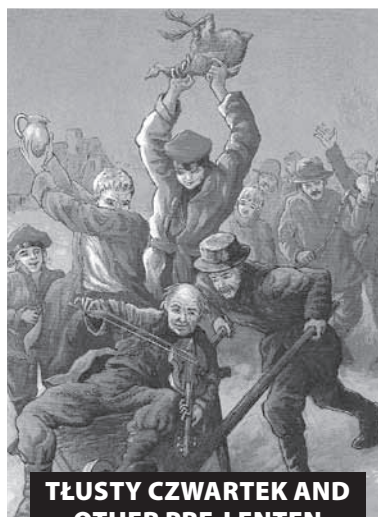


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TŁUSTY CZWARTEK AND OTHER PRE-LENTEN CELEBRATIONS. PAGE 16

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

WHAT ABOUT POLAND, MR. SCHUMER? • WHY POLAND IN 2012? • BISHOP SOBIECHOWSKI TO LEAD EASTERN DIOCESE

MILK SOUP, BABCIA'S COMFORT FOOD • ALLIANCE COLLEGE ALUMNI TO CELEBRATE • THE CONCEPT OF PAN-SLAVISM

CURIES' FIRST SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH • SUPRISES FOR POLAND AT THE OSCARS? • THE CHICAGO GRABOWSKIS

NEWSMARK

KISZCZAK GETS SUSPENDED SENTENCE. A Polish court handed down a two-year suspended prison term to a communist-era interior minister for his role in implementing martial law in Poland in 1981.

The verdict is the latest effort by democratic Poland to hold communist-era officials accountable for abuses during their rule.

The Warsaw Provincial Court found retired Gen. Czesław Kiszczak guilty on charges of membership in an armed criminal group that illegally declared the clamp-down, aimed at crushing the Solidarity freedom movement, and violated the freedom of many Poles. The 86-year-old Kiszczak was absent from court.

Former president and Solidarity founder, Lech Walesa, reacted by saying that "full justice is not possible," and that the main point of such trials is "not to punish, but to draw conclusions for the future."

"It is important that the matter was closed and we can move on," said the 1983 Nobel Peace Laureate.

The court also ruled that the then First Secretary of the Communist Party, Stanisław Kania, 84, was innocent.

ST. STEPHEN STONED AGAIN. Metuchen Bishop Paul Bootkoski issued a decree December 30 suppressing another Polonian parish, St. Stephen's Parish in Perth Amboy, N.J., effective July 1, 2012. The decree simultaneously suppresses Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Church, the Portuguese parish in the city, and St. Mary's Church, one of the two territorial parishes in Perth Amboy and the de facto Irish parish there. The three will be merged into a canonically new parish, whose name has yet to be decided, probably under the continuing administration of Polish Redemptorists.

St. Stephen's was established in 1892. The Polish American bishop previously suppressed Holy Family Parish in Carteret, another Polish parish, merging it with two others under the name "Divine Mercy Parish."

The Diocesan Chancellor's Annual Goal Statement includes a tasking to develop a paper on "a canonical and pastoral resource guide for parishes in transition from personal/national parishes to territorial parishes."

COMING TO THE SILVER SCREEN. A film is planned on the role of the United States' Kosciuszko Squadron pilots who risked their lives during the 1919-1921 Polish-Soviet War. The squadron leader, Merian Caldwell Cooper, arrived in Poland in 1919 with a Herbert Hoover mission of humanitarian assistance for war-torn Europe. With seven American volunteers, he joined the elite Polish squadron named after Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Cooper escaped after spending nine months as a soviet POW after his plane was shot down. For his valor, he was awarded the highest Polish military medal, the *Virtuti Militari* by Marshal Piłsudski, Polish commander-in-chief.

The idea for the film came from The Foundation to Illuminate America's Heroes, which described Cooper an "an outstanding American whose story can inspire present and future generations of Americans."

Cooper's great grandfather fought alongside Kazimierz Pulaski in the American Revolution. Cooper was a founding board member of Pan American Airways, an adventurer, a film director, a screenwriter, and a producer of films, the most famous of which was *King Kong*. He died of cancer at the age of eighty in 1973.

The Foundation is seeking donations to fund the film. It is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) public charity. Write or call 1616 Anderson Road, McLean, VA 22102; (334) 718-9501.

TWO NEW AIRPORTS TO OPEN IN POLAND. A former military airport in the town of Modlin, a half hour's ride from Warsaw by train, will open in time for the Euro 2012 soccer championships in June. Maximum capacity is estimated to be two million passengers annually.

A brand new airport will open in the fall near Lublin. Called Swidnik Airport Lublin, the facility will serve a million passengers a year.

College President Sorry for His "Ill-Chosen Remarks"

NEWS OF INSULT MAKES ITS WAY TO U.S. HOUSE FLOOR

"NOT ENOUGH" SAYS KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

The president of Ohio State University told the Polish American Congress he apologizes for "ill-chosen remarks" he made during a question-and-answer period that followed one of his speeches.

President E. Gordon Gee said he immediately recognized he made a gaffe after he used the Polish Army as an example of disorganization.

In light of publicity, his "sorry" may be an understatement.

Polish Army veterans who belong to the Polish American Congress did not consider President Gee as being a bigot but simply "uneducated." They felt he should leave his desk in OSU's presidential suite and spend the coming Spring semester in one of his college's classrooms and try to learn a bit more about world and military history.

The Anti-Bigotry Committee carried their message to him. After hearing from the committee as well as the PAC's Public Relations Vice President Susan Lotarski in Washington, D.C., President Gee promptly issued his statement.

The Anti-Bigotry Committee's letter to him was also intended to be an educational lesson about the Polish military.

Alex Storozynski, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, said Gee must be reprimanded for the slur.

He called on OSU Chairman Leslie H. Wexner to "publicly admonish University President Gordon Gee for his unacceptable comment."

Storozynski said Gee's apology was "half-hearted" and "not enough," and called for Gee to pay for a erection of a statue of Revolutionary War hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko at OSU.

"With a salary of \$1.6 million See "Apology," page 2



Katyn Continues to Haunt Poles

"Suicide" Attempt Rattles Polish Political Scene

MILITARY CRIME, SMOLENSK DISASTER IN THE BACKGROUND?

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—The apparent suicide attempt of a senior Polish military prosecutor not only shocked the journalists who were ear-

witnesses to the event, it has also shaken up Poland's ruling establishment, and an investigation into the incident may turn out to have far-reaching political implications.

Colonel Mikołaj Przybył, who heads the Military Prosecutor's Office in the western city of Poznań, had called a news conference to reply to accusations that his office had illegally pressured phone companies into passing on mobile phone and text-message data. That concerned journalists suspected of leaking classified information from Russian prosecutors to their Polish See "Prosecutor," p. 3



PRZYBYŁ

Total Justice Sought for Victims



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

"KATYŃ: UNFINISHED INQUIRY" HELD ON CAPITOL HILL. Among the many academics, attorneys, historians, Polonia leaders, Senators and Congressmen, and Polish Embassy diplomat, who all attend the Inquiry was John Lenczowski, president of the Institute of World Politics. He is shown above being interviewed by Marcin Firlej, Foreign News Correspondent for Poland's *Telewizja Polska*. The Inquiry took place in the Rayburn Congressional Office Building in September of last year.

to this day the innocent victims still cry out for justice, both legal and moral, that has been denied to them - it being delayed or blocked for a variety of egregious geopolitical and still-guarded reasons. The Katyń - Unfinished Inquiry convened here on September 15, 2011 in the See "Inquiry," p. 3

CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE SMOLEŃSK CRASH. PAGE 3

Genealogical Societies to Meet in Utah in April

CHICAGO — The Polish Genealogical Society of America announces its Annual Conference 2012 will be held in conjunction with United Polish Genealogical Societies (UPGS) in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 20-23, 2012. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Barbara Berska, Deputy General Director of State Archives in Poland.

The Conference of Polish Genealogical Societies is hosted by the Polonica Americana Research Institute, the Polish Genealogical Society of America, the Polish Genealogical Society of California and the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan.

For more information, write to pmission@orchardlakeschools.com; phone (248) 683-0323 or check websites www.pgsa.org, www.pgsa.org, www.pgsa.org, and www.polishmission.com.

Komorowski Visits Washington, Discusses Visa Waiver Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Poland's President Bronisław Komorowski came to Washington on Jan. 10 to meet with U.S. Senator Mark Kirk and Mike Quigley of the House of Representatives to discuss Poland's inclusion in the US Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

The Polish president supports the VWP initiative. U.S. President Barack Obama announced his support for its legislation during his visit to Poland and again during Komorowski's earlier visit to the United States.

In March 2011 Senator Kirk, Congressman Quigley and Barbara Lipinski and three other congressmen sent a bill changing the VWP criteria to the Senate and House.

The legislation aims to update and modernize VWP requirements, ultimately making Poland eligible to participate in the program. It is designed to make the primary qualifying criteria for VWP participation a low overstay rate — set at less than three percent of foreign nationals who remain in the United States after their visa expires. Current practice uses the visa refusal rate. Under VWP citizens of 36 foreign countries can travel to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa.

Also discussed were allied relations of the two countries with particular emphasis on cooperation in the ISAF mission.

The trans-Atlantic trip first included a stop in Davos, Switzerland, where Komorowski attended an economic forum.

Komorowski will return to the United States in May to attend a NATO summit in Chicago, where one of the discussed issues will be the future of the Afghan mission.

The situation in Afghanistan was the main topic raised See "Visa ..." page 2

Paper Late!

The February 2012 edition of the PAJ is late! Next month's paper will be mailed on February 29.

ALMANAC

February • Luty

*Rzuć szczęściarza do wody,
a wypłynie z rybą w zębach.
Throw a lucky man into water,
and he'll surface*

with a fish in his mouth.

— Poet and short-story writer
Kazimierz Tetmajer (1865-1940),

- 1 1411. Signing of the **First Peace of Thorn** (Toruń) concludes the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War
- 2 **CANDLEMAS.** At Candlemas, honoring the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, Poles observe "Matka Boska Gromnicza." Candles blessed in church are taken home a symbol of the Blessed Mother. They are called Thunder Candles, lit in times of trouble or when someone is approaching death.
- 4 1505. Birth of the father of Polish literature, **Mikolaj Rej**. 1745. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kosciuszko**.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY** *Świętej Dorocie uschnie koszula na płocie. St. Dorothy's shirt will dry on the fence. (Days are windier and warmer starting today).*
- 11 1945. **Yalta Conference.** Soviets receive Poland's Eastern lands.
- 14 1918. Warsaw demonstrators protest the transfer of Polish territory to the Ukraine.
- 15 1903. Death of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
- 16 1952. Death of **Felix Witkowski**, last Polish American veteran of the Confederacy.
- 17 1919. Germany signed an armistice giving up territory in Poland.
- 19 1846. **Kraków Uprising** begins, an attempt, led by Edward Dembowski, to incite a Polish fight for national independence. The revolt was quickly suppressed by the Austrian army, and Kraków and its surrounding area were annexed to the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, a province of the Austrian Empire, with its capital at Lwów. 1473. Birth of astronomer **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik) in Torun, Poland.
- 21 1941. Nazis order that Polish Jews are barred from using public transportation.
- 22 1814. Birth of folklorist and ethnographer **Oskar Kolberg**.
- 25 1926. Poland, an original member of the League of Nations, demands a permanent seat on the League Council. It was given a semi-permanent seat.
- 26 1832. Polish Constitution was abolished by Czar Nicholas I.
- 27 1861. In the **Warsaw Massacre**, Russian troops fire on a crowd protesting Russian rule over Poland. Five marchers were killed. 1971. First edition of the Polish language *Nowy Dziennik* in Jersey City. 1996. Death of Ohio State Heisman Trophy winner (1950) **Vic Janowicz**.
- 28 1750. Birth of **Ignacy Potocki**, Polish minister and nobleman.



COPERNICUS

VIEWPOINTS

What About Poland, Mr. Schumer?

On December 12, 2011, New York Senator Chuck Schumer introduced a bill which, if enacted, would give Ireland another visa windfall. S-1983 would create a new visa category for businessmen and certain other professionals to work in the United States. The bill is modeled on the current E-3 visa, a special visa category created in May 2005 that sets aside 10,500 visas each year for young Australian professionals. Most people concede that visa was a reward for Australia slogging alongside the United States in the war in Iraq. S-1983 would extend the program to include the Irish. Schumer has two heavy-weight co-sponsors: Vermont Senator Pat Leahy, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, the Democrat Senate whip.

Irish immigration activists sometimes claim that the 1965 Hart-Cellar Act resulted in fewer immigrants from Ireland while enhancing immigration opportunities from other parts of the world. One could reply that U.S. immigration law before 1965 was skewed in favor of Western and Northern Europeans (read Irish and English), to the disadvantage of others, including Poles. However, various key senators and congressmen have always made it their business to keep Ireland's interests at heart. Remember the original visa lottery program? For years, it set aside 40% of available visas for Ireland. Did the Good Friday Agreement help solve the North-South conflict in Ireland? It did, but the U.S. also offered a generous helping of visas to "promote cross-community understanding." Now Schumer-Leahy-Durbin would like to fast track the latest Irish relief scheme, with some indication that they might try to tack it on to an immigration bill that passed the House by a large, bipartisan vote.

We wish our Irish colleagues well. At the same time, we return to the question: what about Poland?

Getting Poland into the Visa Waiver Program doesn't

seem on anybody's fast track, even though two of the three senators sponsoring S-1983 have significant numbers of Polish Americans living in their States. E3 visas were a reward for Australia's presence in Iraq; Poland was there, too. Warsaw expended considerable political capital to show its alliance with Washington. One might note that Ireland studiously kept out of World War II, is not a NATO member, and has scrupulously been wary

It's also time to tell Polonia's leaders, especially the Polish American Congress and its state divisions, that it's time to build inter-ethnic alliances with groups like Irish Americans.

Irish colleagues, what's in this proposal for America? Or, based on Poland's example, if you stand by Washington we'll ignore you, but if you keep your distance, we'll gladly reward you?

Again, we wish our Irish colleagues well. They saw a political opportunity and are running with it. But if S-1983 is to be attached to must-pass legislation, then it's time that Polish Visa Waiver also gets attached to must-pass legislation. Leaving Polish Visa Waiver to separate legislation is to consign it to oblivion: it's no skin off any Senator's nose to introduce a bill for which he gets kudos, takes pictures with adoring members of the affected group's leaders, and then lets his proposal die in committee. It's time to tell Senators Schumer, Durbin, and Leahy: *what about us?* Polish Visa Waiver might fare a lot better if the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the Senate majority whip, and New York's senior senator made it their priority, too.

It's also time to tell Polonia's leaders, especially the Polish American Congress and its state divisions, that it's time to build inter-ethnic alliances with groups like Irish Americans. We have common problems, but it seems they have the ethnic leadership. It's time we got smart.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Gee's Comment an Example of Indifference to Poles, Poland

"Americans of Polish descent put up with this all the time. It's almost an acceptable form of bigotry, people who wouldn't dream of making a racial or religious slur don't think twice about insulting this particular ethnic group. I received an e-mail last week complaining about one of my recent columns in which the writer felt compelled at the end to say 'nice going polock (sic)'."

— Detroit Free Press Associate Editor **Ron Dzwonkowski**, on Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee's remarks comparing the university's divisions to the Polish Army.

"It would have left his listeners puzzled if he had chosen 'The Norwegian army' as his example. He was, I assume, consciously drawing on profoundly embedded images of Poles and Poland in American culture. These took shape in Europe in the 18th century as part of the propaganda by Prussia, Russia and Austria to justify their unprecedented partition of Poland and the destruction of the Polish constitution. Those images were transmitted to America and became a distinct American bigotry in response to Polish immigrants. That they still exist and have power

is clear from the fact that a president of a major American university could invoke them so cavalierly."

— Prof. **Thaddeus Radzilowski** of the Piast Institute, on Gee's choice of words, in a letter to the OSU president and quoted by Dzwonkowski.

"His comments reveal not only insensitivity to the suffering of the Polish people over the past two centuries, but a shocking lack of knowledge of history. Surely the leader of a major institution of higher education should know better."

— U.S. Representative **Marcy Kaptur** (Ohio-9), on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, taking Gee to task for his comment about the Polish army.

"They sometimes seem to have a European model, where there are a lot of churches without many people. Often those churches are subsidized by the government. They don't really understand why a church, especially a historical church, needs to close."

— Archbishop **Charles Chaput** of Philadelphia, on the Vatican's reluctance to close par-

Visa Visit

continued from cover
by the Chief of General Staff Gen. Mieczyslaw Cieniuch, who also visited Washington in January. Cieniuch met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey at the Pentagon. The talks focused on military cooperation between both countries. Recently issued regulations for American troops, cooperation in the training of conventional and special forces, and joint exercises were also discussed.

Komorowski will again visit the U.S. in autumn to attend a UN General Assembly session in New York.

Apology Not Enough

continued from cover
lion per year, Mr. Gee can clearly afford it," said Storzynski.

News of Gee's remark made its way to Washington, where Ohio 9th's Marcy Kaptur rebuked him during a speech in the House of Representatives.

"As a Polish-American, I fail to see the humor when the president of a university that is home to the Center for Slavic and East European Studies describes bureaucratic turf battles with administrators at his school as 'shooting each other... kind of like the Polish Army,'" said Kaptur.

Letters to E. Gordon Gee can be sent at: Office of the President, Ohio State University, 205 Bricker Hall, 190 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210-1357. Phone: (614) 292-2424.

ishes in the United States, at the recent ad limina visit of American bishops to Rome. Although "crisper and cleaner and more consistent" guidelines will be issued, U.S. bishop cannot expect carte blanche.

"They listen to us carefully and say they understand our concerns, but at the same time they continue to implement their plans for expanding their missile defense potential."

— Russian Defense Minister **Anatoly Antonov**, on his country's frustration concerning the placement of U.S. missile bases near Russian borders, including one in Poland. Moscow said will develop and deploy new rockets to counter a U.S.-driven European missile shield.

"Chicago could get a quick economic shot in the arm if officials in Washington sign off on the right documents. We hope that happens."

— Editorial in the Sun-Times, calling for waiver on visas for Poles traveling to the United States. U.S. Sen. **Mark Kirk** (R-Ill.) and U.S. Rep. **Mike Quigley** (D-Ill.) headed to Poland to talk with officials there about snipping the red tape.

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FORUM / Maria Szonert Binienda, Esq.

Call for International Investigation into the Smoleńsk Crash

The investigation into the crash of the Polish government plane in Smolensk, Russia, in April 2010 that killed the president of Poland, First Lady, top generals of the Polish Army and the patriotic elite of Poland has been largely ignored by the international media. On the day of the crash a broad consensus emerged that the pilot was pressured to land for the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Katyń crime, and as a result the airplane went down in dense fog.

The investigation was conducted according to the Chicago Convention and the Russian Federation was in charge of the investigation. On December 19, 2010 the Republic of Poland submitted its comments to the Russian draft Final Report.

The Polish objections to the Russian draft of the Final Report were multifold and of fundamental nature. They ranged from denying Poland access to the investigation by preventing the Polish Accredited Representative from participating in the important tasks, denying Polish requests for information and assistance, to destroying, falsifying and manipulating the evidence, providing inadequate rescue and medi-

cal assistance to the victims of the crash, conducting the investigation in violation of international standards, and challenging the conclusions of the draft Final Report in its entirety. The credibility of the Russian investigative body, the Interstate Aviation Committee, has been challenged as well by virtue of its members acting in direct conflict of interest with their official positions with the designer, manufacture and servicer of the plane under investigation.

