

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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REMEMBERING BILL
"MOOSE" SKOWRON
PAGE 17

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

ARCHBISHOP WENSKI: PRESSURES AGAINST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY • "SLAVERY AT MONTICELLO": THE REST OF THE STORY
A STORY OF CHARLES KEUTMAN • SIMPLY SLAVIC RETURNS • POLISH AMERICAN NIGHTS AT MAJOR LEAGUE STADIUMS
EURO 2012 – POLAND'S BIGGEST SPORTING EVENT • WOJTEK THE SOLDIER BEAR • KESELOWSKI'S SMART MOVE

NEWSMARK

DZIWISZ SAYS SAINTHOOD NEAR. Speaking before the one-year anniversary of John Paul II's beatification, the long-time aid to the late pontiff has told Italian radio the process of sainthood "is going well" and canonization "will be soon."

Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz led a special Mass in Krakow at the John Paul II Center, where he later was interviewed by the Italian Catholic radio station TV2000.

Dziwisz, the personal papal secretary, was asked several times about a tape recording made by John Paul II shortly before he died in April 2005. Due to a tracheotomy performed before he died, the Polish Pope was only heard to speak short phrases and single words in public. But the tape contains his last message to the faithful.

Dziwisz said that the contents of the tape recording of the last words of John Paul II will "remain a secret, at least for now."

A PRE-EMPTIVE MISSILE STRIKE AGAINST POLAND and other countries hosting components of NATO's anti-missile shield may be in store, the chief of the Russian General Staff General. Nikolai Makarov warned at a conference of missile-defense experts in Moscow. He said pushing ahead with the program could "create a real threat for the countries in whose territory the (American) anti-missile facilities are installed." The Obama Administration's revamped anti-missile program is meant to protect against surprise attacks from rogue states such as Iran, but Moscow claims it poses a threat to Russian security.

POLKA HERO BLAZONCZYK PASSES. Eddie Blazonczyk, the man who changed the face of Polish American polkas, died May 21. He was 70.

For generations Blazonczyk led his band, the Versatones, across the globe, earning countless awards and citations.

He won a Grammy in 1986, and in 1998 was given a National Heritage Fellowship, a lifetime honor presented to master folk and traditional artists by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Born in Chicago, he was the son of rural Tatra immigrants, and grew up listening to Polish Highlander music. After a short stint as a rockabilly artist, he returned to his Polish roots, and developed what would become a polka dynasty. He retired in 2002 and turned the band over to his son, Eddie, Jr., who kept the group going until last year.



PHOTO: WM. A. CHROK/NEA

CANADIAN POLISH PARISH DODGES BULLET A Polish parish in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, has won at least a temporary reprieve from the local bishop.

St. Mary's Church in Cape Breton was slated, along with two other churches, to close as part of the Catholic Diocese of Antigonish's "planning process," but Bishop Brian Dunn agreed March 26 to an indefinite stay of execution after being inundated by letters. The parish, which supposedly has about 100 members, marks its centennial in 2013. In the letter, the bishop accepted a committee's advice that the parish remain open "for the time being."

WORKING LONGER. Poland's lawmakers approved a controversial government plan to raise the retirement age to 67 for most Poles, a key part in efforts to cut state debt, maintain robust growth and keep up investor confidence in this emerging economy.

Following a heated debate that included the opposition calling the government "thieves," the lower chamber of Parliament voted by a margin of 268 to 185 with two abstentions to approve changes sought by the pro-business government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk. Until now, women were allowed to retire at age 60 and men at 65.

Tusk's government argues that delayed retirement will help Poles build up larger pensions and reduce state spending. Trade unions and opposition lawmakers warn they will seek to overturn the new law.

On Common Ground



VISA WAIVER BACKER QUIGLEY MEETS WITH PRESIDENT KOMOROWSKI. Rep. Mike Quigley (center) shares a laugh with Ambassador Robert Kupiecki (left) and President Bronislaw Komorowski (right) at a private meeting the Polish Consulate in Chicago following the NATO Summit.

CHICAGO — Rep. Mike Quigley (IL-05) met with Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski, May 22, 2012, during the President's visit in Chicago for the NATO summit. Quigley and Komorowski, along with Poland's Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and Consul General Zygmunt Matynia, discussed Poland's relationship with the United States and Quigley's commitment to his Polish American constituents.

"It was an honor and a privilege to meet with President Komorowski in my hometown of Chicago," said Quigley, who is a staunch advocate of visa-free travel for Poland.

"Outdated visa procedures do not reflect the strong diplomatic ties between our two nations, and I will continue to work steadfastly to realize our common goal," he said.

Quigley shared with Komorowski his most recent efforts to include Poland in the Department of State's Visa Waiver Program.

