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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

**THE CHANGING FACE OF PANNA MARIA • VIKINGS TOUCHED POLAND AND NORTH AMERICA • UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT
A "STO LAT" REALITY • GIVING YOUR SUPER BOWL PARTY A POLISH TWIST • "PHENOMENON OF SOLIDARITY" EXHIBIT
THE POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND • THE ARTWORK OF ARTHUR SZYK • THANK GOD IT'S PIĄTEK!**

NEWSMARK

TALIBAN ATTACK KILLS FIVE POLES. A roadside bomb killed five Polish soldiers in a NATO convoy in Afghanistan, Dec. 21, 2011, Poland's heaviest single loss of life since the mission began.

The soldiers were a few miles from their base in Ghazni province when the bomb exploded. Three died at the scene. Another two were said to have died of their wounds at a military hospital.

The soldiers were part of a convoy of around 30 vehicles which was heading to the opening of a mausoleum, described by Polish media as one of the projects the reconstruction team had funded.

Poland has 2,500 troops in Afghanistan who are responsible for handling security in Ghazni.

The Taliban said it carried out the attack.

In the nine years that Polish forces have taken part in the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, 36 have been killed.

Polish troops are scheduled to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

MAJORITY OF POLES AGAINST ADOPTING THE EURO. Three out of four Polish citizens are against the adoption of the European currency. Forty percent of those polled said they were "definitely against," thirty-four percent said they were "rather against," while twenty-two percent stated that they supported entering the Eurozone.

The poll was taken as central banks in the United States, Canada, Europe, the UK and Switzerland agreed to work together to ensure that rising interest rates on Italian bonds don't cause the collapse of Eurozone banks.

WIERZBOWSKA FIRST FEMALE BOARD CHAIR. The Polish & Slavic FCU, the nation's largest ethnic credit union, has elected Marzena Wierzbowska (inset) as its first female board chair, the credit union announced. It also elected four new directors: Malgorzata Gradzki, Beata Klar-Jakubowski, Leon Kokoszka, and Marzena Wojczulanis.



Wierzbowska, who is in the middle of her second term on the board, completed journalism and political science studies in Poland

and studied psychology at New York University. She has served as the director of the Legal and Social Services program at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, N.J., and was director of the Community Action Program and manager/coordinator of the municipal ESL teaching program organized by the city of New York.

DESPITE HATRED, BOOK'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel *Maus*, Pantheon Books has released *MetaMaus*, a book-length interview with Spiegelman conducted by University of Chicago professor Hillary Chute, who collaborated with him on the book. *MetaMaus* includes interviews with Spiegelman's children and wife, genealogical information about his family, transcripts of his original interview with his father Vladek Spiegelman, and more.

Maus recreated the horrors of the Holocaust — as experienced his parents — casting Jews as mice and Germans as cats. But the book depicts Poles as pigs in concert with the Nazis, i.e., unlike Jews slated for extermination by Hitler, Germany planned to use Poles as slaves and not part of the cat/mouse food chain, according to Spiegelman.

Ignoring the fact that Poles were to be killed for assisting Jews, and that the Polish resistance movement is credited with saving the lives of nearly a half-million Jews, the Pulitzer Prize was given to Spiegelman for his twisted interpretation of life in Nazi-occupied Poland, which is based largely on his father's contempt for the Poles.

Calls for Poland's Inclusion in Visa Waiver Program



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE QUIGLEY testifies before Congress in favor of expanding the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to include Poland and other U.S. allies.

WASHINGTON —U.S. Representative Mike Quigley of Illinois, whose 5th Congressional District is home to more than 100,000 citizens of Polish ancestry, testified before the House Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement in favor of expanding the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to include Poland and other U.S. allies.

"This is an issue of fairness and equity for a longstanding friend and partner, Poland," said Quigley. "Expansion of the Visa Waiver Program will improve our international diplomatic relationships, cre-

ate jobs, stimulate the economy and strengthen national security. It's time to expand outdated travel standards to include our proven allies."

Expansion of the VWP would bring increased revenue to the travel industry at a time when America's economy needs it most. In 2008, the countries in the VWP generated more than 16 million visits to the U.S., accounting for 65 percent of all overseas arrivals that year. VWP travelers spent more than 51 billion dollars in the United States, which generated an estimated

See "Visa," page 4

The End of Roman Catholicism in Detroit?



ST. FLORIAN'S in Hamtramck is among four traditionally Polish parishes that may close or be merged under recommendations made to the archbishop.

DETROIT — The Archdiocese of Detroit presented unsettled proposals to cluster, close and merge some four dozen parishes in the next five years. The recommendations were made to Archbishop Allen Vigneron by a layperson's panel.

"The recommendations are not in themselves the final plans for the future of the Archdiocese of Detroit, although they are serious and well-researched proposals," the archdiocese said in a statement.

The suggestions mean that nearly one in five Catholic

churches in the archdiocese could be shuttered in the coming years. Unlike a previous round of church closings in Detroit in 1989, this time the anger and sadness will be felt in parishes throughout Detroit's older suburbs.

The plan is to reduce the number of parishes from 270 to 222 by closing nine of them and merging 60 others into 21.

Among parishes that are threatened, the Polish ones are:

- St. Florian parish, with steeples that define the skyline

See "Detroit," page 4

Better the Devil You Know?

Sikorski Asks Germany to Step up to the Plate

BERLIN — The Euro crisis has become so serious that Poland's foreign minister is calling for Germany to take the lead in forming a much tighter EU federation to save the Union from a "crisis of apocalyptic proportions."

"I will probably be the first Polish foreign minister in history to say so but here it is: I fear German power less than I am beginning to fear German inactivity," said Radek Sikorski.

His demand set off a firestorm of protest from Polish nationalists. He faces a no-confidence vote in parliament, and the main opposition leader, Jarosław Kaczyński, wants him brought before the state tribunal (a form of

See "Sikorski," page 4

Up Through the Ranks

An Interview with Rev. Canon Machalski

Rector, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary

by John Grondelski

The Rev. Canon Thomas C. Machalski became the new Rector of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan, on July 1, 2011. His official installation took place August 27, presided over by Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron.

Machalski, a Brooklyn diocesan priest, will also become Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools on January 1, 2012 (his official installation is now slated for February 19). He succeeds the Rev. Timothy Whalen.

The Orchard Lake Schools has been ministering to Roman Catholic Polish Americans since its foundation in Detroit in 1885. Fr. Joseph Dabrowski founded the institution to supply priests for Polonian parishes in the United States. The Schools, which today consist of a high school and a seminary, moved to the northwest Detroit suburb of Orchard Lake

around 1910.

Fr. Machalski spoke about Orchard Lake, Polonia, and Polish American Catholic parishes in this interview with The Polish American Journal.

Tell us something about yourself: your background, education, priestly life, and your connections to Poland and Polonia.



I am a fourth generation Polish American—my great-grandparents left Poland "za chlebem" and came to the United States. I am the oldest son of the late Thomas C., Sr. and Regina (Rutkowska) Machalski; I have a younger brother Michael. I was born and raised in Maspeth, New York where I attended Holy Cross parish and school. After eighth grade graduation, I attended St. Francis Prep in Brooklyn for one year before transferring to St. Mary's Prep in Orchard Lake, Michigan. I graduated from St. Mary's Prep in May 1976 and then entered St. Mary's College from which I graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy in May 1980.

continued on page 3

Paper Late!

The February 2012 edition of the PAJ will not be printed and mailed until February 3.

ALMANAC

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January • Styczeń

Nowy Rok pogodny, zbiór będzie dorodny. The New Year fair, harvest will be handsome.

- 1 Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku! Happy New Year! 1467. Birth of Zygmunt I Stary, Renaissance king of Poland.
- 1919. Birth of Polish American actress Carol Landis.

- 3 1795. Third Partition of Poland.
- 5 1173. Death of Bolesław IV the Curly

THREE KINGS



On this day, the initials K+M+B and the year are inscribed by one's priest above the home's main entry.

- 7 1882. Death of Ignacy Lukaszewicz, inventor of the kerosene lamp. (b. 1822).

- 8 1918. President Wilson announces his "Fourteen Points," the 13th calling for a free Poland.

- 9 1797. Jan Henryk Dabrowski organizes his legion in Italy, and thus honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.

- 11 1953. Death of opera singer Marcella Sembrich-Kochanowska (b. 1853).

- 15 1920. The United States approved a \$150 million loan to Poland, Austria and Armenia to aid in their war with the Russian communists.

- 17 1649. Coronation of John II Casimir Vasa

- 1945. The totally devastated city of Warsaw is cleared of German resistance by forces of the 1st Belorussian Front. A Polish unit fighting with the Red Army is involved in the final attacks.

- 18 1943. Jews in Warsaw Ghetto began an uprising against the Nazis.

- 1945. Krakow liberated almost without a shot and, compared to Warsaw, without too much damage to the town and people.

- 19 1967. Death of Casimir Funk in Albany, N.Y., Polish-born biochemist who discovered vitamins.

- 22 1863. The January Uprising in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth against the Russian Empire. It began this day in 1863, and lasted until the last insurgents were captured in 1865.

- 23 1793. Second Partition of Poland.

- 24 1507. Coronation of Sigismund I the Old

- 25 1913. Birth of pianist and composer Witold Lutoslawski.

- 26 Signing of the Treaty of Karlowitz concludes the Great Turkish War.

- 28 1573. Signing of the Warsaw Confederation, an important development in the history of Poland and Lithuania, is considered the formal beginning of religious freedom in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

- 30 1018. The Peace of Bautzen, a treaty signed by Emperor Henry II and Great Duke Bolesław I the Brave of Poland, ending 15 years of warfare between the two rulers.

This paper mailed on or before December 30. The February 2012 edition will be mailed on or before February 3, 2012.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Wesołego Nowego Roku!

Happy New Year to all our readers! We wish you happiness and health in 2012! We thank you for your support and encouragement through the years, and hope your fascination with our shared heritage never wanes. Your interest in things Polish continues to be the driving force behind the Polish American Journal.

We send Happy New Year wishes to newsclippers, advertisers, and the fraternal benefit societies who make the Polish American Journal their official publication. Your untiring dedication to this publication has given the paper an outstanding reputation, not only within American Polonia, but across globe.

MAYBE WASHINGTON CAN LEARN SOMETHING. Poland's economy continues to rise and was termed "sensational" by the head of the National Bank of Poland. In comparison to that of the Eurozone, economists agree with the assessment. Poland maintained its position as one of the fastest growing economies in the European Union in 2011. Poland's economic growth continues and remains one of the highest in all of Europe.

Domestic demand was the main factor driving the economy in the

second quarter of 2011, household consumer spending was on the rise and inventory rebuilding was ongoing.

"The condition of the Polish economy against the background of Europe is simply sensational," said Marek Belka, head of the National Bank of Poland (NBP). According to the Central Statistical Office,

Poland's economy rose 4.2 percent during the third quarter of 2011, a figure that beat analysts' predictions.

BATTLE AHEAD. After the ten-year battle ending in Texas State Supreme Court in 1996 resulted in a not guilty verdict for Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski, the Texas Medical Board is making another attempt to shut him down. On April 11, 2012, the board will try to revoke Burzynski's medical license, which will force him to close his clinic, abandon his patients, and exhaust any hope of the FDA giving a fair examination into Burzynski's research with anti-neoplastins, a discovery at the core of his cancer research. Burzynski's supporters ask you contact Gov. Rick Perry's office at (512) 463-2000 or www.governor.state.tx.us, and demand support for the Polish doctor's research.

Fund Established to Help Family of Slain NYPD Officer

NEW YORK — The New York City Police Foundation has established a scholarship fund to pay for the education of the four daughters of slain a NYPD officer.

Five men with lengthy rap sheets have been collared and charged with murder of the decorated officer **Peter Figoski**, 47.

All have been charged with murder and a slew of other counts, including robbery, assault and drug possession.

The suspects were all hunted down within 24 hours of the death of the 22-year NYPD veteran, who was fatally shot in the face at close range after responding to a robbery in Brooklyn, December 12, 2011.

"Some have significant criminal histories," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

The Queens-based crew had conspired to rob a man they believed to be a drug dealer, he said.

The accused triggerman, Lamont Pride, 27, was quickly nabbed after Figoski's partner, Officer Glenn Es-

trada, gave chase after his colleague was tragically gunned down. Pride's alleged accomplice, Kevin Santos, 30, escaped when Estrada chose to focus on the gunman, but was captured at his girlfriend's house in Ozone Park, Queens.

Figoski made more than 200 arrests — nearly half for felonies — and earned 12 medals, including eight for exceptional police duty.

Figoski's brother retired from the NYPD, and his brother-in-law is still active on the force. The veteran cop turned down retirement with a full pension two years ago so he could stay on the force.

Two of Figoski's daughters are in high school and two are in college.

Donations to the Police Foundation Peter Figoski Scholarship Fund can be made online at www.nycpolicefoundation.org. Check donations should be mailed to: New York City Police Foundation, Attention Peter Figoski Fund, 555 5th Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

A "Sto Lat" Reality



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY HELD AT POLISH EMBASSY. Walter Zachariasiewicz is shown above addressing his well-wishers after extinguishing the numerals 1-0-0 on his birthday cake, and being serenaded with a robust singing of "Sto lat." At center is Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, his wife Malgorzata and daughter Magdalena.

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. —It's a very old Polish tradition to sing "Sto Lat" — may you live 100 years — to someone at birthday parties, on name days, and at other special occasions. But due to the short life spans in the old days, almost no one ever achieved the unattainable century mark. Even today with all the vast modern medical and scientific improvements, it's still something of a rarity for a person to achieve centenarian status. But Walter Zachariasiewicz did just that recently on November 7, 2011.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki hosted a gala black tie birthday celebration for acclaimed Renaissance man, Nov. 19, 2011, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Approximately 130 guests were in attendance. The event, conducted in Polish, featured a slide show of photos depicting Zachariasiewicz's amazing life, narrated by maestro Jerzy Sapieyewski playing at Paderewski's piano. This was followed by a 1930s style cabaret show by a troupe of local Polish performers during which Zachariasiewicz was humorously scripted into the program.

Among the many gifts Zachariasiewicz received was a commemorative officer's sword from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which complimented his announced promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Polish Army. Many congratulatory letters were presented from the highest officials of the Polish government. Medals and awards too numerous to mention have already been bestowed upon Zachariasiewicz. Chief among them is Knight Commander in the Order of St. Gregory by Pope John Paul II in 1991, and Commander in the order of Polonia Restituta by Presi-

dent Lech Walesa in 1995, and most recently Poland's Bene Merito.

Born in 1911 in Krakow, partitioned-Poland, Zachariasiewicz's life involved suffering and sacrifice for the independence of Poland. He graduated from Krakow's acclaimed Jagiellonian University. During World War II he was arrested and deported to a gulag by the Russians. He was later released in 1942 and worked in the newly established Polish Embassy in Kujbyszew, Russia, and later served with Gen. Anders Polish Army that fought with the allies against Nazi-Germany.

Upon emigrating to American in 1948, Zachariasiewicz worked as a Group Director for the Democratic Party, as well as an Assistant Postmaster General. He became very active and a major leader in Polish American organizations, as well as an effective and recognized lobbyist for the Polonia and Poland agendas on the national level. And thankfully, he still maintains a presence today.

It was pleasingly obvious Zachariasiewicz is only closing out one century in order to start another when Ambassador Kupiecki said that since "Mr. Zachariasiewicz has already lived sto lat — perhaps we should wish him another 100 years," to which Zachariasiewicz replied "Why not?"

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

Ronald Syslo, President

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An Interview with Rev. Canon Machalaski

continued from cover

In the fall of 1980 I entered the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, New York; in the Spring of 1985 I was awarded a Master's of Divinity degree from the seminary. On May 18, 1985, I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn. After ordination, I served as Parochial Vicar of the parish of Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Brooklyn (1985-1991); then as temporary administrator of the Parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa / St. Casimir, Brooklyn (1991-1993). While serving at Our Lady of Czestochowa / St. Casimir, I also attended Fordham University to study Educational Administration (I received a M.S. Ed. in 1996 from Fordham University.) In 1993 I was transferred to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament where I served as Parochial Vicar from 1993-1997.

In 1997 I was informed by the Bishop that I was being sent to study canon law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. In 1999, I completed my studies and was awarded a J.C.L. degree and appointed as Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Brooklyn and assigned to be in residence at St. Josaphat's Parish, Bayside. In September 2007 I became Pastor of St. Josaphat's while remaining as Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Diocese. From 1999-2011, I also served as Priest-Secretary/Master of Ceremonies of the Most Rev. Rene A. Valero, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn. I also served as the Bishop's liaison to Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, and Vocation Director for Polish speaking vocations and on various diocesan committees and commissions.

I participated in the summer program of Polish language, history and culture at the Catholic University of Lublin in the summer of 1984 and also participated in their year long program for foreign students from 1987-1988.

I am involved with and a member of many Polish American organizations.

In 2005, I was named a Honorary Canon of the Chapter of Canons of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, Lublin, Poland.

On September 22, 2011 President Bronislaw Komorowski personally bestowed on me the Krzyz Oficerski Orderu Zaslugi RP at the Polish Consulate in New York for my service to Polonia and Poland.

You are becoming Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools Rector of the "Polish Seminary" in Orchard Lake. What was your reaction when you were asked to take on this responsibility?

My first reaction when Bishop Frank Reiss called me was to say "no thank you" and in fact I did say that I did not think it was for me. The Bishop made a few more calls to me and we discussed the needs of Orchard Lake. I also discussed the whole scenario with Bishop DiMarzio, my bishop, who was supportive of whatever decision I would eventually make. I was torn in two directions—going to Orchard Lake which I loved or leaving my Diocese, family, parish which I loved. (I also admit that another big reason was having to give up being the chaplain of the NY Mets). On Holy Thursday, I was kneeling be-

fore the Blessed Sacrament after the evening celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper and I asked Our Lord for direction. At that moment, I heard the Lord say in my heart "I know you do not want to go but that is the place I want you to be" and at that moment I realized that I could not run away from God and so I surrendered to His will for me.

You've been associated with Orchard Lake since your teen years. How has it changed, and what do you see as the major challenges facing you as Chancellor over the next five years?

Well there are obvious changes: The Preparatory is a day and boarding school unlike in my day when it was only a boarding school, the college is no longer operating, the Felician Sisters are gone, there are fewer priests on the faculty to name a few. A major challenge is to keep the Orchard Lake Schools financially solvent. Our alumni base needs to be more active in raising funds for and donating funds to our schools. We need to keep advertising this "gem of Polonia" to Polonia because, believe it or not, there are many people out there even in Polonia who have no idea that Orchard Lake exists! We also need to pay off some major loans that were taken out for building projects that were necessary.

As rector of the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, what are the major challenges you see ahead of you in that job? How is the "Polish Seminary" doing these days?

A major challenge for any rector is to create an atmosphere where the seminarians can develop spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, pastorally. At Ss. Cyril & Methodius we also must take into account the fact that the men we have studying here need to go through a period of enculturation since they come from a different country and culture and speak a different language. Some of the enculturation issues are dealt with at our Seminary in Kraków that the men must "pass through" before coming to Orchard Lake. In Kraków they complete missing philosophy credits, study English, get an introduction into the structure of seminary life, have their required psychological testing completed. Once the men arrive at Orchard Lake the Seminary is more than just an academic institution it is their home since they have left everything behind to come to the United States and so, I must also be certain that they feel that this is their home. I must, along with the other priest faculty that live in the Seminary, create that home atmosphere.

The Seminary is doing well and the men that we have seem to be happy to be here.

Although founded as an institution to provide priests to Polonia, some complain that Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary has today become a Polish (rather than Polish) institution, importing Polish seminarians to the United States, who do not necessarily end up in Polish parishes or neighborhoods. How do you respond to this criticism, and do you see a way that the Polish clerical presence at Orchard Lake can be enhanced?