The Polish Government submitted 222 inquiries to the Russian Federation. Only 34 were answered.

In the course of the investigation, the Polish Government filed numerous motions and requests. Specifically, the Polish side submitted 222 inquiries to the Russian Federation. Only 34 inquiries were answered. The Russians ignored or refused to acknowledge 169 inquiries, and partially answered 19 inquiries. As a result of this lack of cooperation, the Polish side was unable to fulfil its responsibilities under the Chicago Convention.

Among the motions ignored or refused was a request for information regarding the assessment of the minimum airdrome conditions at the Smolensk airport, a request for recording of radar display readings on April 10, 2010, a request for photographic documentation from the crash scene, a request for data of the fly-around performed after the crash, and requests for inspection of communication and navigation aids. The Polish side did not receive any technical expertise of the wreckage debris. A motion to inspect the radar system was denied as well. To this day the wreckage of the plane and the black boxes remain in Russia. Poland as the state having suffered fatalities of its top leadership, was denied access to the information with respect to rescue, first aid, survival data and details of the autopsy examination of the victims of the crash.

THE RUSSIANS DISREGARDED almost all Polish objections to its draft Final Report, and on January 12, 2011 announced its final conclusion that the pilot who acted under pressure to land at any cost, was responsible for the Smolensk crash.

The Final Report of the Polish Commission for the Investigation of Airplane Accidents released on July 29, 2011 also disregarded the Polish objections to the Russian report and replicated Russian conclusions. According to a recently released conversation between two Polish officials who lead the investigation, the Polish Government made a political decision not to blame Russia for this crash. At the same time, a number of top Polish officials had a vested interest in putting the blame for the crash on those who perished in Smolensk. In particular, Minister of Internal Affairs Jerzy Miller, who headed the Polish investigation, acted in direct conflict of interest because in his capacity as Minister of Internal Affairs he was responsible for the oversight of the Bureau for the Projection of Government Officials.

After the release of the Miller's Report, the investigation into the Smolensk crash was conducted by the Parliamentary Committee led by Congressman Antoni Macierewicz and by the Polish Prosecutors. A significant body of knowledge has been developed in the second half of 2011 that fundamentally chal-



PHOTO: MILITARYPHOTOS.NET

A crane lifts the wreckage at the site of the aircraft crash in Smolensk, Russia. The crash claimed the lives of President Lech Kaczynski and dozens of high-ranking officials.

lenges the conclusions of the MAK and Miller's reports.

The families of the victims of the Smolensk crash who seek the truth, although harassed and intimidated, are determined to learn the full truth. The international community should have a vested interest in preventing the Smolensk crash from becoming the modern version of the Katyń crime and should muster the will to form an international commission for the investigation into the crash.

Inquiry: Full Disclosure an Issue

continued from cover

Gold Room of the Rayburn Congressional Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, was another very big step on the now long road of closure for the Katyń Massacre victims, their families, and Poland.

The Unfinished Inquiry was preceded and complemented by the symposium "Katyń: Justice Delayed or Justice Denied?" in Cleveland, Ohio on February 4-5, 2011 at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. A host of legal scholars, academic and history ex-

perts — among notable others — participated and contributed to its historic success. Both conferences were organized and coordinated by attorney Maria Szonert, president of the Libra Institute, and cosponsored by a score of Polonia organizations.

A critical component of the present Inquiry agenda was the presentation of the experts' report resulting from the Katyń Justice symposium. They advanced a brilliant and powerful register of Katyń remedies that completely changes forever the dynamics of the Katyń situation.

On an involved-country and

international basis the sweeping Katyń remedies included were:

For Poland: Pursue prosecution of the Katyń crime; seek the political involvement of the European Union and Council of Europe.

For the United Nations: Convene the International Court of Justice; establish a Commission of Experts or a Special Tribunal.

For the USSR/Russian Federation: Prosecute the Katyń Crime as an International Crime; refrain from justifying the Katyń Crime; provide adequate legal remedies to victim's families; provide Poland with sym-

bolic monetary compensation, reimburse Poland for the costs of establishing and maintaining cemeteries of the victims; establish a Katyń museum and correct all distorted history books.

For the United States: Implement the Madden Commission's Recommendations, assure full disclosure and dissemination of all held Katyń-related materials; issue a U.S. Congressional Resolution as moral compensation for Katyń; pursue Katyń within the framework of the U.S.- Helsinki Commission.

It was granted that a number of the remedies put forth would probably be unattainable and/or difficult to implement. Be that as it may, we

all must now go forth and fight the good fight. The time has come to impose a new and forceful metric in obtaining full and complete justice for all of the Martyrs of Katyń.

The National Katyń Memorial Foundation intends to actively support and promote the complete agenda of Katyń Remedies as presented at the Unfinished Inquiry, holding true to our official motto adopted from Adam Mickiewicz: "Should I Forget Them, May God in Heaven Forget Me."

❖ ❖ ❖

Richard P. Poremski is chairman of the National Katyń Memorial Foundation, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland.

Prosecutor: Przybył was Being Pressured

continued from cover

ish counterparts on the April 2010 Smolensk air disaster that killed Poland's presidential couple and 94 other mostly high-level officials.

But the colonel told newsmen that the commotion raised over the leak probe was only an attempt to divert attention away from the fraud and extortion cases in the military he was investigating. He also indicated he was being pressured into helping liquidate the autonomy of the Military Prosecutor's Office which is now functions independently of the civilian Prosecutor General's Office.

After making those remarks, Przybył said he would take questions from newsmen after a short five-minute break and left to room. After a shot rang out and a thud was heard, journalists ran to his office to find the colonel lying in a pool of blood. For some unknown reason, it took an ambulance more than an hour to arrive on the scene and rush the colonel to hospital.

"I wanted to commit suicide," Przybył told reporters the following day at the Poznań University Hospital. "I placed the barrel of my pistol in my mouth, but I heard the door

latch rattle as if someone was trying to get in, my hand trembled and the gun fired into my cheek." He also reiterated the plea he had made at the news conference that the head of the Military Prosecutor's Office General Krzysztof Parulski must be saved. "I was defending the honor of people I know and who are doing an excellent job. I wanted the Prosecutor's Office to survive under General Parulski's command. That is a man who guarantees the honest handling of cases."

Przybył's revelations and suicide attempt have focused attention on a longstanding structural conflict between the civilian and military branches of Poland's prosecution system. Civilian Prosecutor General Andrzej Seremet had planned to hold his own news conferences later the same day and was believed about to unveil a legislative proposal to deprive the Military Prosecutor's Office of its autonomous status. He later told reporters that no decisions had been taken in that regard.

Among the questions being raised was whether Przybył had indeed intended to do away with himself or merely wanted to create publicity around the dispute. A

shot through the mouth to the spinal cord is nearly always fatal, whereas a cheek wound is a superficial and easily treated injury. Whatever the case, President Bronisław Komorowski has ordered an investigation into the case. Under current Polish law, only the Polish President can recall the Military Prosecutor who is not subordinated to the government.

It remains to be seen whether this turns out to be a flash-in-the-pan incident or leads to a major shake-up. Any large-scale investigation into the military's ties to the criminal underworld is bound to implicate some of the country's political elites. And the probe into the Smolensk tragedy remains a thorn in the side of Prime Minister Donald Tusk's government which has been accused by the opposition of collaborating with the Russians to cover up its real causes.

A shadowy dimension has been added to the case by various anonymous attempts to intimidate Przybył and stall or undermine his investigations. He has received death threats, his apartment was broken into, and someone had loosened the wheel lugs of his car. Even his dog was killed in mysterious circumstances.



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Why Poland in 2012?

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—To the above headline question most of the male half of Poland's population would reply: Euro 2012. That is the name of the European Soccer Finals being co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine this coming June. But even if you're not a big soccer fan, 2012 is still a good year to vast the ancestral homeland to explore the country's traditional heritage landmarks, see some entirely new attractions and possibly touch base with long-lost relations. Here are some things to consider.

NOT ANOTHER FOREIGN COUNTRY.

If you have Polish roots, Poland will never be never be just another foreign country. Whether or not you are fluent in Polish, you will probably encounter some of the sights, smells, sounds and familiar facial types of your possibly long forgotten Polish-American childhood. Tongue-twisters in America, in Poland you will run into such names as Wójcik, Nowak, Kowalczyk, Szymański and Zieliński at ev-

ery step of the way — on billboards, in store windows and various listings.

WITH A GROUP OR ON YOUR OWN? An organized tour group is usually the best bet for someone coming for the first time, as it is the most hassle-free way to go. A package deal usually includes transport to and from Poland, hotel accommodation, meals, guided tours and tour organizers you can ask about things. If you are unaware of any organization, parish or travel bureau in your area organizing such a tour, contact: Polish-American Tours, 1285 Riverdale Street, West Springfield, MA 01089; phone: 1-800-388-0988; www.pattours.com. The more adventurous, especially those who have already been to Poland, may prefer to go it alone: rent a car and travel the country according to personal whim and preference rather than being held to a strict schedule. Powerful, eye-opening experience that topples many preconceived stereotypes and instills healthy ethnic pride. Observations have shown that most PolAms return home more interested and eager to become more involved in their heritage than ever before.

SEND YOUR TEEN TO POLAND.

That first trip to Poland makes an even greater impact on young people of formative age. They are just beginning to form their ideas and opinions and are more receptive to new

sights and experiences than us older folk who are largely set in our ways. The idea of vacationing in Europe will seem far preferable to many than just hanging around the neighborhood or going to the same old lake. Check to see whether any big PolAm organizations are organizing summer camps in Poland. Alternatively, accompany

WHAT'S THERE TO DO AND SEE?

Among Poland's leading attractions are its fabulous Old Town sections, palaces, castles and cathedrals. Prime tourist sites include Kraków's Wawel Castle and Cathedral with sits royal treasures the quaint mountain town of Zakopane, Wieliczka salt mine, Auschwitz museum, Warsaw's Old Town and Wilanów Palace as well as venerable religious shrines (Jasna Góra, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Święta Lipka). Poland's natural beauty includes its picturesque southern mountain landscapes, the forested Mazurian Lake District and the Baltic Coast with its sandy beaches, dunes and cliffs. The old rural Poland of yesteryear, from which millions of Polish peasants flocked to America in the 19th and 20th centuries, comes to life at skansens (ethnographic parks) and rural museums (muzeum wsi) across the country. Some of the most interesting are found at Ciechanowiec, Sanok, Nowogród, Lublin, Kolbuszowa, Białystok and Białowieża.

MODERN POLAND.

Both visitors arriving in Poland for the first time as well as those who haven't visited in years are surprised at how modern Poland has become. Skyscrapers have gone up in all the big cities, as have shopping malls, often more modern than those in America. (The Polish ones are often less than a decade old, so they incorporate the latest design and technology.) The down side of modernity are Poland's big-city traffic jams. Modern tourist attractions include Warsaw's fabulous Copernicus Science Center, where visitors can explore the mysteries of the universe and take part in scientific experiments. Another modern development has been the growth of theme parks. They include Adventure World in Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poznań's University Earth History Park, a prehistoric



Whether your interest is folklore, natural history, or shopping, Poland is an ideal vacation destination. Above: a girl from Katowice participates in an annual folk dance competition.

Slav and Viking skansen on Ostrów Island, Dinosaur Parks in Leba and Inwałd and a Wild West Town in Mrągowo. Sailing, horse-riding, hiking, cave-exploring and mountaineering are available to those who fancy active lifestyles. Many PolAms find the raft ride down the swift-flowing River Dunajec to be a memorable experience.

EXPLORING POLISH ROOTS.

Visiting relatives in Poland can also be an unforgettable experience. In particular, those living in small towns and villages usually shower their PolAm cousins with that powerful, never-take-no-for-an-answer hospitality, prompting some Polish visitors to remark: "They tried to wine and dine me to death!" Relatives you may not have known even existed may pull out some old, faded snapshots your dad or grandma had sent them after the war. Visiting the family homestead and seeing your ancestors' names on gravestones show that you trace your roots to a proud, 1,000-year-old nation that has survived partitions, invasions and occupations without losing its national identity. PolAms who have lost contact with the families are often able to relocate them. Leading genealogical researchers (who all speak English) include: www.polgenresearch.com, www.polishgenealogy.com.pl, www.piast.waw.pl and www.ipgs.us/iwopna/iwona.html.

Grand Circle Tour of Poland

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. — Once again Jane Shuback will be leading her "Grand Circle Tour of Poland," this year May 16-June 2.

Discover the vast treasures of Poland, its varied landscapes from the Baltic Sea to the soaring Tatra Mountains on one of the most comprehensive tours ever planned, for 16 nights and 17 days to visit many unique sites not included on other tours.

Escorted by Shuback and accompanied throughout by a registered professional English speaking guide, some highlights of this one-of-a-kind trip include visits to:

- Biskupin, the "Polish Pompeii" — a colony over 2700 years old;
- Warsaw, Poland's heroic capital;
- Gdansk, the "Amber Capital of the World";
- "Wolf's Lair" bunker, Hitler's headquarters in World War II;
- Czestochowa, Poland's pilgrimage center;
- Westerplatte, where first shots of World War II were fired;
- Zakopane and a raft ride on the Dunajec;
- "Panorama Raclawicka" in Wrocław, city of 116 bridges;
- Krakow, its Old Town and Coronation Cathedral;
- Fun events, i.e. Mazurian Wedding Party, raft ride, "krupnik" meetings; and more.

The tour, open to the general public and limited to the first 25 participants, will depart from Newark International Airport via LOT Polish Airlines, and includes flights, comprehensive sight-seeing tours, top-notch hotel accommodations, two meals daily, land transportation by deluxe motor coach and all taxes.

"Join us on this once-in-a-lifetime tour" said Shuback, one of Polonia's most experienced tour guides.

For a complete day-by-day schedule, call PAT Tours, 1-800-388-0988 or Jane Shuback, (845) 343-6198.

Poland Culinary Vacations, Inc. has added two new cooking trips to its 2012 line-up. "Coastal Cooking in Pomerania and Gdansk," a seven-day culinary vacation in the Baltic Sea coastal region of Poland, takes place in Gdansk, as well as Sopot, Gdynia and Malbork. A "Three-Day Culinary Adventure Around Warsaw" includes cooking, sightseeing and tasting in the city's most popular places.

Dates for these cooking vacations are posted on company's web site: www.polandculinaryvacations.com.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

ACPC Offers \$5,000 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies program, initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas family, is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Qualified applicants must send all of the material described on its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org so that it is received on or before March 15, 2012 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the Chairman and duplicate copies to the other four Pulaski Scholarships Committee members: Mr. Marion V. Winters, chairman; Deborah M. Majka; Peter J. Obst; Carolyn L. Meleski; and Dr. Maria B. Winnicka, (addresses listed on the website).

Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters at e-mail mvwinters@charter.net or call (508) 949-0160.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the American Council for Polish Culture and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned documents will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review.

All applicants for the Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies are invited and encouraged to become involved in the programs of the American Council for Polish Culture and to share their talents and expertise with the Council. The Council and its Affiliate and Supporting Organizations across the United States have been engaged in cultural and educational programs for more than six decades. Association with the ACPC and/or any of these 36 established organizations may prove to be of value in the career development of applicants while the direct participation of Pulaski Scholarship applicants in the cultural and educational programs of the Council and its Affiliate/Supporting groups may further strengthen our mutual missions. For further information about the Council, you are invited to visit its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

PACCF SPONSORS RICHARD GORECKI SCHOLARSHIP

The Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation is formally announcing that it is accepting applications for the Richard Gorecki Scholarship for this year. The amount of scholarships will be between \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

FROM LITTLE ATOMS ...

Companies are competing to provide Poland with technology for its first nuclear power plant. French Areva, Westinghouse, a U.S.-based unit of Japan's Toshiba, the Japanese-American group GE Hitachi and perhaps Russia's Rosatom all hope to supply technology for the project estimated to cost \$24.6 to \$28.7 billion. Poland currently uses coal for more than 90% of its electricity needs.

Alliance College Alumni to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, Pa. — On October 5–7, 2012, the Alliance College Alumni Association will host a gala celebration in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Alliance College. All friends, professors and alumni are encouraged to participate.

Opened in 1912 by the Polish National Alliance, the Polish American fraternal insurance organization, Alliance College remained in operation for 75 years as the crown jewel of higher learning for American Polonia. Its mission was to offer immigrant children advanced educations during a time of discrimination while encouraging the study of Polish language and Polish culture in America. For 75 years the Cambridge Springs-based school nurtured students on the hilltop campus.

In 1988, the school was closed and sold to the state of Pennsylvania to be used as a prison. In 2001, the alumni, faculty, and staff of Alliance Academy, Alliance Technical Institute, and Alliance College came together to create the Alumni Association as a means of hosting reunions, renewing acquaintances, sharing memories and promoting and encourage post-secondary education.

For information contact Mary Alice Wisowaty, ACAAF President, at (603) 335-0901, email jfwiso@metrocast.net, or visit www.alliancecollege.com.

To be eligible the applicant must be a citizen of the United States of America and of Polish ancestry. Applicant must be a full time student enrolled as a sophomore, junior, senior or post-graduate in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program at a college or university, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0. Applicant must be a member of their local Polish American Congress Division or if none in their area, then a member thru the National PAC.

Application process is as follows:

1. Completion of a PACCF Scholarship application.
2. Submit a resume, including:
 - a. Name and relationship to you of the nearest family member(s) from whom you ascribe your Polish ancestry;
 - b. Description of your academic and career goals.
3. Submit an original certificate of your most recent transcript, including an original certified copy of your GPA.
4. Submit a description of your personal involvement in the community.

Applications can be obtained at www.paccf.org, emailing to paccho2@pac1944.org, or by phone at 773-763-9944. Deadline to apply is April 15, 2012.



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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Milk Soup, Babcia's Comfort Food

Whenever I've mentioned "zupa mleczna" (milk soup) in a Polish-American crowd, usually somebody would invariably remark: "I haven't had any in years" or "My Busia used to make it." Zupa mleczna (milk soup) is a wonderful Polish comfort food especially on cold and snowy winter days. And it's so easy to make and, in many cases, is a good way to use up leftovers.

MILK SOUP WITH RICE OR NOODLES. (zupa mleczna z ryżem lub kluskami): For one serving just combine 1 c. milk and 1/2 cup cooked rice or noodles in a saucepan. Large pasta may be sliced or chopped for greater eating ease. Heat until heated through. A pat of butter may be added in the bowl. Serve sugared or salted to taste.

MILK SOUP WITH EGG-BATTER NOODLES. (zupa mleczna z lanymi kluskami): Fork-blend 1 small egg with a heaping T flour until smooth and pour into 1 c boiling milk in saucepan. simmer a few min. Serve sugared or salted as above.

MILK SOUP WITH GRATED NOODLES. (zupa mleczna z zacierką): Heat 1 c milk per serving in saucepan. Beat 1 small egg with 1/2 t salt enough flour to form a hard ball that you can shape like a snowball. Grate dough on coarse side of hand-held grater. Bring milk to gentle boil and add the grated

dough and cook several min. Salt or sugar to taste. Variation: For an eggless version, stir 2-3 t warm water into 1/4 c flour and 1/4 t salt, mix to combine, shape into a ball snowball fashion. Add more flour if needed and let stand a while to dry. Grate into hot milk as and cook as above.