In mid-May, Quigley introduced the Jobs Originating through Launching Travel (JOLT) Act, a bipartisan and bicameral effort to create jobs, increase national security,

and reform outdated visa laws by modifying the Visa Waiver Program, which allows citizens of selected countries to travel to the U.S. for 90 days without a U.S. visa. The reform calls for the inclusion of important allies like Poland, who have been denied visa-free travel because of an outdated regime.

The JOLT Act shares its goals with a standalone bill Quigley and Senator Mark Kirk (IL) introduced last year and which President Obama endorsed during his inaugural visit to Poland. In addition to the visa waiver provision, it includes standards for faster visa processing, expedited entry for priority visitors, and a section to encourage Canadian consumption and investment in the United States via increased Canadian travel.

Before crafting the JOLT Act, Quigley traveled to Poland in January of this year to discuss ways to further enhance the U.S.-Polish partnership.

His 5th Congressional District in Illinois is home to one of the highest concentrations of Polish Americans in the United States and outside of Poland.

Murder Charges to be Brought against Tymoshenko

Her allies, including former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, have argued the sentence resembles "a simple case of political revenge."

K I E V ,
Ukraine
— Former
Ukrainian
Prime Minister
Yulia
Tymoshenko
is due to be
charged as an



accessory to murder, heightening the international controversy over her ongoing imprisonment.

Ukraine's Deputy Prosecutor General Renat Kuzmin has revealed that Tymoshenko is being charged in connection with the 1996 murder of former MP Yefhen Shcherban, who was one of the richest men in Ukraine.

Shcherban was shot down at Donetsk Airport by gunmen dressed as police officers.

Kuzmin claims that the gunmen have confessed to receiving payments from a bank account linked to Tymoshenko and the then prime minister Pavlo Lazarenko.

The new charges come after several European heads of state declined to attend a summit in Odessa in mid-May, out of solidarity with Tymoshenko, who is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence for "exceeding her powers" in a 2009 deal with Russian gas giant Gazprom.

Tymoshenko's allies, including former Polish Prime Minister see "Tymoshenko," page 4

Polish American Priests Convene in Michigan City

by Rick A. Richards

Northwest Indiana Catholic

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — The issues surrounding the preservation of long-established parishes and the preservation of ethnic traditions are not all that different.

During the awards dinner of the 23rd annual Polish American Priests Association (PAPA) convention at Blue Chip Casino, April 19, Father Czeslaw Krysa of the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., talked about the challenges facing Polonia in America and the impact that challenge is having on the Catholic Church and ethnic neighborhoods.

During his talk about the state of Polonia in the United States, Krysa said Polish traditions that were brought to this country by today's grandfathers and great-grandfathers is fading.

"We know what they are, but we don't know why they are," said Krysa.

The slow disappearance of those traditions mirror the slow decline in prominence the Catholic Church had in neighborhoods. For instance, see "PAPA," page 4

Homage to a Hero



THE ANNUAL COMMEMORATION to the Revolutionary War hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko at the West Point Military Academy was held April 27-28. Above, an honor guard made up of West Point cadets, the Polish Maritime League Liga Morska, and Polish Scouting's Harcerze stand during the playing of "Taps." Story on page 2.

ALMANAC



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June • Czerwiec

- 2 1935. Aviator **Amelia Earhart** remarks "Loads of fun" after making the first public jump using a parachute designed by the Switlik Parachute Co. The company was founded by **Stanley Switlik**, who emigrated from Galicia to New Jersey in 1907, and built a training tower on his farm in Ocean County, N.J. Today, Switlik is one of the world's largest manufacturers of parachutes and other personal survival devices.
- 3 1890. Death of **Oskar Kolberg** (b. 1814), ethnographer who specialized in Polish folklore.
- 4 1872. Death of famed **Stanislaw Moniuszko**, (b. 1819), Polish composer best known for his opera "Halka."
1989. First free elections in Poland since World War II.
- 7 1982. President **Ronald Reagan** and **Pope John Paul II** meet in the Vatican.
- 10 **Blessed Bogumil**, Archbishop of Gniezno.
- 11 1741. Austria ceded most of Silesia to Prussia by **Treaty of Breslau**.
- 12 1887. Founding of the **Polish Falcons of America**, fraternal insurance benefit society headquartered in Pittsburgh.
- 14 **FLAG DAY (U.S.)**
1811. Birth of **Antoni Patek**, famous watchmaker and co-founder of one of the most famous Swiss watchmaking companies, Patek Philippe & Company.
- 15 2006. **Dominic Pacyga** named acting Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences Columbia College in Chicago.
- 17 **FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
1025. Death of **Boleslaw I the Brave**
- 19 1873. Death of **Valerian Sulakowski**, Polish American military engineer for the Confederacy.
- 20 1954. Birth of **Michael Anthony Sobolewski**, known in the rock music world as Michael Anthony. He is the former bass guitarist and one of the founding members of the rock band Van Halen.
Gdy kota nie ma, myszy harcują.
When the cat's away, the mice will play.
- 21 1918. Birth of **Eddie Lopat** (Lopatynski), New York Yankees star.
- 22 1940. **Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski** establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
- 23 **SOBOTKA — ST. JOHN'S EVE.**
1767. Formation of the **Radom Confederation**, an armed league of Polish nobles who sought to defend the Golden Liberties, a system that gave equal status and extensive legal rights and privileges to all nobles.
- 24 1914. Birth of **Jan Karski**, Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar.
1886. Birth of **Fr. Justin Figas, OFM**, founder of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*.
- 26 1295. **White Eagle** made symbol of Poland.
- 30 1911. Birth of **Czeslaw Milosz**, Polish poet who received the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature.