The majority of those being ordained each year in many dioceses throughout the United States are not

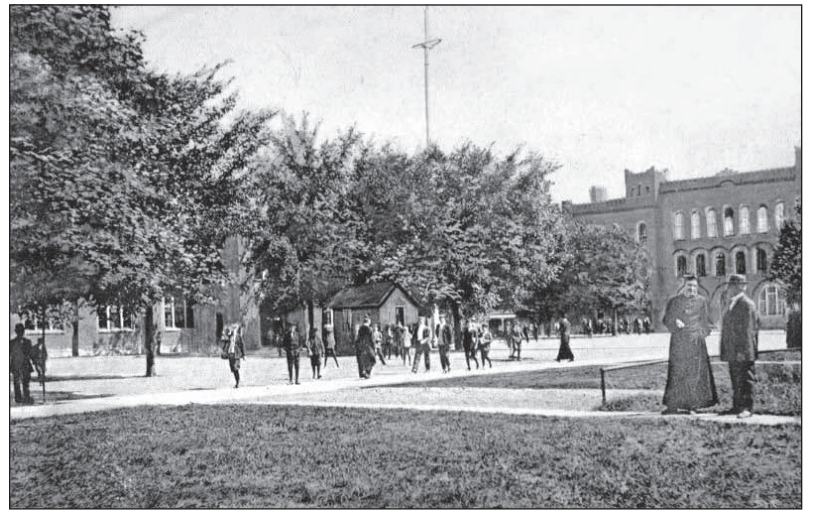
native born Americans. That is the reality of the Church in the United States in our times. Polonia is not producing vocations but yet the spiritual needs of Polonia must be met so these men from Poland who come to Orchard Lake fill that void. They are, in a very real sense, missionaries when they decide to leave everything and go off to a foreign land to serve God, the Church and God's people. While it is true that some of those ordained from our seminary are not always assigned to Polish parishes that is nothing new. Even years ago many graduates of Orchard Lake were assigned to non Polish parishes. When a man presents himself for Ordination to the Priesthood he does so with the intention of serving the people of a local church (diocese). We need to remember that a man is ordained to be a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, Buffalo, Detroit, etc. and not just a priest for the Polish, Italian, Spanish, etc. parishes of his diocese.

As to how the Polonian presence can be enhanced I say to Polonia's families: When was the last time you spoke about the priesthood or religious life with your children? Grandchildren? Do you present this vocation as worthwhile and viable? If your child or grandchild mentions this as something they are thinking about do you support them? Discourage them? Do you pray asking God to call one of your children/grandchildren to the priesthood or religious life? I also say to my brother priests in Polonia: Do we set a good example for young people by the way we live our priesthood? Are we happy with our lives and our priesthood? Have we asked a young man if he has thought about the priesthood?

With the demise of your alma mater, St. Mary's College, and the closure of the Polish National Alliance's Alliance College, there is now no institution of higher education in America that serves — at least as part of its mission — the Polonian community. How do you see the intellectual situation of Polonia and Orchard Lake's role in its intellectual leadership?

The demise of both those institutions was a sad day for Polonia. In many ways, it was our fault as Polonia, because we did not support those institutions the way that we should have supported them—financially, sending our children to study at these institutions, much weaker support from alumni than other institutions, etc. Recently, Orchard Lake received a bequest to establish the Polish Mission. The Polish Mission is entrusted with preserving Polish culture through lectures, exhibits, art competitions and shows, concerts, etc. The Polish mission also is entrusted with ensuring that the Archives of Polonia are properly stored and preserved. They are also responsible for the various museums on campus. Scholars and experts from various institutions in Poland have visited our campus to help us better preserve our archival material and works of art that we possess. The Polish Mission is Orchard Lake's contribution to the intellectual situation of Polonia today.

Thirty years ago there were over 700 Polonian parishes in the United States. Today, there are perhaps 300 — less than half the number that



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS SEMINARY, pictured above in an 1908 postcard, was founded in 1885 in Detroit, Michigan, to prepare candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood primarily to serve Polish American immigrant communities. Approval for founding such a seminary was granted on January 14, 1879, by Pope Leo XIII upon the petition of Father Leopold Moczygemba, O.F.M. Conv., founder of the Polish settlement in Panna Maria, Texas, in 1854.

existed three decades ago — and diocesan consolidation and clustering schemes suggest that number will still decline. What do you see as the future of the Polonian parish system? How does one preserve a Polish religious context — for newly arrived immigrants as well as established Polonians of the third or fourth generation, who still prefer that to a "mainstream" territorial parish?

The future of the Polonian parish system in many ways depends on Polonia. As Polonia assimilated and the second and third generations moved out of Polish neighborhoods and took part in the "flight to the suburbs" the pews of Polish parishes became empty. Many of the newer immigrants from Poland speak English upon their arrival in the United States so for them to go to an "English parish" is not a problem unlike for example my great-grandparents when they arrived in the United States. I spent the vast majority of my priesthood in Polish parishes and I must tell you that many of the Polish customs with a "religious context" if you will, i.e., the ciemnica on Holy Thursday, the "grób" on Good Friday are more important for Polonia than for the newer immigrants. The difference in outlook has certainly affected Polish parishes and their existence.

Many members of Polonia feel that as long as they have the finances to keep a parish open that is all that matters. A parish is more than just being able to pay your bills and not be on subsidy from the diocese. A parish must be alive first and foremost with the celebration of the Mass and Sacraments but also with people, ministries, community activities, on a regular basis; being present for Pasterka or Rezurekcja is not enough! A parish must also see itself not as a single entity but as part of the Diocese and should partake in diocesan celebrations and initiatives. On the other hand, I have seen large parishes that provide many services for Polonia and newly arrived immigrants but the financial contributions of the parishioners are not enough to help the pastor pay the bills. Like I said at the beginning of the response the future of the Polonian parish system depends in many ways on Polonia itself.

With the decline of Polish parishes, there is also a decline of Polish parochial schools. Our institutions of tertiary education are gone, paro-

chial high schools are generally extinct, and Polish parochial schools are closing at least as fast, if not faster, than Polonian parishes. As an educator, how do you suggest we educate future generations in things Polish?

While it is sad that our parochial schools and high schools are almost extinct we as Polonia can, at least, be thankful that in many Polish parishes here in the United we have the so called "Polish Saturday Schools" where the children of Polonia come to study Polish language, history and culture. Where such schools do not exist they need to be established as quickly as possible. However, I believe that there is an even more fundamental course of action that Polonia can take: celebrate holidays Polish style, incorporate our beloved customs and traditions into your celebrations, speak about days of historical significance for Poland with the younger generation, take the younger generation to Polish cultural activities and events. Every October is Polish Heritage Month in the United States. Do you celebrate it? If you want to make sure that our heritage is preserved you must be the one to ensure its preservation.

As the leader of Orchard Lake, you occupy an important place in American Polonia. With the creeping decline of our parishes and the loss of our schools, where do you see Polonia itself in ten to twenty years?

Well, that is a tough question. However, I do believe that the future of Polonia depends on Polonia itself — if we show our young people that our Polish heritage is important and we do so with action and not just with empty lip service then Polonia will flourish and grow. We need to instill a sense of Polish pride in our youth now so that when we — "the older generation" — are no longer here Polonia will still be alive and well!

What is your favorite memory of Orchard Lake?

There are so many memories of my seven years here as a student. I guess my favorite memories have to do with the various Polish celebrations we had as students: Wigilia, Jaselka, Odpust, 3-go maja, etc. They are fond memories but also were lessons for me in preserving our heritage and culture which I tried to share with the people of the parishes and my diocese that I have served throughout my priesthood.

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Inducted into Michigan Hall

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — On October 27, 2011, Valeria Lipczynski (1846-1930) was among eight women inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

A tireless advocate for Polish Americans, Lipczynski served as tutor, translator, social worker, and nurse for numerous immigrants and helped found many organizations, including the Wiarus Society, the first Polish institution in West Michigan, and three Grand Rapids Catholic churches (St. Mary's, St. Adalbert's, and St. Isidore's). Her Society of Polish Ladies became in 1899 the first women's organization admitted to the Polish National Alliance, and in 1901 Lipczynski became the first woman elected to the Alliance's board of directors.

Many contemporary groups, both local and national, can trace their roots to Lipczynski's organizational and leadership skills.

Each year the annual MWHF celebration recognizes the significant achievements of several Michigan women.

"Oh, man, she was a dynamo," said Jo Ellyn Clarey, president of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. "She sold immigrants on the city, she took care of people when they go there, she delivered babies, she taught English — she was a one-woman settlement factory."

"She wrote articles for Polish newspapers, she got women into respectable positions," Clarey said. "She was 25, at the most, when she



VALERIA LIPCZYNSKI
(1846-1930)

got here. She had three kids. And she was full of energy, doing all this stuff."

"She became a pillar of the Polish community in Grand Rapids," said Emily Fijol, assistant director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing. "She was really important."

Happy
New Year's
Wishes

**HELEN
NOWAKOWSKI**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Preserving Faith is Priority

"What is relevant is that the ethnic Catholicism primarily has to do with Catholic faith. The leading role of preserving ethnic language, culture, and secular tradition belongs to fraternal organizations, social clubs, and dance groups. The church's task is to preserve the faith that came to these shores by means of a heritage and culture that had unique characteristics. The Catholic Church in the United States continues to do that."

— **Fr. Charles Bober**, from his answer and question column in the Pittsburgh Catholic. A reader asked if "the Catholic Church is no longer comfortable being ethnic."



"My new motto is, when you're through changing, you're through."

— **Martha Stewart**, 70, author of a new book, *Martha's Entertaining*.

ognition of the puppet communist government set up there by the Soviets. In 1939, the British and the French went to war to defend Poland, but by 1945, it was a country no longer worth fighting for. This was after the British and the Americans knew that the Russians had executed 15,000 Polish POWs in the Katyn Forest in 1940 and deported their families to Siberia. The Polish soldiers — including my father, who fought in Monte Cassino, Arnhem, Tobruk, the Falaise Gap, Battle of Britain and more — learned this lesson well, but continued to do their duty as allies.

"Sen. Barbara Mikulski has a told the story of her mother, who during World War II had a picture of Roosevelt hanging on the wall. After Yalta, the picture came down. The ideals of the Atlantic Charter were one thing; fighting for them was something else."

— **Mike Swidwinski** of *Casnovia, Michigan*, in *October 2011 edition of The American Legion*.

Visa: First Hearing in Almost 10 Years

continued from cover
512,000 jobs, 13 billion dollars in payroll and 7.8 billion dollars in taxes for the U.S. economy.

Poland is a member of both the EU and NATO but remains one of the few major democratic allies excluded from the VWP. The VWP enables citizens of 36 countries to visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without obtaining a non-immigrant visitor visa. The program was established to eliminate unnecessary barriers to travel, stimulate the tourism industry and permitting the Department of State to focus consular resources

in other, high risk areas.

The December 7, 2011 hearing marked the first House Judiciary Committee hearing solely dedicated to the issue in nearly 10 years.

Quigley introduced legislation to expand the Visa Waiver Program to include Poland that has been endorsed by President Obama, and has worked tirelessly to promote Polish-American relations during his two terms in Congress. In 2010, he traveled to Poland and attended a conference in Krakow commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Community of Democracies.



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Sikorski

continued from cover

impeachment) for breaking his constitutional oath: a federal Europe, he argues, would bring Poland back to the colonial status it suffered before 1989. Joachim Brudziński, an MP from Kaczyński's party, said Sikorski was advocating a "Fourth Reich and German hegemony."

Other Polish politicians, including the leftist opposition as well as Sikorski's party colleagues and coalition allies, have been supportive. Some commentators, such as Piotr Gursztyn in *Rzeczpospolita*, noted Sikorski has yet to make his official foreign-policy speech to the Polish parliament; was he speaking in a personal capacity in Berlin, or with the full backing of the government?

He was even more explicit in an interview given to the Polish press, calling on a federal EU to follow the model of the United States, with member nations "having at least as much autonomy as the states of the USA" in areas like education, public morals and income taxes.

Detroit

continued from cover

line of the once primarily Polish enclave of Hamtramck, could close if the current religious order of priests that pastors the church, the Society of Christ, leaves.

• One of three churches that dominate the near-downtown Detroit skyline along I-75 — Sweetest Heart of Mary, St. Josaphat and St. Joseph near Eastern Market — should plan to close.

Church officials attribute the need for the changes to declining attendance and a priest shortage. In the last 10 years alone, about 40 parishes have closed or merged because of the priest shortage and changing demographics, reducing the number of parishes from 310 to 270.

"The changes are needed," the archdiocese says, "because of the dwindling number of priests, changing demographics and strapped finances."

The archbishop is expected to make his decision on the council's recommendations — as well as those made by individual parishes — in February. Vigneron said he most likely will adopt the recommendations, but added they are "not set in stone. But this is the direction we expect to be going."

"So what happens to Catholicism in Detroit?" asked Patricia Woods, a former longtime youth minister for two Catholic parishes in the city.

For the members of affected churches it will be a personal loss that will ultimately impact Roman Catholicism in that area.

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Giving Your Super Bowl Party a Polish Twist

Who knows which Polish American athletes will be in this year's Super Bowl (Sunday, Feb. 5, Lucas Oil Stadium, the home of the Indianapolis Colts, the first Super Bowl held in Indianapolis), but no matter who is on the field, you will score a touch down with this Polish-style menu for your party!

HUNTER'S BIGOS. (bigos myśliwski): Almost everyone serves chili *con carne* on Super Bowl Sunday, but you can start off with standard Polish fare of this hearty stew. Soak 1 oz dried bolete mushrooms in 1-1/2 c water several hrs, then cook in same water until tender, chop, return to liquid and set aside. Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, reserving liquid, rinse in cold water, drain again, squeeze dry and chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to baking pan and add some or all of the following: 2 qts various cooked, deboned, cubed meat (beef, venison or other game, pork, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage the mushrooms and their liquid, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 peeled, diced large cooking apples. Toss in ingredients to blend and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake

another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate over night. Reheat at 325° for 90 min before serving.

TURKEY BROTH. (rosól z indyka): In soup pot combine turkey neck, rump, gizzard, heart and wings with 2 qts cold water, bring to boil, reduce heat and skim off scum from top until no more forms. Cook at a very gentle boil about 40 min, then add: 2 carrots, 2 stalks celery, 1 parsley root, 1 whole tomato, and 1 halved onion (impaled on fork and charred over flame or in dry frying pan until blackish rings appear). To pot add 2 t salt, 6 peppercorns, 2-3 grains allspice and 1 bay leaf and cook another hour or until meat falls off the bone. Strain. Meat can be removed from bones, diced and returned to soup. One of the carrots may also be added. Serve over home-made or store-bought egg noodles or poured-batter noodles (lane kluski). Garnish with chopped parsley is desired.

POURED-BATTER NOODLES. (lane kluski): Fork-blend 2 small eggs, 6 T flour and 2 pinches of salt until mixture is smooth. Stir in 1 T hot turkey broth or as much as needed to get a nice pourable batter and beat with fork until smooth. Pour batter in a thin stream into a pot

of rapidly boiling water and cook about 2 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve in broth.

KISZKA-BURGERS. (kaszanka w bułce): Fry rounds of kiszka with skin removed in a little lard, butter or oil until heated through and crusty-browned on both sides and serve in a crusty bun, hamburger-style. The kiszka can also be fried broken up (like hash). Go-togethers include brown mustard, horseradish, fried onions, dill pickles and sliced tomato slices.

BREADED PORK CUTLET. (kotlet schabowy): Pound 3/4" thick slices of fresh boneless pork loin (or use pork chops with the bone removed) to 1/3 to 1/4 of their original thickness. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in plain bread crumbs. Season with salt, pepper, marjoram and garlic powder and fry to a deep golden brown. Serve with potatoes and salad. French or Kaiser roll with a splotch of Polish-style brown mustard and/or dill pickle.

PORK CUTLET IN A BUN. (kotlet schabowy w bułce): For a more casual treat, serve breaded pork cutlets fast-food-style in a whole-wheat, French-bread-style or Kaiser roll with a splotch of Polish-style brown mustard and/or dill pickle.

GROUND CUTLETS. (kotlety mielone): Break up 4-6 slices stale French bread or equivalent amount of stale bread rolls, hamburger buns, etc. into bowl and drench with milk to cover. When soggy, squeeze out excess moisture and run through food chopper. Combine with 3 lbs ground pork, pork & beef or pork/veal/beef mixture. Add 2-3 finely chopped onions (raw or pre-sautéed in a little butter), 2-3 eggs and work well by hand to blend ingredients. If too mushy, mix in some bread crumbs. Season with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Form fairly large flattened meatballs. If crunchy crust is desired, first dredge meatballs in flour. Brown on both sides in hot lard or oil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer another 15-20 min or so until fully cooked. Drain on absorbent paper.

POLISH "BURGER." (mielony w bułce): The ground cutlets (above) can be flattened into a patty and served fast-food-style as a kind of Polish "burger" on crusty rye, whole-wheat or Kaiser-type roll with a splotch of sharp brown mustard ("Sarepska") and/or sliced dill pickle.

POLISH FRANKS. (parówki): You can give this popular festival food a Polish touch by getting veal frankfurters from a Polish deli. If only American-style franks are available, then at least serve them in a crusty wheat (French-bread-type), rye or whole-wheat hard roll and provide sharp brown Polish-style mustard on the side.

Maciejewski's Photographic Still-lives Exhibited in Las Vegas



STILL LIFE WITH 94210 (Canada) / from the series Garden of Eden by A. Maciejewski.

LAS VEGAS — The Contemporary Arts Center in Las Vegas is presenting a solo exhibition by Polish artist Andrzej Maciejewski, titled "Garden of Eden." The show features twenty-four color photographs of fruits and vegetables, inspired by the Old Masters paintings, but showing modern products from supermarket, with PLU (Price Look Up) stickers. The pictures were taken with analog 4x5 camera on color transparencies. They are displayed in "golden" frames, resembling the ones we usually see around the old paintings.

Maciejewski was born in 1959 in Warsaw, Poland. Since 1985 he has been living and working in Canada, but he has maintained strong connection to his mother country. He received several awards and honors and published three books with his photographs: "Bread" (1996), "To-

ronto Parks" (1997) and best-seller "After Notman" (2003). Apart from devoting himself to his creative projects he also teaches photography, giving workshops and lectures for various institutions. Currently artist lives in Eastern Ontario.

The Contemporary Arts Center in Las Vegas is located at 107 E Charleston Blvd, Suite 120, Las Vegas, NV; (702) 382-3886, web: <http://lasvegascac.org/>. Gallery hours are: Tue through Sat: Noon – 5:00 p.m. The exhibit will be up until January 21, 2012.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Bishop Barchak Returns to School

Newly-installed Altoona-Johnstown diocese **Bishop Mark L. Barchak** (inset) attended a two-week orientation session for new bishops at the Vatican along with 15 other U.S. bishops and some 100 from the rest of the world. After attending sessions with cardinals and bishops on the work bishops do and what the Vatican offices can do to assist them, the bishops had a chance to meet personally with the pope. Bishop Barchak returned to the Vatican in December for the regularly scheduled (*ad limina*) meeting of Pennsylvania bishops with the pope. While back in his diocese Bishop Barchak is busy working through his plan of visiting all the Catholic schools of the diocese. He impresses the students with his approachability and openness.



Paul II continues to be studied and lectured on, such as a recent lecture by papal biographer **George Weigel** at the Order of the Knights of Malta "Defense of Faith" series in Lancaster, Penn., several significant testimonies of miracles have been received by **Msgr. Slawomir Oder**, postulator for the cause of Bl. John Paul II's sainthood. He is waiting to receive further documentation which will enable him to select which would be the most appropriate for submission to the Vatican.

ALTAR GIRLS OUT. Fr. John Lankeit, rector of the cathedral of Ss. Simon & Jude in Phoenix, Ariz., no longer allows girls to be altar servers but rather offers them service as sacristans. He made the change in hopes of promoting vocations to the priesthood for males and other religious vocations, such as becoming a nun, for females. He noted that 80-95% of priests served as altar boys, although he does not know the percentage of altar boys who go on to become priests.

"The connection between serving at the altar and the priesthood is historic," Lankeit said. "It is part of the differentiation between boys and girls, as Christ established the priesthood by choosing men. Serving at the altar is a specifically priestly act," he explained.