MILK SOUP WITH OATS OR BARLEY. (zupa mleczna z platkami): Bring to gentle boil 1 c milk per serving and add 1 heaping T quick oats or quick barley. Simmer several min, stirring often, and provide sugar or salt for everyone to season their portion to taste. A pat of butter may be added to individual portions as desired. This is not a thick porridge like oatmeal but a more liquidy soup.

MILK SOUP WITH FARINA. (zupa mleczna z kaszą manną): Bring to gentle boil 1 c milk per serving and add 1 heaping T instant cream of wheat (a.k.a. farina). Simmer several min, stirring often. Provide sugar or salt for everyone to season their portion to taste. A pat of butter may be added to individual portions.

HOT MILK WITH SIDE OF BUCKWHEAT. (gorące mleko z kaszą gryczaną): This is not really a soup but a soup bowl of hot milk eaten with a spoon. It goes with a plate of buckwheat groats (kasza gryczana) on the side, garnished with fried golden-brown pork fatback nuggets (skwarki) and their drippings.

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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.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our reader services (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newsclippers with stamps and envelopes, and cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper. **The Polish American Journal is not a profit-making venture.** Thanks to its dedicated staff, the PAJ is published as a "public service" for American Polonia.

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

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Winona Now Has a Minor Basilica

The diocese of Winona is announcing that **St. Stanislaus Kostka** church in Winona has been elevated to the status of a Minor Basilica by Pope Benedict XVI. The decree from the Pope was made on November 10, 2011. St. Stan's is a building of stunning beauty, built by the Polish immigrants in that city, literally by donation of dimes and nickels from the poor wage earners of the time. Deacon Justin Green, with Janice Market and others, gathered all the materials and necessary paperwork to be forwarded to the Holy See. A church designated as a minor basilica must be a center of active and pastoral liturgy with a vibrant Catholic community and may have unique historical, artistic or religious importance. In seeking the distinction, the parish must provide a detailed report with an album of photographs documenting the origin, history and religious activity of the church and its exterior and interior form, particularly regarding celebration of the sacraments.

KNIGHTS BRING FOURTH DEGREE TO POLAND. On November 11, 2011, Polish Knights of Columbus held their first exemplification of the Patriotic (4th) Degree coinciding with Poland's Independence Day. Twenty-Four candidates were joined by Krzysztof Orzechowski, Master of the Patriotic Degree, Kraków's Franciszek Cardinal Macharski and others at a Mass at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Kraków-Łagiewniki. The Knights have been in Poland since 2006.

MEDIA BIAS AGAINST ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH. Fr. Tomasz Trafny, a member of the Vatican's Council for Culture noted that the recent decision of the California-based pharmaceutical company Geron to drop embryonic stem cell research shows that companies are beginning to see that it's "not worth it to invest money, energy," and "human potentiality" in embryonic stem cell research. He went on to say that the shut down also shows "that those who focused on adult stem cells were right not only because of potential clinical applications but also from an ethical point of view." Despite widespread advances and therapeutic applications of adult stem cell research media coverage has been scarce if not non-existent. That coverage has instead focused on embryonic stem cells research, as have the current Washington administration officials. The Catholic Church has

consistently pointed to the ethical evil of manipulating and destroying living embryos since they are living human beings. Adult stem cells, on the other hand, are drawn from the adult body's master cells, and offer the potential for treating countless illnesses and disorders. The Vatican has recently entered into an unprecedented contract with NeoStem, a public firm pioneering new medical research with adult stem cells.

POLISH MISSIONARY AMONG 26 KILLED IN 2011. In 2011, 26 pastoral care workers were killed, one more than the previous year: 18 priests, 4 religious sisters, and 4 laypeople, with most of the deaths occurring in Latin America. While some were killed in the course of robbery or kidnapping, other were killed "in the name of Christ by those opposing love with hatred, hope with despair, dialogue with violent opposition," according to the Fides news agency. In Tunisia, Fr. Marek Rybinski, a Salesian missionary, was found dead in a Salesian school in Manouba.

POLISH FOUNDRRESS HONORED. Marguerite Lucia Szczyk, foundress of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Sorrowful Mother of God – Seraphic Sisters (1828-1905) was recognized for her heroic virtues and thus has been entered in the ranks of those being considered for eventual sainthood.

STUDENT'S VIEWS PUNISHED; LAWSUIT STARTED. A Michigan public school student in his third year, Daniel Glowacki, expressed that, as a Catholic, he was offended by the homosexual lifestyle. This was in response to his homosexual activist teacher's remarks in favor of homosexuality. He was ordered to leave the classroom and was threatened with suspension. In a lawsuit, the Thomas More Law Center is suing the teacher and the school district because the school is supporting the homosexual agenda. Supporters of the teacher have vilified the student and his family as "bigots" engaging in "hate speech."

CHURCH REUSE EYED. Once the sale and transfer of recently closed Immaculate Conception Church in Cambria City, Pa., is finalized, plans are underway to open it as a music and assembly hall. This will breathe new life into yet another of the church structures closed in 2008 in the diocese's parish consolidation program. In the meantime, a "cha-

rette" or visioning session will be held for public participation in exploring uses for other historic structures in the area, both parish buildings and historic buildings which once housed businesses. The aim is to develop plans to beautify the community and attract businesses and attractions to the area.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ENDS IN ALTOONA. A Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Altoona-Johnstown's bishop emeritus Joseph V. Adamec marked the closing of the Seventh Avenue Campus buildings formerly known as Altoona Mercy Hospital and then as Bon Secours – Holy Family Hospital. Sr. Mary Aquinas Tolusciak, of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, administrative assistant at the hospitals for 37 years, offered the general intercessions at the closing Mass. Pastoral care will be offered through All Faiths Chapel at the Altoona Regional Health System.

VATICAN DOCUMENTS RECORD UKRAINIAN FAMINE. "The Holy See and the Holodomor: Documents from the Vatican Secret Archives on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine" by Fr. Athanasius McVay and Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk, released through Kashtan Press and Abe Books, brings to light details about the man-made famine intended to starve Ukrainian nationalists out of existence under Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. An estimated 2.4 to 7.5 million people died. With the collapse of Soviet agriculture under forced collectivization of the farms, Stalin felt threatened by the prospect of Ukrainian nationalism and planned to do away with those sentiments as well as the relatively well-off class of private farmers called Kulaks. He had his forces confiscate all Ukrainian grain production and send it to Russia. The documents in the archives detail how the Apostolic See sought to intervene to make the unfolding tragedy known to the world and alleviate the people's suffering. The Jesuit Bishop Michel d'Herbigny passed on eyewitness accounts to the Vatican and urged the pope to mount an aid mission. This never took place since all knew that any aid would be confiscated by Stalin, who deliberately concealed evidence of the famine. In the end the pope was able to send only a gift of 10,000 Italian lire through German charitable organizations. News of the famine was also concealed in Western media, such as the *New York Times*, whose Russian Bureau Chief Walter Duranty wrote that there was no such famine. The Vatican's secret archives are open to scholars for research and all documents related to a particular papacy are unsealed 80 years after the pope's death.

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.

PRAYERS TO SAINT CHRISTOPHER. Grant me, O Lord, a steady hand and watchful eye. That no one shall be hurt as I pass by. You gave life, I pray no act of mine may take away or mar that gift of thine. Shelter those, dear Lord, who bear my company, from the evils of fire and all calamity. Teach me, to use my car for others need; Nor miss through love of undue speed The beauty of the world; that thus I may with joy and courtesy go on my way. St. Christopher, holy patron of travelers, protect me and lead me safely to my destiny. Amen. P.R.

Sobiechowski Named Bishop, Will Lead Eastern Diocese

SCRANTON, Pa. — On October 18, 2011, the Very Rev. Paul



Sobiechowski (inset) was consecrated to the office of bishop in the Holy Polish National Catholic Church. As part of the consecration rite, bishop-elect Paul chose to sign the Declaration of Scranton, which was first signed by PNCC organizer, Bishop Francis Hodur, and signed by every bishop candidate ever since.

The Holy Rite was witnessed by ecumenical clergy from various jurisdictions from around the globe.

Following his consecration, Bishop Paul became the Diocesan Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese.

Called "a reluctant bishop," by the *Sun-Sentinel's* religion writer Jim Davis, Sobiechowski He never wanted to leave his warm little parish in Davie, Florida, where he has served for nearly three decades.

But the fourth time he was asked him to become a leading shepherd, time he said yes.

Sobiechowski said his final Mass on Dec. 11 at St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church in Davie, the exact 28th anniversary of his first Mass there in 1983. The next day, he and wife Karen packed and moved to Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, N.H.

"I liked being a priest; I never wanted to do anything more," Sobiechowski, 57, said. "But now

that I'm called to this, I just hope I can do what I need to accomplish [God's] will."

Sobiechowski was actually chosen in October 2010, during the general synod in Toronto. Polish National Catholic practice, though, elects qualified people before they are needed; that way, there's always a supply. Last May, he was assigned to the Eastern Diocese, 20 parishes in New England, on the retirement of Bishop Thomas Gnat.

Sobiechowski's name had come up three times before, and he had declined. But this time, he says he heard an inner voice: "I want you to stand for election." He accepted.

The move ended his work not only in his parish but the community.

He was a member of the Davie-Cooper City Rotary Club and a board member of the EASE Foundation, which serves the poor in western Broward. For 20 years, he and Karen coordinated an annual Advent candlelight service for neighborhood churches. The evening included choirs, sacred dancers, instrumentalists and a buffet. Sobiechowski also headed the ecumenical chaplaincy at Memorial Pembroke Hospital, and served as state chaplain for the Polish Legion of American Veterans. And Oct. 18 was declared Bishop Paul Sobiechowski Day in Davie.

He shepherded the church and the 35 residents in its retirement home through three hurricanes and a tornado. Wilma dumped four feet of water on the center of the property.

Polish Jewish Friend of Pope John Paul II Dies

by Rabbi Allen S. Maller

ROME — Jerzy Kluger, the Polish Jewish boyhood friend of the late Pope John Paul, who had a large influence on the pontiff's revolutionary relations with Jews, died age 92 in a Rome hospital and was buried January 2, 2012 in Rome's Jewish cemetery. He had been living in a home for the elderly east of the Italian capital.

Kluger and Karol Wojtyła, the future Pope John Paul II, were classmates in the southern Polish city of Wadowice and were friends from first grade through high school. "The young Karol Wojtyła learned a lot about Judaism from Kluger," said Italian author Gianfranco Svidercoschi, who was an aide to the late pope and wrote a book about the pontiff's friendship with Kluger.

"He had a great influence on the pope's life," said Svidercoschi, who wrote about their friendship in the 1993 book "Letter to a Jewish Friend." "The young Wojtyła visited the Kluger home in Wadowice, helped Jerzy with his studies, particularly Latin, and started a friendship that would influence his relations with Jews for the rest of his life," said Svidercoschi, who was editor of the Vatican newspaper during part of John Paul's pontificate.

They lost track of each other when World War II broke out with the German invasion of Poland in 1939 and did not see each other again until 1965. Early in the war, Kluger and his father were arrested by the Russians and sent to a gulag in Siberia.

After Germany invaded the So-

viet Union, Kluger was freed and joined Polish forces fighting the Nazis in Africa and Italy under General Wladyslaw Anders. Toward the end of the war, when he discovered that



Kluger and John Paul II. Friends since the first grade.

his mother had been killed in the Auschwitz death camp, he decided to stay in Italy. He studied engineering in Turin and later moved to England.

He settled in Italy again in the early 1960s, working for an import-export company and re-connected with Archbishop Karol Wojtyła in 1965 when Wojtyła was in Rome for the Second Vatican Council. Until they met for the first time since 1938, each presumed the other had died in the war.

After Wojtyła became the first Polish pope in 1978 they intensified their friendship and Kluger helped organize reunions between the pope and classmates from Wadowice either in Rome or during the pontiff's trips to Poland. Kluger was in Rome's synagogue when Pope John Paul made his historic visit there in 1986 and called Jews "our beloved elder brothers." When the pope made his first trip to Israel as pontiff in 2000, Kluger was in attendance at the Yad Vashem memorial to the Holocaust.

Their friendship continued right up to the pope's death in 2005.

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PAHA Announces 2011 Award Winners PAJ Editor Kohan Among Skalny Civic Achievement Recipients

CHICAGO — The Polish American Historical Association held its 2012 Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, Jan. 5-8.

In addition to business meetings, presentations, and panels, PAHA also presented its annual awards at the Convention Banquet on Sat., Jan. 7.



PULA

James S. Pula, editor of PAHA's *Polish American Encyclopedia* was given the Oscar Halecki Prize in recognition of his outstanding scholarly work on the Polish experience in the United States.

The Mieczyslaw Haiman Award, given in recognition of exceptional and sustained contributions to the study of Polish Americans, was given to **Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann**.

The Joseph Swastek Award, which recognizes an outstanding scholarly contribution to Polish American Studies, PAHA's official publication, was awarded to **Robert Szymczak**.

Cheryl Pula was given the Distinguished Service Award for her service to the association.

The Skalny Civic Achievement Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions in promoting Pol-

ish-American community and culture in the United States was given to **Maria Ciesla, Sharon Zago, Paul Odrobina, Ewa Barczyk, Frank Kujawinski, Bozena Nowicka McLees, Aurelia Pucinski, Mark Kohan, St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago, Gabriela Pawlus Kasprzak, and Krystyna Cap.**



NOWICKA McLEES

PAHA gave its Amicus Poloniae Award to **Pien Versteegh**. This honors an individual from outside the Polish American community.

The Creative Arts Award went to author and poet **John Guzowski**.

The Polish American Historical Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture. Founded in 1942 as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, PAHA became an autonomous scholarly society in 1948. As an affiliate of the American Historical Association, PAHA promotes research and dissemination of scholarly materials focused on Polish American history and culture, and its European origins.

PAHA publishes *Polish American Studies*, the Association's interdisciplinary, refereed scholarly journal, which is published twice each year.

It also publishes a newsletter.

For more information on PAHA, visit www.polishamericanstudies.org.

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GUZOWSKI

Hoarder Dies Without Will Leaves \$1.2 Million in Estate, Date of Death in Question

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Few paid any attention to Teddy Wroblewski, a Niagara Falls hoarder who went missing for two years in his own home until he was found dead in the basement last March.

But a *Buffalo News* story about the seven-figure fortune he and his mother left behind, prompted many Western New Yorkers connected with the last name Wroblewski to hope they had hit the jackpot.

"We had an unusual amount of calls," but none of them produced a heir, Niagara County Surrogate's Court Deputy Chief Clerk Michael Veruto said.

Court documents show Wroblewski and his mother, who died while he was missing, left a fund worth \$1.2 million — but no wills or direct descendants.

Teddy Wroblewski was an only child. A distant cousin-caretaker, Howard Baney, didn't inform any other relatives about the death, yet did file papers to become administrator for the estate.

The date of Wroblewski's death will determine who receives the money. It's fair to assume Wroblewski died while his mother still was alive, but pinpointing a date would be arbitrary.

Wroblewski's body was described as "mummified" on the coroner's report. His body was so decomposed he was identified through serial numbers on a plate and screws from a medical procedure.

With so little to examine, the coroner recorded his date of death as when he was found. That means that Anna Wroblewski's estate would have transferred to her son for the time he was missing.

The News located a Florida family with heirs closer to the Wroblewskis on the family tree than Baney. Michael, Jeffrey, Christopher and Marybeth Westlund — first cousins

once removed — notified the court of their interests Sept. 13.

The Westlunds, however, withdrew from the process when Irene Skurski and Richard Wroblewskis, came forward Oct. 4. They are first cousins to Teddy on his father's side.

The improbability and expense of getting the date of death changed would be a significant deterrent for Baney.

"No one knows exactly when he died," Collesano, Wroblewski's attorney said. "It is arbitrary. The coroner says he died on March 31, 2011. That's the date we have to go with because that's the certain date."

Collesano estimated the estate won't be closed for another six months because he is responsible for proving there are no closer heirs. Research is being done in Poland, where Teddy Wroblewski's father was born.

The Skurski-Wroblewski cousins were granted administration of Teddy Wroblewski's estate. Baney still is the administrator of Anna Wroblewski's estate and will continue in that role until the case is closed or someone petitions to have him removed.

From reports by *Tim Graham* and *Thomas J. Prohaska* in The Buffalo News.

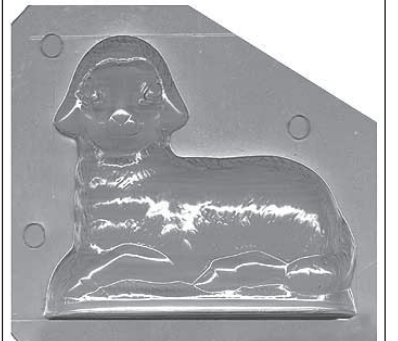
POLES DRIVE THE OLDEST CARS IN EUROPE.

The average age of vehicles registered in Poland is fifteen years. Poland caught up with the European Union average in the number of automobiles per household which is almost one car for every two residents. Recent data published by the Central Vehicle Records indicate that, in 2010, one million cars in Poland were registered and about three hundred thousand were unregistered.

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

The Concept of Pan-Slavism

The Slavic people are thought to have originated in what is now Ukraine, and dispersed from there in various directions, eventually dividing into three linguistic-cultural groups: the East Slavs (Russians, Belarussians, Ukrainians), the South Slavs (Serbians, Croats, Montenegrans, Macedonians, Bosnians, Slovenes, Bulgarians), and the West Slavs (Poles, Czechs, Slovaks).

Pan-Slavism was a movement to unite the Slavic peoples into a political and cultural union. Its earliest proponent was a Croatian priest, Juraj Krizanic, who in the 1600s put forth the idea that the Slavs should unite in a grand empire under the Muscovite czar as a counterweight against the Germans and Turks.

This concept of union was not given much serious thought until the early nineteenth century. The term Pan-Slavism was coined in 1826 by the Slovak Jan Herkel, and it became prevalent due to the influence of the French Revolution, German romanticism and the fact that most of the Slavic peoples except Russians were subjugated by other, non-Slavic, ethnic groups.

A Pan-Slav Congress was held in Prague in June 1848, presided over by the Czech Frantisek Palacky. It was attended by mostly Czech delegates. Though Palacky favored a union of Slavs under the Austrian crown, the Congress as a whole had a decided anti-Austrian and anti-Russian flavor to it.

Concepts of Pan-Slavism were as varied and numerous as the Slavic

nationalities themselves. Some favored a union within Austria, others thought Russia needed to be included in any such federation, others were suspicious of Russia. Still others rejected the idea entirely.

Pan-Slavism was a movement to unite the Slavic peoples into a political and cultural union.

By the late nineteenth century, Russia had come to dominate the debate over Pan-Slavism. With the largest Slavic population and a huge land mass, as well as being a powerful empire, Russia was always the "eight hundred pound gorilla in the room." Pan-Slavism was seen by many Slavs to be a capitulation to the czar, for surely Russia would control any union in which it was included. Russia, and later the USSR, did indeed attempt to use Pan-Slavism as a propaganda tool for extending its control over East Central Europe, though the czars often looked at the movement with suspicion.

