifiable Polish Ancestry
- Letter of Recommendation from member choir or member of PSAA
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- Age 19-30

- GPA of 3.0 or higher with a requirement of a copy of the most recent transcript from the school
- Submission of a two-page double-spaced essay on either of the following: Explain how you will integrate your ethnicity with your musical career or describe your personal involvement in promoting Polish culture in the mainstream community.

Applications for the 2012 award are accepted until May 1, 2012. See our website for application form, www.polishsingersalliance.org or contact Mary Lou WYROBEK, 20 Brookfield Lane, Unit 4, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 requesting an application. The award will be announced in May 2012 and awarded again in 2014.

MODLITWY / Prayers

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088.

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ST. JUDE NOVENA. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I.N.J.

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2-2:30 p.m.)



GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Finding Grandma's European Ancestors

Begin your family history research by looking in the desk drawers, file cabinets and shoe boxes for old papers, letters, and old photos. This is especially important if your parents or grandparents were immigrants. Write down brief notes of the family oral stories and visit the cemeteries where your ancestors are buried to record the grave marker inscriptions and take pictures.

If you are lucky, you will find their baptismal certificate, their exit visas, and photos of your ancestors who stayed in Poland. These documents will contain more valuable information on your family history than any gold watches or jewels that were inherited.

Treasures may have also been saved by other relatives. Find the descendants of the caretakers of the immigrants. The caretakers may have sorted through the shoe boxes and saved the treasures you need. If you find documents with other relatives, ask for copies and offer to

share the results of your research. Also be very careful with the originals since they may be very fragile due to age. Use copies or electronic scans in your research and store the originals in a safe place.

At this point in your research, you are dealing with documents that you find in the personal papers of your parents, grandparents and other relatives. After you organize this information, you can start your search for information from outside sources.

Remember these steps to start your genealogy research:

1. Search desk drawers, file cabinets and shoe boxes for birth records, baptismal certificates, exit visas and pictures;
2. Track down descendants of caretakers of ancestors before they died, and;
3. Exchange and share information and documents with other relatives.

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Tom Niziol, The Weather Channel's Newest Winter Weather Expert

ATLANTA — The Weather Channel Companies (TWCC) announced Thomas Niziol, a 30-year veteran of the National Weather Service, has joined the company as its new winter weather expert. In this role, Niziol will be the primary source of meteorological content, expertise and analysis for winter weather.

"Tom is a seasoned meteorologist who makes a great addition to The Weather Channel team to help build on our leadership in winter weather forecasting," said Bob Walker, executive vice president and general manager for The Weather Channel Companies.

Niziol joins TWCC from the National Weather Service in Buffalo, N.Y. where he was meteorologist-in-charge, supervising full warning and forecast operations for public, marine and aviation interests across western New York. He also directed research and science operations and coordinated with partners including Emergency Management and other local and national government agencies.

Prior to that, Niziol was science and operations officer for the National Weather Service in Buffalo, and prior to that, he was an associate atmosphere scientist at Calspan



Corporation in Buffalo. There, he conducted all phases of scientific research from field studies through contract publications for atmospheric studies.

Throughout his career, Niziol has authored several research papers and poster sessions on winter weather forecasting and has toured the country speaking at numerous meteorological conferences. Niziol will be working out of The Weather Channel Companies' headquarters in Atlanta.

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Verbinski Wins Oscar



DIRECTOR GORE VERBINSKI (above) was the winner at this year's Academy Awards in the Best Animated Feature category. His 2D animated film *Rango* is based on an original screenplay and features the voice of Johnny Depp. Verbinski (born Gregor) is an American film director, screenwriter, producer and musician. He is best known for directing the films *The Ring*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Agnieszka Holland Wins Karski Award



FILMMAKER AGNIESZKA HOLLAND is the 2012 recipient of the Jan Karski Freedom Award, presented by the American Embassy in Warsaw for outstanding political or social contributions on behalf of democracy and human rights.

She is the director of *In Darkness* (*W Ciemności*), which was nominated for an Academy Award this year for Best Foreign Film. Based on a true story, the film depicts the moral journey of a Pole who hides a group of Jewish refugees in the sewers of the Nazi-occupied Polish city of Lwów, saving their lives despite the peril to himself and his family. In films such as *Angry Harvest*, *Europa, Europa*, and now *In Darkness*, Holland's projects unflinchingly address the moral questions raised by the Holocaust.

U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Lee A. Feinstein, said, "Agnieszka Holland's films address complex questions raised by the Holocaust. Her work pays tribute to those who perished and to ordinary people, who took extraordinary risks to save their neighbors. In bringing this true story to millions, Agnieszka Holland carries on the work of Jan Karski, who spoke truth to power at a time when too few were willing to listen."

The Karski Freedom Award recognizes a Pole who has made outstanding political or social contributions on behalf of democracy and human rights. It pays tribute to Jan Karski's courage and heroism in relating his first-hand observation of the Holocaust to President Roosevelt, and to his lifelong mission to honor the memory of those who perished and to strive for human dignity.

The presentation of the award will take place this spring.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Are You a Jaworski from Jaworów?

Every Polish last name means something and came into being for a specific reason. Here are few taken from the PAJ's subscription list:

Babiarz: Root-word "baba" (woman in general or old woman, hag); in modern Polish this term means "womanizer," but in olden times it might have suggested the son of an unwed maiden, or one who was given to an orphanage.

Kuna: A marten, a fur-bearing, tree-dwelling carnivore of the weasel family. This could be someone who wore marten furs, or may have been a furrier.

Jaworski: "Jawor" = sycamore (tree species); probably emerged as a toponymic tag for someone from Jawor, Jaworów or similar-sounding town or village.

For a custom-researched analysis of how your surname came about, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Also included free of charge is a genealogical contact chart (root-tracing websites, data bases, organizations and firms). The list includes professional genealogists qualified to track down family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up living long-lost relatives in the Old Country.

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Tim Firkowski – A Family History Detective

Tim Firkowski's father was born in Oświęcim, Poland in 1942, but his grandparents left Poland with him and his aunt when he was six months old. His dad had always tried to find someone with the same surname in the United States during his travels, and was never successful.

Firkowski had little to no knowledge of his roots when his adventure in genealogy began after he met Łukasz Firkowski from Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland on the Internet in August 2002. He and Łukasz wanted to know how they were related and the research began. He has been doing genealogy research ever since.

Within the first two years of research, over 1300 members of their family were located, and by 2006 the family tree had grown to over 2300. It was an emotional time at the first Firkowski Family Reunion

in Poland in 2004, which included 202 people from six countries. "I now know family members in 22 countries around the world," said Firkowski.

He formed his service, The Genealogy Assistant, out of a deep desire to help others discover and experience their own rich family histories. "I wanted to do something that utilized more of my varied talents and background, and family history research seemed the logical choice," he said.

Since starting The Genealogy Assistant in 2008 researching Polish and American-Canadian ancestry for clients, he has researched in numerous repositories. Given the fact that not all records are available in the United States on microfilm or on the Internet, he has had to travel to Poland to research in churches and archives, and locate living relatives.