This paper mailed on or before
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before **June 28, 2012**.

VIEWPOINTS

"Slavery at Monticello": The Rest of the Story ...

Last January, an exhibition opened at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington. "Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello: Paradox of Liberty," depicts the contradiction in the life of America's third president: although Jefferson wrote that "all men are created equal," he trafficked in some of them. The author of the Declaration of Independence was a slave keeper who also slept with some of his slaves.

The exhibit, which is actually mounted by the National Museum of African American History and Culture, traces what happened to Jefferson's slaves. Their fate was bitter: because Jefferson died heavily indebted, almost all his slaves were sold at auction in 1827 to pay his arrears.

The exhibit, however, leaves out one dirty little secret: none of those slaves ever had to be sold.

The exhibit mentions that Jefferson's will freed a handful of slaves. It fails to mention another will: Tadeusz Kościuszko's.

Kościuszko, the hero of the American Revolution and architect of West Point, was eventually awarded a payment by the U.S. Congress for his services during the War of Independence. When Kościuszko returned to the United States in 1798, he decided to make a will in which he left that money to purchase, educate, and free black American slaves. He turned to his friend, Thomas Jefferson, to draft the will and be his executor.

Although Kościuszko wanted to leave his money to buy and free American slaves, lawyer Jefferson changed the text to designate the money to buy and free his slaves. Kościuszko signed the will and returned to Europe.

Jefferson's double dealing didn't end there. Kościuszko died in 1817, Jefferson in 1826. In those nine years, Jefferson never bothered to probate the will, constantly plead-

West Point Honors Builder Kościuszko

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY — Throughout the years he has been called Saint Thaddeus, and at the United States Military Academy at West Point on April 27 and 28, many came to commemorate him as a hero. From little tots in Polish folk costume to the quite elderly with canes, they were there to pay homage to Thaddeus Kościuszko, a man of whom George Washington said "No one has a higher respect and veneration



EMANCIPATION TWICE IGNORED. Kościuszko's will left that money to purchase, educate, and free black American slaves, a fact overlooked first by his executor, and today by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and exhibition organizer, the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

ing infirmity (which didn't stop him from designing the whole campus of the University of Virginia).

All these sordid details are well documented in two recent books about the Polish patriot: Alex Storzynski's *Peasant Prince* and Gary Nash and Graham Gao Hodges' *Friends of Liberty*. As Nash and Hodges point out, the money that Kościuszko left behind would have paid what the Monticello estate sale brought in and all those slaves would have been free.

Not one of these facts is ever mentioned in the Smithsonian exhibition.

This lacuna has been pointed out. The National Museum of American History replied with a perfect bureaucratic answer: we are only housing the exhibit, but have no responsibility for its content. Responsibility for content belongs to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. At least the NMAAH was polite; neither the NMAAHC nor Monticello even

for your character than I have."

The annual commemoration at the monument was once again a fitting tribute to one who was not only a great soldier and military engineer, but also a man of ideals, a man committed to the cause of freedom and liberty for all men and women, a man who fought for that cause on two continents, a man called "the purest son of liberty" by Thomas Jefferson.

Lt. Col. Michael Nowatkowski

bothered to reply, the former even ignoring follow-ups.

That behavior is a bit perplexing. As a new addition to the Smithsonian family, whose permanent home won't even be built until 2015, one would think that the National Museum of African American History and Culture would be interested in outreach. Given the fact that a Polish and American patriot provided the way and means to save Jefferson's slaves, one would think they'd be interested in mentioning that, even in the 18th century, there were progressive white voices concerned about human rights. As Professors Nash and Gao Hodges note, Kościuszko's adjutant was a free Massachusetts African American, Agrippa Hull; the Polish patriot apparently moved with greater ease among American blacks than did the Virginia slaveholder who, human rights rhetoric notwithstanding, always proved loyal to his caste.