The Poles generally did not support Pan-Slavism, and many considered the movement's Polish adherents to be traitors to the cause of Polish reunification and independence, Poland then being partitioned and occupied by Prussia, Austria and Russia. Some Poles supported Pan-Slavism only if Poland were given the leading role in any union, without the participation of Russia. But leading Polish intellectuals and romantics were far more concerned with regaining Poland's indepen-

dence than in any such federation.

The movement gained traction in the Balkans. After Serbia became independent of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the early 1800s, it pushed for unity of all Southern Slavs under its rule. These people at the time were subjects of either the Austrians or Turks. Following World War I, the Serbian dream came true. Under the Serbian crown, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was formed and encompassed all South Slavic lands except Bulgaria. This union remained largely intact after the Second World War and was renamed Yugoslavia, which means Land of the South Slavs.

Pan-Slavism lost most of its appeal elsewhere after World War I due to the fact that self-determination for Slavic lands was a result of its aftermath. The Treaty of Versailles supported a newly independent Poland, the Serbian kingdom and a joint state for Czechs and Slovaks.

Amidst the ruins of World War II, the USSR extended its control over all of East Central Europe, including all Slavic homelands. This was the only time in history, from 1945-48, that all the European Slavic peoples were united, though forcibly, under a single authority. Yugoslavia's break with Moscow to follow its own brand of communism quickly put an end to such unity.

Some exiles from Soviet bloc countries advocated a federation of East Central European countries once independence from Moscow

was achieved.

Though the USSR used a Pan-Slavic argument as a justification for its domination over Eastern Europe, it was a weak point and not fervently pursued, for even the Soviets could see the Poles and others would never accept such an excuse for Russian control of their countries.

Following the demise of communism, the idea of Pan-Slavism died almost completely. The USSR collapsed and new Slavic states of Ukraine and Belarus were formed. The Czechs separated from the Slovaks. And Yugoslavia fell apart into six different independent Slavic countries. In Belarus in 2000, a committee was formed to promote Pan-Slavism, but it was just a move by the dictatorial Belarussian government to justify its close ties to Russia.

What should we make of the idea of Pan-Slavism? Should those of us of Polish descent emphasize our Slavic roots? Should we be proud that Slavs put the first artificial satellite into Earth orbit, and that the first words spoken from outer space were Slavic, albeit Russian? Should we not revere the writings of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, and the music of Dvorak and Tchaikovsky? Admire the architectural beauty of Prague and the natural wonder of the Slovene mountains and Dalmatian coast? Enjoy Bulgarian folk dances or the Bolshoi Ballet? Is this not a heritage that is also ours as Slavic Americans?

Modjeska Club Awards Dymna and Dziedziel

LOS ANGELES — In 2010, in order to commemorate its patron, the famous Polish actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska) and honor the achievements of distinguished Polish actors, the Modjeska Club established an Annual Modjeska Prize awarded to recognize the contributions of actors to Polish and world culture.

The first Modjeska Prize was awarded in October 2010 to eminent actor Jan Nowicki.

The second Modjeska Prize is divided between **Anna Dymna** and **Marian Dziędziel**.

Born in Silesia in 1947, Dziędziel is a Polish film and theatre actor with a distinguished career both on



THE MODJESKA PRIZE

the stage and on the screen. He has starred in more than 70 films including *The Dark House* (2009), *The Pianist* (2002), *My Nikifor* (2004), *The Collector* (2005), and films by major film directors, Kazimierz Kutz and Janusz Kidawa. At the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia in 2004, he was awarded "Best Actor" award for his role in *The Wedding*. In 2011 he received the "Best Actor in Supporting Role" award for his role in *The Mole*. For his performance in *The Wedding* he was also awarded Eagle (Orzel) Polish Film Award — "Best Actor" award and the "Audience" award.

Dymna, born in 1951 in Poland of partly Armenian heritage, is a film, television and theater actress who studied acting at the celebrated Theater School of Kraków and started her career while still a student, performing for the Julius Slowacki Theater in 1969. She joined the National Helena Modrzejewska Old Theatre in Kraków immediately after her graduation in 1973 and has performed on its stage since then.

Like Modrzejewska, recognized for her talent and beauty, Dymna starred in major plays from the classical repertoire and in numerous films and television series, appearing in over 250 roles to a great critical acclaim. In 2002, she established the Cracow Poetry Salon presenting readings by the most celebrated poets and actors and recognized as one of the most interesting cultural activities in the region.

The Modjeska Club's Anniversary Celebrations will be extended over the entire 2011-2012 season, with each event featuring some awards for the Club and its volunteers. On October 15, 2011, the Club received a proclamation by the City Council of Los Angeles, congratulating the Club and its members for their efforts to promote Polish culture in Southern California. A similar proclamation was made to honor Maja Trochimczyk's 15 years of volunteering in the Polish American community.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery Opens

CHICAGO — November 4 was a great autumn evening to have a Polish-style soirée at the Polish Museum of America (PMA). Indeed, this event was a special occasion: it was the gala opening of the newly-renovated **Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery**, formerly known as the Fourth Floor Art Gallery. Over 100 guests not only viewed the best of 21st c. technology, which included a state-of-the-art security system and touch screen art informational accessibility, but they had the opportunity to visit the Museum's renovated Paderewski Room. Thanks to the Museum's major benefactor, **Stephen Kusmierczak**, and many other donors, the Art Gallery's rebirth was possible. In their greetings, Chairman of the PMA Board, Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., and its president, Maria Ciesla, paid tribute to those making this renovation possible, especially **Stephen Kusmierczak, Jr.**, the son of the late Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak, who made this renovation a reality. The Museum also expressed its gratitude to the project's general contractor, Christopher Jaworowski of Discovery Builders for his most generous contributions, Sean Ciolek for his architectural designing and expertise, Dariusz Gancarz and Mirosław Praczuk of MGD Electric, along with Lesław Trzeciak of Quality Hardwood Flooring, Inc., Marek Gracz of MG Tile Experts, Inc., Dariusz Stanowski of Audio Video Lifestyle and DBA Digital Security, Inc., and the late Chester E. Taurence of Painters Supply Inc. of Taylor, Michigan, all of whom contributed time and materials. Additionally, special recognition goes to PMA Board member, Betty Uzarowicz, and her son, Piotr. Their donated funds made it possible for the installation of a chair lift, thus making handicapped accessibility available from the third floor to the Art Gallery.

The Art Gallery is filled with the works of forty-two artists. Twentieth century paintings and graphics, along with sculptures and wooden works of art spanning the years of 1901 - 1947, including works from the Polish Pavilion at the New York's World Fair in 1939-1940, can be seen. Artists such as Stanisław Szukalski, Jan Zamoyski, Olga Boznanska, Czesław Rzepinski, Jan Henryk Rosen and Maria Wertzen are represented.

Naturally, the evening would not be complete without gourmet Polish-orientated catering by Kasia Bober. During the entire evening, the guests were serenaded by the music of Anthony Kawalkowski on violin and Dr. William Crowle on piano.

MARZI @ THE CEP. As part of its "Meet Interesting People" series, the Council of Educators in Polonia (CEP) held an autumn meeting at the ever-popular House of the



Stephen and his Mother, Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak.

White Eagle in Niles, Illinois, to introduce **Marzena Sowa**, author of the graphic novel *Marzi*, released on October 25 by DC Entertainment. Since 1934, DC Entertainment has published such comics as *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Women*, just to name a few. *Marzi* was and still is a popular novel in Poland and France. Prior to their stop in New



York City, Marzena and her illustrator, Sylvain Savoia, were in Chicago for a few days. Through the efforts of author and educator Brigid Paulka Ms. Sowa accepted the invitation from CEP to speak at its meeting. Brigid, author of *A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True* and the recipient of the 2010 Hemingway Foundation Pen Award, as well as Barnes & Noble's Discover Great New Writers selection in the fall of 2009, also attended.

Marzena Sowa was born in Stalowa Wola, Poland. As a young girl, she dreamt about living in France, free from communist rule. She began her studies at the University in Krakow, and then continued them in Bordeaux, France, where she met Sylvain Savoia. Through Sylvain's

encouragement, Marzena began to write about her childhood memories, which resulted in the unforgettable book that is *Marzi*. Sylvain Savoia was born in France and has been working in the comic book industry since the early 1990s. As a successful illustrator, he achieved success with writer Jean-David Morvan on *Nomad* comic book series, followed by *Al Togo*, a Euro-police thriller.

A BAJENA EXHIBIT. The International Business Club hosted an opening reception for the painting exhibit of artist, **Leszek Bajena**. This December 16th event offered guests the opportunity to view seventeen of Bajena's oil paintings. The theme of this exhibition was "The Woman." His goal was to show the beauty of women. According to the Leszek, his artistic purification of women allowed him to express his artistic vision. Polish-American actor, Matt Goraj, began the reception/program by reading excerpts from Isaac Bashevis Singer's "The Magician of Lublin."

Ever since he was a young child, Leszek had been interested in painting. He started his studies at the School of the Arts in Lublin. Then he continued by receiving a master's degree in art education from Maria Curie Sklodowska University in Lublin.

He has exhibited his works at many events including the Lublin House of Culture, as well as in Sejny. In 1996, he emigrated to the United States. Since that time he has presented his works in seven exhibitions. One of his interesting works is the Last Supper mural at a Baptist church in the center of the "Windy City."

His next exhibition, which is almost completed, will consist of approximately twenty paintings de-



Bajena (center) with wife Anna, and daughter Joanna.

painting the Polish Borderlands and their multiculturalisms. He has devoted much time on emphasizing the value of different religions with themed images of Armenians, Jews, and Ukrainians.

Much of his artwork can be found in numerous private collections throughout Chicago, its suburbs, as well as churches, businesses, and in Wisconsin.

DICTION 2011 CHICAGO. The meeting hall of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) was filled with Polish language enthusiasts, and according to Alicia Nawara of the Polish Teachers Association of America (PTAA), the organizer of this event, 66 individuals registered to participate in this second annual Polish language spelling contest, "Dictation 2011 Chicago." This spelling contest took place on December 11 and was sponsored by the PTAA and the Consulate General in Chicago. Prior to the competition, Deputy Consul General, Robert Rusiecki, presented the Gold Cross of Merit to **Wojciech Stefan**, former director of Tadeusz Kosciuszko Polish Language School.

Once again, the creator of this witty, but challenging, spelling contest was Dr. Catherine Kłosińska of the University of Warsaw in cooperation with the Polish Language Council.

The first place winner and recipient of \$500 was **Helena Ziolkowska**, the former president of the PTAA. Ziolkowska, was a long-time bilingual librarian in the Chicago Public Library System, as well as the managing editor of the PTAA's periodical, "Głos Nauczyciela." **Albert Stępnicki** received \$200 as the third place winner.

The main sponsors of the awards were the Polish and Slavic Credit Union, the PTAA, the Polish National Alliance.

A Crowning Achievement for Budny

NEW YORK — **Renata Budny**, professor of restorative dentistry at New York City College of Technology, has been named one of the top 25 women in dentistry in the U.S. by *Dental Products Report* magazine.

Professor Budny, is an expert on indirect composite resins, which are materials used in crown, bridge and ceramic restorations. Her research has a dual focus. First, she compares the indirect composite resin materials available on the market for the purpose of properly applying them to the type of restorations to be made for the patient. She also studies and applies in her classroom, the variety of techniques used to restore natural dentition using restorations made in the dental laboratory.

"I saw that this field not only requires artistic talent, but imagination, intelligence, design and engineering skills with the goal of mak-

ing a beautiful smile for a patient. It was a good fit for my talents and interests," she said.

After graduating from City Tech with her associate degree in what was then called dental laboratory technology (now restorative dentistry), and working in dental labs for seven years she applied for a position on the faculty in City Tech. Many of her students work long hours and are raising children, and Budny knows she is a good role model for them. She particularly enjoys instilling in her students a love of lifelong learning and quality work.

"I feel blessed in this profession working for City Tech and CUNY. It is gratifying to see my students succeed in the professional dental environment and know I am a part of their professional journey. I really feel like I'm living my dream," she said.



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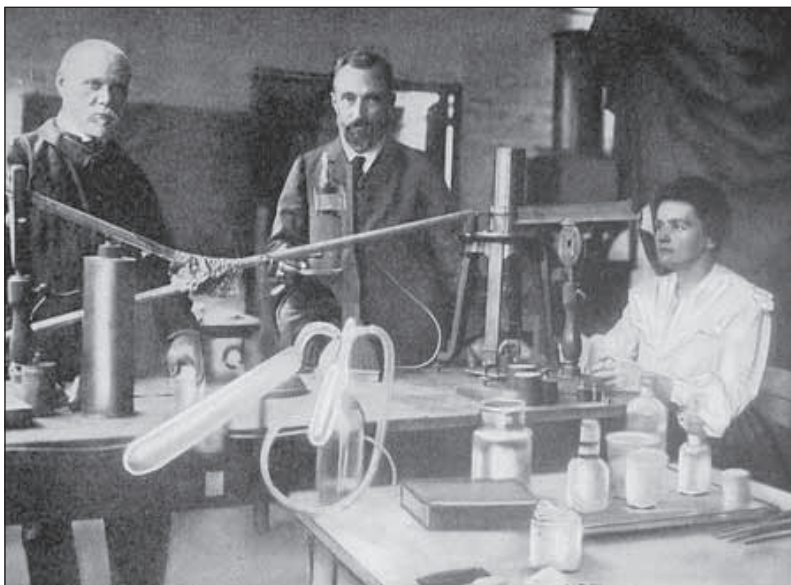
Curies' First Scientific Breakthrough – Discovery of Polonium and Radium

Marie was already a young wife and mother, now it was a time to find a subject for her doctoral thesis. She would become the first woman in Europe with Ph.D. in Physics! With the discovery of X-ray radiation by Roentgen, the ability to show bare bone in a human hand became the most novel scientific curiosity. Henri Becquerel found that salts of uranium were also a source of this strange radiation. They made a mark on photographic paper without any access to external light. So Marie naturally decided to follow up and investigate it. Pierre and Jacques Curie invented the electrometer based on piezoelectric quartz that could detect very small amounts of electricity. It was known that this strange radiation caused changes in the electric field, so Curie's electrometer was a very suitable device to experiment with these strange and penetrating rays.

Marie collected as many samples of metals, rocks and minerals with uranium and other suspected sources of radiation as she could, and started her experiments in a tiny room of the School of Physics and Chemistry where Pierre also worked. She measured the strength of radiation by detecting the amount of electricity it caused in the air. Within days, she had initial results that showed that the strength of the

rays depends on the amount of uranium in the sample—the more uranium, the more detected electricity, thus radiation was seen. She also tested thorium, which was known for emitting strange radiation, and found out that the thorium's radiation strength is the same as uranium. Because it was obvious that this radiation is not specific to uranium, instead of calling it "uranium rays," she started using the term "radioactivity." The phrase is still used today and sounds almost the same in French as in English.

Marie started investigating all sorts of materials to find out whether any other elements emit radioactivity. Among them she measured a mineral called pitchblende, a black rock which contains mainly uranium oxide, but also some lead, thorium and other rare earth elements. It contained much more radioactivity than it should have if only the mass of uranium and thorium was counted. Marie repeated the experiment about twenty times and the result was the same. There could be only one explanation – there was something else in this rock which gave off so much radiation. In that time 83 elements of periodic table were known, today we know about 115. Marie concluded that this element has to be present in minute amounts and its "specific radioactivity" (ac-



Pierre (center) and Marie Curie, in the laboratory where they discovered Polonium. Note the artwork of the table in the foreground, added to this photo taken by famed Paris photographer Henri Manuel.

tivity per mass) is very high. Marie and Pierre were hypothesizing that this element might not be known yet.

Pierre decided to join Marie in her tedious work. By July 1898, they were able to confirm the presence of the first element. They named it Polonium after Poland, Marie's country of origin which did not exist on political maps in that time. Polonium is chemically similar to bismuth. By the end of the same year

they discovered one more element which they called Radium. Polonium, although highly radioactive, never gained such scientific significance as radium due to its properties and occurrence—it is rarer. Now we know that both elements are parts of the radioactive decay chain. Polonium's best known radioisotope, Po-210, with the half-life (time of decay of a half of its existing atoms) equal to 138 days, emits mainly alpha rays, which do not penetrate far,

therefore they are difficult to detect. It may cause a death if injected (as it did in the death of Russian dissident, Alexander Litvinenko in 2006). Polonium is almost impossible to detect through industrial methods since it does not emit any gamma (far range) radiation, thus its application is also limited. Radium, however, was chemically similar to barium and its radioactivity was much more powerful than polonium. Marie and Pierre were determined to isolate it in measurable amounts, but in order to do so, they needed larger amounts of pitchblende. Pitchblende was mined in St. Joachimstal on the border of Germany in what is today the Czech Republic. They needed several tons of the ore, which was not an easy task. In the next article I will write about how they were able to obtain it and what their research led to.

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

REFERENCES:

- Beverley Birch "Marie Curie – courageous Pioneer in the Study of Radioactivity"
- Eve Curie "Madame Curie"
- Barbara Goldsmith: "Obsessive Genius"
- *Electrometer, invented by Pierre and Jacques Curie (from: <http://www.aip.org/history/curie/>)*

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Lukaszewski Wins Composer's Guild 2011 Annual Composition Contest

BUFFALO, N.Y. —Professor **Ireneusz Lukaszewski**, director of the "Quo Vadis" Choir and Villa Maria Chorale, has been named the first Polish composer to win the Composers Guild 2011 Annual Composition Contest for his "smiechnij sie, Dziecino," which was recently released on CD by the Polish Chamber Choir of Gdansk ... The **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** elected the following leaders for 2012: David Newman (president), Ted Smardz (vice-president), Chuck Pyrak (treasurer), and trustees Pierre LaJoie, Frank Miller, Walter Kloc, Dan Domino and Pat Newland ... The **St. Casimir Oratory** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood continued its 40-day Christmas celebration through January.

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra recently released a CD entitled "Polish Masterworks," featuring the compositions of Witold Lutoslawski ("Concerto for Orches-

tra"), Henri Wieniawski ("Concerto No. 2 in D Minor for Violin and Orchestra"), Karol Szymanowski ("Concert Overture in E Major") and Mieczyslaw Karłowicz ("A Sad Tale") ... Soprano **Emily Tworek-Helenbrook** performed "koledy" at St. Adalbert's Basilica on Buffalo's East Side on January 7, and Soprano **Brittany Mruzek** provided *koledy* for the Mass of the Epiphany at the St. Casimir Oratory on January 11 ... Erie County Legislator **Tom Mazur** was elected majority leader of the legislature by his colleagues.

On January 8, the Agnus Dei Choir, Oakham House Choir and the Toronto Sinfonietta presented a choral concert of Polish and English Christmas carols entitled "Fantasia on Christmas Carols: God is Born - Bog Sie Rodzi," under the sponsorship of the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Toronto, Ontario ... **Corpus Christi Parish** on Buffalo's East Side unveiled and rededi-

cated its newly renovated "Disputa" mural in the church's dome on the 8th ... Aleksander Fredro's "Maz I Zona" was presented as part of the Czwartkowe Wieczory Teatralne at the **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga, Ontario on the 12th ... The **Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble** elected the following officers for the coming year: Felicia Arent (president), Krysia Abramo (vice-president), Kathleen Pawlak (treasurer), Bill Brauch (secretary) and Manya Pawlak Metzler (artistic director). Photographs of the group have been incorporated into the decor of the newly remodeled Applebee's Restaurant on Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga.