For more information, visit: www.TheGenealogyAssistant.com, or call (603) 748-0577.

DID YOU KNOW? "Mazurek" is the name of both a folk dance of Poland's northern Mazury region (known in English as the mazurka) and a flat Easter sheet cake served cut into squares.

The **baranek wielkanocny** (Easter lamb) with a flag is found in Easter baskets and on greeting cards and is the centerpiece of the festive Easter meal. It may be made of dough, butter, sugar, plaster, wood, fleece or plastic.

Wesołego Alleluja or

Wesołych Świąt is the way Poles wish each other a Happy Easter

The **drowning of Judas** (topienie Judasza) on Holy Wednesday was once a favorite custom practiced by Polish village youngsters. A straw effigy of Judas would be hurled from the church steeple, dragged through the village and dumped in a pond.

—Thanks to **Robert Strybel**, who provided the Easter "Did You Know" items throughout this month's paper.

*Easter — a time for hope,
renewal of spirit,
rekindling of faith, and
rejoicing in the triumph
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Wesołego Alleluja! — Happy Easter!



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Sokolowski University Inn Mushroom Barley Soup Recipe

CLEVELAND — If you've never been to Sokolowski's University Inn (1201 University Road Cleveland, OH 44113; (216) 771-9236; www.sokolowskis.com), you don't know what you're missing. Known throughout the Northeast and Midwest for their Polish specialties and other featured plates, Mike and the staff are asked almost daily to share their family recipes. Here's one that will be perfect to start your Easter dinner or any other time of the year.

YIELD: 1 1/2 gallons of soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup – barley
- 3 lbs mushrooms, sliced
- 4 onions, diced fine
- Butter
- 2 quarts – whipping cream or half-and-half or milk
- 2 lbs – sour cream
- 4 tbsp – granulated beef base (or 8 beef bouillon cubes)
- 1 tsp – white peppers

PROCEDURE. Rinse barley thoroughly until water runs clear. Put barley in large stockpot with enough water to cover. Cook for approximately 25 minutes, adding water as needed. Saute onions in frying pan with no oil or butter – just until water leaves the onions. Then continue to sauté in butter, NOT margarine. Add onions to barley. Add mushrooms. Cook for another 25 minutes. Add whipping cream. Add sour cream to taste. Add beef base bouillon cubes and continue to cook, stirring continuously. Do not boil. Add white pepper. When soup is warm, serve.



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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

A Few Tasty Świąconka Shortcuts

If you have never prepared the traditional Polish after-church Easter brunch, or you have, but this year are short of time, some of the following short-cut recipes may be just the thing. We start with fresh kielbasa, because its stock is needed for the next (white barszcz) recipe.

BOILED FRESH KIELBASA (biała kielbasa gotowana): Place 3 lbs fresh kielbasa in pot of cold water which should cover it by at least 1". Add 1 bay leaf and 1 large quartered onion and cook on low to a gentle boil. Simmer on low covered 45 min from the time boiling starts. Let stand covered in hot stock another 10 min before serving. It'll be even better and easier to slice if refrigerated overnight and served cold or warmed up the next day.

WHITE EASTER BARZSZCZ (biały barszcz wielkanocny): In pot combine 3 c fresh or smoked kielbasa stock (see preceding recipe) with 3 c cold water, bring to boil and simmer 5 min. Add 1-2 buds crushed garlic and remove from heat. Separately, fork-blend or whisk 1 heaping T flour with 3/4 c sour cream until smooth. Add 1 c hot stock 1 T at a time to sour-cream mixture, fork-blending or whisking constantly, then stir mixture into pot. Return to heat and simmer 2-3 min just below boiling point. Add 1 t marjoram and sour to taste with 2-3 T white vinegar. Let stand covered 20 min for flavors to blend. Salt & Pepper to taste and serve over hard-cooked eggs and sliced cooked sausage. Cubed farmer cheese and horseradish may also be added, if desired.

BAKED FRESH KIELBASA (biała kielbasa pieczona): Arrange home-made or store-bought fresh (un-smoked) kielbasa in a single layer in baking pan. Cover with cold water and bake in 350° oven until half the water evaporates. Turn kielbasa over and continue baking until all water is gone and sausage begins to sizzle. The perfect go-together is ćwikła (see next item). The water disappears. Turn sausage over when half the water has evaporated.

BETROOT & HORSERADISH (ćwikła): Drain a can of pickled beets (reserving liquid for some other use). Dice, grate coarsely or slice thin (preferably on slicer blade of hand-held grater). Combine with prepared horseradish 1 or more T to taste.

MIXED VEGETABLE SALAD (salatka jarzynowa): In salad bowl combine 3-4 c cold, cooked, diced potatoes, 2 12-14 oz cans drained peas & carrots, 2 cans drained navy beans, 4 diced dill pickles, 1 bunch chopped green onions, 1 bunch diced radishes, 2 peeled, cored, diced apples and 4 diced hard-cooked eggs and 3 T chopped fresh parsley. Toss ingredients gently and season salt & pepper to taste. Lace with just enough sauce to thinly coat ingredients. For 1 c fork-blend 1/2 sour cream, 1/2 c mayonnaise and 1 heaping t sharp brown mustard. Sea-



WHETHER YOU ARE an experienced chef or just starting out, these recipes — such as the one for the Babka Wielkanocna (Easter Babka) — will add some authenticity to your świąconka.

son to taste with a little salt, pepper, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar. This salad is best made ahead and refrigerated over night for flavors to blend.

GREEN PEA SALAD (salatka z zielonego groszku): In salad bowl combine 4-5 c drained, canned baby peas or cooked frozen peas 1 bunch finely chopped green onions, 2-3 diced dill pickles, 5-6 chopped radishes and 3-5 diced hard-cooked eggs. Lace with just enough mayonnaise to coat ingredients.

HAM HORNS (rożki szynkowe): Spread thin slices of imported Polish canned ham with some mixed vegetable salad or pea salad (above) and roll up into horn (open at one end and closed at the other). Serve on lettuce-lined platter decorated with bell pepper strips, dill pickle spears, radish roses and/or sprigs of curly parsley.

SAUSAGE & SAUERKRAUT (kielbasa z kapustą): Drain 2 - 3 qts sauerkraut and rinse in cold water. Drain again, press out moisture, chop coarsely (optional), place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1 bay leaf and cook uncovered 60 min. Drain and transfer to baking pan. Place 2-3 lbs fresh or smoked kielbasa in the sauerkraut and bake covered in 350° oven 90 min or so, turning sausage over half way through baking. Leave in oven 30 min after switching off heat. Cut sausage into 2" or 3" and serve mixed mix with the sauerkraut.

HAM IN RYE CRUST (szynka w cieście): Combine 3 c rye flour with 1 egg white and just enough water to get a pierogi-dough consistency. (Optional: 1 T caraway seeds may be added.) Work by hand to blend ingredients and roll out. Tightly cover 5 lb fully-cooked ham with dough pinching edges together to seal. Bake into preheated 400° oven for 10 min then reduce heat to 350° and bake 10 min per lb (or follow producer's instructions). After baking, cool to room temp, remove and discard rye crust, slice and serve.