A taxpayer funded institution dedicated to the history of African Americans should not practice discrimination by omission. Leaving out what journalist Paul Harvey used to call "the rest of the story" provides a slanted and incomplete picture. It does injustice to Polish Americans, who are often tarred alongside white ethnics in general with Archie Bunker stereotypes, by omitting a truly inspiring aspect of their early history in America, one that can continue to foster mutual understanding. It also, paradoxically, does injustice to Thomas Jefferson, by failing to show just what a racist bigot he was: all the man had to do to affirm "all men are created equal" was file a piece of paper in a probate court.

"Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello" runs through October 14, the middle of Polish Heritage Month. There's still enough time to tell "the rest of the story" — if only Polish Americans make sufficient protest to the NMAAHC and to their senators and representatives. After all, it's our tax dollars at work, too.

began the ceremony with a short welcoming speech on behalf of Lt. Gen. David H. Huntoon, who was present, and called for the Posting of the Colors. This was followed by the singing of the national anthems — Poland and the United States' — by the Aria Chorus.

Since there were a number of Brooklynites present, there was an excited stir when Cadet Patryk Laszkowski, of the Kosciuszko Squadron and from Greenpoint, gave the salu-

"I Thaddeus Kosciuszko being just in my departure from America do hereby declare and direct that should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United States I hereby authorize my friend Thomas Jefferson to employ the whole thereof in purchasing Negroes from among his own or any others and giving them liberty in my name, in giving them an education in trades or otherwise and in having them instructed for their new condition in the duties of morality which may make them good neighbors, good fathers or mothers, husbands or wives and in their duties as citizens teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and Country and of the good order of society and in whatsoever may make them happy and useful and I make the said Thomas Jefferson my executor of this."

— **Kosciuszko's testament**, dated May 5, 1798.

CONDOLENCES. A lot of people loved him and a lot didn't, but regardless of your opinion of Chester Grabowski, the fact remains he took no bull when it came to putting an end to Polish jokes.

Grabowski, publisher of Clifton, N.J.'s *Post Eagle*, died April 25, at age 86.

With the help of *Polish American Journal* editor Henry Dende, Grabowski founded the *Post Eagle* nearly 50 years ago. He became known for his fight to stop Polish jokes on television, singling out Rowan and Martin's "Laugh In," and "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" as offenders, and called for boycotts of their sponsors' products. Grabowski went after other top performers who regularly told Polish jokes as part of their acts, and was not afraid to let them know he had them in his sights.

Our condolences to his daughter Christine Grabowski Whitmeyer, who since Chester's retirement eight years ago has been editor of the *Post Eagle*, and to all the members of the Grabowski family.

— a reading of Kościuszko's letter to a young relative wherein he instructs him in how to live a moral, productive life; advice just as relevant today as it was then.

After wreaths and bouquets were placed at the base of the monument, a volley of shots was fired, followed by the playing of "taps." The Retiring of the Colors by the U.S. Military Academy Color Guard brought the official part of the program to a close.

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QUOTES / compiled from news sources

The Best Value for Your Dollar

"You will never meet a more hardworking American than a teacher; it's the best value your tax dollars can get."

— **Rebecca Mieliwocki**, 7th grade English teacher from Burbank, Calif., after being named the national 2012 Teacher of the Year, and just before her award ceremony at the White House with President Obama on April 24, 2012.



Mieliwocki and President Obama.

"Beatification is a cult in the region, canonization involves the whole world. That is why we want to make sure that the Holy Father is canonized as soon as possible."

— **Director of Krakow's John Paul II Center, Fr. Jan Kabziński**, on Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz's announcement that sainthood for the late Polish pope is at hand.

"Taking into account a missile-defense system's destabilizing nature, that is, the creation of an illusion that a disarming strike can be launched with impunity, a decision on preemptive use of the attack weapons available will be made when the situation worsens,"

— **Gen. Nikolai Makarov**, the chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, threatening preemptive attacks on missile-defense sites in Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe in the event of a crisis, underscoring the Kremlin's opposition to the planned system, and further undermining relations between the countries.

"We think the system we are developing poses no threat to Russia,

so the whole notion of retaliation or countermeasures has no foundation."

— **Alexander Vershbow**, NATO's deputy secretary general, playing down Makarov's speech. He said NATO was trying to resolve what he called "differences in perception regarding the capability of the NATO shield" and hoped to find grounds for cooperation with Moscow.