Attorney **William Nowakowski**, former president of the WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, joined the law firm of Magavern, Magavern and Grimm LLP as counsel to the firm in the areas of litigation, bankruptcy, tax and real estate ... Erie County Judge **Michael**

Pietruszka administered the oath of office to the newly elected 2012 officers and directors of the **Polish Cadets** of Buffalo at their Christmas party. The group's leadership is Wendy Higgins (president), James Johnson (vice-president), Mike Golden (secretary), Carolyn Higgins (treasurer), Marcia Meyers (financial secretary) and Joseph Meyers (sergeant-at-arms). Joni Cimato, Lisa Johnson, Michelle Westmiller, Mary Ann Kowalewski, Alex Kowalewski and Allan May will serve on the board of directors this year.

The **Wisla United Soccer Club** and **ZNP Kanada** sponsored a "Super Zabawe Karnawalowa" featuring "Mr. System" at the Burlington, Ontario Polish Hall, Catholic Youth Studio; the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** held its annual meeting at its Fillmore Avenue Clubrooms in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District; and the Concertina All Stars and the Knewz provided great polka music for the Third Annual "Come In Out of the Cold - Warm Up Dance" at Potts Banquet Hall, all on January 14 ... On January 15, the **Polish Legacy Project**, under the leadership of Andrzej Golebiowski, hosted an "Oplatek and Koleda" program after the noon

Polish Mass in the St. Stanislaus Social Center in Buffalo and the Polish Union of America marked its 121st anniversary with a party at the Potts Banquet Hall ... **Kristy Mazurek**, daughter of former Erie County legislator and New Yorkers polkameister Henry Mazurek, co-hosts "2 Sides with O'Loughlin and Mazurek" on WGRZ-TV, Channel 2 in Buffalo. Ms. Mazurek was the focus of a feature article in the January 15 edition of *The Buffalo News* ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented a program by Gregory Witul on the topic "Stained Glass in WNY's Polish Parishes" at its January 18 meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information to POLEGL, at P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszka@verizon.net.

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PALENIE WZBRONIONE. A smoking ban success in Poland is being reported, as research performed in Krakow reveals that the recently introduced ban has produced a very positive effect on public health.

New laws prohibiting smoking in public places were introduced in November 2010. The no smoking ban includes the workplace, bars, cafes and restaurants. The only exception would be those establishments with a thoroughly partitioned smoking room equipped with air-conditioning.

PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Let's Hear it for the Boys

As you know, the mission of the Pondering Pole, besides the ever popular "Polish or not?" is "we're here for you." Happy Valentine's Day and here is another great compendium of advice regarding love and romance. This installment of "we're here for you" is for the men.

Is it my imagination, or are there a lot of very nice looking, amiable, and single Polish guys out there without a significant other? And, just so we don't make this too complicated, "other" refers to a woman. Maybe you have been overwhelmed and jaded by divorce or a boo-boo that brought hefty lawyer fees and child support (but little child interaction) and understandably, you are afraid of going down the relationship road again.

Or maybe you are a Don Janusz and are very established in your single life, comfortable, but maybe you have an unsatisfied or empty pit in your stomach for companionship and the feminine touch.

"It is not good for man to be alone" so says the scripture but scripture never said it would be easy finding the right woman. There are a number of specific barriers that our Polish guys encounter that make it even harder for them to hook up. Besides showering, replacing missing teeth, doing something with the hair, and getting rid of the bell bottoms, let me mention a few ethnic specific considerations that I, myself, am familiar with.

There is the old joke about the Jewish boy and his relationship with his mother and how no woman will ever be good enough for him. I think a lot of the Polish boys have an equally strong relationship with their moms and they either don't want to psychologically and emotionally leave the *dom*, or can't find anyone who can cook as well. This Polish woman cooking legend thing is starting to creep me out but I keep hearing more and more about it.

Maria sees Tony across the room, she is immediately attracted to him physically, their eyes meet, they enter the same space, and she whispers, "Who are you?" He says in hushed tones, "I am Anton Przybyszewski."

The "Anton" thing worked in West Side Story but in this era she probably lowers her head and says quietly to herself, "oh no." Polish boys and girls are undoubtedly affected by the constant negativity aimed at them for their Polish backgrounds. Polish girls get married and adopt the husband's name and disappear ethnically under the radar. I find that Polish boys who have wonderful and stable marriages often have to concede the first names of their children in a trade with their mates, a good name for a "bad" one. So the first name ends up being Kelly, Sean, Heidi, or Zach to counterbalance Czartoryski or Wachlarowicz. Again, this is just my experience.

It is becoming more and more apparent that middle class families in American with the standard two to three kids need a solid revenue flow to live the dream. While I believe our Polish guys have a built-in urge to work and to sustain (at least for themselves) an adequate life, there is also a built-in apprehension for the ability to make enough to support a wife and family, much less for an ex-wife and children of a failed marriage. All guys have this apprehension to some degree, but as the child of a coupon cutter and mattress stuffer, maybe we are a little more anxious about it.



MURPHY. Considered "most decorated" soldier of World War II.

Marriage is about taking risks in so many ways and the financial aspect is a huge one that has to be worked out and managed and probably has as much to do with the cultural background of the partners as their socio-economic background. This is certainly true for stable married couples and even more so for remarried people. For more information on the impact of finances and marriages, see <http://shine.yahoo.com/financially-fit/marriage-chances-rise-salary-195200744.html>.

There are Polish men that have a loving and devoted relationship with their parents and family but balance and integrate that with their wife and kids. There are guys that find women who will love them for who they are no matter what their name or background. There are women who appreciate a man who is out there working and trying even if he isn't a millionaire. Look: if you are tired of getting perplexed looks or cackles or snide remarks every time you introduce yourself, find a kind and endearing woman who at the least tolerates or even gets along with your family, has modest financial goals, and whose name sounds like Przybyszewski. Find her.

Yes find her. Not easy. If you think I'm lecturing, I'm not. I'm rooting for you. I'm praying for you and I can't stress enough how important it is for those around you helps you find her. Help comes in the form of actually introducing someone or offering your brother a stick of gum and fast wisp of the hair before you go out. I think it is perfectly natural for the mothers, fathers, sisters, friends, and relatives to play the wing man or woman. My Valentine wish for you buddy is that you find her.

TWO STELLAR GUYS WITH A LOT OF MEDALS?

Here are the two entries from Wikipedia:

Audie Leon Murphy (June 20, 1924 – May 28, 1971) was a highly decorated and famous soldier. Through LIFE magazine's July 16, 1945 issue ("Most Decorated Soldier"/cover photo), he became one of the most famous soldiers of World War II and widely regarded as the



URBAN. Also considered "most decorated" soldier of World War II.

most decorated American soldier of the war.

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Louis Urban (August 25, 1919 – March 4, 1995) was a United States Army infantry officer who served with distinction in the African and European Theater of Operations in World War II. He scouted, led charges upfront, and performed heroically in combat on several occasions even after being wounded. He was awarded over a dozen combat decorations by the Army. In 1980, he was awarded and presented the Medal of Honor and four other combat decorations posthumously for repeated acts of heroism in combat in France and Belgium in 1944. The *Guinness Book of World Records* in 1989 considered Urban to be the United States Army's most combat decorated soldier of World War II.

Question for February, is Audie or Matt the most "decorated" soldier of World War II? I respect and admire both but am curious to know who is *jeden*.



POLISH KATES, OR NOT?

Katie Cleary (inset, left), model and actress, was born and raised on the North Shore of Chicago. Is Katie Polish?

Kate Upton (inset, right), model and actress, was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, and has very high cheekbones. Are those Polish cheekbones?



If you have a thought about this month's topic, have an answer to one of the questions, have 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.



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POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

Poland's 1st Armored Division

Part Four

INTO GERMANY – 1945. Having fought a series of battles with German units along the Maas River in December, 1944 and January, 1945, the Polish 1st Armored Division was moved to the rear for rest and re-fitting. In early April the Division was ordered back to the front for a strike on the Dutch cities of Coevorden and Emmen where Allied intelligence reported the Wehrmacht was massing for counter-attacks. The going was tough through flooded marshes and muddy fields but, along the way, the Division liberated a concentration camp at Westerbork.

Encountering well-defended German positions at practically every town, the Poles demonstrated their renowned tenacity attacking the enemy and liberating Coevorden, Emmen, Odoorn and Exlo. General Maczek kept up the rapid pace, bringing in artillery bombardments and deploying infantry and motorized units in flanking maneuvers to keep the Wehrmacht off balance. By mid-April the Division had crossed the German border tracking down marauding SS units in the area of Walchum and Heede. Fighting through enemy shelling and machine-gun fire along the Kusten Canal, the Poles pushed on to Neulehe, liberating another concentration camp.

By the first of May the Division was battling its way north along the Dutch-German border hampered by heavily damaged roads and bombed-out bridges. Improvising plans and finding alternate routes, the Poles persisted in the attack, taking hundreds of prisoners as they charged through Hellweg, Westerstede and Halsbeck on the route to their final objective, the massive German na-

val base at Wilhelmshaven. On the 5th of May the Polish 1st Armored Division captured Wilhelmshaven and on the next day General Maczek accepted the surrender of the base from its German commander.

By the end of the war, Poland had fielded over a quarter million soldiers, aviators and sailors in every theatre in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, making it the fourth largest Allied army and the only army that fought from the first day of the war to the last. The Polish 1st Armored Division was one of those proud fighting units and, in the year since it disembarked in Normandy, covered more than eight hundred miles capturing fifty-two thousand German prisoners, destroying 320 armored vehicles, 310 artillery cannons and shot down 13 aircraft. Its own losses were five thousand men and 350 armored vehicles.

General Stanislaw Maczek became commander of the 1st Polish Corps in 1945 and, after the war, lived in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was decorated with the Belgian Order of the Crown, the British Order of Bath, the French Honorable League, and Dutch Oranie-Nassau Medal. He died on December 11, 1994 and is buried alongside his men at the Polish cemetery in Breda, Holland.



Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish American author of the award-winning historical novel, *Night of Flames*, and a frequent contributor to this paper. *Jacobson's second historical novel set in Poland in World War II, The Katyn Order*, was released in May, 2011. You can visit him on the web at <http://www.douglaswjacobson.com>.

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Versatones Were Giants Among Men

by Larry Trojak

The recent decision by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones to call it a career, signifies not just the loss of a truly great polka band, but more importantly, brings to a close an influential chapter in polka music. For the last couple issues, readers of the PAJ have been treated to the thoughts of many of the musicians who were fortunate enough (and talented enough) to call themselves Versatones. This month, I have the privilege of offering my take on what this band meant to me and, at the risk of being presumptuous, how it impacted so many other polka musicians like myself.

HEARING SOMETHING NEW.

Polka music, as a rule, does not have a lot of "giants," in a sense that one person or group dominates the musical landscape on a regular basis. For better than four decades, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones were the exception to that rule. From the time I, as a young teenager, first heard "Cium Ciu Rum Cium" and other cuts off the LP *Something New Just for You*, I knew this was music like none other I'd heard before. My parents had a decent polka library and had almost everything by Lush, Li'l Wally, the Naturals, Ray Budzilek and others, but this was different, this music grabbed you and never let go.

The Versatone sound was new, it was vibrant, it smacked of innovation, it went against many of the notions of the polka as a stodgy, outdated music form. At that moment, I knew which direction I wanted my own musical path to take and suspect scores of others like myself felt the same after hearing those early "Blaz" LPs.

NOTHING LIKE "LIVE." Though the Versatones were actually part of a live broadcast from the IPA Convention held at Buffalo's Thruway Plaza in 1965, I would not have the opportunity to see them in person until a year later at the Hearthstone Manor Ballroom. There, in support of their *Polka Tour* LP, I finally would get to see if what was so incredibly powerful on vinyl could be replicated live. From the first few bars of "Green Maple" as we en-

tered the hall, any doubts I had were quickly and utterly dispelled. What I saw that night, in fact, made their albums—heck, any album—seem tame by comparison. It was at that show that I realized how great polkas could sound, how truly talented these musicians were, and how imposing a presence one bandleader could be. The duet vocals of Chet Kowalkowski and Eddie Blazonczyk were stunning, to the point that, when Chet and Eddie broke for the *a cappella* verse of "Tu Lu Lu Oberek," dancers stopped dancing to listen—it was *that* good. Similarly, for musicians like myself, hearing what Gomulka could do on horn and stick, or how Roger Malinowski could do things on drums that had never been done in polkas before, was literally a life-changing experience.

"I think I speak for all polka musicians when I say ... thank you for making this music we love so much, so much better."

Standing in front of the stage at a Versatone gig left one feeling like the guy in those Maxell ads of the late '70s in which he is shown being blown back by the sheer force of the music. So many like myself, I suspect, walked away from Versatone dances saying: "That is how I want to play," went home, and attacked their respective instruments like never before.

TRAIN KEPT A ROLLIN'. From that point forward, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones were just a juggernaut, continually improving (how was that possible?), racking up awards and, despite an obvious formula for success, seemingly always reinventing themselves—and always making a good thing better. Thought push-style polkas were the greatest sound imaginable? They'd release a pair of acoustic *Po Staro Krajsku* albums with no push at all—and we'd love it for its simplicity and attention to detail. Thought that their commitment to Polish polkas was total? They'd release an LP of country-flavored polkas and again we'd

"... there's no denying that the real reason the Versatones were able to stay at the top of their game for so long, lies in its driving force, namely the booming tenor and sheer presence of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr."

PHOTO: STEVE LITWIN



eat it up for the digression from the norm it was. Felt certain that the secret to their continued success was in the two horn sound? How about a trio of honky albums with one horn and a clarinet to prove that polkas without push could still kick?

And so it was: always innovating, always improving, always pushing the envelope (long before the phrase itself was even imagined). That commanding presence lasted better than four decades, and in that time repeatedly reshaped polkas as we knew them. Innovations such as the button-push concertina (courtesy of box virtuoso Wally Maduzia), the dueling box/accordion (à la Jerry Darlak and Rich Tokarz), and three-part harmony between the horn and reed sections which effectively made a six-piece band sound oh-so-much bigger than it was, seemed to come at every turn. Add in pairings with Wisconsin vocalists the Langner sisters, the occasional novelty 45 ("Chicago Cares About the Bears"), and an always-impressive musical lineup, and it's easy to see why Versatone longevity was all but inevitable.

BLAZ THE MAGNIFICENT. But there's no denying that the real reason the Versatones were able to stay at the top of their game for so long, lies in its driving force, namely the booming tenor and sheer presence of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. Polkas tend to be something of an aggregate

Sturr Nominated for Grammy

FLORIDA, N.Y. — Jimmy Sturr and his have been nominated for their latest recording, *Not Just Another Polka*, for this year's Grammy Awards. The group was nominated in a new category, "Regional Roots." This is the band's 24th nomination. They have won 18 Grammys. The Grammy Award Show will be aired on television on February 12 on CBS.

"Mollie B Polka" Party in Ennis, Texas

RIDGEVILLE CORNERS, Ohio — The next RFD-TV "Mollie B Polka Party" will take place in Ennis, Texas, March 8-11.

For tickets availability and more information contact: ted@squeezeboxband.com or mollie@squeezeboxband.com.

mediately upon spotting them in the crowd, Eddie sent out a tune for "Mr. & Mrs. Trojak, here all the way from Buffalo, New York." Needless to say, my parents were impressed, and it was that connection Eddie established that kept people coming back for more, time and again.

Given the current state of the polka industry, try to wrap your mind around this: Blaz often came to Buffalo twice a year, drawing 500-600 people each time. And I know for a fact that was the case wherever polkas were popular. Such was the power Eddie and the boys wielded.

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE.

There are those who will say that the Blazonczyk era ended in 2002 when, because of health concerns, Eddie Sr. chose to retire from the business. I am not one of them. I genuinely still enjoyed seeing the band that Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr. fronted and took forward after his father's departure, and was equally impressed with how steadfast they were in their effort to prove themselves worthy of that legacy. It is impossible to replace a legend and Jr. knew that going in. But, capitalizing on the musicianship within the group and building upon the relationships his father had worked so hard to establish, Eddie Jr. and the Versatones remained a driving force despite the loss of one of the key players in all of polka music. That is no small feat and warrants far more credit than many have been willing to give.

So, to all Versatones past and present and to Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. in particular, I think I speak for all polka musicians when I say thank you for blazing a trail for us; thank you for always setting the bar impossibly high, forcing us to work that much harder; thank you for making this music we love so much, so much better. You will be sorely missed.

❖ ❖ ❖

Larry Trojak was a long-time member of the award-winning *Dyna-Tones*, a band he started in 1968. He is owner of Trojak Communications in Minneapolis, and proofreader of the *Polish American Journal*.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net.



Don Cialkozewski, "The Polish Kid," on button box at the Polkabration festival. 1980.



Jan Cyman on vocals with The Musicalaires. 1977.



The late Eddie Poudrier, leader and drummer for the Heavy Chicago Band. 1977.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Memories and Music Will Live On

BUFFALO — It was the end of the Versatones era when Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr. played his final performance at the Glendora House in Chicago for a big farewell New Years Eve's party. Current and former members of the Versatones were on hand for this very special event! It is sad to lose a major polka band such as this; but the wonderful memories and music will live on. Luckily, there are recordings, photos, and the internet to relive so many of the magical moments of the Versatones throughout the years. Good luck is wished to all the members of this outstanding band. The Versatones will be missed.

IN SYMPATHY. Our sympathy goes out to Carl Maciuba on the loss of his mother, Florence on Dec. 18.

Also, our sympathy to the family of **Paul Ryndak**, who was a regular at many of the dances and events around town.

May they rest in peace.

AROUND THE TOWN. Art Gayer from the Concertina All Stars informed me that the Koledy Night at the Knight of Columbus, Madonna Council on Erie Ave. in North Tonawanda had a full house on Dec. 23. Many musicians were on hand, and there was lots of food. Years ago Gino Olszowka used to host a koledy night at the AMVETS Post 26 on Ward Rd. in North Tonawanda. This event was an attempt to continue his tradition and it proved very successful. As you probably know, our buddy Gino passed away a few years ago. It's nice that something he started is continuing.

The weekend of Jan. 7, Ron Urbanczyk and Jimmy Raczkowski, co-leaders and co-founders of the **New Direction Band** were guests on some of the polka radio shows talking about the release of their new CD entitled *Follow Directions*. Each DJ played a few selections from this new disk and I was impressed! Ron described this CD as "honky style music with just a little push." There are 17 songs on this one so you get a lot of music for the price you pay! One good thing I noticed is that each member of the band does some vocals which adds to the nice variety of this release.

The New Direction Band premiered their new CD at a dance at Potts Hall on Jan. 21. Ron Urbanczyk, Jimmy Raczkowski, Billy Barnas, Bob "Flash" Krupka and Frankie Zeczak are the talented musicians in this band bringing it all

together.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. There is a very special lady out there who is an avid polka fan and faithful reader of this column. She is **Eleanor Nowicki**, and she is celebrating a very special Birthday on Feb. 10th. Sincerest wishes for a very happy birthday and *sto lat*, Eleanor! May you be blessed with good health and happiness and continue to enjoy the music you love for many more years.

UPCOMING

Feb. 4. Mid Winter Dance at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Parish Center, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster. Music by Rare Vintage from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Admission is \$12. Cheese trays, wrap trays and Snacks will be provided. Cash bar available. For more information, call John at 684-2578.