EASTER BABKA (babka wielkanocna): Dissolve 1 packet active dry yeast in 1/2 warm coffee cream. Stir in 2-1/2 T sugar and 1 cup flour mix well and let stand in warm place

until doubled. Stir in 3 T sugar, 1 c flour, 3 beaten eggs, 1 t grated lemon rind, 1/2 vanilla extract and 1 T melted butter. Work ingredients into a dough by hand and knead until smooth and elastic (8-10 min) or have a bread-hook mixer do the kneading. Work 1/4 c raisins into dough. Transfer to greased, floured fluted babka, brioche or Bundt pan, which should be no more than 1/3 full, cover with clean cloth and let stand in warm place until doubled in bulk. Bake in preheated 350° oven about 40 min. When cool remove from pan and glaze with icing made by fork-blending 1/2 confectioner's sugar with 1 T lemon juice or 1/4 t almond extract.

CHEESECAKE WITH RAISINS (sernik z rodzynkami): Peel and cook 2 med-size potatoes, mash well and set aside to cool. Mash 2.2 lbs full-fat farmer cheese (twaróg), mix with cooled potatoes and grind twice. Separately, cream 1 c room-temp butter with 2 c confectioner's sugar and 1 t vanilla extract until smooth and fluffy. Add 8 egg yolks one at a time, beating until fully absorbed before adding the next and then the cheese-potato mixture. Add 2 T flour and 2 T potato starch (or cornstarch), sifted together, and 1/2 c raisins and mix well to blend. Fold in 8 stiffly beaten egg whites and mix very gently. Transfer to well-greased (about 2 T margarine) baking pans, sprinkled with 2 T plain bread crumbs. Mixture should be 1-1/2" to 2" high in pan. Bake in preheated 350° oven about 60 min.

WAFER MAZURKA. (mazurek na wafli): You'll need 4 large, plain, gold wafers (available at pastry-supply, gourmet, specialty or European import shops). Place 1 wafer on cutting board, spread thinly with powidła (Polish plum jam) jam, cover with another wafer, press down gently and spread with canned chocolate frosting. Cover with another wafer, spread it with jam and cover with a 4th wafer. Cover with clean dish towel, weight down with a heavy book and refrigerate over night. Just before serving spread top and sides with frosting.

If you feel up to it, write *Alleluja* on the top with white icing out of pastry tube and draw 3-4 pussywills off to one side.

Easter Eggs Galore!

Dietetically eggs are close to being the perfect food (cholesterol notwithstanding). Symbolizing new life, they are equated with Easter. In the olden days no-one ate a single egg during Lent and couldn't wait to tie into one or two at the Świąconie. That festive breakfast or brunch begins with the sharing of blessed Easter eggs, and eggs are served that day in a great variety of ways.

SHARING BLESSED EGGS (dzielenie się jajkiem): After grace has been said, but before the Easter meal begins, all present (standing or seated) share wedges of blessed hard-cooked eggs which may be sprinkled with the blessed salt & pepper. Either the host goes around with a plate of quartered eggs which each guest impales on a fork or the plate is passed from guest to guest. All wait with their fork-impaled egg wedge in hand until everybody has been served, and then amid mutual wishes of "Wesołego Alleluja" and "Wesołych Świąt" everybody consumes their egg at the same time.

HARD-COOKED EGGS (jaja na twardo): Whole or halved, shelled, hard-cooked eggs are presented on platters with guests seasoning them to taste with salt & pepper, horseradish, ćwikła, mustard, mayonnaise or any of the sauces described below.

RED PICKLED EGGS (jaja marynowane na czerwono): Place the required number of cold, peeled, hard-cooked eggs in a bowl or jar and drench them with pickled beet juice (from store-bought pickled beets). Weight down with a plate to keep them submerged and refrigerate over night. Remove, pat dry with paper towel and serve in bowls or platters. NOTE: Finely chop or grate the pickled beets themselves and mix well with prepared horseradish to get ćwikła (beet & horseradish relish).

erate over night. Remove, pat dry with paper towel and serve in bowls or platters. NOTE: Finely chop or grate the pickled beets themselves and mix well with prepared horseradish to get ćwikła (beet & horseradish relish).

EASTER EGG CROSS (krzyż wielkanocny z jaj): On a large platter of plain, whole, hard-cooked eggs arrange a cross with the red pickled eggs (above). NOTE: If red pickled eggs are not available, use only plain hard-cooked eggs and form the cross by spooning one of the sauces below over the middle row of eggs and the appropriate cross-bar to form a cross.

EGGS IN SOUR CREAM (jajka w śmietanie): Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream with 1 brown mustard, 2 t vinegar, 1 t sugar and 1/4 t salt and place a dollop on each egg.

EGGS IN MAYONNAISE (jajka w majonezie): Place a dollop of mayonnaise on each egg and garnish with finely chopped chives.

EGGS IN MUSTARD SAUCE (jajka w sosie musztardowym): Fork-blend 1/3 c dairy sour cream with 1/3 c mayonnaise and a heaping T Polish Sarepska or other brown mustard. Stir in 1 t sugar, 1/4 t salt and a sprinkle of lemon juice or vinegar to taste. Spoon over eggs.

EGGS IN HORSERADISH SAUCE (jajka w sosie chrzanowym): Combine 3/4 c sour cream with 1 heaping T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with salt, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar.

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Scholarships Available for KF Summer Study Abroad Programs in Poland

NEW YORK —The Kosciuszko Foundation (The KF) is offering scholarships to graduating high school and undergraduate students who are American citizens of Polish descent and to U.S. legal permanent residents of Polish descent (green card holders). Applicants who will be 18 years old and hold a high school diploma by the first day of the program may apply. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in order to compete for the available scholarships.

The Tomaszkiwicz-Florio Scholarship in the amount of \$2,325 supports the cost of program fees for a three-week study program to learn Polish at the Jagiellonian University in the royal city of Krakow. The program also includes courses such as Polish Art, Past and Present; the History of Poland; as well as others. Language classes are offered at eight levels of proficiency starting at survival level up through native speaker ability. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition, a shared room, three meals per day, and sightseeing. Students may apply scholarship funds to longer programs such as the four- and six-week programs.

The KF is also offering the Mary T. Zgonena Scholarship for a student to study Polish language at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). The scholarship is

valued at approximately \$2,400 and may be used towards any KF program at the Catholic University of Lublin. Programs at KUL run from two to eight weeks and are offered at non-intensive, intensive and highly intensive programs. Program fees begin at \$1,025.

Undergraduate credit is available. Although airfare is not included, students may travel on group flights to Poland. A \$35 non-refundable scholarship application fee must be submitted with application and supporting materials.

For further details and application materials please see the Kosciuszko Foundation's web-site at: www.thekf.org/kf/programs/summer/study/ Questions may be directed to Addy at (212) 734 - 2130 ext. 210 or Addy@thekf.org.

This is a Good Year to Visit Poland

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — This is a good year to visit Poland, as Europe's financial crisis has strengthened the U.S. dollar, and that means you will probably get more for your American greenback in Poland than in recent years.