Only the diocese of Lincoln, Neb., has restricted altar serving to boys, and that diocese appears to be a leader in attracting men to the seminary. Fr. Kieran Kleczewski, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas church in Avondale, Ariz., and director of the diocesan Office of Worship explained that the cathedral's policy is not mandatory for the rest of the diocese. "The pastor has the authority over the parish's liturgical practices," he noted, adding that he has no plans to discontinue allowing girl altar servers in his parish.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Buffalo New York's **Bishop Edward Kmiec** celebrating 50 years of priesthood. Bishop Kmiec turned 75 on June 4. As prescribed by Canon Law, he submitted his letter of resignation to Pope Benedict XVI. When the pope accepts Bishop Kmiec's resignation, he will simultaneously announce the name of the 14th bishop of Buffalo. There is no timetable for the announcement to be made ... **Edmund Cardinal Szoka** as he celebrates 40 years as bishop. The former archbishop of Detroit, Mich., was the first bishop of Gaylord, Mich., and held two

high-level Vatican posts — first as president of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, then as president of the Governorate of Vatican City State ... The spirit, prayers and faith of the parishioners and friends of **St. Adalbert Basilica** was evident on Sun., Sept. 18 during the celebration of the parish's 125th anniversary. The faithful focused on the "beauty" of the service and the recollection of the long history of the East Side parish. Afterwards over 300 people attended a reception at Millennium Airport, Cheektowaga.

Philadelphia-area Felician Sister Jubilarians: 85 yrs. - **Sr. Norbert Prawdzik**; 80 yrs - **Sr. Romuald Burak**, **Sr. Louise Huczek**, **Sr. Louise Jurewicz**; 75 yrs. - **Sr. Elizabeth Kobierowski**; 70 yrs. - **Sr. Irene Geisheimer**, **Sr. Margaret Machowska**, **Sr. Anita Pasternak**; 65 yrs. - **Sr. Beata Jurewicz**, **Sr. Clarissa Mroz**; 60 yrs. - **Sr. John Domalik**, **Sr. Janice Kobierowski**, **Sr. Charlotte Niemczyk**, **Sr. Loreta Wesolowski**; 50 yrs. - **Sr. Virginia Rozich**, **Sr. Evangeline Sullivan**.

Holy Family RC parish in Hooversville, Pa., on its 100th anniversary. The anniversary Mass was celebrated by **Fr. Karl Kolodziejki**, OFM Conv. and **Bishop Mark Barchak**. The first Mass was celebrated in the home of **Stanley Golembiewski** by **Fr. Victor J. Szyperski** and the parish started its first decade as a mission of St. Anne in Holsopple and St. Michael in Listie. Within the year of its becoming an independent parish in 1922, the church and rectory were destroyed by fire and the pastor Fr. Ladislaus Vadkerti died of a heart attack after saving the Blessed Sacrament and parish records. A second fire in 2008 destroyed the church's interior and the renovated church was blessed by Bishop Joseph Adamiec in 2009.

CAMBRIA CITY CHURCH PROPERTIES REUSED. The 121-year-old rectory of the former St. Columba church in Cambria City, Johnstown, Pa., has been restored and put to use as the Heritage House Inn, a bed and breakfast. **Dennis and Ginny Fitzpatrick**, the owners and proprietors, have also purchased and remodelled the rectory of the former Immaculate Concep-

tion parish which they opened as the Johnstown Tea House. Various community groups are continuing their exploration of possible reuse of the remaining buildings of the recently closed parishes in the area.

STO LAT TO ... Fr. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. on his inauguration as 23rd president of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. He had previously held the presidency of Scranton University in Scranton, Penn.

Pope Benedict XVI on being selected to receive the "Laurel" academic prize recognizing his contribution in the fields of theology and culture. The Polish honor was awarded on the bicentenary of the University of Wrocław and the rectors of the universities of Wrocław, Opole, Częstochowa and Zielona Góra presented the award at a papal audience in Rome. **Pope John Paul II** was the first recipient of the prize in 2003.

Fr. Thomas Zalewski, O. Carm. director of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY, the first Polish-American to hold this office. For information about Days of Prayer or bus trips to the Shrine call (845) 343-1879 or e-mail nsolmc@warwick.net

STO LAT TO ... 10 new deacons ordained for the archdiocese of Detroit, among them was **Rev. Mr. Michael Stach**, 47, of Rochester Hills. A parish director of religious education and real estate broker/owner, he and his wife, Katarzyna, have three children and are members of Sacred Heart of the Hills Parish, Auburn Hills. Also ordained was **Rev. Mr. Thomas Edmond Strasz Sr.**, 61, of Grosse Pointe Woods. Employed as administrative assistant to Auxiliary Bishop Michael Byrnes, Deacon Strasz and his wife, Josephine, have five children and are members of St. Joan of Arc Parish, St. Clair Shores.

Raymond F. Figlewski, '66, of Branford, Conn., a successful businessman who helped build and run two family-owned businesses on being one of the recipients of the Knight of Honor Award at Notre Dame HS in West Haven, Conn. The award is given to alumni who have brought distinction to Notre Dame HS.

Ron and Elizabeth Smurdiak of Phillips, Wis., on receiving the Knight's of Columbus International Family of the Year award at the Knights' convention in Denver. They were nominated for the award by the Fr. John Patrick Slowey

Council 2963. Upon receiving the award with his wife and three children Mr. Smurdiak said, "When you get an award like this it inspires you to live up to what it represents. It is humbling because you know there are so many other people doing more than you who will never get the recognition."

Grzegorz Ignatik on receiving a fellowship, from an endowment established by the Knights of Columbus, for study at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at Catholic University.

CARDINAL HONORED ON POLISH STAMP.

To mark the centenary of the birth of **Adam Cardinal Kozłowiecki** (1911-2007) the Polish postal service issued a stamp in his honor. After his ordination to the priesthood in 1937, he was arrested by the Gestapo and interned in Auschwitz in 1939. Later transferred to Dachau, he was one of the few to have left that German concentration camp alive. He then went to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) as a missionary where he became bishop and then archbishop of Lusaka, the capital city in 1959. He resigned in 1969 in favor of an African bishop and returned to parish work in Mpunde, an outpost north of Lusaka until his death. He was honored with the title Cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 1998.

MOTHERHOOD APPRECIATED.

Dorothy Pilarski's new book, "Motherhood Matters," reflects a growing need for the vocation of motherhood to be respected and appreciated in modern society. The book, published by Catholic Register Books in August 2011, is a collection of inspirational stories, prayers and quotes to encourage Catholic mothers. Motivation for writing the book came from the author's reflections from hosting a Catholic mothers group in her home for the past 15 years. "The very thought that a mother is expected to have a baby and almost immediately go back to work is a clear indication that we are not valuing the mother," she said. "As a culture we are saying that it really doesn't matter who watches our children, so long as it's being cared for — that's all that matters. The mother-child bond was not meant to be brokered into a financial transaction. The mother-child bond is sacred and we as a culture have secularized it," she went on to say.

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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, C.C.

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ACPC Board Meets in Boston



WELCOME TO BOSTON. ACPC officers — (l. to r.): Marcia Lewandowski, recording secretary; Deborah Majka, president; Camille Kapielski, 1st vice president; and Mary Ellen Tyszka, 2nd vice president — greet board members.

BOSTON — The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) held its 2011 Fall Board Meeting, hosted by the Polish Cultural Foundation, whose president is Dr. Andrzej Pronczuk. Pronczuk, who earned his Doctor of Science degree from prestigious MIT in Cambridge, Mass, is a specialist in human nutrition who lectures and conducts research at Brandeis University.

Pronczuk, his wife Lila, and the Foundation's vice-presidents, Donata Czulak, Elzbieta Welz, and Szymon Tolak, planned a very exciting and informative weekend for the members of ACPC. Business sessions kicked off the Friday evening meeting, which were followed by a reception prepared by Mrs. Pronczuk and other active members of the Foundation.

The weekend plans included a sight-seeing trolley tour through Boston and Cambridge, a luncheon, ACPC business session, dinner, and

a piano recital.

"The Polonian members who attended the weekend's Board Meeting were transfixed by recalling the Polish tradition displayed by Dr. Andrzej & Lila Pronczuk and Mr. & Mrs. Welz that 'gość w dom, Bóg w dom' ('Guest in the home, God's in the home'), which was indeed applicable to our visit in Boston," said ACPC Publicity Chair Jo Louise Winters. "The experience continued into Sunday morning, as the gracious Lila met everyone in the hotel lobby, inquiring if anyone wanted transportation to church to attend Mass. The faithful Mass attendees were further blessed by Rev. Andrzej Urbaniak, who greeted them warmly and wished them a safe journey home."

Readers interested in joining this organization (membership only \$10.00/ year), may contact: Ms. Florence Langridge, (860) 521-4034; folangridge@sbcglobal.net.

No Apology for Polish Joke

NEW YORK— Neither NBC nor Seth Meyers, anchor of *Saturday Night Live's* news segment, has apologized for Meyers' cheap shot at Poles following the successful emergency landing of a Boeing 767 in Warsaw last November.

"A pilot from Poland is being called the 'Polish Sully' after he safely landed a jetliner in Warsaw that had a malfunctioning landing gear; although 'Polish Sully' sounds suspiciously like a pilot who may have just forgotten that his plane had landing gear," said Meyers on

the bogus newscast. "And not to get overly technical, but I believe a 'Polish Sully' is when you land a boat at an airport. Again, not to get technical."

Last month, Alex Storozyński, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, demanded an apology from Meyers and NBC, which has had a long history of anti-Polish bigotry.

Letters of complaint may be sent to: Stephen B. Burke, Chief Executive Officer, NBC Universal, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112.

The Changing Face of Panna Maria

PANNA MARIA, Texas — George and Betty Kowalik moved to Panna Maria in 2000. They relocated to the site of the first permanent Polonian settlement in the United States because it is the home of George's ancestors from Poland. Their home is next to the historic house of his great grandfather, Thomas Kowalik.

Long considered a ghost town, the Kowaliks report things are changing in Panna Maria.

"Up until last year, we seldom saw any large trucks. The traffic consisted of farm trucks, cars and tractors. What a difference one year makes!" he wrote in the *Panna Maria Historical Society* newsletter.

"We now live in a bustling

community with oil field trucks, seismograph trucks, pipeline crews and many other related vehicles. There are oil rigs standing everywhere. The lighted rigs look like huge Christmas trees. Little did our ancestors know that the farms they settled would become a booming oil community," Kowalik said.

"Our ancestors and families worked so hard and many times had so little. They would be so surprised to know that their descendants will be the ones to reap the benefits of their sacrifices," said Kowalik.

"Their faith in God and their hard work is an example and a blessing to us all. This sleepy little town, sleeps no more!"

Niles Names Street For Polish Artist

NILES, Ill. — Wojciech Seweryn died in Katyn crash after working on a memorial to Katyn victims.

Both Poles and Americans are honoring a Polish-born Chicago sculptor who created Niles' Katyn memorial. Niles trustees voted to rename a portion of Milwaukee Avenue as Wojciech M. Seweryn Memorial Road. In addition, the may-

ors of Niles and Tarnow, Poland, recently made plans for Tarnow Mayor Ryszard Scigala to present a plaque honoring Seweryn, a Tarnow native.

Seweryn died in the 2010 plane crash that also killed Poland's president he flew to Smolensk to honor Polish victims of the Katyn massacre.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Vikings Touched Poland and North America

The Age of the Vikings lasted from about 800 to 1100 A.D. During this time their influence extended from their origins in Scandinavia throughout most of Europe, Byzantium in Asia Minor, and westward to North America.

There is proof of a Viking settlement on the island of Labrador off the Canadian coast, and the existence of Vinland, a Norse settlement farther south, is believed to have been in present day Nova Scotia, Rhode Island or Cape Cod. The discovery of a runestone in Minnesota with Nordic characters engraved on it, along with other purported Viking relics, seems to point to a Viking foray into interior North America.

The Viking impact on Europe was much more profound. Though popularly depicted as looting and pillaging brutes, these Norsemen were also traders and settlers. They established trade routes to Constantinople and the Middle East through the rivers of Russia to the Black Sea. They settled along those waterways and are often credited with the very founding of the state of Russia. In Western Europe they were busy raiding the rich cities and settling in the British Isles and France.

The Slavic lands of East Central Europe, including Poland, were not as interesting to the Vikings. The wealth lay to the west and more convenient trade routes to the east. In addition, the Polish Slavs proved to be able defenders of their lands. Nevertheless, the region did see a Viking presence. Prior to the founding of the Polish nation in 966, they would have encountered individual Slavic tribes, and afterward only a loose confederation that was Poland. And the Slavs extended well to the west along the Baltic in Pomerania and what is now northeast Germany, abutting Denmark. This area was called Wendlands after the Polish Wends who lived there. They were not easy neighbors for the Danes, and while Vikings pillaged Western Europe, the Wends in turn attacked Viking strongholds in Denmark and

southern Sweden. These marauding Wends were also sometimes called Slavic Vikings.

Legend holds that Wolin Island in the Odra delta just north of Szczecin was settled in the late tenth century by Jomsborg Vikings who fled Denmark. Supposedly, they came with the permission of Polish King Bolesław Chrobry and in return defended Poland. The Wolin population became increasingly Slavic and this mixed band of warriors raided Danish and Swedish towns, and for a time held the Baltic island of Ruegen. Historians say Wolin was not so much a true Viking outpost but a pirate base, and that the Jomsborg Vikings never existed. The Wolin stronghold was destroyed by King Magnus of Denmark and Norway in 1043.

Legend holds that Wolin Island in the Odra delta just north of Szczecin was settled in the late tenth century by Jomsborg Vikings who fled Denmark.

No sagas of Viking settlements or raids into interior Poland exist. However, evidence of their presence has been found. In Elbląg, not Polish at the time but Slavic Prussian, Norse weapons have been uncovered, as well as a small cemetery with Viking elements. In Lutomiernik near Łódź, a tenth century cemetery was unearthed that yielded objects connected to Sweden. Some observers see similarities to Norse runic signs on some Polish coats of arms.

There is only scant archeological evidence of Viking trade routes up the Odra and Vistula Rivers through the heart of Poland to eastern Germany and the Black Sea, but they most likely did exist. One must assume some sort of contact with the Poles living along those waterways.

Polish-Wendish settlements supposedly existed near present day Hamburg, Germany and

possibly in Denmark and Sweden. The Swedish town of Wendel may have been founded by Poles. Some researchers suggest that Slavic or mixed Slavic-Scandinavian Vikings were among the settlers in Iceland and Greenland. There is even a claim that two Polish knights named Wydzarwoda and Tyrker accompanied Leif Ericsson to North America. Norse sagas identify Tyrker as the one who first discovered grapevines there, after which the Vikings called that country Vinland.

Poland is also tied to the Scandinavians and Vikings through royal marriages. Świętosława, daughter of Prince Mieszko, founder of the Polish nation, married Danish King Sven Forkbeard. In Denmark she was known as Gunhilda and her son was Canute, also a King of Denmark. Canute also conquered England and was aided in this endeavor by his uncle, King Bolesław of Poland, who sent Polish troops to help his nephew. And one of Bolesław's daughters was married to King Olaf Tryggvason of Norway. A claim that Prince Mieszko could be of Viking descent is highly speculative, seemingly based on the fact that Scandinavians referred to him as Dagome, a Scandinavian name, in early documents.

Finally, genetic research has shown that about seven per cent of persons of Polish descent belong to a DNA subgroup that shares a distant common ancestry with many people in England and Scotland. These persons' common ancestor may have been a Pomeranian Slav sent to invade England with Canute.

After a few centuries of German rule, Wolin Island is again part of Poland. Each year on the island a group of enthusiasts holds a Viking festival to celebrate the area's connections to that era. Re-enactors also stage a Viking festival in Rynia, twenty miles outside of Warsaw, where a replica of a Viking settlement has been built.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

The "Phenomenon of Solidarity" Exhibit

CHICAGO — A pictorial history of Poland, circa 1980-81, from the Solidarity perspective opened on November 14 for a two-week exhibition at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). **Dr. Sharon Hahs**, president of NEIU welcomed guests, and opening remarks were made by hosts, **Dr. Janet Fredericks**, Dean of the Graduate School of NEIU and Director of International Programs, **Consul General Zygmunt Matynia**, and **Lukasz Kaminski**, the exhibit's designer and President of Poland's **Institute of National Remembrance (INR)**. This was followed by **Tomasz Kozłowski**, a specialist at the INR, who gave an excellent presentation of the beginning decade of Solidarność. Attending this opening were Bożena Matynia, university faculty and students, along with representative from Chicago's Polonia community.

This outstanding photo journalism exhibit tells a special story. Prepared by the Public Education Office of the INR in Warsaw for the 30th anniversary of the birth of Solidarność, it depicts the key events of an era, from the August 1980 strikes to the introduction of martial law in December 1981, and beyond. It shows the path that led to the emergence of the Solidarity Union, its relations with communist authorities and the Church, and societal reactions against a backdrop of the most important political, social, and economic developments in Poland, and eventually throughout all of Europe. It features photos from recognized photographers who captured Solidarity's important historical moments, including Erazm Ciołek, Janusz Uklejewski, Jarosław Goliński, Stanisław Jakubowski, and many others.

Having this exhibit at NEIU was special, for not only the university, but for Polonia. It was approximately three years ago that Lech Wałęsa visited NEIU to attend the dedication of its tallest building, the Lech Wałęsa Building, in his honor. The exhibit remained on display at NEIU through November 28.



Dr. Fredericks, Consul Matynia, and Dr. Hahs.

held a soirée at the Consulate to celebrate Poland's November 11 Independence Day. Consul Matynia presented **Kenneth K. Koskodan** with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his crucial contribution to Polish history by preserving stories of surviving Polish veterans of World War II. His book, "No Greater Ally: The Untold Story of Poland's Forces in World War II" not only tells the story of Poland and the Polish peoples' contributions to the War effort from 1939 until the end of the war, but it fills a historical gap with documented stories of many Polish veterans, who were unable to return to Poland after the War, their military contributions, the challenges they faced after the War, and their new lives in the United States. According to Koskodan, Americans know very little about these contributions and sufferings. His book honors and remembers these Polish veterans and their history. Koskodan, a Polish American, is a native Michigianian and a graduate of Michigan State University.

After Koskodan's award presentation, the Polish Consulate hosted a concert performed by violinist, **Janet Packer**, and pianist, **Geoffrey Burleson**. The music of Krzysztof Meyer and Henry Wieniawski were played. The world premier of Krzysztof Meyer's composition, *Imaginary Variations, Opus 114*, was played at the Consulate. Composer Meyer composed this piece especially for Ms. Packer. She has performed throughout the United States, Poland, and China and is Chair of the Conservatory String Department of Longy School of Music, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Burleson is not only the Director of Piano Studies at Hunter College, but has performed throughout Europe and North America.

JOHN J. PIKARSKI, JR. HONORED. The Polish American Association (PAA) held a completely sold out annual gala and silent auction on November 12 at Café la Cave in Des Plaines. As the PAA began its 90th anniversary, it honored **John J. Pikarski, Jr.**, past president and honorary director of the PAA Board, with its Presidential Award. Pikarski, a land use and real estate tax attorney of the law firm Gordon and Pikarski, was recognized for his long standing commitment and

generous contributions to PAA. Additionally, Pikarski and his family have supported and continue to support many other charitable causes throughout Chicago and the Polish



John J. Pikarski, Jr. and Conrad Nowak, PAA's Board Chair.

American community.

This year's Master of Ceremonies was Charlie Wojciechowski, a 20-year veteran reporter for NBC-5TV. The musical entertainment was provided by the incomparable violinist, Anthony Kawalkowski, and his orchestra.

This is the PAA's largest fundraising event. All proceeds from this gala benefit twenty-eight PAA programs and more than 3,000 clients, who seek help each month. With a mission to provide "Resources for Changing Lives," the PAA continues to assist those in need within the Polish community: feeding the hungry who visit its food pantry, counseling the abused, providing alcohol counseling, as well as offering job training, placement, educational opportunities, and immigration and language classes.

This event would not have been possible without the generosity of its guests, as well as Quantum Foods, Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP, Jewel Osco Food Chain, Legion of Young Polish Women, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, PNC Bank, and Oak Mill Bakery, just to name a few.



PWCC Christmas Luncheon Committee

Front row (l. to r.): Hanusiak and Surma; back row: Ciesla, Jendzejec, Baar-Topinka, Mazurek, and Zolkowski Sobor.