Feb. 12. Concertina All Stars are at Potts Banquet Hall, 694 S. Ogden St., Buffalo from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a Hard Times Dance.

Feb. 16. Polka Boosters Club Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments. Everyone welcome. Call Chris at (716) 892-7977.

Feb. 19. Polish Heritage Dancers present Paczki Day Celebration at the Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Rd., Depew from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Music by the Bedrock Boys from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Folk dance show at 3:00 p.m. Pre-Sale Tickets are \$6.00 and at the door it is \$8.00. For more info, call Michelle at 716-937-0032 or Debbie at (716) 681-3526.

Feb. 22. Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. New Members welcome. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194.

Feb. 26. The Buffalo Touch is at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, starting at 4:00 p.m. Call (716) 874-7734 for more info.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Changing Times

At the end of 2011, the two major Toledo polka organizations, the Toledo Area Polka Society and the International Music Association, both announced a time change for 2012: All Sunday dances will begin one hour earlier, with doors opening at 12:30 p.m., a light lunch served at 1:00 p.m., and live music from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

The International Music Association holds all of its dances on Sunday afternoons. For the remainder of spring 2012, look for a Touch of Brass on Sunday February 19, Ted Lange's Squeezebox featuring Mollie B on March 18, Staś Golonka's Chicago Masters April 15, and the Frank Marovcik Band, May 6. IMA membership continues to be \$5.00 annually. For more info, contact Bobby Earl, Jr. at (419) 215-5499.

The Toledo Area Polka Society's next dance features Duane Malinowski and the Polka Jamboree, February 26. On March 25, A Touch of Brass will perform one of their final Toledo performances prior to retiring. Doors

open at 12:30 p.m., a light lunch is served at 1:00 p.m., and music goes from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

The final two TAPS dances for spring will be held Saturday April 21 with Frankie Liska's Old School, followed by Ray J & the Carousels on Saturday May 19, 2012. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. followed by music from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Annual dues for TAPS are still only five dollars and admission is free for children under 18 years of age. Membership info is available from President Mike Marek (419) 345-5928.

All TAPS and IMA dances take place at the Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Post on Alexis Road in North Toledo, easily accessible from both I-75 and I-475/US 23. Please consider adding any of these dances to your calendar if you are in the Toledo area. Now, more than ever, polka fans need to come out and support bands and organizations to keep the music alive.

Johnny Prytko an IJ

Johnny Prytko, Jr is back promoting polka music as an IJ! After an absence of more than ten years, Prytko has found a new home online as Polka IJ heard on www.Speaker.com.

This program is archived, and can be heard anytime online. There are thousands of Podcasts on this website. Access the website and enter "Polka" into the search engine provided in order to find "The Polka Night Show" with Johnny Prytko, Jr.

Requests can be emailed to Prytko at EastCoastAuthority@yahoo.com. Promoters and record companies are asked to send any dance information or CDs to: Johnny Prytko, Jr., 20B Esquire Drive, Manchester, CT 06042.

KF Debutante Ball Set for April 28

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation is looking for debutantes to present to society at the Annual Dinner and Ball. Many of you know Miss Polonias and young ladies of distinction that would make perfect candidates for the debutante class of 2012.

The Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner and Ball is a dazzling evening of dining, dancing, and networking, attended by debutantes, dignitaries and celebrities in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Waldorf-Astoria. For 76 years the Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Dinner and Ball has been the premier social event in the Polish American community. This year's ball will be on Saturday, April 28, 2012.

As the highlight of the evening, debutantes are presented under the guidance of the Debutante Patroness, who is selected each year for her service and commitment to the Kosciuszko Foundation. Adding to the elegance of the evening are a contingent of cadet escorts for the debutantes from the United States Armed Forces. At the conclusion of the debutante presentation honored guests and dignitaries lead the entire assemblage in the historic and stately Polonaise.

To request an application or for more information about the Debutante Presentation, please call Sandra Wyszomirska at the Kosciuszko Foundation at (212) 734-2130.

THE CONSUMPTION OF FISH FALLS IN POLAND, despite health benefits of it having been extensively promoted in media outlets, trade and educational institutions. This is bad news for the nation's fishing industry, as the most recent report of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics indicated that consumption of fish and fish products declined in the first half of 2011 by 2.6 percent.

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

Windy City Pączki

CHICAGO — Come join the Polish American Association in celebration of Pączki Day on Fat Thursday, February 16, 2012 and for a chance to win silver jewelry. The recipe for pączki was created centuries ago as Christians were trying to use up perishable items such as butter, eggs, and cream prior to the start of Lent when they began a strict fast.

On Fat Thursday, the PAA staff will sell delicious pączki from Oak Mill Bakery in eight different locations throughout the city and suburbs for \$3 each with some pączki containing a piece of silver jewelry from Archer Gold Jewelry. And while you create a delightful moment for your palate, you will also create a lasting change in the lives of PAA's clients.

Five Selling Locations - Oak Mill Bakery (7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

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- 4747 N. Harlem Ave., Harwood Heights
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Private Eye Rutkowski to the Rescue!

Liberating Kidnapped Kids and Captive Women

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—To say that Krzysztof Rutkowski has had a checkered career would be a gross understatement indeed. He started out as a member of communist dictator Wojciech Jaruzelski's hated ZOMO riot police known for smashing up Solidarity demonstrations during martial law. After the collapse of communism in 1989-1990, like many members of the communist police apparatus who set up private security and detective agencies, he used his experience and contacts to become Poland's best-known private eye.

For a while, Rutkowski had his own TV series in Poland called "Detektyw" (Detective) in which some of his more colorful exploits freeing abducted children or recovering stolen cars, jewels and art works were dramatized. Dabbling in politics, he got himself elected to Poland's parliament as a representative of a radical farmers' party calling itself Self-Defense. That gave him parliamentary immunity and a special diplomatic passport allowing him to enter countries he wouldn't have been able to as an ordinary tourist.

Rutkowski, 51, recently again soared into the limelight with the spectacular rescue of a young Polish girl held in Norway. Nine-year-old Nikola was taken from her Polish immigrant parents, who had been living in Norway for five years, after a teacher noticed that the girl seemed sad when she came to school. That was enough for Norwegian Child Welfare Services to get involved and place Nikola in foster care. After her parents, Arkadiusz and Helena Rybka, had exhausted all legal attempts to regain their daughter, they sought out Rutkowski as the last resort.

Poland's top private eye gladly accepted the challenge and put his logistic experience to work. He managed to slip Nikola a cellphone, set not to ring but only gently vibrate in her pocket. The abducted girl was therefore in contact with the Rutkowski rescue team the whole time. She knew on which night



KRZYSZTOF RUTKOWSKI, a former member of Poland's riot police, recently again soared into the limelight with the spectacular rescue of a young Polish girl held in Norway.

climbing ropes would be placed outside the upstairs window of her foster home on which he was successfully lowered to safety. As the household slept, she and her parents were whisked out of the country and returned to Poland.

As always, Rutkowski had a contingency plan in place. In case, the rescue attempt was found out or otherwise failed, Nikola would get a toy containing a GPS tracker. If her whereabouts were changed, the detective would know exactly where she was and another attempt at rescuing her could be made. Naturally, the publicity-loving Rutkowski had the entire operation filmed and subsequently shown on Polish TV.

After the media publicized the case, Rutkowski was contacted by potential clients with similar problems. In one case, he helped a teenage boy placed in escape foster care in Norway during the divorce proceedings of his Russian mother and Norwegian stepfather. The boy's arrival in Moscow made the front pages of Russian newspapers.

There have also been plenty of daring Hollywood-style rescues of Polish women and their children held captive by Muslim husbands in the Middle East. Many a Polish girl has fallen prey and joined their fate

to a handsome, olive-skinned Arab lover. But dreams of a life of luxury in a sheik's palace in some exotic land have all too often evaporated on the spot. In her husband's home country, the Polish woman is often reduced to veritable servitude and is ruled by her spouse, mother-in-law and other members of a tight-knit Muslim family.

On more than one occasion, Polish TV viewers were able to follow Rutkowski through the narrow streets and back alleys of some Middle Eastern city as he pursued an intricate plan to smuggle his client and her children out of the country and back to Poland. But such plans often balanced on the verge of legality or even overstepped it.

Although Rutkowski has on occasion helped the Polish police capture fugitive criminals who could not be extradited, he himself has had his own run-ins with the law. Back in 2006 he was arrested on charges of corruption, conspiracy and money laundering. He nevertheless enjoys the undying gratitude of many Poles whose family members he has rescued from various forms of legal, semi-legal or illegal captivity. They seem to realize that occasionally bribing an official is an occupational risk of any Rambo-style liberator.

POLAND IMPRESSES HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW as *Harvard Business Review Polska*, touted the Polish economy as one of the strongest in the European union. The magazine lists Poland's ability to control inflation, its meaningful domestic demand and its competitive corporate tax rates as among the nation's strengths.

In doing the ranking, the *Review* divided countries into four groups. Poland was placed with the countries whose political climate and macroeconomic conditions encourage investments.

Poland ranked fifth after Austria, the United States, Germany and Chile. The report was based on an analysis provided by Eurasia Group consulting firm and on data collected by the IMF.

Szymanowski's Former Homestead to be Updated

ZAKOPANE — The former home of Polish composer and pianist Karol Szymanowski will be modernized with most of the funding provided by the European Union. The picturesque home located in the southern Poland town of Zakopane and long a part of Krakow's National Museum, needs renovation and modernization.

Plans call for the interior to be modernized using multimedia to present the composer and his work, bringing into focus the times in which he lived and the history of his Villa Atma. Visitors will be able to watch films about the composer and the villa's gardens will be re-created to replicate how they

appeared during Szymanowski's lifetime.

The museum will close for renovations this month and will re-open by the end of the year.

Karol Szymanowski was born in 1887 on land that now lies in the Ukraine. Villa Atma became his permanent residence in 1930. Although he was influenced by the work of Chopin, folk music from the Polish Highlands was a major inspiration for his work. Of same, Szymanowski wrote: "My discovery of the essential beauty of Górale (Polish Highlander) music, dance and architecture is a very personal one; much of this beauty I have absorbed into my innermost soul."

Kittinger Completes Desks for the House of Representatives

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Kittinger Furniture Co. has completed two custom roll top desks for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The desks are replicas of an original piece of an unknown manufacturer. To produce them, the House loaned the original desk to craftsman, who evaluated its construction and wood species. Then, drawings and templates were created to reproduce an exact replica.

Kittinger President **Raymond Bialkowski** said the replicas are

100-percent American made at the Buffalo manufacturing facility.

"To find somebody to duplicate these desks was near impossible," he said, adding that it took hundreds of hours to make them.

"The desks are very intricate," Bialkowski continued. "They want these to be on display for dignitaries to view."

Kittinger's furniture can be found throughout the White House, the Supreme Court and the president's cabinet.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Stretching the Reader's Imagination

TO SUP WITH THE DEVIL

by John Dabrowski

Word Association Publishers, 2011
259 p., \$16.95

Dabrowski provides a book that will stretch the imagination of the reader. Minor changes can have a lasting effect. Using fictional and real characters, Dabrowski draws the reader into "what if..."

Following the death of President Roosevelt, Vice-President and Polish-American Ted Kazmarak's first order was to make a deal with Hitler to help push the Soviets back to the old Curzon line. He wanted Germany as a buffer against the Russians and keep the Germans from turning Communist. As a youth in Poland, Kazmarak had seen the destructive forces of Stalin's Communism, as well as the discovery of the atrocities of the Katyn massacre in 1940. His other concern was America's own development of an atomic bomb and that Russia might be on the same level.

The blend of imaginary and real figures is well done, providing an interesting concept of events that could have happened in a critical time of world history.

THE MERMAID OF WARSAW

and Other Tales from Poland

by Richard Monte

ill. by Paul Hess

Frances Lincoln Books, 2011
105 pp., \$8.95.

This small book contains folktales not usually known to the public, with the exception of "The Mermaid of Warsaw." The eight tales provide a

glimpse of lesser known regions on the country. Monte provides a voice for these tales that will draw everyone into a time of long ago and make believe. Black and white illustrations accompany the tales.

TETHER ME NOT

by David Dachauer

Brown Books Publishing Group
2011, 210 pp., \$11.95.

Dachauer provides the reader with sentiments, lovely and sad, in this novel of love lost and found. The intuition and premonitions his family members had are passed on to him. As a child, his grandfather introduces him to the spirituality and beliefs of the Indians, telling him he had a gift and not to lose it. The Creator speaks to us in many voices, be it owl or hawk.

David deeply loves his wife, and is devastated when she divorces him. Feeling he will never love again, he raises his children, and learns to balance his life, letting go of love, then gradually moving on and learning to love again.

CREATED EQUAL

by R.A. Brown

Tate Publishing, 2011

236 pp., \$25.99

If all men and women are created equal under the eyes of God, why can't a woman become a priest? Alexandra Kowalski has desperately wanted to become a priest for many years and when she is refused admission to the seminary, hires well-known trial lawyer, Thomas O'Reilly, to help her. He finds no basis for the Catholic

Church to exclude women in the priesthood and takes his case to court. The Church hires Monsignor Enrico Renzulli, a Harvard educated attorney who believes the law suit should be dismissed because the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants all citizens freedom of religion and a federal court should not interfere with the rules of any church.

This legal thriller seeks to find any basis in the Bible that excludes women from becoming priests. The role women played in Jesus time has changed drastically, but not in the minds of present day ecclesiastics. Throughout the years, rules have been made by bishops and popes, not God. Once priests were married, but not today. Once indulgences were sold, as a way to wash away your sins, but not anymore.

Yet a married Protestant minister can become a Catholic priest and not divorce himself from his wife. Why in 2010, did Pope Benedict XVI revise ecclesiastical vows and strengthen rules on sex abuse, and include that any priest ordaining a woman would be severely punished.

On the sideline an extreme and tyrannical sect concocts a plot to stop the heresy against God and kidnap Alexandra, ending in a murder. Timely topics are brought out, such as the separation of church and state, ordaining women, how Catholics feel about females in the priesthood, at a time when they are able to participate in many parts of the mass and the equality of all under the eyes of God.

A thought-provoking and gripping novel told by Brown, a successful attorney working for several multinational companies.

NEW BOOKS

The Life of a Priest and Soldier

SACRIFICE FOR GOD AND COUNTRY. Monsignor Thaddeus Malanowski

has published a book of his life as a priest and soldier.

"Sacrifice for God and Country" is the autobiography of a Roman Catholic Priest/Chaplain who rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Army, reflecting on his experiences as a priest and soldier. In addition to his priestly duties following his military service, Monsignor Malanowski served the poor of Haiti and



BRIG. GEN. THADDEUS MALANOWSKI. A true and genuine hero.

was the court-appointed chaplain to Terri Schindler Schiavo of which a considerable portion of this book reflects on the true value of human life.

Monsignor reflects on his interaction with several U.S. presidents, Catholic Church spiritual leaders such as John Paul II, Pius XII, Cardinal Cooke, Cardinal Spellman, Teresa Neumann, and in his military service many high ranking generals and even soldiers such as Elvis Presley.

100% of the royalties from this book will be given to the Terri Schiavo Life and Hope Network as well as the Haitian Health Foundation.

"Sacrifice for God and Country" is \$15.00 and available for purchase at www.amazon.com.

FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST. A new Polish edition of Dr. Richard Lukas' eminent work, *The Forgotten Holocaust*, will be published by Rebus Publishing in Warsaw.

Considered a classic by respected scholars of World War II, the book — originally published in 1986 — has gone through numerous printings and editions since then. The Rebus edition will contain

a new preface by Dr. Lukas, and a new foreword by the distinguished scholar, Norman Davies.

Few books on any subject of World War II have had the longevity of *The Forgotten Holocaust*.

Lukas is also the author of seven other books, two of which, *Eagles East* and *Did the Children Cry?* won national awards.

The English-language version of *The Forgotten Holocaust* is available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore.

ROSE PETAL JAM. Beata Zatorska learned to make rose petal jam, pierogi, and other Polish recipes in the kitchen of her grandmother's farmhouse in a remote village in the foothills of the Karkonosze Mountains where she grew up. When she returned 20 years later her grandmother, a professional chef, was gone, but she found her handwritten recipes for preparing traditional Polish dishes and preserves. These recipes, along with Beata's memories and stories of growing up Poland in the 1960s and '70s are part of one of the most beautiful and unique books to come out this holiday season. *Rose Petal Jam* (Tabula Books; September 2011; \$35.00/Hardcover; ISBN 9780956699206) is a delightful collection of recipes, memories, and locations that celebrates the best of Poland.

Accompanied by her English husband Simon, Beata spent a summer exploring her home country, travelling tiny roads lined with wild rose bushes, finding castles and palaces among meadows and forests. This culinary journey became the basis for *Rose Petal Jam*, beautifully illustrated with hundreds of full color photographs of the recipes, the

countryside, and the main cities of Poland including Warsaw, Gdansk and Kraków, as well as many family pictures. This book has other unique touches too, including favorite poems, and paintings from the nation's galleries, providing readers with a wonderful introduction to the food, culture, people and places of Poland.

Rose Petal Jam features over 50 recipes that reveal Polish cuisine to be both subtle and varied. It is available from Amazon.com.

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New Quarterly Focuses on Central and Eastern European Affairs

KRAKOW, Poland — The Jan Nowak-Jeziorański College of Eastern Europe and the European Solidarity Centre announce the first issue of a new quarterly magazine — *New Eastern Europe*. The magazine is the English-language sister edition of the Polish bimonthly *Nowa Europa Wschodnia* (www.new.org.pl). Andrzej Brzezicki is the editor-in-chief of both magazines.

More information can be found at: www.neweasterneurope.eu or by writing to: the magazine at ul. Krupnicza 8/2a, 31-123 Krakow, Poland.

History Book Club Features "The Auschwitz Volunteer"

LOS ANGELES — Aquila Polonica Publishing's April release, *The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery*, an eyewitness report of an undercover mission at the notorious death camp, will be a Featured Selection of the History Book Club® in May. The title has also been named a Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club® and the Military Book Club®.

The author, Polish Army Captain Witold Pilecki, volunteered to get himself arrested by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz as a prisoner, where he barely survived for nearly three years before escaping. His mission: smuggle out intelligence about the prison camp and build a resistance organization among the prisoners. One of the most dramatic undercover missions by an Ally in World War II, this story is little known in the West because it was suppressed for nearly 50 years by the post-war communist Polish regime, which executed Pilecki in 1948 as a "Western spy."

This is the first time Pilecki's report will be published in English. Translator Jarek Garlinski is the son of historian and Auschwitz survivor Jozef Garlinski, author of *Fighting Auschwitz*.

Antony Polonsky, the Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University, calls *The Auschwitz Volunteer* "a real contribution to our understanding of the history of Poland under Nazi occupation." The Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, who wrote a foreword for the book, says "This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the Holocaust."

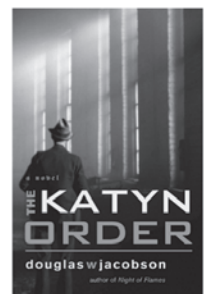
Aquila Polonica specializes in publishing, in English, the Polish experience of World War II with first-hand accounts, memoirs, photographs, artwork, poetry, literature and historical studies.

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"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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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Polish Traditions: Shrove Tuesday; Surprises for Poland at the Oscars?



Most pre-Lenten celebrations revolve around food. Feasting was a large part of the Polish tradition as well.