At this writing the dollar is fetching 3.12 zlotys. At that rate, a meal in an average restaurant would run from \$6 to \$14, a cinema ticket — \$5, a pack of Marlboro cigarettes — \$3.50 and a 17-ounce (half liter) bottle of beer (retail shop) — 72¢ and a daily newspaper — around \$1.00. A medium-priced hotel will set you back \$50-\$60 a night and the taxi to take you there will charge only 46¢ a kilometre (.62 mile). Prices at car rentals are reasonable and start at around \$29 a day, but problems start when you pull up into a gas station and have to pay around \$9 a gallon for 95 octane unleaded.

A PLACE FOR YOUNGER POL-AMS. Although some PolAm teenagers might initially react with "Aw, what's there to do and see in Poland anyway?" the fact remains that younger Americans of Polish background often get more out of such a trip than those of their parents' and grandparents' generation.

Teenagers and even young adults are still in their formative stage and new sights and experiences often make a deeper impression. Such

first-hand contact is both culturally enriching as well as dispelling negative stereotypes about Poland. In addition to all the history and culture they'll be exposed to, younger PolAm visitors are usually fascinated by Poland's lively club and pub scene (drinking age is 18!) in the bigger cities.

An added attraction for many younger PolAms might be to include a side trip to Rome or maybe a stopover in neighboring Germany, London or Paris on the way home.

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HISTORY IN ART / Staś Kmieć

The Artwork of Arthur Szyk

PIONEERS OF THE NEW WORLD

Albrycht Zaborowski (Anglicized as Albert Zabriskie, sometimes referred to as Olbracht; 1638–1711) was a Polish nobleman of Ducal Prussia. A Lutheran Unitarian, he was one of the pioneers of European colonization within the area of the present day state of New Jersey,

Zaborowski was born in 1638 in Węgorzewo, Poland or Engelsberg Austrian Silesia. After escaping from military service in the Prussian army he fled to the New World. In 1662 he arrived on board the Dutch ship *De Vos* to New Amsterdam (present day New York).

Once here, he disappeared into Indian territory for thirteen years. When he surfaced he was reported to be trading with the Tappan Indians, and friendly with their sachem Mamshier. He was also in trade with the Metetoch and Chechepowas. They called him "Totlock." Due to his strong command of the Leni Lenape language, it is as-

sumed he lived among them during his disappearance.

Due to his knowledge of Native American languages he became a famous translator and mediator in land purchases and negotiations conducted between the colonialists and Native American tribes.

In Rev. David Cole's History of Rockland County, he writes: "The oldest son, Jacob, was, with the consent of his parents, taken, when a small lad, by the Indians, to their settlement at Paramus, called in their dialect Palamah, signifying 'wild turkey' and grew up among the red men." Later the Indians left these lands in Albrycht's possession. It was assumed Jacob was to take on the responsibility as translator and negotiator upon his father's death.

With Zaborowski's possession of a large estate within the present day state of New Jersey, and Rockland County, N.Y., settled in Hackensack and built a family residence



there. He also served as justice of peace in Bergen County.

He died in 1711 and was buried in Hackensack, New Jersey. He originated the Zabriskie family, which produced many eminent Americans, such as businessman Christian Brevoort Zabriskie (for whom Zabriskie Point in Death Valley is named) and actress Grace Zabriskie. With this history, today — totally Americanized descendants of Albrycht Zaborowski consider themselves the aristocracy of the New World.

IN TIMES PAST

'Yer Out!



"H. KAZENAREK, WOMAN BASEBALL PLAYER," reads the photo caption on this 5x7 glass negative that was once property of the Bain News Service and now is in the Library of Congress. It is also noted that Kazenarek, of New York City, played on a team with Belle North and Regina Gross.

The photo was brought to our attention by Shorpy.com, a vintage photo blog featuring thousands of high-definition images from the 1850s to 1950s. The site is named after Shorpy Higginbotham, a teenage coal miner who lived 100 years ago.

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

Touring

We are traveling as a group.

Podróżujemy w grupie
(poh-DRUUh-zhuh-YEH-mih
VGRUH-pyeh)

Please speak with our manager.

Proszę rozmawiać z naszym
kierownikiem
(PROH-sheh roz-MAH-vyahch
ZNAH-shihm kyeh-rohv-NEE-
kyehm)

We are on a concert tour.

Jesteśmy na trasie koncertowej
(Yehs-TEHSH-mih nah TRAH-sheh
kohn-tsehr-TOH-veh)

We will be here two days.

Będziemy tu dwa dni.
(Behn-DJEH-mih tuh dwah dnee)

My family came from this region.

Moja rodzina pochodzi z tego
region
(MOY-yah roh-DJEE-nah poh-
HOH-djee STEH-goh reh-GYOH-
nuh)

My ancestors lived here somewhere.

Moi przodkowie gdzieś tu
mieszkali.
(MOH-ee psobt-KOH-vyeh gdjehsh
tuh myehsh-KAH-lee)

Phonetic chh is like ch in loch
A preposition is joined with the next word

Their family name was ...

Ich nazwisko rodowe było ...
(Eechh nahz-VEES-koh roh-DOH-
veh BIH-woh ...)

Is there anyone who remembers this name?

Czy jest to ktoś pamięta
to nazwisko?
(Chih yehst ktosh pah-MYEHN-
tah toh nahz-VEES-koh?)

Where is the local cemetery?

Gdzie jest miejscowy cmentarz?
(Gdjeh yehst myay-STSOH-vih
TSMEHN-tahsh?)

TARAPACKI ON THE MEND.

Tom Tarapacki's regular sports column will return next month. Tom took some time off to heal following some minor eye surgery after tearing a retina. All is well, and he is gathering news for the May edition.

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environment that contributes to
the development of our Polish
culture.



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Twelfth Annual Katyn Remembrance

Sunday, April 29, 2012

10:30 am Mass at Holy Rosary Church
408 S. Chester St., Baltimore, MD 21231
(off the 2100 block of Eastern Ave.)

11:45 am Coffee/Pastry Reception in Church Undercroft

1:00 pm Ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial
Baltimore Harbor East
600 block of President St. (at Alicanna St.)
Baltimore, MD 21202

"SHOULD I FORGET THEM, MAY GOD IN HEAVEN FORGET ME."
ADAM MICKIEWICZ

Lira Ensemble Tour Offers Optional Stay-Over

CHICAGO — The Lira Ensemble, famous for Polish song and dance, is also known for its tours of Poland. Lira tours offer a view of Poland far beyond the scope of usual tours. Tour members will see all the major attractions, and will also experience personalized service, folk performances, concerts, gallery visits and much more. Lira tours are exclusive: you will not be bunched with other groups.

This year's tour goes to Central and Southern Poland. It leaves Chicago or New York on Thur., July 12 and returns Wed., July 25. In between, tour members will visit Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa, Zakopane, Blessed John Paul's and Chopin's birthplaces and more. The tour emphasizes music, folklore, traditions, and history and, like Lira concerts, is designed to be enjoyable as well as informative.

Included in the tour price are coach class airfare, all transportation and admissions, first class hotels, three Polish meals a day (except for four meals on your own), and an ultra-modern motorcoach

with an airline-style bathroom.