TOPINKA ANNOUNCED POLISH ADVISORY COUNCIL. On November 21, Illinois Comptroller **Judy Baar Topinka** announced the formation of a 10-member Polish Advisory Council to consult with her on matters of importance to the Polish American community and work with the Comptroller's office to address those concerns. The Polish Advisory Council members include: **Anna Zolkowski Sobor**, President of the Old Irving Park Association; **Dr. Jozef Mazurek**, President of the Polish American Medical Society; **Krzysztof Hanusiak**, Niles IL trustee; **Maria Ciesla**, President of The Polish Museum of America; **Stanley Jendzejec**, past Vice President of the Polish National Alliance; **Tomasz Surma**, President of the Polish American Police Association; **Mary Sendra Anslemo**, President of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division; **Charles Komosa**, National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance; attorney **Joan Smuda**; and **Stan Nowak**. "These

leaders will provide invaluable insight in further strengthening the Polish community," Topinka said. "I am grateful that they are willing to serve, and I look forward to many meaningful discussions in the months ahead."

Scheduled to meet quarterly, the volunteer Council

is one of several advisory panels created by Topinka to ensure direct communication with communities throughout the state. Topinka will work with each group to propose and/or to promote possible and existing legislation to advance the well-being of respective communities. Other Advisory Councils include: African American, Asian American, Hispanic, Rural Affairs, and Women. These Advisory Council members come from a variety of backgrounds, geographic regions, and areas of expertise.



(l. to r.): Lukes, Kata, Kruk, Judy Baar Topinka, Zborek, and Tylka

Additional interests for the guests were the raffling of thirty-four Christmas-orientated gift baskets and four grand golden raffle prizes. The PWCC hosted this event to continue its mission of promoting philanthropy and volunteerism through the raising of money for scholarships to qualified students of Polish descent within the Chicago area. Its chair, Geraldine Balut Coleman considered this event a huge success.

KOŚCIUSZKO FOUNDATION HOSTS "CHOPIN 2010." To cel-



PWCC Christmas Luncheon Committee

PWCC HOLDS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON.

The Polish Women's Civic Club (PWCC) launched the Polish holiday season on December 4 by hosting its Christmas Luncheon. The ballroom of the Rosewood Restaurant in Des Plaines was filled with guests celebrating the Christmas season. Not only

were the guests treated to gourmet luncheon delights, but were entertained by the duet of Tom Burzycki on keyboard and his daughter, Kathleen, playing the violin. The PWCC was pleased that its scholarship recipients, **Frank Lukes, Kasia Kata, Justyna Kruk, Anna Zborek, and Barbara Tylka**, acted as hosts for this festive afternoon event. **Angelika Piwowarczyk**, a scholarship recipient, exhibited her creative and ex-

celebrate Polish American Heritage Month, the Department of World Language and Cultures of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) and the Chicago Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation presented the documentary film, "Chopin 2010."

It tells how Chopin and his music were celebrated throughout Poland and the world. The script for this production was written by Pawl Bem and Jacek Selwyn, directed by Rafał Wroblewski, and produced by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and the Chopin 2010 Project of the Polish Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

After the film, the audience was treated to the music of Fryderyk Chopin and Franz Liszt performed by **Daniel Szefer**, a 12-year-old child protégé pianist, and **Paula Grzebién**, a Loyola University Chicago senior, majoring in both music and business management.

The event was hosted by NEIU faculty members, Dr. Lidia Filus and Czesława Kolak, who greeted guests in the university concert hall.



Christine, Leigha and Ken Koskodan, and Consul Matynia.

CONSULATE CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY. On November 9, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, **Zygmunt Matynia**, and Mrs. **Bożena Matynia**

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Pulaski Police Install Officers

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On December 3, the **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York** held its Annual Christmas Party and Installation Dinner at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew.

The night's festivities included the installation of Association officers: Al Ziemecki (president), Marty Bochinski (1st vice president), Dave Gorski (2nd vice president), Michael Stack (3rd vice president), Darryl Borawski (recording secretary), Ron Skotnicki (treasurer), Paul Manno (financial secretary) and Jerry Imiola (sergeant-at-arms). The oath of office was administered by the Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka.

Scholarships were awarded to Dakota Augustyniak, Gabrielle Pawlowski, Mark Pietruszka and Jessica Krzemien. Other awards given at the event were: "Man of the Year" to John Mediak, and "Business Man of the Year" to Anthony J. Batog of A.C. Associates Inc. Paul Machlowski and Michael Lorkowski received President's Awards for their outstanding and dedicated service to the group. Music was provided by the "City Side" Band.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Erie County Comptroller **Mark Poloncarz** was elected to the position of Erie County Executive in November's general election ... The **Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation** of Canada's Holocaust Education Week in Toronto during November included programs on "Schindler and the others: Saving the Jews of Krakow" and "Bystanders and the Holocaust: New Issues, New Problems", screenings of the films "Inheritance", "Korczak", "Image Before My Eyes", "In the Names of Their Mothers: The Story of Irena Sendler" and "No. 4 Street of Our Lady", productions of the plays "The Children's Republic" and "Warsaw Ghetto Uprising", and an exhibition entitled "Korczak and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto" ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** re-elected Gregory Mazurowski, Walter Stepien and Stanley Gajewski to its board of directors on December 1.

"Project Grechuta: Ocalic od Zapomnienia" featuring Piotr Cugowski, Marek Jackowski, Adam Nowak, Malogrzata Ostrowska and Zespol "Plateau", and "Koncert Przedswiateczny" featuring Alicja Majewska and Wlodimierz Korcz were presented at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga Ontario in early December ... **Villa Maria College** in Cheektowaga recently launched a mobile website, www.villa.edu/mobile, as part of a new marketing campaign ... The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** presented a program of Polish folktales and legends for young Polonians on December 3 ... Polish born **Piotr Gajewski**, the founder and artistic director of

the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Washington, D.C., conducted the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in its "Baroque Masters" concert at Kleinhans Music Hall on the 3rd and 4th.

District IX of the **Polish Singers Alliance of America** presented its "Christmas in Polish Song" program at St. Stanislaus Church on Buffalo's East Side on December 4. The performers included the Chopin Singing Society, Symfonia Singing Society, Kalina Women's Chorus and Ludowa Nuta. Dr. Thomas Witakowski of Buffalo State College directed the combined choirs in the culmination of the event ... The **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester presented pianist Janusz Skowron at Strong Auditorium on December 4 and Dr. Anna Niedzwiedz of the Jagiellonian University on the topic "At the Turn of Time: Polish Christmas Traditions, Symbols and Carols" in Landers Auditorium on the 11th ... Former North Tonawanda mayor and Am-Pol Eagle columnist **Edward Wia-ter** passed away on December 5 at the age of 85.

Hon. Marek Ciesielczuk, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto, sponsored a production of "Adam Makowicz: The 45th Anniversary of his World-Wide Success" at the Glenn Gould Studios in Downtown Toronto in honor of the first Polish presidency of the European Union Council on December 8 ... Also on the 8th, the WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** unanimously ratified a resolution to establish "The Joint International Committee on Camp Kosciuszko" (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario historic military site and Haller's Blue Army cemetery) in conjunction with the Canadian Polish Congress for the Niagara Region of Canada. Appearances by Polish American Congress National President Frank Spula and Polish Falcons of America National President Timothy Kuzma at the June 2012 Polish Veterans' Pilgrimage in Niagara-on-the-Lake have been confirmed by a local PAC official ... **Gwen Mysiak** was honored with the Kevin I. Sullivan Award by WNED-TV, WNY's PBS affiliate, for being a unifying force in the production of the station's "War of 1812" programming ... **Melanie LaMastra** of Melanie's Sweets Unlimited in the historic Broadway Market, was featured in an article entitled "Polish Holiday Cooking: It's More Than Pierogies" in the Holiday 2011 edition of "Ed-

ible Buffalo" magazine. The article included recipes for *kolaczki* and *placek*.

Forgotten Buffalo offered their "Polish Tavern Christmas" tour on December 9 and 16 ... On the 11th, **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** in Lancaster presented an Advent/Christmas Evensong Service featuring the Cathedral Harmonia Choir, Cathedral Contemporary Folk Ensemble, violinist Alan Reed and organist Nelson Koeppel ... The **General Pulaski Association** elected the following leadership for 2012: Brian Rusk (president - 24th term), Alexandra "Sandi" Schmid (first vice president), Kenneth Graber (second vice president), Edward Reska (treasurer), Jerry Inda (secretary) Stanley Pulaski, Sr. (sergeant-at-arms) and Rev. Michael Burzynski (chaplain) ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** held its annual meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on December 14. Canadian author Edward Zawadzki spoke about "Noteworthy Poles of North America" after the business meeting ... **"Koledy" Nights** featuring the New Direction Band and St. John Kanty Choir at Potts Banquet Hall and the "Buffalo Touch" at Arty's Tavern in Buffalo on December 17, and the Concertina All Stars at the Madonna Knights of Columbus Hall in North Tonawanda on the 23rd, were well attended ... The **TIFF Bell Light-box** hosted a tribute to Polish filmmaker Roman Polanski in Toronto from December 17 through Christmas Day. The retrospective included screenings of Polanski's "Knife in the Water," "Cul-de-sac," "Chinatown," "Repulsion," "The Tenant," "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Ghost Writer" ... **Blessed Mother Angela Parish** in Dunkirk hosted an Advent/Christmas Concert featuring soprano Brittany Mruczek on December 18. Ms. Mruczek recently released a new CD, "A Christmas Song For You," for the holiday season.

❖ ❖ ❖
Szczesliwego Nowego Roku!
Happy New Year to all my friends and readers!

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have an item for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. January 6 for the February edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszka@verizon.net.

Downstate NY PAC Donates Demonstration Memento

NEW YORK — Frank Milewski, president of the Downstate New York Division of the Polish American Congress (right), donates the red and white Polish colors of the bunting the Congress used to decorate the speaker's platform in a protest demonstration against Poland's communist strongman, General Wojciech Jaruzelski when he visited New York in September, 1985.



PHOTO: POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

This souvenir of that historical event will be preserved in the archives of New York City's Pilsudski Institute which has become an important repository for valued collections of Polish documents, books, artwork and other Polish memorabilia.

Accepting the Polish American Congress (PAC) gift are (from left): Dr. Magda Kapuscinska, president of the Pilsudski Institute (shown unrolling the bunting); Dr Marek Zielinski, its vice president and Dr Iwona Drag-Korga, executive director. They are standing in front of the statue of Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, after whom the Institute is named.

When General Jaruzelski declared martial law on December 13, 1981, Polish Americans in New York began holding a series of protest demonstrations which were continually repeated until 1988.

These patriotic events were organized and directed primarily by the Polish American Congress to show America's support for the human rights struggle of Poland's first free and independent trade union, Solidarnosc (Solidarity). The target was the repressive communist system imposed on the Polish people by the dictators of the former Soviet Union.

The largest of these protests was held in September 1985 when General Jaruzelski visited New York to participate in ceremonies observing the 40th anniversary of the United Nations.

Knowing in advance the exact date when the General would be at the UN gave enough time to allow Polish Americans from beyond New York to plan a visit to the city and be at the demonstration.

Also helpful was an advertisement the PAC placed in the New York Times explaining the reason for it. Even a delegation of Poles living in Canada came down to New York to be part of the occasion and publicly express their protest against Jaruzelski.

Highlighting the list of speakers at the rally were American labor leaders headed by Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO. Also there was Al Mazewski, national president of the PAC, who came from Chicago to give a powerful and resounding message of support to Lech Walesa and the determined people of Poland.

Poland started numerous efforts to free itself of Russian and communist domination as far back as the 1950s. So did countries like Hungary and Czechoslovakia, according to Milewski. They had the support of the Polish American Congress even then.

"Disconcerting and misleading" are what he calls the current attempts to credit the Germans with the downfall of communism when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

"That wall came down because people like the Poles and the Hungarians and the Czechoslovaks began shaking the ground of Europe decades before," he said.

Siekierka Inducted

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — The New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame inducted Montclair State research scientist **John Siekierka**. His career in the fields of biochemical, immunological, and drugs discovery research, as well as his groundbreaking work in the development of the first drug-eluting cardiovascular stent, were cited during the induction ceremony.

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PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

What is Your Story?

The thought occurred to me, though I am sure many of you have realized this, that the Catholic Mass embodies the story of every Christian. We replay the Christian experience every Sunday. I have always enjoyed the logical structure of the Catholic worship, and attended an explanation of the various parts, but this latest reflection is something new. In the Mass, the Christian professes that he or she is a sinner, finds and glorifies God, understands and believes, becomes one with God, and then, along with other believers, goes forth, blessed, in a spirit-filled peace to love and serve the Lord. Underlying the ritual, the reciting, the singing, and the mysticism, is the story.

So, let's review each part. In the beginning of the Mass, we ask for God's mercy and forgiveness. That is the first step in becoming a Christian, to understand human failing and to acknowledge that we are sinners. We say "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy." The understanding, for a Christian that you are a sinner, is tantamount to an alcoholic realizing that he is a drunk.

That first step is the hardest, but once completed, the Christian's eyes are opened and he "sees" and sings, "Glory to God," with his voice and in his heart. He is confirmed, or "born again" as some would say. After the emotional exuberance subsides, the Christian yearns to learn more about the feeling of faith and the history and the story of the church. God is revealed in the readings from the old and new testaments and this is the Liturgy of the Word. Because the Christian hears and understands the word, he is now able to profess his faith. There are various expressions of this but Catholics do it every Sunday by reciting the Nicene Creed.

As time passes and the Christian understands more and more about God and faith, the next natural step is to become fully one in Christ by receiving his Body and Blood, the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

This is communion for the individual and congregation. I heard a quote attributed to Maximilian Kolbe (and I am paraphrasing here): "the common belief is that the highest point of the Mass is during the rite of transubstantiation, when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. No, the highest point of the Mass is during communion when the community of believers freely and lovingly receives the Eucharist, as individuals but

also together as one." The Christian community becomes one body, the "Body of Christ."

Basic theology perhaps but here is the hook. Like the Mass, certain national ceremonies, family celebrations, work programs, and of course our Polish traditions embody stories of people and time. We have just finished celebrating Wigilia and Christmas, for Poles our story of faith and culture. Beginning this New Year, consider each of the events and the people that make them special. Think of how your own Polish story runs parallel or implicit to your American one and how that makes you special and defines you also as a Pole. You can make it like a religious experience.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY. The October 17, 2011 issue of *America, The National Catholic Weekly* magazine featured an article on Stanislaw Wyspianski, titled "A Family Man," written by Karen Sue Smith. Wyspianski is described by Smith as a "19th-century cultural giant." Perhaps so, considering his name is linked at various times throughout the article with famous writers and artists such as James Joyce, Henrik Ibsen, Gustav Klimt, and Paul Gauguin.

Artist and dramatist, Wyspianski lived a short but very productive life. Born in Krakow in 1869, he was a graduate of the Jagiellonian University and the School of Fine Arts and eventually became part of the faculty. While a young adult, he traveled throughout Europe developing his "own modernist/neo-romantic style" (using pastel, polychrome, and stained glass) that would influence other contemporary graphic artists.

So why the title "The Family Man?" Wyspianski was a husband and father of four children and it is this side of him that Smith shows how it resonates in his painting and writing. For example, as Smith observes:

The drawings and paintings of his wife and children reveal a tender side of the artist's personality and rank among his best-known and best-loved works.

...in Wyspianski's portraits one finds impish faces beneath hats, tots lost in thought, youngsters embracing one another in childhood friendships.

As both an artist and a father, Wyspianski had the humility to study children and learn from them. Wife, children, friends, and fam-



Wyspianski's Portrait of Elizy Pareńskie

ily: this is Stanislaw's inspiration behind the art. It is the story that is implicit in the important output of this cultural giant. As Smith tells it, family is the primary creative driver rather than drug addiction, drunkenness, or debauchery. What a very refreshing thought.

POLISH OR NOT? Ward Bond, Bert the accordion playin' cop in *It's a Wonderful Life*. I just want to believe he has a Polish or Slavic connection with that face and seeing him fingering the accordion at the end of the movie.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION. Danusha V. Goska, author of *Bieganski: The Brute Polak Stereotype in Polish-Jewish Relations and American Popular Culture* (Jews of Poland) is a book detailing a very important subject regarding anti-Polish bigotry. The problem is the cost varies from \$40-70. So this very important book is almost cost-prohibitive for most of us to purchase. Pondering Pole question for January, how do we get the price down so more of the common folk can buy it? How does that work?

DZIĘKUJE BARDZO to Sister Carolyn Mruz for giving me the *America* magazine and the Wyspianski article. Dziękuję bardzo to Danusha Goska for the courage and effort to write *Bieganski*. Happy New Year to all PAJ readers, good luck, and God bless. Hope it is a great and productive 2012 for you.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, a question of your own, or interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send eMail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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Part Three

BELGIUM, HOLLAND. SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1944. After a one-week rest and re-fit following the battle of Falaise Gap, the Polish 1st Armored Division was once again on the move. Marching through mud and rain they arrived at the ancient French city of Rouen then crossed the River Seine at Elbeuf over a temporary bridge nicknamed, "Warsaw Bridge." Picking up speed, the Division pursued the retreating Germans over four hundred kilometers in nine days, liberating Abbeville and St. Omer in France, and into Belgium at Ypers. In an attempt to slow the Polish advance, German artillery units pounded them from the woodlands and hills and destroyed most of the bridges in their path. The Poles were again relentless, returning artillery fire and forcing the Germans into a narrowing pocket along the sea, until they were finally stalled by the destruction of bridges over the Ghent canal. After a prolonged stand-off, the Division finally crossed the canal on September 12th and forced its way into Ghent.

Determined to keep up the pressure, General Maczek ordered the Division on the road again with its objective the Belgian port of Terneuzen. Fighting along the way was fierce at the Axel-Hulst canal with the Poles taking heavy casualties, as their Cromwell and light Sherman tanks were out-gunned by the heavier and more powerful Panzer Mark IIIs and Mark IVs. Fighting at night to minimize their disadvantage, and calling in artillery barrages, the Poles eventually prevailed, taking Axel and Hulst on September 19th and Terneuzen on the 20th.

Having liberated Belgium, the Allied invasion of Holland began in earnest at the end of September. The Polish 1st Armored Division was ordered to seize the heavily fortified German garrison at the Dutch city of Breda. The Division crossed the Antwerp-Turnhout canal and pushed into Holland, slogging through soft terrain criss-crossed with rivers and canals. Progress along the narrow roads was slow and hazardous as German artillery and mortar units

hidden in the woods continuously pinned them down. By early October, the Division's progress had stalled and general Maczek ordered in artillery bombardments and aerial strikes with Typhoons and Spitfires.

By the 6th of October the Division was able to operate once again but the going was rugged facing several German battalions equipped with artillery and anti-tank guns. But the Poles conducted a series of flanking maneuvers through difficult terrain, surprising the Germans and forcing them to retreat into the woods. Capturing the towns of Merxplas, Alphen and the crucial Baarle-Nassau junction the Division pressed on in the drive toward Breda.

On the 27th of October the Polish 1st Armored Division launched the attack on Breda. Defending the well fortified garrison, German artillery units pounded the Division's positions outside the city for two days. But, under the cover of heavy fog, General Maczek once again devised a series of flanking operations, closing off the enemy escape routes and securing the airfield. On the 29th Polish rifle battalions finally forced their way into the city. The fighting was brutal as the Poles fought off machine-gun fire and mortar barrages in street-to-street and house-to-house battles. Dodging constant sniper fire, Polish infantry units kept advancing deeper into the city, systematically calling in tanks to clear out the neighborhoods. Losses on both sides were heavy until finally, on the 31st of October the last German units were driven out. While the city suffered significant property damage, General Maczek's well planned flanking operations at the outset had shortened the battle and there were no civilian casualties. Following the clearing of Breda, the Division pushed on to Moerdijk where it spent the winter protecting the wide expanses of the Maas River and preparing for the final assault on Germany.

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Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning historical novel, and a frequent contributor to this paper.

Passion of Curie Inspires Alda

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Marie Curie and Alan Alda are an odd couple. The brilliant scientist who won Nobel Prizes twice and the actor who most famously portrayed Hawkeye Pierce in the television series "M*A*S*H" do not seem to have much in common.

But looks can be deceiving. Alda, who has no training in science, is nevertheless a big fan of it. For 11 years, he hosted television program called "Scientific American Fron-

tiers," which took him around the world having conversations with scientists.

"I have a very passionate interest in introducing people to the wonder of science," Alda told *Chemical & Engineering News*. "I only know science as a consumer. I don't have the math to really see deeply into it myself. However, I'm just amazed by it."