The pre-Lenten festivities of Carnival (*Zapusty*, *Mięsopusty*, *Comber*, or *Ostatki*) are a tradition that precedes the solemnity of Lent. The masquerade celebration is an extension of the costumed *Kołodnicy* carolers, and took on a level of overindulgence, merriment and debauchery during this period. In accordance to pagan Slavic practices, animal figures and cross-dressing men and women were represented, and masks were worn.

In contrast the Nobility and aristocrats enjoyed the *Kulig* sleigh ride parties, which were elaborate and fanciful. Festooned horses pulled them along from house to house to enjoy food, music and dancing at each stop.

In Poland this enjoyment reaches a culmination on Shrove Tuesday. Some call this *Mardi Gras* — from the French meaning Fat Tuesday, and American Poles call it *Pączki Day* — after the Polish doughnut that can no longer be eaten after this day.

Most pre-Lenten celebrations revolve around food. Feasting was a large part of the Polish tradition as well. *Chruściki* (Angel wings) and the traditional plum or wild rose hip jam-filled confection known as a *pączki* is made from a yeast dough usually containing a small amount of grain alcohol or rum in place of water; Warsaw *pączki* with French brandy.

The best places to celebrate *Pączki Day* in the United States are cities with large Polish populations like Chicago, Buffalo, and Detroit's city of Hamtramck.

Podkoziółek — an old folk game known in Wielkopolska, Kujawy, Łęczyca, and Sieradz was a carnival event that took place on Shrove Tuesday. A goat figure carved from wood, potatoes or beets or made of straw was placed on a cart and travelled to the homes where young maidens lived to engage them to come to the inn. Reverse of tradition, the maidens would be required to pay a donation for the privilege of dancing with a man. Women and men would jump in front of the inn — with the size of the jump relative to the height of flax or grain for the given year.

Another tradition revolves around the young wives who had married since the previous carnival. Here a new bride would have to buy her entry into the married women's society with a donation of money, food or drink. No males were al-

lowed at this ceremony.

In Christian tradition, Lent is a period of sacrifice and fasting. In the past, the list of forbidden foods was longer than it is today, and not only was meat forbidden. Five days before, Poles prepared a large meal on *Thusty Czwartek* in advance of the traditional Friday fast the next day. Another name among Poles for this day was "Herring Day," referring to the fish that would no longer be on the menu beginning on *Popielec* (Ash Wednesday). Butter, sugar, lard and fruit were forbidden as well, and this provided the perfect excuse for combining those ingredients into a decadent and tasty indulgence before the 40 days of abstinence was to begin.

EYE ON THE OSCARS

The contenders for this year's Film Awards may include some surprises from Poland. The buzz is centering on a few hopefuls. Will there be a Polish Oscar?



Kamiński

Cinematography — Janusz Kamiński. Polish cinematographer and film director — Janusz Kamiński has photographed all of Steven Spielberg's films since 1993's *Schindler's List*. Born in Ziębice, Poland, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 21 after Prime Minister Jaruzelski imposed martial law in 1981. He attended Columbia College in Chicago, taking up film making as a profession before transferring to the AFI Conservatory, where he graduated with an M.F.A. degree.

Kamiński won the Academy Award twice for Best Cinematography for *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan* and the 2008 Independent Spirit Award for Best Cinematography for *The Diving Bell and The Butterfly*.

His current film, *War Horse* seemed a likely bet for Oscar nomi-

nations in several categories back in November. The *New York Times* reviewer A.O. Scott remarked on Kamiński's work stating — "Shot the old-fashioned way, on actual film stock the picture has a dark, velvety luster capable of imparting a measure of movie-palace magic to the impersonal cavern of your local multiplex."



Korzeniowski

Music — Abel Korzeniowski. Polish film and theatre scores composer — Abel Korzeniowski (born Adam in Kraków) graduated from the Academy of Music in Kraków majoring in cello and composer studies under the supervision of Krzysztof Penderecki. In Poland he won acclaim as the composer of music for films and theatre plays.

Korzeniowski has been the composer of film scores for several Polish films, as well as Hollywood productions: *Battle for Terra*, *Pu-239*, *Tickling Leo*, *A Single Man* and *W.E.* In 2009 he won a San Diego Film Critics Society Award for the Best score in *A Single Man* and was nominated for a Golden Globe in the best original score category for the same film.

His unique, evocative, and sophisticated style combines classical orchestral performance with elements of modern electronica and ambient has impressed the Hollywood community.

W.E., a Madonna-directed romantic drama looks at the fabled romance between American Wallis Simpson and Britain's King Edward VIII. The hypnotic music Korzeniowski created for the film was recorded by a 60-piece orchestra and concentrated on "purely emotional states." Although not eligible for this year's Oscar, Korzeniowski made the nomination for the Golden Globes.

Foreign Language Film — *In Darkness*. Directed by Agnieszka Holland, *In Darkness (W Ciemności)* is a selection of the 2011 Telluride and Toronto International Film Festivals and Poland's official 2012 Academy Award contender for the Best Foreign Language Film. The dialogue is in Polish, Ukrainian, Yiddish and German.

The film tells the compelling story of Leopold Socha, a Polish sewer worker and petty thief, who saved a group of Jews by hiding them deep in the sewage system under Nazi occupied Lwów (see PAJ January issue). Distributed by Sony Pictures Classics, he film opens in the United



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States in February.

Kamiński and *In Darkness* have been nominated for the Academy Awards. The ceremony will take place on February 26 and will be televised on ABC.

CURIE PLAY IN LOS ANGELES

Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie — a look at the personal and professional life of the famed Polish scientist, made its world premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles recently. In his first playwriting venture, acclaimed actor Alan Alda delves into the life and romance of one of the most brilliant female scientists in history.

Famous for her groundbreaking research in radioactivity, Curie was the only person ever to win two Nobel Prizes in multiple sciences, but not without a struggle. Celebrated, but then rejected by the popular press as both a woman and scientist, Curie was left to define her place in society and history on her own terms.

While researching the life of Curie, playwright Alda went to France, hoping to inspect Curie's letters — but after more than a century, they're still radioactive.

KLEZMER MUSICAL SET IN POLAND

Shlemiel the First, a joyous musical set in Poland, received rave reviews after premiering in 1994 at the American Repertory Theatre, and went on to delight audiences nationwide including Serious Fun! at Lincoln Center. The first New York revival took place Off-Broadway at NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts.

This musical adaptation of the

"Chelm" stories of Polish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer has a score based on traditional klezmer music and Yiddish theater songs with additional original music. Singer had written a non-musical theatrical adaptation of the stories, and this served as the basis for the musical.

Set in the southeastern Polish



The life and romances of Maria Skłodowska-Curie, one of the most brilliant female scientists in history, has been brought to the stage by author Alan Alda.

town of Chelm, known in Jewish folklore as a village of fools, the naive Shlemiel is sent on a pilgrimage to spread the wisdom of the local sages. His simple-minded folly turns an already absurd world upside down.

The production directed by David Gordon was a joyous, inventive, and lively romp with an American Borscht Belt caricature quality. Standout performance included Michael Iannucci (Shlemiel), Amy Warren (Trina Rytza), and Kristine Zbornik. The costumes were efficient with humorous elements, such as dresses with huge built-in breasts.

The music was often less memorable and the piece could be edited considerably. The culture, costumes, music and folk traditions of the actual Chelm district, however were not utilized — setting the production in the universality of a Jewish *shtetl* village without an exact identity.



SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Will the Real Kevin Kowalski ... ?

In the world of sports, there's more than one **Kevin Kowalski** rising to prominence. However, if you saw them in person, you probably wouldn't confuse the two. One Kevin Kowalski is an offensive lineman for the Dallas Cowboys; another Kevin Kowalski is an up-and-coming professional skateboarder from Oregon.

Kevin Kowalski, a 6-4, 300-lb free agent from Toledo, stepped in for Cowboys starting center Phil Costa during a Sunday night game against the New York Giants, and did quite well. "He did a good job, he stepped in," quarterback Tony Romo said. "He had a couple of things, communication stuff. He did a great job coming in not having had reps with me. I was proud of him." Earlier in the season Kevin also filled in at guard. He's expected to compete for a starting position at center next season.

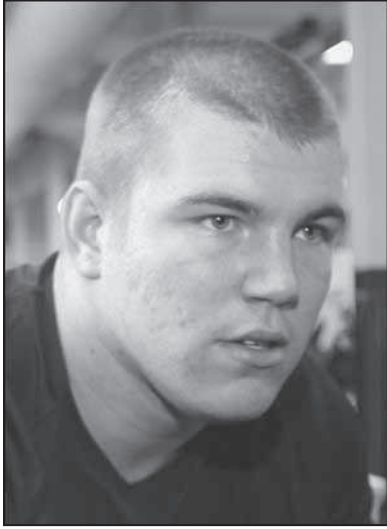
Kevin was a four-year starter at Toledo, starting in 47 consecutive games in his career, first at guard and then at center. An education major with a 3.67 grade-point average, he was named Academic All-Conference.

Kevin Kowalski is also a 5-8, 135-lb. professional skateboarder from Seal Rock, Oregon in the United States. He won the bronze medal in X Games 16 in skateboard park in 2010 and finished 2nd in bowl in the 2009 World Cup of Skateboarding. The 19-year-old is considered one of the rising stars in the sport.

Neither man has anything to do with the popular children's book, *Kidnapping Kevin Kowalski* by Mary Jane Auch, but that's another story.

SISTER ACT. Poland's Radwanska sisters are sick of playing tennis against each other — at least in the first round of tournaments. **Agnieszka Radwanska** has threatened to walk out on future tournaments if she is drawn against younger sister **Urszula** again in the first round, as she was recently at the Sydney International.

The 8th ranked 22-year-old Agnieszka cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 straight sets victory over her little sister. It was the fourth straight time the sisters have faced each other in the first round of a tour-level event for which they had both qualified. "It's just the worst feeling playing against your sister, especially because we're very close and have been practicing together for 17 years and travelling together," Agnieszka said. "Somehow we play again against each other, the fourth time in a row. We said the next time I think we're just going to pack and go home because this is ri-



KOWALSKI the offensive lineman.

dicrous."

The first time the pair met on tour was in Dubai back in 2009, with Urszula (ranked 121 at the time) upsetting the then No. 10 Agnieszka. But since then, Agnieszka has given up just nine games in three matches, winning all three clashes, including a straight-sets victory in the first round of last year's US Open.



KOWALSKI the skateboarder.

Of course competing against each other is something the pair will have to become used to if they are intend to emulate Serena and Venus Williams — though the Williams sisters have gone against each other in grand slam finals. "They did a lot of great things," said Urszula. "They've been in finals of grand slams ... a lot of great things. May-

be one day, I hope, we can have the same success as they've had ... We'll see."

Agnieszka went on to defeat top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, who suffered a wrist injury, in the quarterfinal at Sydney. For the latest, go to www.radwanskateam.com.

THEY SAID IT

"The Polish grocery store is around the corner from the strip-mall Polish restaurant. Two oilmen, residents of Houston by way of Pittsburgh by way of Italy, Ireland and Germany, settle their lunch bill and head over to shop for a taste of home: pierogies, 96 of them, and three pounds of sauerkraut. You know, tailgate food ... Houston is an immigrant town ... A sprawling Vietnamese population shops in its own malls and listens to its own radio stations. One café serves jalapeno gefilte fish, another serves Pakistani hamburgers. There are Indian pizzas. The Polish restaurant is called Polonia, meaning a Pole who has left the homeland."

— **Wright Thompson**, in an ar-

ticle entitled "Houston's Pittsburgh faithful" in *ESPN the Magazine*.

❖ ❖ ❖
"What did SI find? First, that the range of what these Bengals experience a quarter century later runs from almost perfectly healthy to borderline disabled. There is no template. Center Bruce Kozerski, 49, is sharp and nimble enough, despite eight football-related surgeries, to teach high school calculus and coach football in Covington, Ky.; his team just won the Kentucky Class 2A state title."

— **Peter King**, in a Sports Illustrated article that examined the impact of football on the 1986 Cincinnati Bengals.

❖ ❖ ❖
"In life, there are teams called 'Smith,' and teams called 'Grabowski.' We're Grabowski!"

Then Chicago Bears Coach **Mike Ditka**, as his team prepared for the NFC Championship Game against the Los Angeles Rams. The term became a rallying cry for the Bears, who won that game and, later, Super Bowl XX.

Remembering "The Chicago Grabowskis"

It's hard to believe that it was 26 years ago that the Chicago Bears won Super Bowl XX and earned pro football immortality. That was also the season when Bears head coach Mike Ditka received a great deal of attention by referring to his squad as "a Grabowski team."

Michael Keller Ditka was born on October 18, 1939, in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. His father, also named Michael, was also born in Pennsylvania, the son of a Ukrainian father and a Polish mother. The original family name was "Dyzcko." Mike got his middle name from his mother, the former Charlotte Keller, who was of Irish-German heritage. The elder Ditka was an ex-Marine who worked in the steel industry. "From him I learned a work ethic: you get out of life what you put into it," his son recalled. "If you're willing to work, then you get something; if not, you probably won't get very much."

The Ditkas lived in working-class housing project in Aliquippa, Pa. Young Mike played all sports, but his hero was Stan Musial. "He was Polish, from Donora, Pa.," said Ditka. "I thought he was the greatest baseball player that ever lived. I still do."

As a football player, Ditka was the total package: a rugged tight end with strength and speed, a high football IQ, and fierce determination. He was Rob Gronkowski before there was a Rob Gronkowski. As a



DITKA, being carried from the field following the Bears' 1986 Super Bowl win, a tough, talented squad he called "a Grabowski team."

coach he was brash and hard-nosed, and quickly turned around the Bears when he became head coach in 1982.

It was on their march to Super Bowl XX that Ditka made the memorable remark calling his tough, talented squad "a Grabowski team." "It just came out. I could have said Dombrowski, but I said Grabowski," he recalled. "I think people understood it." He explained that it didn't have as much with the ethnicity of his players as it did their determination and work ethic. In Polonia, Ditka's comments were a great source of pride.

In fact, the Bears only had a couple of Polish players at the time.

Gary Fencik was a Pro Bowl defensive back who was part of Chicago's dominating defense. Mike Tomczak, who hailed from nearby Calumet City, was the backup quarterback. Fencik, a Yale grad, is now Head of Business Development at Adams Street Partners in Chicago. Tomczak lives in Pittsburgh and is a director at SMG Sports Management.

Those 1985 Bears finished the regular season with a 15-1 record, averaging 28.5 points a game on offense and allowing just 12.3 on defense. Even more impressive was the Bears' performance in the post-season; they beat the Rams and the Giants in the playoffs by a combined

score of 45-0 and then crushed the Patriots in Super Bowl XX, played at the Louisiana Superdome, 46-10. Besides their dominance, the colorful personalities on the Bears also helped make the team a national sensation. (One example: before they won the Super Bowl, some Bears players appeared in a music video that showed them dancing to lyrics that included "We don't mean to cause no trouble, we're just doin' the Super Bowl Shuffle.")

After the Super Bowl victory the Bears continued to have success, but the rise of the Giants, Redskins, 49ers and Cowboys as NFC powers helped keep Chicago from a return trip to the NFL championship. Bears management fired Ditka following the 1992 season, and later coached New Orleans for 3 years. He has mostly worked in broadcasting, where he has gained a reputation as one of the most entertaining analysts in TV sports with his volatile personality and strong opinions.

Even today the 1985 Chicago Bears team is considered one of the greatest in NFL history. More than that, it had a unique combination of special talent, unconventional personality, and brazen outspokenness that was unlike any sports team before. In many ways, the Chicago Bears—or the Chicago Grabowskis—changed the role of sports teams in this country, and accelerated the rise of pro football to America's new favorite pastime.

EXPLORING POLONIA'S PAST / James Pula

Frankie "Pee Wee" King and the Golden West Cowboys

Nothing is as quintessentially American as country western music. Derived from a mixture of cultures on the frontier, especially in the South, typical elements of early country music included the fiddle, banjo, and other stringed instruments, occasionally supplemented with "bones" or washboards. Often derided as a hillbilly genre, by the early 1920s it was beginning to spread, propelled by popular "barn dance" programs broadcast on the new medium of radio, and the hit Grand Ole Opry program originating from Nashville, Tennessee beginning in 1925.

Country music was just mov-

ing out of its rural origins to become popular nationwide when a young Gene Autry hired Frankie King's band to play backup music for his cowboy act on a Louisville, Kentucky, radio program. When Autry went off to become a movie star in Hollywood in 1936, King stayed behind in Louisville to form a new band, the Golden West Cowboys. Instant popularity followed, and with it an invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry, the pinnacle of achievement in country western music at the time. King was the first northerner to perform at the Opry. His band shocked the country western establishment by introducing

drums, accordions, horns, and electric guitars to the traditional instrumentation, as well as flashy rhinestone and sequined outfits. Playing a unique country sound influenced both by the upbeat meter of popular polkas and the slower rhythms of waltzes, King soon appeared in Western movies and for ten years beginning in 1947 hosted a nationally broadcast television show. In many respects, "Pee Wee" King became the popular face of country western music during the immediate post-World War II era.

A composer as well as a musician, King co-authored one of the most popular country compositions

of all time, the "Tennessee Waltz," which rose to #1 on the charts in 1951 and was adopted as the Tennessee state song. King and his Golden West Cowboys were justly recognized as the best act in country music during the 1950s and are often credited with paving the way for the acceptance of such "crossover" artists as Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley. King was elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970 and to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1974, where he was a director until his death in 2000.

What is not generally known is that the real name of the master

of that uniquely American country western hillbilly music was Julius Kuczynski. A Polish American from Milwaukee whose father led a polka band, "Pee Wee" King played in polka groups as a youth, experience he later infused into his unique brand of country western music both through the inclusion of new instruments and the blending of polka rhythms with the traditional country melodies. "Pee Wee" King, one of the early icons of country western music, was a Polish American who used his own musical heritage to influence the development of what is usually thought of as a strictly "American" art form.

OBITUARIES

Frank Padzieski, Philanthropist, Orchard Lake Benefactor

Frank Padzieski, a noted philanthropist whose generosity helped programs across Detroit, died Jan. 3, 2012. He was 103.

"He never turned anyone down," said Dearborn City Councilwoman Nancy Hubbard, who knew him for decades. "He donated so much."

Born Oct. 4, 1908, to Polish immigrants in Erie, Pa., he grew up on Detroit's west side, where his father owned a grocery store at Michigan and Central, according to Detroit News archives.

As a child, he lost his leg in an accident, relatives said.

After graduating from St. Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake, Padzieski studied business the University of Detroit.

He spent a stint working with the state tax division before joining the insurance industry, relatives said.

"I was a general agent in the insurance business, Dearborn Underwriters it was called," he told *The Detroit News* in 1997. "Later on, I

was one of the organizers of Dearborn Bank and Trust in 1950. And we sold out to Comerica."

He also became president of Macon Enterprises in Dearborn; chaired the Michigan Employment Security Commission; and was active with many groups and boards, including the Dearborn Rotary Club, relatives said.

Padzieski served on the Wayne County Canvassing Board and in the 1950s ran for state treasurer.

After selling Dearborn Underwriters, he focused on philanthropy.

In the 1990s, his donations helped establish an interfaith chapel at the Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center in Dearborn, named after his wife, Mary.