Lira tours are led by Lucyna Migala of WCEV Radio, who is artistic director and general manager of the Ensemble, and an expert on Polish culture. Migala shares insights about Polish history and contemporary life in Poland. She teaches tour members a bit of the Polish language and also several popular Polish folk songs during singing sessions on the tour bus.

Tour members may remain in Poland on their own after the tour for an extra payment. The Lira office can arrange for hotels and transportation for these added stays and can direct you to experts who can help find your family village in Poland if you have lost touch with relatives there.

Since the Lira Ensemble is a charity, a portion of the tour cost is tax deductible. Those taking the Lira tour will not only enjoy a very personal and unusual tour of Poland, they will be helping with the work of the Lira Ensemble.

For more information, call (773) 508-7040 or (800) 547-LIRA.

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OBITUARIES

Stanley A. Ciesielski, Retired CIA Officer, and Co-Founder of PHA of Maryland

BALTIMORE — Stanley A. Ciesielski, a retired career Central Intelligence Agency intelligence officer who was a co-founder of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, died at the age of 101.



"Stanley Ciesielski was a great friend and adviser. I knew him through our work in the Polish community," said Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, a longtime friend. "He was a great patriot fighting for the freedom of Poland," she said.

The son of Polish immigrants, Ciesielski was born in New Kensington, Pa., and moved with his family in the 1920s to a rowhouse on Newkirk Street in East Baltimore.

He graduated from City College in 1928 and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1934 from what is now Loyola University Maryland. During the 1930s, he worked as a private investigator, and from 1940 to 1941 he edited a newspaper. He enlisted in the Army in 1941 and served stateside in the Counter Intelligence Corps. Ciesielski attained the rank of major at the time of his discharge from the service in 1949; he joined the CIA a

year later.

He was a staff officer at CIA headquarters in Washington from 1950 to 1956 and was chief of special installation in Frankfurt, Germany, from 1956 to 1958. Ciesielski returned to CIA headquarters in Washington in 1959, where he was an intelligence officer until retiring in 1972.

In 1974, Ciesielski founded and served as president of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland and from 1981 to 1984 was president of the American Council for Polish Culture.

He was president of Maryland Action for Poland from 1982 to 1985 and was a national director of the Polish American Congress from 1984 to 1988.

During his years as president of the American Council for Polish Culture, Ciesielski counted among his numerous achievements, establishing relationships with other Polish cultural organizations, including the Polish American Historical Association, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences and the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs.

He also worked closely with the Polish American Congress as well as reaching out to Italian, Slovak and Ukrainian cultural organizations.

In his work with the Polish

Heritage Association of Maryland, Ciesielski focused its mission on the celebration, promotion and preservation of Polish history and heritage. The group also sponsored lectures, conferences and concerts and established a fund that awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students of Polish descent.

"Stan did that. He started the scholarship program," said Paul T. Plevyak, who chaired the scholarship committee and is a retired Baltimore County public school administrator.

When the state established the sister city program, Ciesielski made sure the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland joined in the effort.

"We had an association with the Polish city of Lodz," said Plevyak. Ciesielski and his organization collected antibiotics, aspirin, gauze and bandages that were shipped by freighter from Baltimore and distributed to eight hospitals in the Lodz region.

Ciesielski attended meetings and remained active with the organization up until his death.

He was a longtime supporter and subscriber to the *Polish American Journal*.

The longtime Anneslie resident enjoyed photography and travel. He was also fluent in Polish and Slovak.

— *The Baltimore Sun*

Very Rev. Adalbert Wolski, TOR, Missionary in Paraguay

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. — Very Rev. Adalbert Wolski, TOR, 80, in January at St. Bernardine Monastery. Born Feb. 13, 1931, in Cleveland, Ohio, son of George and Elizabeth Koran Wolski. He entered the Franciscan Seminary in Hollidaysburg in 1950 and professed vows July 15, 1952, at St. Theresa Chapel in Highland



Hall. He was ordained to the priesthood June 7, 1958.

Fr. Adalbert was one of the first missionaries of the Immaculate Conception Province sent to Paraguay in 1961. He served in varied ways in a number of dioceses in the United States, including the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Fr. Adalbert served the Franciscan Order as a member of the General Council and Local Minister in Rome, National Spiritual Assistant of the Secular Franciscan Order and as Mission Co-Op coordinator for his Franciscan Province. Predeceased by

parents and brother, Robert. He is survived by his Franciscan Community.

Fr. Adalbert was a supporter of the *Polish American Journal*.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, and committal took place in the community cemetery at St. Bernardine Monastery.

Gifts in Fr. Adalbert's memory may be made to the Franciscan Friars, TOR, P.O. Box 139, Hollidaysburg, Pa. 16648, or at www.thefranciscanfriars.org.

Ronald Joseph Kopec, Served Three Tours in Vietnam

CHICAGO — Ronald Joseph Kopec was born on February 13, 1941 in Chicago's Southside Pilsen neighborhood and died on February 5 of throat cancer. A resident of Chicago's Northwest Side Norwood Park neighborhood, Kopec graduated from the former DePaul Academy, and went on to graduate from DePaul University with a degree



in French. Kopec did not learn the Polish language from his parents, but taught himself to speak his native tongue with the help of his grandfather. After graduating from DePaul, Kopec began a 20-year military career with the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. In the 1960s, he volunteered to go to Vietnam in which his first tour was working with the indigenous Montagnards of Vietnam's Central Highlands. He volunteered for three tours of duty in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War, Kopec was assigned to a tour of duty in France, which made it pos-

sible for him to attend the Sorbonne, where he received a master's degree in French. He spent three years teaching French at the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), then he returned to South Korea as a battalion commander. Upon retiring from the U.S. Army, Kopec returned to his hometown, attended Loyola University Chicago earning a master's degree in business administration, and began a career in the business world. In 1985, he married Rose DeFrancesco. He is survived by his wife, Rose, his mother, Charlotte, and daughter, Antonia.

Mary R. Lipinski, Active in Polonia District

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Mary R. Lipinski, an active resident of the Polonia District, died Friday (Feb. 24, 2012) in Buffalo General Hospital after a brief illness. She was 94.

Born Mary Rose Haloff in Buffalo, the daughter of Theodore and Stella Haloff, she lived her entire life on Buffalo's Eastside. She attended St. Stanislaus Parish School until seventh grade, when she ended her formal education to take jobs as a house cleaner to support her family. She worked at Otminski Bakery on Coit & Peckham Streets and as a sales associate at Kobacker's Department Store. Before retirement, she worked as a cleaner at School

31 on Stanton Street.

Lipinski was a lifelong member of St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church on Peckham Street where she assumed leadership positions within the Mother's Club, Society of the Sacred Heart, the Rosary Society and the Altar Boys Mother's Club. Lipinski was a 40 year member of the St. Stanislaus Parish Choir and President of the Pallottine Fathers Society. In 2005, during the course of renovations to the historic interior of St. Stanislaus, Lipinski, along with a number of other Parish parishioners, protested the moving of the Church's altar away from its traditional location.