Alda's recent project which brings a scientific subject to a broad audience is the play "Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie," which he has been researching and writing for four years.

Alda dramatizes the story of Marie Curie, who emerges in the play and embodies the almost obsessively determined scientist. This Marie Curie is passionate about her science, but she is also a passionate woman—deeply in love with her soul mate, Pierre, and, later, almost recklessly heedless with her lover, Langevin.

Alda sees "Radiance" as a way to engage the public in a scientific topic. Nevertheless, he says, "It's not a science lesson. There are some funny things in it. There's a human story that I'm tracking."

—Rudy M. Baum, C&EN

PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org



The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt. Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$30.00.

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

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The End of an Era: The Legendary Versatones to Retire — Conclusion

“It is an honor to be a member of the Versatones and to perform with some of the finest musicians ever to play polka music. Thanks to Eddie Sr. for the opportunity in 1968 and to Eddie Jr. for the opportunity in 2002. Once a Versatone, always a Versatone!”

— **Bob Zima**

“There are so many memories I took with me after my time with Eddie Sr., I could write a book. But the ones that stand out the most are traveling across the country and playing over 35 weekends a year and meeting new polka music fans, musicians, promoters and celebrities! My fondest memories include the years at Polka Fireworks festival, trips to Cancun and Hawaii, and caroling with the Chicago Carolers during the holidays!”

— **Matt Lewandowski**

“Of late, the Versatones have exhibited a new spirit and a distinct instrument identity on their recordings. Their most recent effort, *Everybody Polka*, perfectly illustrates the attention to details and commitment to quality of these musicians.”

“With the objective of not individually dissecting each tune, we can safely tell you, putting the stylus down just about anywhere on the album will produce a bounty. The vocals, the horns, the tempo, the boxes have all been assembled to yield a Versatones’ gem.”

— **Polka Insider**, *Polish American Journal*, November 1990

“I love this music, I am so happy to have shared a bandstand with all the talented musicians I had, and I am so grateful for all the fans that became friends. The people were the best part of being in this business and the part that I miss the most.”

— **Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.**

“I lasted about four-and-a-half happy years with the band. That’s when Eddie really started to travel. I am glad and proud that I was part of Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones, with all the fun and memories I will remember for the rest of my life.”

— **Wally Maduzia**



VERSATONES 1989. (l. to r.): Kevin Adams, Ed Wolinski, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Ed Blazonczyk, Jr., Jerry Tokarz, and Al Piatkowski.

“Music, Music, Music!” Theresa Brewer put it on the charts at number one and kept it there for 17 weeks. Now 46 years later, Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones have revived the tune, “Blazonczyk-ized” it, and made it the title cut of their latest recording, *Music, Music, Music*. When you play this one, crank up the volume and enjoy The Nation’s Number One Polka Band!”

— **Polish American Journal**, August 1996

“Being able to share the stage with polka greats like Marion Lush, Chet Kowalkowski, Lenny Gomulka, Stas Golunka, Little Richard, Scrubby, etc., was also very memorable. Eddie Sr., was not only a great band leader, but a good friend. I enjoyed the many hours on the bus with band-mates Ed Wolinski, Ed Blazonczyk Jr. and Sr., Kevin Adams, Rich Tokarz, Al Piatkowski, John Zelasko, Jr., joking around, playing cards, telling stories (Eddie Sr.’s stories were the best!) and being ‘brothers.’ It was with much pride that I tell my son, Brett, my family and new friends that I meet, that I was a member of the Versatones.”

— **Matt Lewandowski**

“Being an out-of-towner before I joined the Versatones, there was a certain mystique about that band.

I had heard all of the stories about the pranks and the ‘Chicago sense of humor’ before I joined. I think I enjoyed that aspect of the band just as much as the musical part, even though I had been mostly on the receiving end of the pranks. I even laughed about spraying my hair with deodorant after asking to borrow Eddie Jr.’s hair spray. It was all done in fun, and this type of humor originated with Eddie, Sr. and Chet Kowalkowski way back in the beginning days of the band. I was kind of honored to be a part of this Versatone tradition.”

— **Al Piatkowski**

“Once a Versatone, always a Versatone. Eddie, thank you for the great opportunity you gave me to be a part of this brotherhood. If the Versatones are an Institution; then I am happy to have been committed.”

— **Kevin Adams**

“It is somewhat disheartening to realize those glory days are behind us and will never be replicated, but I will have a lifetime of memories to comfort me in my twilight years.”

— **Ed Wolinski**

“We did so many things. When I think back: The Christmas Shows, Thanksgiving weekends, we played at the Library of Congress, we played at Navy Pier, the pool parties, the parades and floats, the fun,

Jeff Banas Passes

HARTFORD, Conn. — Musician Jeffery John Banas, 56, passed away Nov. 9, 2011, after suffering a heart attack while driving. He was a radio announcer for WRTC and WRYM for many years. He co-hosted, with the late John Jeski, the WRYM “Polka Party” live radio show every Sunday from the Polish National Home in Hartford for 25 years.

Trenton Recognizes Sturr

TRENTON, N.J. — The New Jersey General Assembly presented band leader **Jimmy Sturr** with an Assembly Resolution, honoring him for his accomplishments. The 18-time Grammy winner and New York native was praised as a man of strong character and exceptional determination.

the pranks, the jokes. We shared the stage with so many other bands along the years. They created so many fond memories at their jobs. I never considered this my job—it was too much fun to be a job! We received so many awards, recognition, keys to cities ... we thank you for the honor.”

— **Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.**

“After Senior stepped down, things did not stop. People were still enjoying the music that he had produced. When Jr. took the helm it was not much different. Expectations were there, and if you were going to be part of the Versatones you needed to be good at your game. What I liked during this time was Jr. was taking the band in another direction, but always with respect to his father. I spoke with Senior about this and he loved what was going on. He said that it made the band sound even more fresh and that the selections of tunes being recorded made him proud that the Versatones are carrying on with all the excitement that was there with him. This is some of what I think about as being a Versatone.”

— **Jim (Spangles) Sierzega**
Trumpet, Vocals, concertina

“Over the years, Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones have set the pace for modern polka music. They have always blended the right amount of ethnic heritage with contemporary flavor to produce album after album of hits.

“When I Hear the Music” we’ll be expecting a “Polka Celebration,”

maybe “At the Square?” “Highways” or “Dance Halls In Chicago Town” we will all be thinking of “The Good Ol’ Days” when you could attend a “Polka Festival,” “Give a Hand to the Band” and say “Hello Everybody.” “Always, Forever and a Day” “We are Polish and Proud of It.”

We may “Wanna Wanna” “Stop the World” and have “Everybody Polka” but as “Life Rolls On” the *Polka Parade* is now a little more quiet. It’s like the “Wheel of Fortune” doesn’t give an “Oj Dig A Dig” and is saying “You’re Talkin’ to the Wrong Man.” We’ll feel like a “Poor Boy” and wonder if “Angeline Will be Mine” ever again at those “Polka Lounges in Chicago”?

One thing is definite: Our “Polka Hero,” the Versalicious Versatones, the bandleader of the “The Nations #1 Polka Band” have given more to us that we could ever imagine. A “Thanks” never seem enough but somehow The Versatones would expect nothing more.

— **Steve Litwin**

EPILOGUE. I’d like to acknowledge my buddies, Bob and Rich Sendra and Jerry Chocholek as being the originators of the Versatones band in the late 1950’s. I incorrectly stated in the last issue that Chet Kowalkowski started the band, but he didn’t actually join the Versatones until about 1961.

Thanks to all the talented Versatones throughout the years, and thanks to all the loyal fans!

Sincerely,
Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.

Polka World Loses Gene Paliga

Eugene “Gene” Paliga, age 76, of Three Rivers, Mich., passed away November 21, 2011. He was the accordion player with the Paliga Brothers Band and a retired letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office in Lansing, Ill.

The Paliga Polka Dots consisted of: Gene Paliga (accordion), Casey Paliga (clarinet/sax), Tony Paliga (trumpet), Steve Paliga (trumpet), Ray Paliga (drums). The band recorded on Jay Jay Records, and also recorded an LP album called *Richie*

Gomulka Meets the Paliga Polka Dots on Bel-Aire Records, which is considered a collector’s item.

“We always thought that LP was unique in that it consisted of all related family members with the Paliga Bros, Richie Gomulka on vocals, and myself on concertina, clarinet and trumpet,” said Polka Hall of Famer Lenny Gomulka.

Eugene Paliga is survived by children, grandchildren, a sister and five brothers. He was laid to rest in Calumet City.

POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

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



MIKE MATOUSEK on bass with The Boys band. Binghamton, N.Y. 1980s.



HANK JAWORSKI, accordionist with the Buffalo Brass. 1981.



BILLY BELINA on accordion with Baystate IV, Auburn, N.Y. 1985.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Chopin's Wigilia a Wonderful Event

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Greetings dear readers! I hope you had a simply marvelous Christmas. Happy New Year to you! You're wished a year filled with good health, good luck, many good friendships and fantastic polka music!

Ron Moscoe informed me that the **Polish Night** at the Father Justin Knights of Columbus on Union Road on Nov. 5 was a huge success. The New Direction Band provided the great entertainment and the special guest appearance by John Gora just made it extra special!

On Dec. 3, **Chopin Singing Society** had its annual Wigilia at the Millennium Hotel. This affair was attended by more than 350 people. Judge Ann Mikoll was a gracious M.C. Fr. Krysa from St. Casimir's Parish said the blessing and gave an informative talk to the audience. Oplatek was then shared. After a delicious traditional meal was served, the Chopin Singers sang many of our beloved Polish koledy. They did a fabulous job and this program was enjoyed by all. Afterward, St. Nicholas entered the hall accompanied by some little angels who passed out gifts to the people. It was heartwarming to see such a large turnout interested in keeping our Polish traditions ongoing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... Chris and Jim Kruczkowski on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 11, 1961. They celebrated with gatherings of family and friends here, and in Florida.

CLUB NEWS. Rich Szykowny, outgoing President of the Polka Variety Club, said their Christmas



CONGRATULATIONS to Veronica (Roni) Krupski and Bob Schillinger on their wedding on November 12th. A beautiful ceremony took place at St. Gabriel's Church in Elma, N.Y. A musical group provided inspiring music in Church with Ted Szymanski doing an outstanding job on the piano. A reception at Potts Banquet Hall included entertainment by Al Krew, good food, plenty of refreshments and lots of fun. A lifetime of happiness is wished to the newlyweds.

Party at the Leonard Post on Dec. 3 turned out very well. Rare Vintage provided some nice holiday sounds mixed in with a variety of other music.

The new officers of the **Polka Variety Club** for 2012 are: Bill Janish, president; Bob Wojciechowski, vice-president; Pauline Janish, treasurer, and Marcia Szykowny, secretary.

The **Polka Boosters Club** had its fabulous Christmas party at the Polish Falcons Hall on Dec. 10. Everyone enjoyed themselves with plenty of good eats, refreshments and super entertainment by the Cityside Band.

The Officers for the Polka Boosters Club for 2012 are: Chris Tanski, president; John Zwawa, vice presi-

dent; Barb Zwawa, secretary; and Ed Reska, treasurer.

Congratulations to all the officers of both Clubs. We wish them all the best and much success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 14. National Polka Month Dance at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y., featuring The Knewz and the Concertina All Stars. Call 826-6575 for more info.

Jan. 15. The Touch play at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, starting at 4:00 p.m. Call (716) 874-7734 for more information.

Jan. 21. The New Direction Band will hold a CD release party for "Follow Directions." This party will be at Potts Hall, 694 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY. Admission is \$7.00 and includes a free buffet. The new CDs will be available for \$10. Call Ron at 675-6588 for more info.

Jan. 25. Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission of \$8 includes snacks, dessert, coffee, beer, pop and music. New Members pay \$9.00 first meeting only. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call 826-2281.

Jan. 28. The Touch is playing at Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y.

Reminder: There is no Polka Boosters club meeting in January. The next date for its meeting is Feb. 16, 2012 at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y.

Hope your stress is less with the holidays behind us now. Relax and enjoy!

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Knewz Packs Knights' Hall

The holidays started off with a bang, as The Knewz played to a jam-packed room November 25 in Detroit. The band played at the annual after-Thanksgiving dance held at the Knights of Columbus hall on Larkins Drive. The Knewz gets around to this area just a few times each year, so it was no surprise that polka lovers from all over Michigan and Ohio showed up to enjoy the guys. Looking forward to that new Knewz recording in 2012.

November 27 the annual Polish-American Concert Band Fall-Winter took place at the Franciscan Center in Sylvania. This was the silver anniversary of this event, which features an interesting array of concert band music, Polish and English carols, and the crowd favorites such as the Armed Forces Salute. The features artists this year were Randy Krajewski with pre-concert entertainment and also The Pride of Toledo Chorus. This year, the band honored Jim Mackiewicz, Sr. whose idea 25 years ago to have a big concert on the cusp of Christmas grew into the band's biggest draw each year. During intermission, current director Nathan Pienta presented Jim with a plaque hand-signed by band members in appreciation of Jim's many years as director.

December 4, The IMA featured Squeezebox with Mollie Busta for its Christmas party. Squeezebox is certainly one of the up and coming bands on the polka scene today, with a tight three piece sound. Congratulations to Ted Lange and Mollie on their recent nuptials.

The PRCUA club on North Detroit Avenue held a night of English and Polish Christmas carols mixed with a little polka music December 9. Randy Krajewski, Eric Hite, and Eddie Biegaj provided the musical entertainment for this affair. On Sunday December 11, Toledo Area Polka Society threw its Christmas affair, which again featured Eric Randy and Eddie, along with Andy Pawlak, Eddie "Kaz" Kaczmarczyk, and Jim Rutkowski. This group, otherwise known as the Czelusta Park All Stars always pleases the TAPS crowd.

Other events around town for Christmas included the Echoes of Poland annual Pierogi dozens sale December 3 and the Polish American Community of Toledo Wigilia dinner December 11.

As 2012 begins, the organizations that help Toledo Polonia keep the spirit alive look forward to the support of fans throughout the year.

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

The Boys are Back

Boys will be boys and, for the polka industry, thank goodness they are. As we know, boys change. Some leave the neighborhood, some stay, some return, but with the release of their latest CD, *A New Day*, the Boys are back.

This 16-track collection features a wide spectrum of music and styles and the listener will find everything from a cover of "Fools Fall in Love," an Elvis song by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, to Frank Wojnarowski's "Tam w Poznaniu" polka. Every tune fits well in this collection. "In My Old Polish Town" polka, written by Matousek and Puwalski, earned three repeats on my first listen through the complete CD.

The vocals of Al Puwalski (accordion/clarinet), Frank Liszka (trumpet), Mike Matousek (bass) and Mike Evan (trumpet) are spread equally across the entire grouping of songs. Dave Morris in on concertina and Jeff Yash on drums.

In the liner notes, Mike Matousek writes, "Hopefully this CD might help in the overall mission to broaden the appeal of today's polka music, preserve yesterday's legacy, and solidify the future of the music we love." They have more than achieved their goals.

A New Day by The Boys was recorded by Hank Guzevich at Wizzeers Studios and mixed by Gary Rhamy of Peppermint Studios. For more information visit www.theboysband.com on the internet or email: mike@theboysband.com.

POLKAS FROM THE WINDY CITY. When you get "polka chills" just hearing the first track of the *Polkas From the Windy City* CD, you know you are at home in polkaland.

Jimmy Kilian & Honky Chicago know how to *make* polka music as opposed to just *playing* polka music. There is true feeling in each note, each phrasing, each beat, and each vocal. As Wally would say, "it comes from the bottom of my serce."

"Chicago Times" polka, "Our Break Up," polka, "North Side Hop," "My Wife" oberek, and "7-11" polka are just a sampling of what makes your blood flow a bit faster. It's "honky" music as it should be.

The Polish hearts of Jimmy Killian, Marty Dzik, Eddie Madura,

Rich Raclawski, Jim "Chainsaw" Kucharski and Randy Koslosky are filled with Chicago musical heritage, and their talent to share this with their audience is what makes Polkas From the Windy City a musical diamond.

Recorded and engineered by Peppermint's Gary Rhamy, this one belongs in your polka music library today. Email: jkilian45@yahoo.com.

THE SPIRIT CARRIES ON. On *The Spirit Carries On*, the spirit in question comes from Matt Lewandowski, musician, arranger, owner/operator of Max Studios, Buffalo boy, and someone who is never afraid to ride the rail, take a different road, and make "mix" have several meanings. This new recording by Matt and the Alliance on MAXimum Records brings together a wide variety of musicians to produce a unique, original, and classic collection of 15 tunes. Starting backwards in the track listing, any hockey fan will love "Good Old Hockey Game." "Chitty Chitty Break Down," the Casinos' "I Can't Forget," Wally's "Grey Pigeon," and the nice musical phrasing and vocals of Stephanie Futa Carter on "I Told You So," are just a few highlights of the 15 hits on this one.

The studio band includes Matt Rosinski, Kevin Adams, Roger Malinowski, Ray "Melvin" Rzeszutko, Stephanie Futa Carter and Matt Lewandowski. The unique cover graphics are yet another extra added visual attraction, rounding out a dynamic new release.

The Spirit Carries On was recorded by Matt Lewandowski at MAX Studios and mixed by Gary Rhamy of Peppermint Productions. For more information email: alliancepolkas@yahoo.com.

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To win one of three Polish cookbooks in English, simply write your name and mailing address at the top of a clean sheet of paper, number it from 1 to 5 and indicate the correct answer (a, b or c) to each of the following five questions:

1. Polish people living outside Poland are collectively referred to as: a) Polandia, b) Polonia, c) Polynesia.
2. The composer and pianist who played a major role in restoring Poland's independence after the World War I was: a) Krzysztof Penderecki, b) Ignacy Paderewski, c) Karol Szymanowski.
3. Bronisław Komorowski is Poland's: a) third, b) fourth, c) fifth president elected by popular vote.
4. Poland's great 19th-century romantic poets include Mickiewicz, Słowacki, Norwid and: a) Sienkiewicz, b) Krasiński, c) Wyspiański.
5. The Polish Falcons of English facilitated and promoted the creation of: a) Poland's Home Army (Armia Krajowa), b) The Polish Legions, c) General

Haller's Blue Army.

Mail your completed quiz without delay to:
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 ul. Kaniowska 24
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 POLAND

or e-mail them to:
research60@gmail.com

All correct entries will take part in a random drawing to select the winners. The first prize is the nearly 900-page "Polish Heritage Cookery", the biggest Polish cookbook ever published in the English language. Second prize is "Polish Holiday Cookery" (248 pages) focusing on the traditional foods of Christmas, Easter, weddings, banquets and other special occasions. Third prize is "Culinary Traditions of Mazovia, Silesia and Kashubia" (60 pages), printed on opposing pages in both Polish and English.

Powodzenia — Good Luck!

ASK OUR MAN IN WARSAW / Robert Strybel

Ways to Build Vocabulary

Q: I would like to start teaching our two-year-old daughter some basic Polish words. My own Polish remembered from when by grandparents were still alive isn't that hot. Would you know of a good way to get started?

CYNTHIA IN SEATTLE

A: One way is to build Polish word power by teaching them vocabulary in specific fields — animals, foods, colors, toys, family members, etc. when the child has mastered, let's say, five words in a given field you can add more, maybe a word a day. For other ideas, type "Teaching my child Polish" into Google and a slew of suggestions will issue forth. On the basis of years of teaching experience and observation, there is no more effective teaching aid than peer pressure. If you can find a tot your daughter's age in your area that speaks only Polish, such meet-ups may produce amazing results. Good luck!

Q. I found an old Polish-language newspaper from Buffalo, NY, wherein the obituaries contain the initials "D.O.M." directly under the deceased names. Would you know what this stands for?

JOE MACIELAG
 Buffalo, N.Y.
joem122@aol.com

A: The abbreviation D.O.M. (Deo Optimo Maximo) was a dedication meaning something like "To God the greatest (best, highest)" — the Latin adjective optimus has

many meanings but all of them have a superlative ring to them. The D.O.M. on gravestones was sometimes interpreted as "Domus omnium mortalium" (the house of all mortals), in other words, here is where all mortals end up.