He recently was the honorary chairman of a campaign to renovate and expand the sanctuary.

"He was a great friend and a wonderful benefactor," said Carla O'Malley, executive director of the Oakwood Foundation. "He will

leave a lasting legacy of faith and healing that will bring peace and comfort for generations to come."

Padzieski also donated \$1 million to Orchard Lake Schools for renovations and gave \$1 million to the University of Michigan-Dearborn to start a Polish studies program, according to *Detroit News* archives.

The Padzieski Art Gallery at Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center is named in honor of his donation.

He and his wife also contributed to the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra.

Padzieski was driven to give because "he was very much in love with the community," said his daughter, Joanna Cortright.

Until her death in 2004, his wife also was committed to charity, Cortright said. "They really were a matched pair."

— *The Detroit News*

Edward S. Wiater, Journalist, Former Mayor

Edward S. Wiater, 85, of Williamsville, N.Y. was life-long journalist, former mayor of North Tonawanda, standout athlete, and World War II combat veteran.

Born in Dunkirk, N.Y. on April 4, 1926, Wiater's family moved to North Tonawanda.

Wiater was drafted into the Army and served in the European Theater as the .50 caliber machine gunner in a Jeep on reconnaissance missions. He sustained injuries in a German ambush, and later rejoined his unit in Germany which was at Bad Reichenhall when war in Europe ceased. He received an honorable discharge with two battle stars in the European Theater of Operations. When hostilities broke out in Korea, Wiater was enrolled at Syracuse University, but enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserves and was stationed in Niagara Falls until his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1954.

The Cleveland Indians major league baseball team offered Wiater a contract to play for its Class AA team in Ohio after witnessing him play baseball for Syracuse, but turned them down to continue his studies. After college, Wiater worked in public relations at the Rome Air Development Center and General Electric. He began his journalistic career at the *Tonawanda News*, where he worked for three years, then wrote for a year at the

Niagara Falls Gazette before starting a 25-year career as a reporter and editor at the *Buffalo Courier-Express*. After the *Courier* folded, Wiater landed the position of news editor at the *Daily News* of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas.

As a two-term mayor of North Tonawanda from 1971 to 1975, he led the city to unprecedented cultural growth and significant economic improvements.

Upon retirement, Wiater traveled through Brazil's Amazon and into Peru, Argentina and Paraguay.

He then toured Poland and enlisted for a summer session at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow to study the development of democracy in Poland after the Solidarity union movement overthrew four decades of Russian communism. Wiater volunteered through Pomost International, and for 17 summers he taught conversational English and led student discussions on current events in Rzeszow, Buffalo's Sister City in Poland.

Wiater also stayed current on issues important to Polish Americans. Having had an aunt murdered at the Majdanek death camp for hiding a Jewish neighbor's children, and an uncle murdered by a Nazi firing squad, Wiater was outspoken and relentless in his criticism of inaccurate descriptions of concentration camps imposed on Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II and de-

termined to keep alive the memory of the courage that Poles demonstrated throughout the war.

Wiater was a member of the Chopin Singing Society, the Buffalo Polish Arts Club, Pomost International, Our Lady of Czestochowa Holy Name Society, the former OLC Men's Choir, Stephen Sikora American Legion, the Polish Veterans units in Buffalo, the Sierra Club and Amnesty International.

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



GALLOWS OF JUSTICE. For Rudolf Hoess, former Commandant of the infamous Nazi-German Auschwitz Concentration Camp, executed by Poland there on April 16, 1947. Oswiecim, Poland. May 22, 1976.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Move Your Feet, Lose Your Seat

Every Polish last name means something and came into being for a specific reason. It may have topographic roots. Or it may be based on an occupation, nickname, how someone looks, or their disposition. Examples include:

Potsiadlo: Variant of Podsiadło from the verb "podsiaść" (to take someone else's seat at a banquet, wedding, etc.)

Rożek: Diminutive of "róg" (horn); probably originated to indicate an inhabitant of Rożki (Hornville).

Winkowski: Habitational name for someone from Winek in Piotrówk voivodeship; most likely arose as a patronymic tag to identify "Wink's kid."

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation

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

If a coat of arms is found, you will receive a color illustration thereof. Also included free of charge is a genealogical contact chart (root-tracing websites, data bases, organizations and firms) which has helped many Polish Americans get started in their ancestral exploration. The list includes professional genealogists qualified to track down family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up living long-lost relatives in Poland.

For more details, please contact: research60@gmail.com.

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REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

Saint Barbara Roman Catholic Church

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It is commonly known that the City of Buffalo, New York had a large Polish population that took root on the city's East Side. Between 1870 and 1900, the Poles erected seven Roman Catholic Churches of their own there. But around 1900 a new steel mill and a large rail yard attracted many Poles who sought work to an area south of the city in West Seneca, an area then known as Limestone Hill.

Once the Poles began building their homes in Limestone Hill — and being people of deep religious convictions — they quickly realized the need for a parish of their own. At the time there was only one Roman Catholic Church within walking distance, and that was St. Patrick's (present day Our Lady of Victory), which at the time was predominantly Irish. The Poles could have attended services there but the disadvantage was that they could not understand the sermons, which were presented in English. The nearest Polish church in Buffalo at the time was an hour and a half away by trolley, in the winter it was even longer.

By 1903 the Polish community in West Seneca consisted of about 250 families. They organized and sent a delegation to Bishop Charles Colton of the Diocese of Buffalo with a petition to organize a Polish parish in their locality. The bishop sent Father Jacek Fudzinski to work with the families. Within a short time Father Adam Marcinkiewicz was sent to say the first Holy Mass in the presence of the families which was soon to be known as the Parish of St. Barbara's. The first Mass was said in the home of Adam Korejsza.

On Monday, April 25, 1904 a certificate of incorporation of St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church of West Seneca was filed in the county clerk's office. The incorporator's were Bishop Charles Colton; Rev. Nelson H. Baker; Rev. Peter Szulca, the rector of the church; Jakob Kij and Andrew Majcherek. Father Szulca, it should be noted, was instrumental in the founding of St. Hyacinth's Church in Dunkirk, N.Y. the year before.

Property was purchased on Caldwell Avenue for construction of the multi-purpose church building, which housed the church on the first floor, school classrooms on the second floor and auditorium on the third floor. The basement was used well into the 1960s as the church

hall. Two small additional buildings were built adjacent to the property to house addition classrooms.

In 1909 the City of Lackawanna was established, and St. Barbara's soon afterwards became the Mother Church of Poles in the city, as two additional parishes were established to meet the needs of a bursting Polish population in the city. It was under Father Franciszek Radziszewski that in 1930 the foundation was laid for a new 900-seat capacity church. The architect chose a Romanesque style for the building, and combined it with a single tall tower to reflect the history of the patron saint of the parish.

The parish, as with the surrounding community, reached its zenith in the 1950s. But with the demise of local industry and the lure of work elsewhere in the 1970s and 1980s, the population of the parish and surrounding community declined significantly with devastating consequences for the parish.

In 2003 St. Barbara's celebrated its 100th anniversary. Three years later in 2006, the diocese merged the parish with three others, and St.



Like the tower that held Saint Barbara, the church's tower had three windows near the top, representing the Trinity. Here, a wrecker's ball takes its first swings into the steeple in March 2011.

Barbara's was closed. In 2010 the diocese determined that the building was unsafe, and in 2011 it was torn down, as are many of the homes and businesses of the families this magnificent structure once served.

— James Kaminski

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.

HISTORY IN ART / Staś Kmieć

The Artwork of Arthur Szyk

COLONIAL AMERICA — THE POLISH CONNECTION

A group of Polish Settlers summoned by The Virginia Company of England in 1608 because of their valuable expertise in the lumber and other manufacturing industries can be found amongst the founders of the first Virginia pioneer's settlement of Jamestown.

Among the first Poles who arrived in America were: Michał Łowicki, an organizer of industry and business and the leader of the original five; Jan Bogdan, an expert in pitch, tar, and ship building; Jan Mata, a prominent soap producer; Stanisław Sadowski a lumber and clapboard production organizer; and Zbigniew Stefański, a specialist in glass production.

The colonists viewed the Poles as hard-working and respectful. The Poles first impressions of Jamestown were not as positive. "Seldom has one seen such lack of resourcefulness as we found in Virginia. Not even a spoonful of drinking water ... the people here marveled when we dug a well and presented it to them," remarked Stefański. The water well provided a source of fresh drinking water, stopping the spread of dysentery and death due to drinking swamp water. Later Stefański and Bogdan saved Captain John Smith when he was attacked by Indians.

The Poles also set up sawmills and built a glass furnace — making it the first factory in America and the beginning of an industry. The glass items produced in these factories became the first exported goods to England.

The work done by the original group allowed them to repay The Virginia Company for their passage to America, and become free citizens of the colony. Within a few years, there were fifty Poles living in Jamestown.

On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished the achievement of staging the first labor strike in America. After being denied participation in the first Virginia assembly, the Polish settlers conducted a labor walkout, not for wages or better working conditions, but for democratic rights. The newly formed House of Burgesses quickly acknowledged the vital



role of the Poles in the settlement's well-being and granted them the same voting privileges and equal rights as the English settlers by a document issued on the 31st of July 1619. This honor was not bestowed upon the colonists of any other nation.

The Polish contribution to Jamestown and the fabric of early America makes it a cornerstone of the American experience. The saving of Jamestown after its first disastrous year was due in large part to the efforts of those original Poles.

Jamestown Poles was originally painted for exhibition in the Polish Pavilion of the 1939 World's Fair by the Polish-Jewish-American artist Artur Szyk from his Polish-American Fraternity Series (Poles in America) which celebrated more than two centuries of Polish-American cooperation. It was published as a postcard set for popular distribution.

BRUSH UP / by Andy Gołębiowski

The "h" is silent in this pronunciation guide; "i" is pronounced like the "i" in "hit," "zh" denotes a sound similar to the French "j" as in "soup d'jour." The symbol kreska above the "n," or if followed by an "i" as in "śnieżny" creates a softening effect and is pronounced like the "n" in the word "onion."

Sleigh ride kulig (KOO-leeg)
sleigh sanie (SA-nyeh)

snow śnieg (shnyeg)
snowy śnieżny (sh-NYEZH-ni)
snowball śnieżka (sh-NYEZH-kah)
horse koń (kon)
pine tree sosna (SOS-nah)
spruce świerk (schvyerk)
bonfire ognisko (ohg-NYEES-koh)

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

The Fascinating Automobile Industry

Poland has been involved in the automobile industry for the last one hundred years.

In the late 1920s, CWS sported an elegant open touring car. The well-to-do were anxious to have such an affluent car in their possession. However, poor politics caused the car's demise.

Another status symbol was a car produced from 1924 to 1928. Count Stefan Tyszwiezw's factory produced hundreds of a very sophisticated vehicle. These vehicles could encounter axle-deep mud on country roads. This feature greatly added to its worth. However, a mysterious fire broke out in the factory in 1928 and the Count died, ending the production of the car.

Since a mermaid is the symbol of Poland, it was an obvious reason to name a Polish car, "Syrena." This Polish car's design had two doors and was a four passenger economy car. The Syrena was

powered by a twenty-seven horsepower cycle engine.

Have you heard of a Baby Fiat? Baby Fiats were produced between 1973 and 2000. It was miniscule in size, had four seats, and a two cylinder, twenty-four rear-mounted engine. This car was nicknamed "Matuch." This means "tyke" or "toddler."

Since the Soviets controlled Poland after World War II, they produced the Warszawa. Poles were forced to buy a license for this car so that this antiquated car could be built. It was a heavy, gas-guzzling piece of machinery. It was used mainly for police cars, taxis, ambulances, and for government officials.

So goes some of the story of Polish automobiles. They did serve a most worthwhile purpose.

In both city and country, Poles could more readily enjoy the vast expanses of their beloved country.

TRIVIA TIME

by Ellye Slusarczyk

1. *Zupa wiosenna* uses: a. beet greens b. dandelion greens c. baby vegetables
2. *Wielkopolska* means: a. Poland Forever b. Poland's Gifts c. Greater Poland
3. Chet Jastremski was: a. an Olympic swimmer b. a wrestling legend c. a major league pitcher
4. Stan Wisniach was a well-known orchestra leader and accordion virtuoso in: a. Chicago b. Buffalo c. Detroit
5. The Flower Market in Wrocław is open: a. weekends only b. once a month c. twenty-four hours a day
6. The mountainside of Crazy Horse reaches: a. 563 feet b. 555 feet c. 1003 feet
7. Kelly Kulick is a professional: a. golfer b. bowler c. gymnast
8. Necessary funds for the Kosciuszko Monument at West Point were raised by: a. West Point cadets b. Polish clergy and laity of the United States c. Parochial School Polish children
9. Spirits distilled from rye, potatoes, and molasses obtained from raw sugar makes: a. scotch b. vodka c. mead
10. A proposal to host Expo 2012 was made by the city of: a. Wrocław b. Krakow c. Warsaw

ANSWERS. 1c. baby vegetables; 2c. Greater Poland; 3a. Olympic swimmer; 4c. Detroit; 5c. twenty-four hours a day; 6a. 563 feet; 7b. bowler; 8b. Polish clergy and laity of the United States; 9b. vodka; 10a. Wrocław.

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM)** invites you to a formal carnival ball with fine food, entertainment and dancing at the Historic St. Paul Hotel (Valet parking available), 350 Market Street, St. Paul, Feb. 18, 2012.

\$60 per person or reserve a table of eight for \$440. Program: 6:00 Social and Silent Auction, 7:00 p.m. Welcome, 7:15 Dinner, 8:00 Presentation of Award to Dolores Strand, Columbia Heights Sister Cities, 8:30 Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, 8:50 Ball opens with polonez, 9:00-1:00 Dancing to Nicholas Mrozinski and "The Feelin."

For more information, call PACIM at (612) 378-9291. Register by requesting an invitation or online at

MINNAPOLIS — Feb. 21, 2012. **Sauerkraut Supper.** Holy Cross' yearly Sauerkraut Supper (upstairs) with polka music and crowning of the Sauerkraut King and Queen (downstairs). They serve nearly 1,000 people but the lines go pretty fast. Begins at 4:00 p.m. The Church of the Holy Cross is at 1621 University Ave. NE. (612) 789-7238.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SHARON — **Eryk Jadaszewski** of Polish Hussar Supply Plus, will teach a class that may of interest to Polish Medieval and Renaissance re-enactors. "An Intro to Metal Armor" will be taught at the Sharon Arts Center, Saturday and Sunday, February 11-12, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Students will learn a brief history of armor-making as well as historic and modern armor reproductions. We will discuss how to research the project of your choice for historical accuracy and learn the facets of Medieval and Renaissance armor and its unique vocabulary. Special emphasis will be placed on studio and material safety, and tool use. We will discuss types of metals, measurements, and how to cre-

ate and use templates. Students will learn about basic techniques (annealing, hammering and forming), and about how to polish and care for their work. Students will be able to complete one or two small pieces of armor during the two days of class.

"Typically the class is a 6- or 8-week course in the evenings, but this would be a condensed workshop over 2 day for a total of 12 hours," said Jadaszewski.

Additional materials fee: \$20. For information call Alexandra Wall at (603) 924-7256, ext. 3, or visit www.sharonarts.org.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation announces its annual **Marcella Sembrich Memorial Voice Scholarship Competition.** The Competition honors the great Polish soprano Marcella Kochanska Sembrich who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in its brand-new building in 1883. After an enormously successful career, the popular singer founded the vocal programs at both the Juilliard School and Curtis Institute. Previous winners of the competition include Barbara Hendricks and Jan Opalach.

Cash prizes are \$3000, \$1500, and \$1000.

Preliminaries are Fri., March 9, 2012, and finals are Sat., March 10, 2012.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is also holding its annual **Chopin Piano Competition**, established in 1949 in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Frederic Chopin. The inauguration took place at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in New York City with Witold Malcuzyński as guest artist and Abram Chasins, composer and music director of the New York Times Radio Stations, presiding. Over the years, many outstanding musicians have been associated with the competition including Van Cliburn, Ian Hobson, and Murray Perahia. Today the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition continues to encourage

gifted young pianists to further their studies, and to perform the works of Polish composers.

Cash prizes are \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,500.

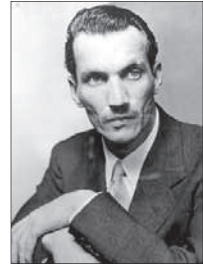
Preliminaries are Fri., April 13, 2012, and finals are Sat., April 14, 2012.

For more information on either event, write or call: The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc., 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10065; (212) 734-2130; www.thekf.org.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

A new Facebook group has been initiated, the **Jan Karski Campaign Supporters.**

During World War II, Karski (inset) was dispatched by the Polish Underground to inform the West about the situation in Poland, including the atrocities being committed by the German Nazis and to seek their intervention.



Karski's courageous mission and testimony set the record straight about what was known about the Holocaust and bloodbath in Nazi German-occupied Poland when there was still time to act, and qualifies him as a great educator as well as a voice of conscience.

The purpose of the Jan Karski U.S. Centennial Campaign is to shine the spotlight on this great man and to propagate the Karski legacy with international educational activities, public events and artistic performances, leading up to the centennial year of his birth in 2014. The culmination of this campaign will be having the Congressional Gold Medal – America's highest civilian honor – awarded posthumously to Professor Karski.

To join the group, search for "Jan Karski Supporters" on Facebook. For more information about the Campaign, visit www.jankarski.net



Koproskis Donate Curie Bust



NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — Al and Patricia Koproski donated a bust of Marie Skłodowska Curie to Central Connecticut State University Polish Studies Program. The bust of white marble was sculpted in Poland by artist Jan Stepkowski, who has done many major projects in his native country.

Marie Skłodowska Curie first came to the United States in May of 1921 after she had already discovered the elements radium and polonium. She coined the term "radioactive," and was the first person to win the Nobel Prize two times.

While in America she was treated royally by the American elites. Her six-week U.S. tour ended with a reception at the White House, where President Warren Harding praised her, saying she represented the best in womanhood. She went on to be the first woman to teach at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Pictured above are Ewa Wolynska, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist at Central Connecticut State University, and Patricia Koproski.

Ambassador/LTG, USA (retired) Edward L. Rowny, president of the **Paderewski Scholarship Fund**, presents classical pianist and Paderewski devotee John Robilette in a piano concert to benefit the Fund. It will be held Sat., Feb. 11, 2012, 7:30 p.m. at the Embassy of Italy Auditorium, 3000 Whitehaven Street NW.

Prior to the concert, Ambassador Rowny will discuss Paderewski's contribution to freedom and culture, and his life as a composer, pianist, and eminent statesman. By virtue of

drafting the Thirteenth Point of the Versailles Treaty, Paderewski became the first President of modern Poland.

A light supper and wine are included in the ticket price.

For more information about John Robilette, please go to www.robilette.com.

To learn about the Paderewski Scholarship Fund and Ambassador Rowny, see www.paderewskirowny.com, or contact Ambassador Rowny at erowny@aol.com. or (202) 541-0345.

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We cordially invite our readers to participate in the time-honored tradition of sending Happy Easter wishes to fellow Polish Americans with a holiday greeting ad. All messages will be printed in the Easter 2012 Edition of the Polish American Journal. Your support, in the form of a holiday greeting, helps us continue our mission to serve American Polonia. Furthermore, it is a demonstration of the solidarity that exists between Polish Americans from all corners of our country.

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