"If this system belongs to NATO, then it cannot be that a state, which is not a NATO member, could influence NATO's defense system and the development of this system."

— **Chairman of the Polish parliament's upper house Bogdan Borusewicz**, warning Moscow against interfering in NATO's plans concerning the deployment of a missile shield in Europe as Russia is not

a member of the military alliance.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen announced the "first step" in the European missile defense system at the opening of the NATO summit in Chicago.

"Domestic demand is projected to remain the main driver of growth, but the focus is expected to continue to shift from consumption to investment... Companies are set to benefit from the currency depreciation and use their profits to renew their machinery in preparation for an expected upturn in the cycle."

— **The European Commission**, from its report that raised its economic-growth forecast for Poland to 2.7 percent, the fastest in the European Union, citing domestic demand and public spending on the Euro 2012 soccer championship.

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Obama's Plea Does Not Bode Well for Poland

Dear Editor,
The article "We Will Not Be Fooled Again" by Pawel Styra in the latest issue of the Journal was very interesting. President Obama's plea with then-Russian President Medvedev to give him "space" until he is reelected does not bode well for Poland. I am sure that if a poll were taken after the next presidential election, a good majority of the citizens of Polish descent will have voted for Obama, and they will be fooled again. As a Polish American friend of mine said to me some time ago, "My grandparents were Democrats, my parents were Democrats, I am a Democrat and I will always vote for the Democrat!"

In another article, the Poles in Chicago are complaining about Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel's decision to do away with Pulaski Day. Judging by the overwhelming number of Poles in Chicago, Emmanuel would not have been elected mayor if the majority of Poles had not voted for him. I am sorry to say that they got what they wanted, and it wasn't very nice.

Frank J. Wodzinski
Elizabeth, New Jersey

WILL POLISH AMERICAS EVER LEARN? The two disturbing news items in PAJ, May 2012 edition should be another wake up call for us to learn how to deal with American politics and be heard at the bal-

lot box.
The Polish American Advocacy Group reported that President Obama is prepared to follow his idol, President Roosevelt, in placing the Central and Eastern Europe in a Russian sphere of influence, Yalta style. Of course, like any Obama's serious policies, this one will be presented and implemented after the election. The trial balloon was published in the *Wall Street Journal*, June 2008. The NY Senator, Charles Schumer, in his article, proposed trading this Region to the Russians in exchange for their cooperation and assistance in resolving the US-Iranian conflict over the nuclear weapon issue. I did not see any protests from the Polish community then, and I do not hear or see anything now.

If any Polish American would vote for Obama in November, he should be sent to the mines of Kolyma for a few years of vacation.

The second disturbing news, although less serious, nevertheless telling, was that Obama's friend, Mayor of Chicago, Emanuel, did away with Pulaski Day, which he considered an unnecessary holiday!

Just think: what would happen if the President or a senator proposed trading Israel to secure peace in the Middle East? It is high time to learn from the smart people and roar.

Stanislaw Bokota
Valparaiso, Indiana

COMPENSATION CLAIMS. The matter of Jewish compensation claims comes up from time-to-time in the *Journal*. I disagree for the following reasons:

Warsaw was leveled. Who replaced these properties? Not the Jews, but the Poles.

Upon Germany's invasion of Poland, Germans took Polish and Jewish homes and farms. Blame the Germans, not the Poles for losses.

When Poland was given to Russia at Yalta, all property belonged to the state. Everyone should be compensated for losses from the Russians.

From 1945 to present, who took care of these assets at their costs? Not Diaspora Jews, but Poles. With a class-action suit, Diaspora Jews will not have to prove ownership, another wrong.

Setting an example for Poles, in 1950-51, Israeli legislators had approved the "Absentee Property Law," preventing Palestinians from returning to their lands, cities, and villages, and thus allowing new Israelites to live in houses they did not build.

If Diaspora Jews did not go back to claim or sell their property since 1945, it should go into eminent domain, or be kept by their present owners.

Ed Kwiatkowski
Detroit, Michigan

TRAVEL

Heritage Tour to Poland 2012

MUSKEGON, Mich. — "Pan" Franek along with his two daughters, Andrea and Erika, invite all to an exciting and wonderful pilgrimage tour to historic and culturally enriching Poland, October 4-15.

Being that Poland is a 96% Catholic country, they will be visiting and touring many spiritual and holy places, including the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, along with Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, and more.

There will also be stops in the mountains of Zakopane, the Wieliczka salt mines, the old city of Krakow, the bustling metropolis of Warsaw, and many other sites.

The price includes round trip air transportation from Chicago, two meals per day, English speaking escort, accommodations at first class hotels, transportation through Poland by deluxe air conditioned motor coach, and more. Highlights on the pilgrimage tour include, a river ride with Gorale down the Dunajec river, folklore shows, all tips, taxes, and gratuity included at the low price of \$3,400 per person based on double occupancy.