Q: My Grandfather Sachnowski used his clan-name Nalecz as part of his name — Kazimierz Nalecz Sachnowski. We're all wondering when this custom was in use — was it always used as part of a szlachcic's surname or was it only used on more formal occasion, particularly when signing documents? What kind of documents would be available that would authenticate an ancestor's right to bear a particular crest? In doing such research, I ran across a Polish website that is based in Warsaw. Would you know if this Confederation is legitimate? Here is their web-site: <http://www.szlachta.org.pl/en/>

MARIE GAFFNEY
tinijoroga@yahoo.com

A: According to heraldic expert Waldemar Frontczak, the use of a clan-name in one's signature was not universal and was strictly up to the nobleman himself. The practice became more widespread during the 19th century, when the population had grown and many nobles wanted to accentuate that they were from a noble line and not commoners. At most, only 10-12% of Old Polish society could rightfully claim noble status. That percentage was higher with names ending in "-ski" and "-cki". Mr Frontczak also indicated that there had been a fair amount of heraldic fraud — people claiming noble status who did not actually have it. The Confederation appears to be a legitimate group which charges only a nominal fee to register and serves its members on a not-for-profit basis. I'm sure they can answer your questions about authenticating an ancestor's heraldic claim.

Q: I have seen a large poster of the late Pope John Paul II with the words "Tabor Zakopiański". Nobody here in the Washington, D.C.

area can come up with any reason for the caption. Would you know what it means?

REV. CANON PHILIP S. MAJKA
 St James Church
 Falls Church, Virg.

A: "Tabor" is the Polish word for a roving band such as a Gypsy camp or a horse-drawn military wagon train of yesteryear. Initially I could not figure out what that meant and people at Zakopane town hall didn't know either. I got the information at Zakopane's Our Lady of Fatima Church. The huge highlander congregation that came out to see their beloved Pope John Paul II in 1997 experienced a profound change for the better and their hearts and souls were transfigured by the Holy Father's powerful, inspiring presence. The late Father Mirosław Drozdek (died in 2007) coined the term "Tabor Zakopiański" not in reference to the Polish word "tabor" but to evoke an image of Mount Tabor in the Holyland where Jesus experienced His transfiguration.

Q: Today, I was chastised over the use of "Polonian community". I was told that Polonian refers to "Jewish people." I was embarrassed and shocked. I have done much research over the years and, frankly, never heard of Polonian being used to define those of the Jewish faith. Naturally, I was speechless and did not know what to say, except that I know Polonia means those of Polish descent living outside Poland. I have used "Polonian" as an adjective extensively in numerous articles and publications, but this was the first time I was ever confronted over its use.

GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN
gbalut@sbccglobal.net
 Chicago

A: Yes, Polonia, the Latin word for Poland, has been used for generations to mean the Polish diaspora — people of Polish ancestry living outside Poland. I think there may have been some confusion between Polonia and Polania. The latter is the Hebrew name for Poland (and incidentally means "God lives here"). This was shortened to Polin (meaning "here you may rest"). Each Hebrew character is an entire syllable, not just a single letter, so individually each syllable means one thing, but taken together means something else. However, at around the time of World War One, there was a Jewish movement afoot to create a Judeo-Polonia. That was to have been a Jewish homeland made up of the lands of Poland and Ukraine where about one-third of the population was Jewish.



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STREETS OF CROCODILES
Photography, Media, and Postsocialist Landscapes in Poland
by Kamil Turowski and Katarzyna Marciniak
Intellect/University of Chicago Press
Index, photographs, 178 pp., \$50.00

This disturbing collection of photos of Lodz, Poland, uses the urban landscape to illustrate the juxtaposition of modern colorful foreign billboards against hateful scrawled graffiti on crumbling walls.

Sixty-three beautiful photographs by Turowski, both color and black and white, show the city, decrepit and dead, while foreign posters advertise the excitement and promise of things to come.

The book is a thoughtful discourse of problems still facing Poland.

MALEVICH AND THE AMERICAN LEGACY:
essays by Yve-Alain Bois
Aleksandra Shatskikh and
Magdalena Dabrowski
Prestel, 2011, full color photographs, \$100.00

Kazimir Malevich, considered one of the greatest innovators of 20th century abstract art, is not well known in America.

munications and exchanges. In 1973 a second exhibit was held at the Guggenheim Museum and in 1990 the National Gallery in Washington.

Malevich was born in 1879 in Kiev to Polish parents. Moving to Moscow in 1907 he attempted to gain entrance to the Moscow School of Painting and was refused three times.

Americans and Russians in the 60s were searching for the most basic form, the simplicity of aesthetic intentions and Malevich's popularity grew.

This oversized book is a collector's dream, with full color and black and white copies of paintings and essays by contemporary American artists.

REQUIEM
Poems of the Terezin Ghetto
by Paul B. Janeczko, 102 pp., \$16.99

Through the poetry of Janeczko, readers are drawn into the horrors of the Jewish experience in the ghetto of Terezin.

The collection of 35 poems is based on historical facts, composites of research and fictional figures.

into a meaningful poem. Illustrations throughout emphasize the brutality these people faced.

The book has been designated for teenagers, but I would be reluctant to put it into the hands of my grandchildren.

SMALL, MEDIUM AND LARGE
A Book About Relative Sizes
by Emily Jenkins, ill. by Tomek Bogacki
Star Bright Books, 2011, \$ 19.95

This oversized book is loaded with pages of bright shiny colors and colorful mice to help a child learn about size and comparison to others.

WAITING TO BE HEARD
The Polish Christian Experience Under Nazi and Stalinist Oppression, 1939-1995
ed. by Bogusia J. Wojciechowska
Author House, 2011, bibliography, glossary, index, maps, photos.
Hc \$28.49, pb \$17.99

This collection of testimonies focuses on the deportation of Poles to the gulags of Soviet Russia as well as the difficulties post-war survivors faced while settling in foreign countries.

The book is broken into chapters chronologically from 1939 to present time. The short testimonies, almost 100, are powerful as they recall joining the resistance, slave labor camps, escape from the Germans, living in the frozen tundra under the cruel eyes of their oppressors.

A time frame is provided for each person, their birth place, where they were sent, where they are living now, along with photos of family members. Many of the interviewees are orphans.

Issues Apology

LONDON — UK's Daily Mail apologized for use of the phrase "Polish Concentration Camp" in a story about the death of a World War II hero who escaped from Stalag Luft III, the prison featured in the movie "The Great Escape."

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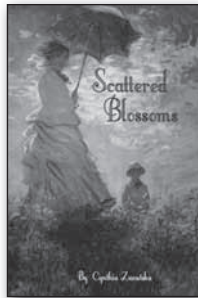
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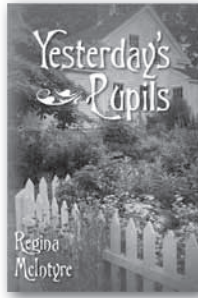
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this young Polish woman weave together her life as a child of nobility, born to a great country manor in a nation whose rich culture and thousand-year-old traditions have enveloped her throughout her early years, with her life in a new, vital, and often cruel and incomprehensible new world — America?



YESTERDAY'S PUPILS
By Regina A. McIntyre
\$17.95

Create Space Books
2010, 208 pp., pb

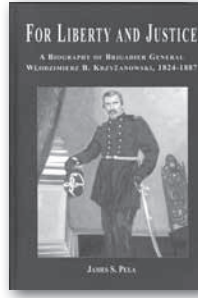
Sequel to "An Altar of Sod." At the turn of the 20th Century, three families emigrate from the same village in Poland. The Victorian era provides the style and mores that challenge these immigrants to adjust to that culture, and at the same time try to maintain their old world traditions and customs.



THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY
by Delores Gapanowicz
\$13.95

Nightingale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.

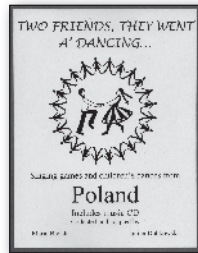
Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.



FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: A
Biography of Brigadier General
Włodzimierz B. Krzyzanowski, 1824-1887
\$29.95

by James Pula. 335 pp. plus introduction. 112 illustrations, hc. 1978, 2010 Ethnic Heritage Studies Center at Utica College

A lavishly illustrated biography of a major Polish American figure of the 19th century, For Liberty and Justice tells the story of a Polish revolutionary exiled to America where he rises from private to general during the Civil War.



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This fascinating book is overflowing with the customs and traditions of the Polish Christmas holiday season, as it was and still is observed in Poland. This book contains a charming Story of Christmas and provides menus and recipes, carols and music, Jasełka, the Nativity Play and tree ornaments. The authentic decorations are patterns with detailed instructions for reproducing. A great resource for ethnic studies. It is delightful reading not only for Christmas but throughout the whole year. Colorful reproductions of Stryjeńska's art beautifully illustrate the book. An excellent gift!



TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS
\$14.95

Polonie Publishing
170 pp., h.c.
This is the first complete, hard cover collection of Polish cookery in the English language published in the United States. This book

has been researched from old Polish cookbooks and recipes collected from the best of Polish – American cooks. It also contains stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve *wigilia*, Harvest Festival *dozynki* and the foods to celebrate. Recipes included are barszcz, bigos, czarnina, pierogi, naleśniki, paszteciki ... a treasure full of Polish delectables. This book is perfect for home cooks or to give as a special gift.



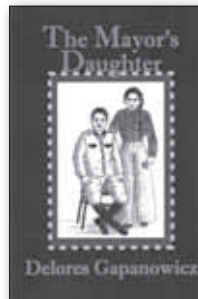
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TREASURED POLISH SONGS WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
\$24.95

350 pp., hc. Polonie Publishing
This lustrous book presents a magnificent collection of Polish songs with musical scores for voice and piano accompaniment. Included in this book are folk songs, lullabies, religious, art songs and ballads... solo and quartet arrangements and more. The songs touch upon the joys, daily experiences and misfortunes of the Polish people. They speak the language of their hearts and the spirit of their nation. Enhanced with colorful Werten illustrations, a feature of this book is the authentic Polish lyrics with beautiful English translations. Both musician and appreciative listener will cherish this book.



THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER
by Delores Gapanowicz
\$12.95

Nightingale Press
2007. 176 pp., pb., ill.
Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. The stories were told to the author by her parents.



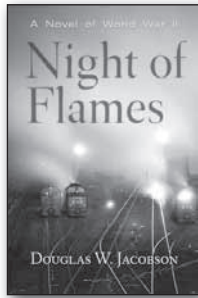
A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND
by John Radzilowski
\$14.95

312 pp. ill., maps. pb.
A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a history of the people and places from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.



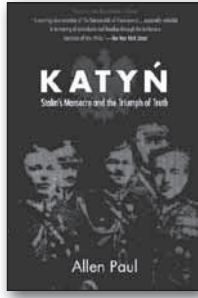
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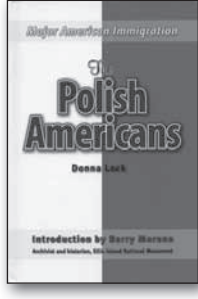
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54 pp., Polonie Publishing
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POLISH FOLK LEGENDS
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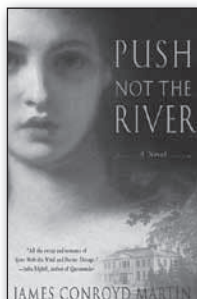
Infinity Publishing, 2010, 208 pp. pb.
Forty legends collected in Poland or researched in many books and periodicals. Poland's first written history by Muenster in 895 states King Popiel reigned in Polonia 246 years before Christ. This is one of the many legends still told by the Poles.



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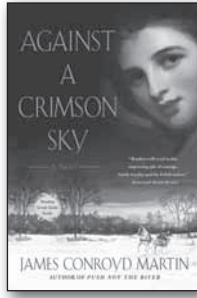
Full color illustrated. Ages 9-12. Mason Crest Publishers. 2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"
Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups. Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups.

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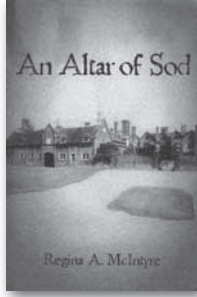
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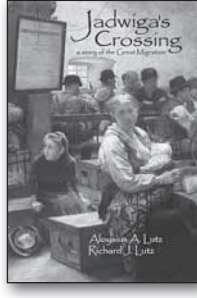
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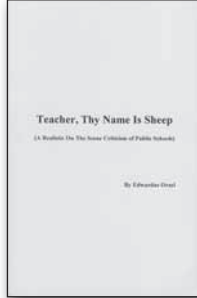
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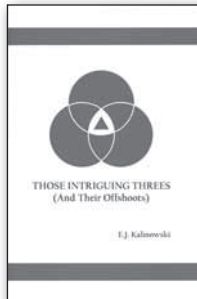
TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP
by E.J. Kalinowski
\$9.95

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.
Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004.



MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER
by E.J. Kalinowski
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Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.
Mother Power is a compendium of psycho-biographical sketches on personalities in various fields. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision.



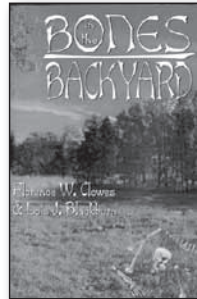
THOSE INTRIGUING THREES (and Their Offshoots)
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Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.
Why are there so many threes in the Bible? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? The premise of this book is the prevalence of threes in our world and how to observe them.



OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
\$14.95

by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2007, 220 pp, pb.
Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again. When she learns her friend Connecticut State Trooper Mark Jankowski, is investigating the death of one of her clients, Gladys Goodell, her curiosity takes over. Soon a mummified baby is found in the old Goodell home. None of the Goodell sisters ever married. Whose baby could this be?



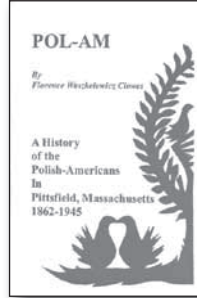
BONES IN THE BACKYARD
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
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by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2001, 198 pp, pb.
In the quiet corner of northeastern Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator, Bashia Gordon, turns amateur sleuth when she and her Peace Corps friend, Dottie Weeks, uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank. How did it get there? Who is it?

Trooper Mark Jankowski arrives on the scene, and is intrigued by Bashia. Identifying the long-dead victim becomes a challenge for Jankowski. Bashia's curiosity, intuition and Internet research skills keep her involved. Could the bones be the wealthy eccentric who disappeared years ago?

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MASSACHUSETTS POLONIA



A HISTORY OF POLISH-AMERICANS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS., 1862-1945
by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes
\$14.95

Palmetto Press, Vero Beach 2004. 152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25", photographs, pb.

This is the first ethnic history of the Polish community in Pittsfield Massachusetts, with a listing of the people who originally settled there. Using church records, organization brochures and oral histories the author has compiled a valued history. In the nineteenth and twentieth century Polish immigrants came to Pittsfield seeking work in the woolen mills. They created social, religious, and business organizations, which encouraged others to join them. The north end of Pittsfield is well populated with the Polish community.



THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF WORCESTER (MASS.)
by Barbara Proko, Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles, and John Kraska, Jr.
\$19.95

Arcadia, 2003, 128 pp pb.
AUTOGRAPHED! Acclaimed as "a wonderful tribute" and "long overdue," this groundbreaking book documents the history of Polonia in a large industrial New England city, 1870-1970. More than 220 vintage photos and images—many never before published—paint a vivid picture of immigration, family life, work, Polonia's heart (Millbury Street) and soul (Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish), education, athletics, citizenship, military service, and Polish cultural traditions. 300+ surnames indexed.



WORCESTER COUNTY'S POLISH COMMUNITY
by Barbara Proko and Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles
\$19.95

Arcadia, 2007, 128 pp pb.
AUTOGRAPHED! Lauded as a "community family album" and "a welcome complement to The Polish Community of Worcester," this photo history highlights the seven Polish parish seats of the Worcester Diocese—Clinton, Dudley, Gardner, Southbridge, Webster, West Warren, and Worcester—plus Gilbertville, South Grafton, Uxbridge, and other Central Massachusetts towns where Poles have settled in substantial numbers for more than a century. 225+ historic images, 700+ individuals identified by name.

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



ACCEPTING THE EMBRACE OF GOD. Ascension Cathedral, Lezajsk, Poland. May 22, 1976.

TECHNOLOGY

HOT Culture's Free Polish App

WARSAW, Poland — HOT Culture was created in association with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Poland to provide an up-to-date resource for Polish cultural events and news around the world.

A free app and universal iOS download, HOT Culture provides a host of information on Polish culture, including Music, the Visual Arts and Literature.

There is a multimedia gallery where you can access new images and videos from Polish cultural events such as concerts, films and art exhibitions as well as an interactive calendar where you can find out what is happening today, tomorrow or next week.

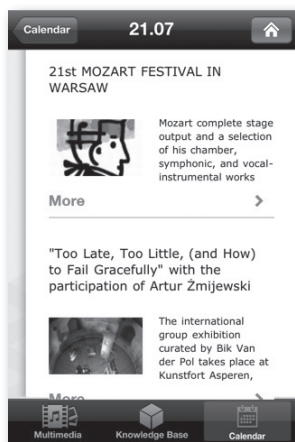
The interface is artistically sim-

ple as well as easy-to-use, with large buttons providing no-hassle navigation throughout the app. A quick-update system ensures that you always have the latest information and is an essential part of getting the most from the HOT Culture service.

The app can be read in both English and Polish, and all of the content within the app is also available from the website — HotCulture.pl.

Reviewers say HOT Culture is an elegant and easy-to-use app that provides a great way to keep in touch with Polish culture, wherever you are in the world.

HOT Culture is compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.



KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Underground Hideout



In Darkness (W ciemności), a 2011 Polish film directed by Agnieszka Holland (above, right) is based on the book "In the Sewers of Lvov" by Robert Marshall about a true incident in Nazi-occupied Poland. The drama has been selected as the Polish entry for the *Best Foreign Language Film* category at this year's Academy Awards.

In Darkness (W ciemności), a 2011 Polish film directed by Agnieszka Holland is based on the book "In the Sewers of Lvov" by Robert Marshall about a true incident in Nazi-occupied Poland. The drama has been selected as the Polish entry for the *Best Foreign Language Film* category at this year's Academy Awards. *In Darkness* had a limited release in New York and Los Angeles in December, and is scheduled to open in wide release in January.

Inspired by the exploits of a Polish sewer worker and petty thief named Leopold Socha, who helped Jews during the Nazi occupation of Lwów in eastern Poland (at one time known as Lemberg, now known as Lviv, in Ukraine), this tale of a righteous gentile selflessly assisting in the survival of several persecuted Jews is no exception. Over a period of 14 months Socha hid a small group of Jews, including men, women, and children, in the sewers beneath the city. Initially he did it for the money until he discovered his better self.

Angry Harvest in 1985 and *Europa, Europa* in 1990, both of which were nominated for Academy Awards, were two films about the Holocaust that Holland had already made, and she had no desire to revisit that wrenching subject. She went on to direct other films such as *The Secret Garden*, *Washington Square*, and the HBO production of *Shot in the Heart*.

The director, whose mother was raised as Roman Catholic and whose Jewish father's family died at the hand of the Nazis, had an aunt who survived by being smuggled out of the ghetto in her sister's cof-

fin.

Holland had turned down the film twice before the writer and producers, who had initially insisted that the film be in English, agreed to let her shoot it in the original languages (Polish, German, Yiddish, and Ukrainian). The social complexities of wartime Lwów are represented by this linguistic polyphony of the dialogue - the languages being markers not only of ethnicity but also of class and ideology.

In a director's statement Holland said that another impetus for her making the film at this moment was her irritation with many of the Holocaust movies that have emerged, which she found "very fake in some way, both artistically and humanly." She contended that when English is used, for instance, "in some ways you make it conventional: It's not real, we are playing."

Translating the English-language script back into the languages of the real-life characters meant forgoing English-speaking box-office names in the lead roles. "It is a danger if you have a star" for a story like this, Holland said. "I don't have anything against the stars. Some of them are very good actors. But of course if you are watching Brad Pitt, you are not watching a sewer worker, and that is something so big that it is very difficult to overlook."

Holland strived to portray the complexities of the characters. "Even in the bottom of hell, people behave in the crazy human way. The bourgeois jealous wife, the sexy girlfriend ... it's some kind of travesty to show all Jewish people as angelic victims only. If you portray them in a not real way, in some way you are killing them. They are not alive anymore."