A lifelong Republican, Lipinski was a member of the Fillmore District Republican Club and an Erie County Election Inspector for over 30 years.

Lipinski was an active member of senior programs at the Valley Community Center, the former St. Rita's & St. Patrick's Parish and the Sloan Senior Center. In the early 1970s, she was a founding member of the St. Stan's Sunshine Club for seniors.

She was an avid rummy card player, loved bingo and was an expert at cooking traditional Polish "soul food" like pierogi, gołąbki, naleśniki and kluski.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- To dye Easter egg shells black, use: a. blackberry juice b. walnut shells c. coffee grounds
- A natural blue color for your Easter eggs is made from: a. crocus petals b. sunflower seed hulls c. elderberry wine
- Droga Krzyżowa* are: a. bells rung at an Easter Sunrise Service b. church visitations on Holy Thursday c. Stations of the Cross
- Wiosna* is: loose change b. Dogwood plant c. Springtime
- The custom of decorating eggs in Poland, has existed since: a. prehistoric times b. the defeat of the Teutonic Knights c. the marriage of Princess Kinga
- In the spring, decorate your home with: a. *szynka* b. *kwiaty* c. *wiosna*
- Enjoy the greeting, "Wesołego

- Jajka," which means: a. Easter Egg Blessings b. Joyous Egg c. Happy egg
- The Easter egg game, *walotka*, uses: a. raw eggs b. blown-out egg shells c. hard-boiled eggs.
- The color used most frequently in Easter egg coloring and as a covering for church statues during the Easter season in churches is: a. purple b. red c. green
- Polish Mardi Gras is: *Gorskie Zak* b. *Zapusty* c. *Smigus-Dyn-gus*

ANSWERS. 1b. walnut shells; 2b. sunflower seed hulls; 3c. Stations of the Cross; 4a. Springtime; 5a. prehistoric times; 6b. kwiaty (flowers); 7c. Happy Egg; 8c. hard-boiled eggs; 9a. purple; 10b. Zapusty

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Warsaw Zoological Gardens

Covering over one hundred acres, are the Warsaw Zoological Gardens, more familiarly known as the Warsaw Zoo. (Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny w Warszawie). Located on the north side of Warsaw, just across the Wisła River bridge, the zoo is a popular tourist attraction. It is estimated that over half a million visitors each year, come to enjoy nature at its finest.

Although the zoo officially opened in 1928, one should be aware that since the 1600's, many private menageries were open to the public. These were frontrunners and a positive influence on present-day zoos.

Would you believe that Warsaw Zoo is home to over 5000 animals, and more specifically, 500 different species.

During World War II, the zoo served as a shelter for countless Jewish people. Invading Germans emptied all the animal cages. So the zoo's zoologist and his wife hid people in the animal cages. The cages served as a temporary shelter for many individuals.

Recently, an unusual exhibit appeared. A pair of primates and a pair of humans were put together in a cage to act like cavemen. Its purpose was to make people realize that we are closer to animals than we might have once thought. This short-lived exhibit in 2009, had actors posing as cavemen. Dressed in animal skins, the actors smoked fish over a fire, poking it with a stick. Actually, this was all a promotion for a new play, "Cave Men."

A visit to the zoo gives you an

opportunity to see several African bull elephants, Polish lynxes, wildcats, aurochs, zebras and polar bears. Frolicking monkeys, rhinos, and even crocodiles are there to entertain you. Perhaps you want to study the ant and spider collections. Then, as you stroll along, you can stop by an ice-cream or waffle stand and enjoy a delicious treat.

Yes, the Zoological Gardens is a place to seek quiet, calm and solitude. Stroll along its tree-lined avenues, see many impressive statues, and drink in the beauty of picture-perfect ponds. Also, a colorful array of flower gardens enhances the scene. This sanctuary offers visitors a wide spectrum of flora, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and primates. Truly, one can enjoy all nature has to offer, in a most desirable setting.

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REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

201 PAINTER STREET, EVERSON, PA 15631
REV. JOHN A. SEDLAK, PASTOR

St. Joseph Church is the oldest Polish parish in the Greensburg, Pa. Diocese. Rev. Alexander Szmigiel found the church in 1887 to accommodate the influx of Polish immigrants in the late 1880s, who mostly worked in the coal and coke industry of southwestern Pennsylvania. Rev.

Szmigiel felt such an attachment to the church that he requested to be buried beneath it. He was laid to rest in a crypt in the basement in 1901 at 39 years of age. In 1973, his remains were transferred to the parish cemetery.

The Gothic-style church was constructed in 1892 in the shape of a cross, being 112 feet long and 44 feet wide, replacing the first wooden church building. The original steeple was 156 feet tall, but due to lightning damage, it was replaced with a 115 feet steeple, thus the present structure. In the interior, a side altar has a large icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa brought from Poland in 1895 by the founding father. The other side altar has a large image of the Divine Mercy Christ, and nearby a picture of Sister Faustina.

BESIDES THE CHURCH and rectory, St. Joseph had a convent and school. Though the convent and school are no longer active, they are still maintained. St. Joseph School was in operation from 1888 to 1990. Lay teachers conducted classes until 1898 when the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth taught until 1920. Sisters of the Holy Spirit took over teaching grades 1 thru 8 from 1920 until it closed in 1990. Today it is used for social events.

Father Justin Figas, founder of the *Father Justin Rosary Hour*, attended St. Joseph Parish and school for the first 14 years of his life, until

he entered study for the priesthood. Outside the main entrance of the church, there is an engraved plaque honoring Fr. Figas.

The parish has a connection to another radio host. Rev. Joseph Sredzinski was pastor at St. Joseph's Church. He has a weekly radio program titled *That You May Believe* on WMBS Uniontown, Pa. Father and his show were the subject of a past article in the PAJ.

St. Joseph has both a dedicated singing Choir and Bell Choir. Each summer, the church holds a well-attended festival, featuring Polish food and bands.

— Mary Demagall



FR. JUSTIN PLAQUE.