For more information or to book your spot please contact Frank or Erika Piotrowski at (231) 773-1022, or email erika at erikap.euro@hotmail.com.

ASOP is Poland-Bound, August 12

CARLSTADT, N.J. — New interest in the Association of the Sons of Poland Heritage Tour to Poland has created such a stir, so the fraternal benefit society is again offering the trip.

If you have never been to Poland or if your last visit was years ago, then come and join the members and friends of the Sons of Poland for two exciting weeks of touring major cities and viewing the treasures of over one thousand years of history.

Visit palaces, look at paintings and statues, enjoy Polish food, and buy amber. One special visit will be to the more than two centuries old bell foundry in Przemysl. Another special visit will be to the city of Rzeszow where many Americans have their roots.

The Sons of Poland leaves JFK on August 12th and return on August 26th.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE begins its 26th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or visit our website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org.

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Ronald Syslo, President

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Trzeci Maja Observations Across Polonia



GLEN COVE, N.Y. — "The Constitution of the United States did much to inspire the May 3rd, 1791 Constitution of Poland," said Elzbieta Majewska, president of the Polish Home of Glen Cove and Vicinity, (second from right) shown here with members of her executive board and guest speaker Frank Milewski, president of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress (left).

As it does every year, the Polish Home marked the anniversary of the world's second oldest constitution with a special patriotic and cultural commemorative program on its premises.

In the photo are (from left to right): **Milewski, Stanislaw Kuzma, Anna Czerwonka, Zdzislaw Backiel, Majewska, and Tadeusz Jasinski.**

Glen Cove Mayor Ralph Suozzi, an annual guest at the Polish Constitution observance, addressed the audience and presented Ms. Majewska with a commemorative certificate from the City of Glen Cove.

While Poland's constitution was

adopted only two years after America's, it earned the arrogant contempt of Poland's neighbors, Russia and Prussia. The Russians and the Prussians (Germany's predecessors) both invaded Poland and obliterated any ideas the Poles may have held about freedom and independence. With Austria joining them, they partitioned the entire territory of Poland among themselves and absorbed the land as their own. All the promises and hopes of the 1791 constitution were gone by 1795.

Poland's name on the maps of Europe was completely gone for the next 123 years and would not appear again until the end of the First World War in 1918.

"That's why so many Polish Americans whose parents or grandparents came to America through Ellis Island were stunned when they found the personal documents of these Polish immigrants. Their birth certificates showed they were born in either Russia, Germany or Austria and not in Poland," said Polish American Congress president Milewski.



HAVERHILL, Mass. — Mayor James J. Fiorentini celebrated Polish Constitution Day with members of Haverhill's Polish community for the ninth year in the City. The community lost its Polish church, St. Michael's, back in 1998. The City's proclamation for the day was read by the Mayor and then, accompanied by the singing of the Mazurek Trzeciego Maja (Witaj, Majowa Jutrzenko) led by Stanley Smardz, the Polish flag was raised in front of City Hall. A reception followed in the Mayor's office.

"I reminded our Polish friends that the country of Poland exists today because it remained in the hearts

and minds of its sons and daughters, even when under the control of other countries," said Fiorentini. "Poland has traveled a long road to its independence as a democratic country and we, in the City of Haverhill, celebrate its success."

At the observation are (l. to r.): **Stanley Paszko, Joanna Lachowiec, Craig Sergeant, Elzbieta Tyczynska, Tadeusz Krym, Karstyna Kasprzak, Jerzy Kasprzak, Diane Zylinski, Mayor James J. Fiorentini, Antoni Abramowski, Joseph Kmiec, Victoria Kmiec, Marian Dyzkowski, Stanley Smardz, Helena Dawidowicz, and Stanislaw Rosicka.**



U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE Hillary Clinton, pictured with Polish Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, remarked on the close relations and friendship between Poland and the United States. She addressed over 700 guests at the new Residence of the Ambassador.

by **Richard Poremksi**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Polish Constitution Day was celebrated in grand style, with all due credit to Polish Ambassador Robert Kupiecki.

Kupiecki combined the inauguration of the new Residence of the Ambassador with the 221st Anniversary of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 ("Konstytucja Trzeciego Maja"). Necessity dictated the event be held April 25, 2012.

The guest of honor was U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Poland's Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski, who was scheduled to attend, sent his regrets from Warsaw. The 700 attendees comprised a collective Washington establishments and greater Polonia, all too numerous to mention here. A large contingent of the Polish news media provided coverage for outlets in Poland.