Early reviews have been positive, noting the rich period detail in the film, and the brilliant, unsentimental performance of Polish actor Robert Wieckiewicz. *Variety* described the film as "harrowing," and *The Hollywood Reporter* said the filmmakers "successfully create an oppressive, suffocating, terrifying subterranean world where everything could end in a second or go on indefinitely."

"*In Darkness*" - with English subtitles, is rated R (Graphic violence and pervasive terror).

WATCHOUT: REALITY SHOW - WARSAW CHICAGO. Chicago's Polish community may be landing the starring role in a new reality show called *Warsaw Chicago* being touted as *Jersey Shore* meets

Real Housewives. *Jersey Shore* is criticized as glorifying stereotypes and casting Italian-Americans in a bad light, but the show's creator, TV producer Yuri Rutman said he didn't expect a similar backlash from the Chicago Polish community.

"The show that we're doing on the Polish community here in Chicago is going to have its wild antics and amp things up - but we're looking to cast the traditional Polish family," Rutman said. "The kids might be a little wild. We're trying to show a balance between old and new."

Rutman said they've gotten plenty of application videos but have not picked a family yet. He said it might have some wild moments like you would see on *Jersey Shore*, but they don't want to perpetuate stereotypes.



The casting call is listed in English and Polish. Applications to be on the show ask for a variety of types: "We are looking specifically for a multi generational Chicago Polish family to show their life 24/7 and how the old school of thinking doesn't always cross over with new school (i.e. Dad is old fashioned immigrant cop or in position of power such as CEO of company or a successful small business owner; Mom is traditional — an old fashioned housewife; daughters are dating someone they shouldn't, son(s) on radar of court appearances, rehab; or sugar mommas, Cougars; grandma and grandpa slinging Catholic prayers in Polish, etc," the website said. "We are also looking for the hottest girls, guys, socialites, business owners (nightclubs, bars, restaurant, banquet halls, sausage shops, delis), politicians, or something cultural (musicians, actors, models, DJ's, wannabe Playboy models)."

In my humble opinion: true Poles — proud of their heritage and culture — should not apply. Given TV's reality model, I can only predict a disastrous portrayal.

Znajac Drugi Język Polepszasz Swój Poziom Umysłowy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new study shows that bilingual patients did not contract Alzheimer's, the worst phase of dementia, until five years later than their monolingual compadres. Mastering a second language wires your brain in ways that seem to delay getting Alzheimer's disease later on, the study found.

Ellen Bialystok, a psychology professor at York University in Toronto discussed this phenomenon at the AAAS conference in Washington D.C.

Until recently, much of the study of bilingualism has centered on babies, as scientists wondered why simply speaking to infants in two languages allows them to learn both in the time it takes most babies to learn one. Their brains seem to become more flexible, better able to multitask. As they grow up, their brains show better executive control, a system key to higher functioning as Bialystok puts it, "the most important part of your mind."

Bialystok found that when a person knows two lan-

guages, they are essentially turned on all the time, but the brain learns to inhibit the one you don't need, keeping your brain at a level of constant activity.

Even if a person is not bilingual, there are other ways to exercise the brain. One can play word games, for example, to stimulate cognitive thinking. Crosswords, word search and word jumbles not only exercise the brain but also are fun, challenging and relaxing for those who spend time doing them. Online word games come in many forms and are fun and free. There are also many cool puzzle games, children's puzzles for the youngsters as well as various educational puzzles for all ages.

Daily brain training is a good habit to acquire, even if for just five or ten minutes a day. If one picks brain exercises that are fun and challenging the time will fly by while, in the process, you enhance your memory and increase mind power.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

What's in a Name?

Two of the big names in sports over the last part of 2011 were a couple of big names: **Mike Krzyzewski** and **Marc Rzepczynski**. The two men are proof that, with just a bit of effort, a non-Pole can learn how to pronounce a Polish name.

In the past, many great Polish American athletes — like many Polish Americans in general — felt the need to shorten and/or Americanize their names. Baseball Hall of Famer Al (Szymanski) Simmons and boxing great Tony (Zaleski) Zale come to mind. However, in recent months Krzyzewski and Rzepczynski were the talk of the American sports scene, and people didn't seem to have much of a problem saying their names.

Krzyzewski, 64, made headlines when his Duke Blue Devils topped Michigan State, 74-69, in Madison Square Garden. That gave him career victory No. 903, the most wins in Division I history. Of course, it wasn't the first time that Krzyzewski made headlines. Now in his 37th season as a head coach, he has taken Duke teams to 11 Final Fours and won four national championships, and led the US team to gold at the 2008 Olympics. He was recently named Sportsman of the Year for 2011 by *Sports Illustrated*.

Rzepczynski, 26, drew his headlines as a lefthanded reliever for the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals. He started the season with Toronto, suffering a broken finger in spring training. In July he was part of a multi-player deal engineered by Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak that helped spark St. Louis on its amazing run.

The World Series was eventful for Marc, as he played a key role in the Cardinals' Game 1 win. He came in with runners on first and second with one out in the 7th, and struck out a pair of pinch hitters. In Game 5, he was at the center of a strange "communication breakdown." Rzepczynski was in the game in the 8th inning with bases loaded and one out. Mike Napoli, a right-handed batter and the hottest hitter in the series, stepped up to the plate. Everyone assumed Cards manager Tony LaRussa would replace Rzepczynski, a lefty reliever who doesn't face many right-handed batters, with his righty closer, Jason Motte. However, for reasons that are still not quite

clear (crowd noise? bad phones?) Motte wasn't warmed up and ready to enter the game. As a result, Rzepczynski stayed on the mound and ended up giving up a double to Napoli. The Cards lost the game, and the 67-year-old LaRussa, who was known for his extensive and effective use of relief pitchers, took a lot of heat for the mix-up. However, the controversy subsided when the Cards won games 6 and 7.

As a result of these developments, both Krzyzewski and Rzepczynski were on the tongues of many sports fans. After nearly four decades on the national scene, most sports journalists seem to have gotten used to Krzyzewski's name. However, Marc's surname has given many of them the opportunity to write lines like "Hitting Rzepczynski is as hard as spelling it" and "Marc Rzepczynski's stuff has been tough enough for the Texas Rangers to hit....Manager Ron Washington wasn't even going to try pronouncing his last name."

Krzyzewski's father had changed his name to "Kross" in order to find work, but Mike changed it back. Krzyzewski is often referred to as "Coach K." Marc acquired the nickname "Zip" in high school, and since coming to the big leagues he's been called "Scrabble" and, of course, "Alphabet." Both men seem to understand how people can be intimidated by their names, and take it all in stride. (Interestingly, both men were born in Chicago, though Marc grew up in California.)

As these men have shown, it doesn't take much effort to get people to pronounce a Polish name properly — at least an American version of a Polish name. Sports figures like Krzyzewski and Rzepczynski are helped by a wonderful tool known as the media guide. In it, TV and radio journalists can look up the phonetic pronunciation of a name. For Krzyzewski it's Sha-SHEF-skee; for Rzepczynski it's Zep-CHIN-ski. (Yes, Krzyzewski should be pronounced more like "kshih-SHEF-ski," but that's a little tough for most native English speakers). Once the professional announcers start pronouncing the name properly a few times, the general public picks it up quickly. Of course, the sports figure has to make sure that the pronunciation in the

media guide is good, and reinforce it in dealings with the press.

Can you imagine how awful it would have been to have Krzyzewski pronounced Kri-ZOO-skee all these years? I shudder to think about it.

So what's in a name? For Krzyzewski and Rzepczynski, it's a lot of consonants — and plenty of Polish pride, too.

BIG DECISION. High School center enter **Kaleb Tarczewski** (Claremont, N.H./St. Mark's), the nation's No. 6 overall player in the Class of 2012, has verbally committed to the University of Arizona for the 2012-13 season.

"Everything just felt right at Arizona," Tarczewski told ESPN's Adam Finkelstein this afternoon. "From the coaches, to the current players, to the incoming recruits."

"Zeus," as his teammates call him, is an East Coast kid but had whittled his choice down to Arizona or Kansas. His decision helped make the Wildcats recruiting class one of the best in the nation.

The 7-foot Claremont, N.H. native was considered the best available center in the Class of 2012. Tarczewski is a true center with great size and tremendous upside. He has great hands and moves extremely well for a 7 footer. He has helped lead his team to three straight NEPSAC championship games, including the Class C title in 2009. Last March, the Lions lost to Tilton (N.H.) in the Class AA title game.

IT WAS A SNAP FOR WIETECHE Today in the NFL snapping the football on field-goal attempts and punts is a valued skill that most teams use specialists to perform. However, **Ray Wietecha** was a Pro Bowl center took great pride is also being an outstanding long-snapper.

Wietecha anchored the Giants' offensive line during their glory years of the 1950s and early '60s. At 6-foot-1 and 225 pounds, he wasn't especially big, but he never missed a game in his 10 pro seasons (124 consecutive regular-season games and

all six of the Giants' playoff games). Playing for the Giants from 1953 to 1962, Wietecha played on teams that won five Eastern Conference titles and one league championship in 1956. He was named to the Pro Bowl in 1955, '58, '60 and '62 and to the all-N.F.L. team in 1958.

Wietecha was also an outstanding long snapper. He was considered an innovator in getting the laces to face away from the kicker. Pat Summerall once said: "In four years of place-kicking with the Giants, I never saw the laces of the football. Wietecha always snapped the ball with the strings facing front." Wietecha once recalled how amazed kicker Lou Groza and other players at a Pro Bowl practice were at his knack for getting the laces right.

A native of East Chicago, Ind., Wietecha played on the Northwestern team that defeated California in the 1949 Rose Bowl, and he joined the Giants after playing football in the Marine Corps and minor league baseball in the Washington Senators organization.

After retiring as a player, Wietecha coached offensive lines with the Los Angeles Rams, the Packers — under Vince Lombardi when Green Bay won Super Bowls I and II in 1967 and 1968 — the Buffalo Bills, the Giants (1972 to 1976) and the Baltimore Colts. He scouted college players for the Packers from 1985 to 1995. He died in 2002 at age 74.

SHARP SHOOTER. University of Rochester senior **Chris Dende**

(Scranton Prep) was recently named to the all-tournament team of the Holiday Inn Airport Invitational. Dende scored 20 points in the championship game, which Rochester won, 99-75, over Allegheny.

As we go to press, the 6-3 senior guard ranks second on the Yellowjackets in scoring (13.2) and first in 3-pointers (17) after five games. The long range sharp shooter shot 45.2% from three point range (56 of 124). His 56 three pointers were the second most on the team, and in the

regular season finale at Emory on Feb 28, he scored 29 points, which was the second-highest individual scoring output by the Yellowjackets.

Dende attended Scranton Preparatory School in Pennsylvania, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, receiving First Honors. He earned three letters on the Cavaliers basketball team and served as Co-Captain. His many honors included MVP, All-Conference, and All-County, and he helped the Cavaliers win the Scranton Prep District Title in 2007-2008 season. Chris averaged 17.8 points per game, 5.6 assists, and 6 rebounds a game.

THEY SAID IT

"Something about him, the way he communicated with me, learned about what was important to me, and how he believed that we could accomplish something special together made me trust that he was the right guy for me to play for. I didn't have any empirical evidence that he would be a great coach. I just believed in him. To this day, aside from family decisions, it remains the best, most important and most influential decision of my life. I didn't know at the time that he would be the best coach in the game, but I truly believed that he was exactly the best coach for me."

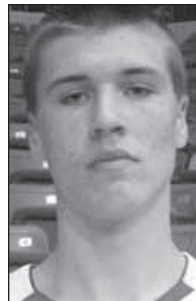
— Duke basketball star turned broadcaster **Jay Bilas** on when Mike Krzyzewski began recruiting him to play at Duke in 1981. Bilas was a high school junior, and had never heard of the 2nd year Blue Devil coach.

♦ ♦ ♦
"Surely we thought (Duke coach) Mike Krzyzewski would be all over this Polish center."

— ESPN's **Dave Telep**, on Kaleb Tarczewski committing to play basketball at the University of Arizona.

♦ ♦ ♦
"Unfortunately, I have one of those last names that give people headaches. I've only had two people get it right in my life and they were both (teaching assistants) in college from Poland. Right now, I'm the last male in the bloodline. Hopefully, I'll have a son to continue it."

— **Marc Rzepczynski**.



EXPLORING POLONIA'S PAST / James Pula

The Polish American String Band

New Year's Day has been a traditional day of festivity throughout recorded history. In ancient times, it was often linked with local religious beliefs, such as in the Roman Empire where the New Year's Saturnalia was a time for revelers to dress in masks, exchange gifts, and often attend or participate in satirical presentations. These traditions are preserved today in the celebrated Mummers Parade in Philadelphia which traces its origin to the colonial era. Gradually, over time, the celebration moved from spontaneous demonstrations to a more formalized celebration until 1901 when the Mummers Parade began as an organized civic event. Today, elaborately outfitted units dressed in extravagant costumes strut their way through Philadelphia competing for prizes and the honor of being selected as the best appearing group in their category. Foremost among them are the string bands with their

colorful attire, intricate maneuvers, and the uniquely appealing resonance of their instrumentation.

One of the most prominent units in the parade today is the Polish American String Band. Formed under the leadership of Joseph Jankowski among the Polish community in Port Richmond on July 3, 1933, the band retains a close connection to its roots. Each year it participates in a special New Year's Day invocation by the pastor of St. Adalbert's Church before it departs to participate in the parade, followed by a post-parade performance in the Port Richmond community. Comprising nearly one hundred marchers from all walks of life throughout the Delaware Valley, the band continues to combine honor its Polish heritage within the traditions of the Philadelphia Mummers.

Dressed in the elaborate, colorful costumes of the Mummers, the band consists of banjos, accordions, bells,

and various bass, percussion, and saxophone instrumentation. It has played at social, political and sporting events throughout the United States and abroad. Named official good will ambassadors by the city of Philadelphia, band members won first prize in the Republic of Cuba Parade in 1959, their first venture overseas, when they represented the State of Pennsylvania. In 1990 the band toured Poland, performing to the delight of street-side crowds in Warsaw, Gdańsk, Toruń, Gdynia, Kraków, and Częstochowa. In 1998 it toured Italy where it played for the U.S. Ambassador in Rome and before His Holiness Pope John Paul II on the twentieth anniversary of his papacy.

The record of the Polish American String Band in the annual New Year's Day Philadelphia Mummers Parade is unprecedented. It has been honored with eleven first place finishes, fourteen second place recog-



THE POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND continues to be one of the most prominent units in the annual Mummers Parade in Philadelphia.

nitions, and finished in the top ten 73 out of the 76 times it has participated. Its first place finishes are the most by any string band in the

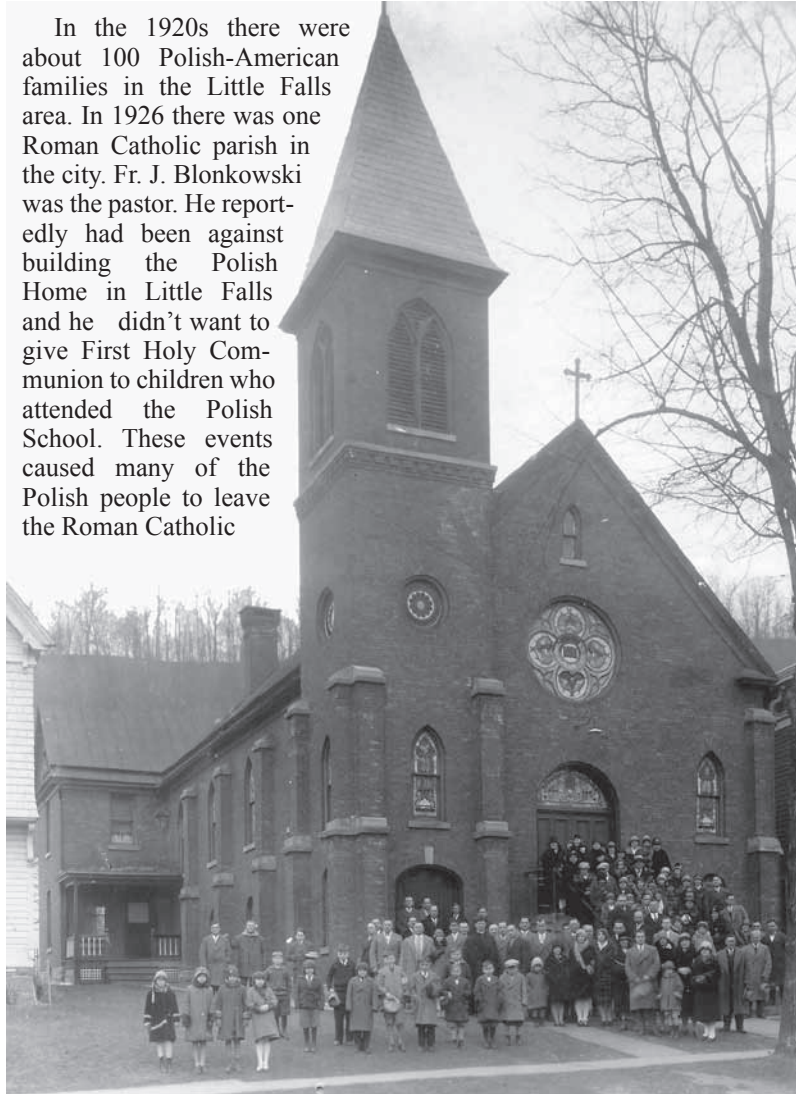
parade. The Polish American String Band is a truly unique manifestation of Polish heritage merged with a popular Philadelphia tradition.

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

Holy Spirit Polish National Catholic Church

618 E. GANSEVOORT ST., LITTLE FALLS, NY 13365
REV. RAFAL DADELLO, PASTOR

In the 1920s there were about 100 Polish-American families in the Little Falls area. In 1926 there was one Roman Catholic parish in the city. Fr. J. Blonkowski was the pastor. He reportedly had been against building the Polish Home in Little Falls and he didn't want to give First Holy Communion to children who attended the Polish School. These events caused many of the Polish people to leave the Roman Catholic



Church and establish a Polish National Catholic Church Parish.

The first organizational meeting was held in 1926 at the tailor shop of Henry Wiernicki. The church was officially incorporated on May 20, 1926.

The first Holy Mass was celebrated in a rented church by Father Leopold Dąbrowski, who was the pastor of the Holy Cross PNCC parish in Utica, NY. The church was on the north side of Main Street, west of Furnace Street. It had been used by the black people of the city, many of whom who had left the area in search of work elsewhere.

In November 1926 the red brick church at 618 Gansevoort Street was purchased. It previously had been a Lutheran church. The dedicated parishioners repainted and remodeled the building. Mr. Sikora designed and constructed the main altar. A few years later Mr. Koszalkowski built the two side altars and the pulpit. In the 1930's the parish had the following organizations: Women's Society of the Maria Konopnicka, Society of Juliusz Słowacki, Children Group of Jozef Pilsudski, and two Choirs; the Frederick Chopin choir and the choir of Saint Cecilia.

Pastor at that time was Father Pawel Kozlowski (1929-1932). He led the Polish School and was also the Choir Director. At that time the parish counted around 60 families.

Polish language classes were taught three times a week and religious classes on Saturday.

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 of last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

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BRUSH UP

Business

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Phonetic hh is like ch in *loch* •
Phonetic ai is like *eye*
m, n, f, pl denotes male, female,
neuter, plural

klient (KLEE-yehnt) m
client [male]
klientka (klee-YEHN-tkah) f
client [female]
kontrakt (KOHN-trahkt) m
contract
obroty (oh-BROH-tih) m, pl
sales
oferta (oh-FEHR-tah) f
proposal [offer]
zysk (zihsk) m
profit
strata (STRAH-tah) f
loss
telefon (the-LEH-fohn) m
telephone [also cell phone]
komórkowy (koh-muhr-KOH-vih) m
cell phone
wystawa (vihs-TAH-vah) f
exhibition
zysk (zihsk) m
profit
Jestem tu służbowo
..... (YEHS-tehm tuh
swuzh-BOH-voh.)
I am here on business.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Rzeszów

Surrounded by picturesque countryside is Rzeszów. Located in southeastern Poland, Rzeszów lies on both sides of the Wisła River. The Sandomierska Valley harbors this city of 80,000 people.