A Helping Hand

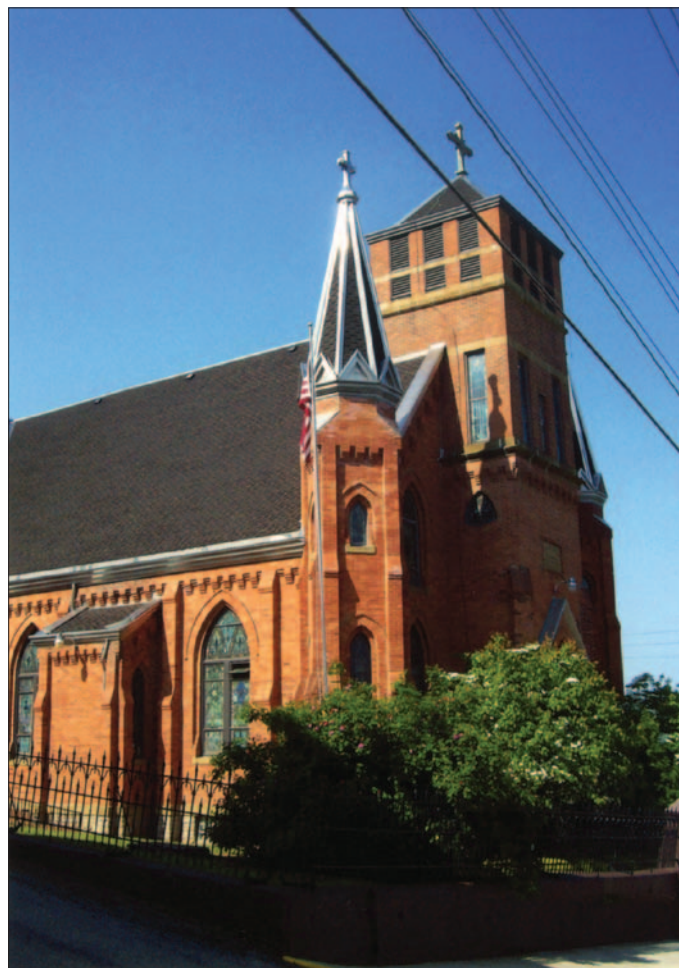
NEW YORK — Thanks to generous contributions over the past two years, the Polish American Folk Dance Company was able to participate in the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas' festival in Regina, Canada, and in the 15th International Festival of Polish Folk Dancing in Rzeszow, Poland. PAFDC also presented a sold-out concert at the Polish National Home in Greenpoint.



The PAFDC shows no signs of slowing down, and is preparing for its upcoming concert in June 2012 and its 75th anniversary concert in 2013. "Unfortunately, we may not be able to achieve these goals without your support," said PAFDC Executive Director Mariusz Bernatowicz.

PAFDC is a non-profit organization that has been educating its members and the public about the beauty of Polish folk culture for nearly 75 years. It asks that you support its effort to preserve the authentic dances, costumes, and folk culture of Poland.

To contribute, visit www.pafdc.org, or send donations to: Polish American Folk Dance Company, 261 Driggs Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222. For more information, contact Mariusz Bernatowicz at (917) 514-0421; e-mail director@pafdc.org.



Would you like to see your parish featured in "Reflections"? Please send a photo and a few paragraphs about the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name us last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

Happy Easter from The Kosciuszko Foundation

Since 1925, the Kosciuszko Foundation has provided scholarships, promoted Polish culture, and stood up for Poland's good name. We will continue to do so, but we need your help.

On April 28th the Kosciuszko Foundation holds its annual fundraising Ball at the Waldorf=Astoria. Please join us for a night of dancing, celebration, socializing and networking with successful Poles.

The theme of this year's Ball will be "Polish Contributions to Science," with honoree, Nobel Prize winning physicist Prof. Frank Wilczek of MIT.

If you cannot attend, please support our mission by taking a commemorative ad in the Ball Journal, or by purchasing raffle tickets to win prizes such as two round trip tickets to Poland, a 10-stay at a Polish ski lodge, a makeover at INGLOT cosmetics, basketballs signed by Duke University's "Coach K," or one of many other fabulous prizes.

Proceeds of the Ball fund our mission. If you are a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation – thank you. If not, please join us.

Polonia can be stronger, but only if you help.

Alex Storozyński
President & Executive Director
The Kosciuszko Foundation

To purchase tickets, ads or raffles for the ball, please call 212-734-2130

Prizes, include:



Two round-trip tickets to Poland sponsored by LOT



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Basket of Makeup and Cosmetics from INGLOT



7 Day stay in Log Country Inn, Ithaca, NY



10 Day stay for 2 in a ski resort in Poland



Autographed basketballs by legendary "Coach K"

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ARIZONA

PHOENIX — April 21-22, 2012 are the dates for the 9th **Arizona Polish Festival**. The event will be held at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 2828 W. Country Gables Dr. Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities while indulging in Polish cuisine and sipping on imported Polish beer. Learn about Poland's past and present by visiting exhibits and check out the souvenir boutique where you'll find a wide variety of traditional Polish jewelry, crafts, national ornaments, T-shirts, hats and more. Guests will also enjoy dynamic performances by traditional folk dancers, live music, and raffle and fun activities for the whole family. Free, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. www.polishfestivalaz.org.

MASSACHUSETTS

FALL RIVER — The **Kosciuszko Club** of Fall River is sponsoring a Polish Dinner, Sun., April 15, with entertainment by Rik Palieri, who will play American and Polish Folk Music using guitar, banjo, Polish flute, and Polish bagpipes. The meal will be served at 12:30 p.m. and the entertainment will begin at 2:00 p.m. It will be held at Blessed Trinity Parish Hall, 1340 Plymouth Ave. For tickets and information,

call Brian Curt at (508) 678-0987, or Bucko's Parts & Tackle Service, 191 Stafford Rd., (508) 674-7900. Tickets are \$25.00 each.

MICHIGAN

STERLING HEIGHTS — The American-Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane, will host an **American Polish Festival & Craft Show**, July 6-8, 2012.

Featured will be live music and dancing with K-Tones, Tony's Polka Band, Downtown Sound, the Halka Dance Ensemble, the Zajaczk Dance Ensemble, the Wawel Dancers, and the Zakopane Dance Ensemble.

There will be a Polish Kitchen, the Polish Pub-n-Grub, the Beer Tent and other vendors. The outdoor craft show will offer over 50 different crafters. Admission to the festival is free to the public. A \$5.00 daily parking fee is required. For more information visit the web site, www.americanpolishfestival.com or call (586) 264-7990.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul announces the **2012 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival**, returning to the five screens of the St. Anthony Main Theatre April 12 through May 3.

The program of this three-week celebration of independent filmmaking from around the globe will include some 250 documentary, narrative, and short films from more than 60 countries, visits from numerous international filmmakers and celebrities, and a host of gala events, parties, and receptions.

Among the films are these from Poland: "Rose," directed by Wojciech Smarzowski; "Bon Appetit," directed by Kuba Maciejko; "The Argentinean Lesson," winner of the Silver Hobby Horse Award at the 38th Krakow Film Festival, directed by Wojciech Staroń; "The Moon is Jewish," directed by Michał Tkaczyński; and "Woman in the Fifth," a French, Polish, and UK production, directed by Pawel Pawlikowski.

For more information about the festival, contact Susan Smoluchowski at (612) 331-7563 or visit www.mspfilmsociety.org.

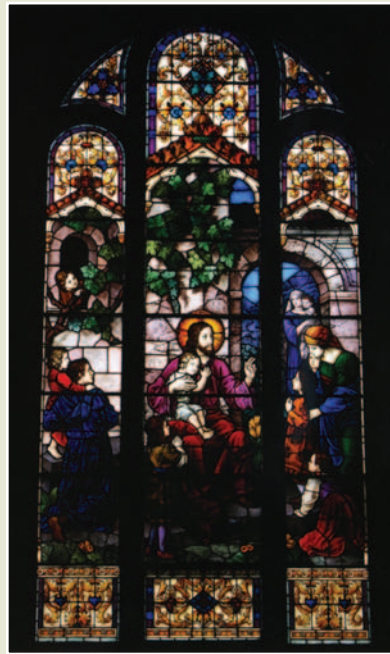
ST. PAUL — **Festival of Nations**. May 3-6, 2012. RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. The "Polish Café" is one of 35 cafes from around the globe, offering unique ethnic food to partake, along with viewing various artists providing ethnic cultural events, and the opportunity to purchase those one-of-a-kind ethnic items from the international bazaar. This is one of the nation's largest

Great Panes

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Focusing on his passions for art, religion, and Polish heritage, Greg L. Witul, who now run the parish, and a group of parishioners and friends, photographed each of the church's vice president at Green Color Machines, has authored "Adorned in Light: The Stained Glass of Corpus Christi Church, Buffalo, N.Y."