Kupiecki extolled the revolutionary and liberating Polish Constitution of 1791 — a European first — adopted only four years after the U.S. Constitution. The leaderships of Polish Generals Kosciuszko and Pulaski were cited for contributing to America's war of independence victory over England, thus making the American constitution possible. "We had a fight similar to yours, but with a different outcome. You won your liberty, and in due course became a superpower. We lost ours and were wiped off the map of Europe for more than 120 years," he said.

"Today's Poland is in the main-

stream of European integration and solidly in the trans-Atlantic alliance," the ambassador said, "And Poland's economy continues to grow despite adverse global circumstances. Poland is a country that creates solutions."

Kupiecki also announced the late Jan Karski, a Poland World War II hero, will shortly be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama. The ambassador ended his remarks with the disclosure that he will be departing Washington in July to take up his new duties in Warsaw.

With her residence just a few doors away on the same Whitehaven Street *cul-de-sac*, Clinton opened her remarks by saying "Well ... this is kind of equivalent to a block party." She continued that Poland's history has been much more challenging than America's, "And this is why it is especially fitting and so satisfying to see Poland today ... with the extraordinary progress the Polish people have made ... to see their resilience rewarded."

"Our diplomatic relations stretch back over a century, but the ties between the Polish and American peoples goes back much farther," said Clinton.

She also highlighted the value of the U.S.-Poland relationship, and how much the United States relies on Poland in Europe, and currently in Afghanistan.

She ended her comments by saying "The future and potential of Poland, in my view, is limitless," earning the applause of attendees.

Tymoshenko

continued from cover

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, have argued that the sentence resembles "a simple case of political revenge," by current Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich.

Polish president Bronislaw Komorowski was invited to Kiev by Yanukovich after calling on Ukraine to amend its legal code so that politicians could not be tried under criminal law.

However, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Katarzyna Pelczynska-Nalecz announced that Komorowski will not take up the invitation unless there is a change for the better regarding Tymoshenko.

Owing to the new charges against Tymoshenko, such a visit seems further jeopardized. The murder charges also look set to complicate the question of potential boycotts of matches that Ukraine will be hosting during the Euro 2012 tournament. Poland is co-hosting the event this month.

Komorowski called upon European dignitaries not to go ahead with threats of a boycott of Ukrainian matches.

Similarly, former President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek said that the concept of transferring more matches to Poland should be "out of the question."

— *Polskie Radio*

OIL WORKER STUMBLES ON WORLD WAR II RELIC.

A remarkably well-preserved fighter plane that crashed in the Sahara Desert during World War II has been found 70 years later, shedding new light on the pilot's struggle to survive.

The American-made Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk was discovered by a Polish oil worker, Jakub Perka, who was exploring the desert in Egypt, said London's *Telegraph* newspaper. It was about 200 miles from the nearest town.

It is believed that the pilot, Dennis Copping, 24, ran into trouble while flying in 1942, but still managed to land the plane on the sands, the paper said.

Military historian Andy Saunders said that the British flight sergeant "must have survived the crash" because a photograph of the plane showed a parachute had been put up on the side of the plane, apparently as a form of shelter.

He said the discovery was "the aviation equivalent of Tutankhamen's Tomb."

PAPA "We need the Church to be a part of it. We need our own sacred places."

continued from cover

Krysa said that in the 1970s there were 1,200 priests in Buffalo. Today, there are fewer than 200.

"That has presented some challenges, but everyone should know that we're here to stay. We are resilient," said Father Krysa, emphasizing that his comments referred to both Polonia and the Church.

"This is representative of the challenge facing Polonia today," said Krysa. The importance of preserving Polish traditions and its neighborhoods in the United States, he said, is that nearly all Polish traditions are rooted in the Church.

"We need to market our spirituality," said Krysa. "To do that, we need to go out and meet people where they are, not where we would like them to be."

Krysa offered some examples of outreach that embraced new ethnic neighbors that helped show how interconnected many of them are. It was a chance for each to display and demonstrate their customs, food and traditions.

"Interpersonal contact is like an encounter with Jesus. It's what he did," said Krysa. "Our traditions shouldn't be reduced merely to kielbasa, polka and beer. We need the Church to be a part of it. We need our own sacred places."

In making his comments to a gathering of more than 200 people, including more than 50 priests, Krysa said it's important for members of PAPA to make sure their churches are places of necessity in their neighborhoods.

"A Polish American church

needs to be a place for all generations of the family," said Krysa. "Our younger people don't want a quick fix. God is not intended to be locked in church. Get out. Play and enjoy."

With that, Krysa talked of the role church and neighborhood festivals could play in reinforcing the role of the church among parishioners and the neighborhood. He said the use of food at events like that not only preserves ethnic traditions, it's a reflection of the importance food played in Jesus' life.