Its history goes back to 1354 when the settlement received its town charter from the king. Today Rzeszów is the capital of Subcarpathian Voivodeship.

Pope John II visited here in 1991, amidst a crowd of an estimated one million Poles. Then in 1992 he established the new Diocese of Rzeszów.

Its international airport, Rzeszów-Jasionka, has opened up the city to hundreds of travelers from all over the globe. Rzeszów is also an important rail hub, being on the main West-East rail route. You can easily travel on its West-East European Highway, F40. But, compared to an American's version of a highway, F40 is just a one-lane road. Be a careful driver because it is not unusual for ducks, geese, and other domesticated animals, to suddenly appear on the roadway.

Education is highly regarded. There are several schools of higher learning, including Rzeszów University of Technology. Museums are very popular and are great tourist destinations. A study of various ethnic groups and their culture awaits one at the Ethnographic Museum. For a religious experience you can visit the Diocesan Museum. Children have a special museum to visit. It is the only one like it in Poland. Here children can see animated cartoons, see collections of toys, games and all sorts of books. They can relive their childhood pleasures of bedtime stories in the unique Bedtime Show Museum. Two must-places to visit for those interested in art are the Szajna Gallery and the Podworza Gallery.

Yes, a visit to Rzeszów is a most pleasurable way to enjoy your vacation. Include it on your itinerary.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Thank God it's Piątek!

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:

Andrzejewski: Nearly all Polish last names ending in -ewski are of toponymic origin, so this one too arose to describe an inhabitant of Andrzejewo (Andrewsville).

Piątek: Friday in Polish; the names of days and months served as nicknames to identify someone who had been born or had converted to Catholicism on a given occasion.

HISTORY IN ART / Staś Kmieć

The Artwork of Arthur Szyk

FROM THE SERIES "GLORIOUS DAYS OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN FRATERNITY"



Jan of Kolno (known as Johannes Scolnus), the half mythical Polish navigator, in the service of the King of Denmark reached the American coast on the *Didrik Pinning* vessel in the summer of 1476, 16 years before Columbus. Although this view is not supported by contemporary evidence, and as he is not mentioned contemporaneously, his identity and even existence have been disputed.

A 1536 globe of cartographer Gemma Frisius depicts an area within the Arctic Circle, north of a strait acknowledging the expedition and penetrating a date of

"about the year 1476."

In the scientific works of the 16th and 17th centuries, and also on contemporary maps and globes, his name appears in over 20 different versions. The Polish historian Joachim Lelewel extracted the surname "Skolny" then "Szkolny" and finally "Jan z Kolna" became embedded in Polish history, and even partly in that of other nations. He also found mentions of a "Joannis de Colno" who studied at the Kraków Academy in 1455, and a Colno or Cholno family of merchants and sailors living in Gdańsk.

Scandinavian authors prefer to see him as Danish. They put forth an unconvincing argument that the word "Polonus" is an error due to the misreading of the word "piloto" (pilot).

Arthur Szyk, a painter born June 3, 1894 in Łódź, Poland studied painting in Paris and Kraków. In 1921 he settled in Paris before World War II, then moved to the United States, where he died in New Canaan, Pa. in 1951. Numerous paintings by Szyk illustrate various aspects of the brotherhood of Poles and Americans.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- General Edward Rowny was a soldier and: a. diplomat b. sports writer c. research scientist
- The Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame was founded in: a. 1950 b. 1969 c. 1973
- On February 22, 1923, an honorary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred upon Paderewski by the: a. University of Southern California b. New York University c. Fordham University
- General Wojciech Jaruzelski, former military leader in Poland, was president of Poland for most of the: a. 1970s b. 1980s c. 1990s
- A nun from France was miraculously healed and attributed her cure to John Paul II, and she was cured of: a. bone cancer b. Parkinson's disease c. diabetes
- On March 15, 2007, the Polish American Journal took over the subscriptions of: a. "Polish Heritage" b. "Polonia Today" c. "Our Polish Roots"
- Polish mountain climbers reached the South Kanchen peak in the Himalayas in: a. 1975 b. 1978 c. 1981
- Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewski was the first woman doctor in: a. Chicago b. Baltimore c. New England
- Captain Constantine Blandonski was the first foreign-born officer to die in: a. the Civil War b. World War I c. The Spanish-American War
- Helena Modjeska's California home was: a. The Flowers b. Arden c. Sunnyside

ANSWERS. 1a. diplomat; 2c. 1972; 3a. the University of Southern California; 4b. 1980s; 5b. Parkinson's disease; 6b. "Polonia Today"; 7c. 1978; 8e. New England; 9a. the Civil War; 10b. Arden

OBITUARIES

Jerzy Bielecki, Saved Jewish Girlfriend

WARSAW, Poland — It took 39 years for Cyla Cybulska and Jerzy Bielecki to see each other again, after running away together from Auschwitz in 1944.

Jerzy Bielecki, a German-speaking Polish prisoner at the Nazi death camp, was awarded the Righteous Among the Nations title by the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem for saving his girlfriend, Cyla Cybulska.

Bielecki was 19 when the Germans captured him on the false suspicion of being a resistance fighter, and brought him to Auschwitz in the first transport of prisoners from Poland.

Cybulska, her parents, two brothers and a younger sister were

gathered from the Lomza ghetto in northern Poland and taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Her parents and sister were immediately killed in the gas chambers, but she and her brothers were sent to work. Soon, 22-year-old Cybulska was the only one left alive.

When Bielecki and Cybulska met, their love blossomed, making Jerzy determined to find a way to escape.

Bielecki secretly got a complete SS uniform and a pass from a fellow Polish captive working at a uniform warehouse. Then dressed as SS officer, he pretended he was taking a Jewish prisoner out of the camp for interrogation. He led Cybulska to a side gate, where a sleepy SS-man let

them go through.

"I felt pain in my backbone, where I was expecting to be shot," Bielecki told the AP in an interview in 2010.

For more than a week they hid in the fields during the day and marched during the night, until they reached the house of Bielecki's uncle. There, they were separated, as the family wanted Jerzy back home in Krakow, and Cybulska was sent to hide with a farm family.

Bielecki stayed in Poland and settled in Nowy Targ, where he raised a family and worked as the director of a school for bus and car mechanics. Cybulska married a Jewish man, David Zacharowitz, with whom she went to Sweden and

then to New York.

Sheer chance allowed them to meet again. While talking with her Polish cleaning lady Cybulska told her about her Auschwitz escape. The woman, stunned, said she had heard Bielecki telling the same story on Polish TV. She then helped Cyla to find Jerzy in Poland.

In the summer of 1983, they met at the Krakow airport. He brought 39 red roses, one for each year they had spent apart.

"He did not think he was a hero, but he was. He will be missed," said Stanlee Stahl, a vice president at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

Barbara Misiewicz-Poltorak, Researcher

Barbara Misiewicz-Poltorak, M.D., Ph.D., physician, rheumatologist, researcher at National Institute of Health, and Assistant Professor at George Washington University Medical School passed away Nov. 28, 2011 in Bethesda, Maryland.

She was the wife of Dr. Maciej Poltorak, and mother of Marta Poltorak (Matthew Mihalich). Misiewicz-Poltorak was born in Lodz, Poland of Drs. Anna and Leszek Misiewicz. She completed her medical education in Poland and received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Rheumatological Institute in Warsaw, Poland. Since 1989, she resided in Bethesda. She was working in autoimmune and neuroendocrinological research at the National Institutes of Health and George Washington University until an accident. Afterwards, she primarily wrote poetry, enjoyed life and the company of her family, friends and her dogs.

Sister Christine M. Virginia Kurek, LSIC, 93

WOOD -

BRIDGE, N.J.

— Sister Christine

M. Virginia Kurek,

LSIC,

93, of the Little

Servant Sisters

of the Immaculate

Conception,

died September 24,

2011, at St. Joseph's

Nursing Home.

Former Administrator at St.

Mary's Catholic Home in Cherry

Hill, from 1969 to 1990, and at The

Manor at St. Mary's until 1993, she

was born Christine in Camden, N.J.

on March 1, 1918 and entered the

Congregation of the Little Servant

Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

in 1933. Sister Virginia profes-

sed her first vows in 1937 after

her novitiate at the Motherhouse in

Stara Wies, Brzozow in Poland and

her perpetual vows in 1942 in Wood-

bridge where she initially cared for

orphans and taught religion educa-



tion in a parish. She held positions in the educational and health care ministries, with faith and compassion, until her final prayer ministry, during 78 years of religious life, including a term from 1964 to 1969 as major superior of her congregation in the United States.

Sister Virginia with three Sisters started the first phase of St. Mary's Catholic Home in 1941 in present-day Cherry Hill. Sister Virginia served as a teacher and elementary school principal at Visitation School in Buffalo, N.Y. from 1955 to 1964, earning the trust of her students and their parents.

Her background included qualification in religious education, a BS degree in education at Medaille College, with post-graduate studies, a certificate from Rutgers University, Camden in Management of Health Care Institutions and Agencies — Nursing Home Administration, and a State of New Jersey license for the

operation of Nursing Homes.

A member of various religious and civic associations, Sister Virginia was presented the Bishop's Medal for her outstanding service for the Church by Bishop George Guilfoyle and was the recipient of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from Pope John Paul II.

She was well-organized with compassion toward the needy, the elderly and the unemployed. Sister Virginia realized that prayer was the source of her life and actions, and she had a deep devotion to the Eucharist and to Our Lady. She was an avid reader of spiritual works and general knowledge, and when this was no longer possible, the rosary devotion was her constant companion.

St. Kurek loved America and cherished fond memories of her few visits to Rome with personal meetings with Pope John Paul II, as well as to Poland, the land of her immi-

grant parents, and the center of her religious community.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Little Servant Sisters I.C., Provincialate, 1000 Cropwell Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

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Charles T. Kowal, Astronomer, Engineer

Charles T. Kowal, 71, of Cinebar, Wash., died Nov. 28, 2011 of cancer. He was an accomplished astronomer and engineer who made significant discoveries during his career.

Born in Buffalo in 1940, he moved to California after high school where he received a BS degree in astronomy at USC. He went to work for the California Institute of Technology where, in a twenty-four year career, he worked as an astronomer and discovered dozens of

supernovae, comets and asteroids. He also discovered the thirteenth and fourteenth moons of Jupiter. His most significant discovery was that of Chiron in 1977, the first of a new class of solar system object dubbed Centaurs, not quite asteroid, nor comet, nor planet.

In 1985 Kowal transferred to Space Technology Institute in Maryland where he monitored the instruments aboard the Hubble Space Telescope and was the first person to see many of the fascinat-

ing photos transmitted by it. He then went on to Johns Hopkins University where he became an aerospace engineer working on computer programs for satellites.

Kowal retired in 2006 to Washington state. He published dozens of scientific articles during his life and wrote the book Asteroids: Their Nature and Utilization. He is survived by his former wife, a daughter, and two grandsons.

Singer Violetta Villas, Las Vegas star in 1960s

Singer Vio-

lletta Villas,

73, died at her

home in Lewin

Klodzki, a vil-

lage in southern

Poland.

Villas was

born Czeslawa

Cieslak in 1938

to a Polish coal

miner's family in

Belgium.

A unique talent with a trademark

cascade of curly blond hair, Vil-

las had a voice that spanned four

octaves. Rather than pursue an

operatic career, she preferred popu-

lar music, a genre that brought her

wide popularity in Poland — where

the family returned in 1948 after the

World War II — and abroad.

She once said her career was

launched in 1960 by the head of

state Polish Radio, composer Wla-

dyslaw Szpilman — whose own

story of survival during the Holo-



man Polanski's 2003 Oscar-winning movie "The Pianist."

From 1966 to 1969, Villas sang at the Casino de Paris at the famed Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas, performing with luminaries like Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Paul Anka and Eartha Kitt. She also recorded songs for Capitol Records.

Villas also appeared in movies, including the 1969 "Paint your Wagon" with Lee Marvin and "Heaven with a Gun" with Glenn Ford.

In 1970, she returned to Poland to tend to her ailing mother, but later the communist authorities refused to approve her passport. She was not able to return to the United States until 1987, when she had a tour, starting at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Villas was married twice: in 1954 in Poland to Piotr Gospodarek, and in 1988 in Chicago to Ted Kowalczyk, a businessman of Polish descent.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MARYLAND

BRENTWOOD — Artist Tadeusz (Tad) Lapinski's work titled *Past and Present* will be featured through January 14, 2012 at Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20772.

This solo exhibition of artworks by renowned Polish/American lithographer and educator Lapinski is held in collaboration with the University of Maryland College Park Art Department. This exhibition honors Lapinski who recently announced his retirement after serving nearly four decades as Professor of Art at the University.

Lapinski's work has been exhibited in such prestigious institutions as the National Gallery of Art, the White House, Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, and Tianjin Museum in China, among many other museums throughout Europe, Asia, North and South America.

Lapinski received his Bachelors and Masters of Arts degrees from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland.

For information, call (301) 277-2863.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota** will be selecting an artist to travel to Poland for approximately 20 days to exhibit his/her art, participate in various art programs and interact with Polish artists of all genres as part of PACIM's Artist Program. Some expenses will be paid.

The applicant must be a Polish American artist born in the United States, an emerging artist, have a valid U.S. passport, and agree to actively participate in fundraising and promotional events, for PACIM, both here and in Poland, when requested.

All submissions must be post-marked by January 20, 2012.

For details, call (612) 378-9291.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The 2011 "Firefighter of the Year" award, sponsored by the Philadelphia Fire Department's Historical Corporation Board of Directors, was presented to Firefighter **Edward W. Verbitski**, Squad 47.

The Selection Committee from Fireman's Hall chose Verbitski for his valiant efforts and dedicated service in the rescue of a woman and an eight-month-old infant from the second floor of a burning building.

Verbitski is a member of the Second Street Polish Society as well as the Polish American Congress and Polish American Cultural Center Museum.

READING — The members of the **Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County** have elected the following officers for 2012: President — Marilyn Wlaszewski; Vice President — Linda Wrobel; Secretary — Toni Wade; and Treasurer — Christine Lubas.

The new officers will be sworn in at the Mountain Springs Restaurant, 2610 Hill Road, Reading, on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

For information about the Installation party, contact Marilyn at (610) 779-5523.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Jan. 8. St. Adalbert Polish Language School Annual Christmas Program, "Jaselka." St. Adalbert Auditorium, Thompson Street and Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond section. 1:00 p.m. Free. Info call Maria Koleda (610) 368-1604.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Jan. 8. **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture** in the Polish language. Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Northeast Philadelphia. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Joanna Sokolowska Gwizdka. Topic: "Helena Modrzejewska i Jej Artystyczna Spuszcizna w Ameryce." Free. Info call (215) 624-9954.

On Sun., Feb. 12, Aleksandra Ziolkowska Bohem will discuss

Szopka Krakowska Winner

HARTFORD, Conn. — A manger by Fuxi Worcester and David Mathieu, Jr., Grade 8 students St. James School, took first place at the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.'s 31st Annual Szopka Festival, held Nov. 27, 2011 in the ballroom of the Polish National Home.

Other winners included: 2nd Place, Jenna Kelly and Anamaria Sousa, Grade 7 at St. James School; and 3rd Place (tie), Caroline Gwara and Olivia Zagula, Polish Saturday School, Hartford and Erin Nasuta, Grade 6 at St. James School.

For many years, Club members Anna Oleasz and her daughter, Karol Oleasz, have been advisers to students participating in the competition. The competition begins weeks before the event, when Connecticut iconographer Marek Czarniecki visits schools to make presentations to students about how to construct a szopka, the history behind them and why certain elements are allowed or not allowed in their construction.

In addition to the Szopka Krakowska Competition, the Festival included fine Polish jewelry; imported folk-art pottery; books; hand-crafted gifts and other memorabilia. There was a bake sale and cafe with Polish specialties. Saint Nicholas (Święty Mikołaj) greeted children and listened to their Christmas wishes.

For further information on the Club, visit www.polishculturalclub.org.



FIRST PLACE Szopka Krakowska winner, created by Fuxi Worcester and David Mathieu, Jr.

the topic "Od Wankowicza do Amerykanskich Indian."

DOYLESTOWN — Sun., Jan. 15. Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Language School Christmas Program, "Jaselka." Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road, Doylestown, PA, Visitors Shrine Cafeteria. 2:00 p.m. Info, call the shrine (215) 345-0600.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Feb., 11. Polish Police Association of Philadelphia **36th Annual Founder's Day Banquet**. King's Caterers II, 4010 New Falls Road, Bristol,

Pa. 6:00 p.m.-midnight. Continuous music by Plus Five Orchestra and Rick Gazda Band. Cocktail hour, surf and turf, sit-down dinner and a six-hour open bar. Info call Edward McCloskey (215) 425-4783.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Embassy of Poland hosted Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, head of the Core Exhibition team of the new **Museum of History of Polish Jews**, on November 7, 2011. Scheduled to open in 2013 in Warsaw, the multimedia narrative museum and cultural center will

present the rich history of Polish Jews and their heritage over a span of 1,000 years.

"1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland — it's a big story," Prof. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett said. "It's an important story." The Professor also said that the museum will honor those who died — by showing how they lived in Poland for a millennium.

This unique institution is the first public-private institution of its kind in Poland — jointly established by Poland's government, local Warsaw government, and an NGO: the Jewish Historical Association in Warsaw, which initiated the project.

Brooklyn's Polish Vets Remembered



BROOKLYN, N.Y. — This past November, officers and Members of Council 84 of the Polish National Alliance presented their 18th consecutive tribute to all Veterans at the Monument listing over 700 names of Polish-American Brooklynites who served in World War II. This monument was erected in the '40s by the United Polish societies of South Brooklyn in the gardens of Prospect Hall in South Brooklyn.

The council is grateful to the dedicated members of Edward F. Lukowski Post #7196 — Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary who honored the ceremony with their banners carried by Rose Tavares and Helen Walczak, assisted by their Commander Kenneth Dunne; the Jutrzenka Singing Society #226 of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, directed by Izabella Kobus-Salkin, led all in song and presented a Polish war song "Deszcz Jesienny" (Autum Rain) recalling to all of the loneliness of an eighteen-year-old soldier who was called to defend his country in some far-off strange land.

Reverend Father Witold Mroziewski, JCD, pastor of South

Brooklyn's Our Lady of Czestochowa — St. Casimir R.C.C. gave the Invocation and Benediction.

Participating also in the program were Edward Blyskal, treasurer of Council 84, who greeted the assemblage; Barbara R. Blyskal, secretary of Council 84 and outgoing Commissioner of District 3, was MC who introduced Helen M. Pater, president and financial secretary of Lodge 2366, as well as vice-President of Council 84, who will be serving as Commissioner of District 3 for the next four years.

The Council appreciates all who came, including representatives of the Polish Army Veterans Association; Danuta Sieminski, president/CEO and Joe Delezynski, marketing specialist of Atlas Bank; Doris Amen of Jurek-Park Slope Funeral Home; Margaret Zebro, president of the South Brooklyn Pulaski Parade Committee and Catholic Ladies Guild of Our Lady of Czestochowa-St. Casimir R.C. Church; Rev. Thomas Rudny of Holy Cross PNC; Steven L. Markowski, Jr. with wife, Anne of Maywood, N.J.; and so many others, veterans and non-veterans who attended.

WISCONSIN

FRANKLIN — The Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress honored three veterans for their outstanding contributions to the community and nation at the 14th Annual "Polish Independence Day/Veterans Day Luncheon," Nov. 13, 2011 at the Polish Center of Wisconsin. They were:

Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Litynski, the son of Polish immigrants who settled in Chicago. In 1994 he graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

After seeing active duty as an army platoon leader and cavalry company commander, Litynski transferred to the U.S. Army Reserves as a Captain.

Captain Brent Tadych, United States Air force, was born in 1980. He is a native of Milwaukee's South Side.

Tadych graduated from Marquette University High School in 1999. He entered the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and graduated in 2003.

Sgt. Glenn Ramski is a Milwaukee native and holds several degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He currently works for the Milwaukee Business Journal and has served as president of the Syrena Polish Dancers of Milwaukee.

Ramski entered the U.S. Army in 1986 and studied Polish at the U.S. Defense Language Institute in Monterrey, California. From 1987 to 1991 he was engaged in Army intelligence work and between 1992 and 2004 was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves in Wisconsin.

Ramski has been recognized a number of times for his service, both by the United States and Polish armed forces.

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