Corpus Christi, located in what was once the geographical center of Buffalo's Polonia, was established in 1898. The current church was erected in 1909. In 1925, Fr. Justin Figas (of the *Father Justin Rosary Hour* fame), oversaw the installation of twenty-seven stained glass windows from Franz Meyer of Munich, Germany.

Witul, with the help of editor Mary Lanham, the Pauline Fathers



who now run the parish, and a group of parishioners and friends, photographed each of the church's vice president at Green Color Machines, has authored "Adorned in Light: The Stained Glass of Corpus Christi Church, Buffalo, N.Y."

The soft-cover book, 5 1/2" x 7 1/2", features full-page color images of each window and a description on the facing page. Histories of the church, the art of stained glass, an introduction, table of contents and other particulars make up the 92-page book.

To order, send \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for s&h to: Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark St., Buffalo, NY 14212. You may also purchase a copy from the rectory. Call (716) 896-1050.

and longest running multicultural events and is truly enjoyable. Help support your heritage and volunteer in the Polish Cafe by calling

Marie Przynski at either przynski@comcast.net or (612) 501-2799 for volunteer shifts. A limited number of discount parking passes are available for purchase (\$5 each), please contact Przynski for further details.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Trip to Polish Chicago**. May 4-6, 2012. Bus trip offered to participate in Chicago's Constitution Day activities, including its huge Polish parade. Leave Friday, May 4 at 8:00 a.m. and return Sunday, May 6 around 8:30 p.m. You can put yourself and your friends on the list by contacting Ursula Peterson at upeterson2056@chaska.net or (952) 448-9544 or John Bieniek and Phyllis Husted at (763) 566-8812. This fun weekend of Polish eating and shopping is offered at \$315 (double occupancy) and includes transportation, hotel, two lunches and two dinners. Besides participation in Constitution Day activities, travelers will also go to the Polish Museum, attend Polish Mass at St. Hyacinth Basilica, and go shopping at a liquor store, deli, amber store, and pierogi factory. Travelers are encouraged to bring along food coolers to bring back pierogi and sausages.

NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN — Parishioners of **St. Joseph's Parish** are inviting former members to return to the church for Eastertime observations. They are encouraging their "prodigal sons and daughters" to visit Holy Thursday and every Second Sunday of the month (in conjunction with the breakfast program). "Bring the whole family; aunts, uncles, children, grandchildren and relive those cherished times and memories. You will be glad you did."

Contact St. Joe's rectory at (856) 963-1285 for Mass times and information about secure parking arrangements.

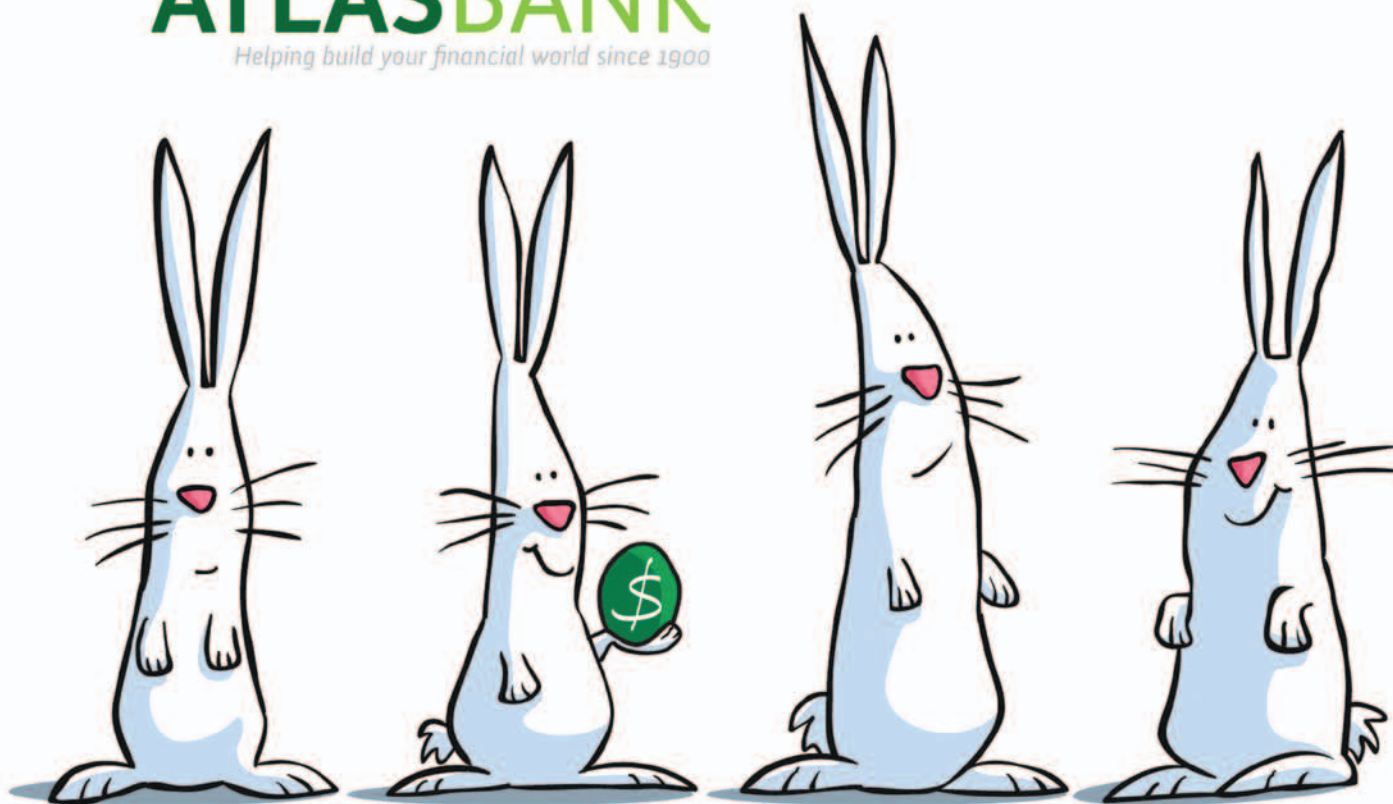
NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State invites all to attend its meetings, held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except for July and December) in the cafeteria of Villa Maria College, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga. In July, the society holds its annual picnic, and in December, its Wigilia Dinner. The PGSNYS was founded in 1988 by the late Michael Drabik. For more information, call (716) 652-9120 or visit pgsnys.org.



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