During their week-long visit to Northwest Indiana, PAPA members visited historic Polish parishes in South Bend, Gary, Whiting, Hammond, East Chicago, Otis and Michigan City. They also visited the Carmelite Shrine in Munster.

OOLALA. Polish women were named the world's second-most flirtatious, second only to Spanish women according to a ranking of those most likely to initiate contact with a man. The social networking site Badoo conducted the study of ninety million romantic contacts made over the course of one month. The United States came in second to last in the study's ranking (RS).

FEATURE

Combat Missions of American Airmen to Poland in World War II: A Story of Charles Keutman

by Martin Wolk

World War II started in September 1939 with the German invasion of Poland on the west, followed by the Russian invasion on the east of Poland two weeks later. The joint German and Russian attack was a result of the secret protocol of the German-Russian agreement (the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact) which included dividing Poland between Germany and Russia. Later, Russia would be invaded by Germany and become one of the Allies, at least in name. Even though the last Polish stronghold would be lost that October, Poland was the only invaded country in the occupied Europe that never surrendered. It created an underground army and remained a battleground for the rest of the war.

The United States (US) joined the war in December 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. America fought in the Pacific and also in Europe. Together with the other Allies (including Britain, Poland, and the Free French), the US began the invasion of Italy in September 1943. Italy would be conquered, but another half of the continent still remained under German oppression. From Italy the Allies would launch missions to the very heart of the battle for Europe. Probably the most famous of those were the bombing raids over Germany during the latter part of the war. However, not many people know about the US Air Force missions over Poland. The objectives of these missions varied from dropping supplies or bombing industrial targets. Though they tend to be overshadowed by events such as the bombing of Dresden, these missions were not only fascinating, but they were also crucial to the war effort of the Allies.

BATTLEGROUND POLAND.

With Poland being an important battleground for both Germany and the Allies, control of Polish air space was very important. The Germans made it no simple task for the Allies. Antiaircraft guns were positioned around key targets and German fighter planes stood ready for the next air battle. US casualties reflect the difficulty of the task. Around three quarters of the pilots performing these missions were killed. Some of the missions consisted of bombing key German military suppliers. Some targets were synthetic fuel plants such as the Blechhammer complex near Wroclaw (Breslau), a Nazi chemical plant and one of the Third Reich's main suppliers of oil for military vehicles. Another target was the synthetic fuel installation in Auschwitz. Other missions consisted of dropping weapons and other supplies to the Polish underground resistance, such as the US and British missions over Warsaw during the Warsaw Uprising.

In late October 2011, I had the privilege to interview Charles Keutman, a retired World War II veteran living in North Stonington, Connecticut. Keutman's story is a telling example of the service of many US airmen who risked their lives flying over a land far away from their homes to help people they barely knew.

Keutman always had a love of flying. After graduating from high school, he joined the Army Air Corps, today's US Air Force, in 1943. After receiving a year of training in bombardier school, he graduated in April, 1944. A month later

he joined the air crew at Westover Field. After a number of training missions, the crew was ready for active service.

Keutman was eventually moved to Italy. Fighting in Europe was not an easy task. The Nazi propaganda called it "Fortress Europe," to reflect their fortifications across the whole of occupied Europe to prevent invasion by the Allies. Keutman, then 19, was stationed in the town of Spinazzola near Bari, in Italy, with the 460th Bomber Group, in the 761st squadron. The squadron used B-24 Liberator bombers. One of his early missions was the bombing of the German controlled Ferrara railroad bridge in northern Italy. He also flew missions to Austria and Yugoslavia. Keutman clearly recalled the danger of flying in Eastern Europe. He remembered how the Russians — even though they claimed to be American and British allies — were not cooperating with them. He gave an example when some US planes landed in Russia: they were not allowed to leave, and the Russians copied the planes.



The "Dinah Might," an American B-24 Liberator bomber on a mission against Germany, crash-landed in Jeleśnia, near Żywiec, on September 13, 1944.

HIS NINTH MISSION was to Auschwitz, the German concentration camp in occupied Poland, to bomb an oil refinery plant in the center of town. It actually happened by coincidence, because Keutman was assigned to replace a member of another crew who was hospitalized. The airplane's nickname was "Dinah Might." The crew consisted of ten airmen: four officers, two pilots, a navigator, two gunners, and Keutman, who was the bombardier. On their way from Spinazzola the planes were met with no resistance up to the town of Żywiec in southern Poland. Suddenly, just before the bombs were to be dropped, engines 3 and 4 were hit by a burst of flack. The copilot also got hit. They tried to head east, hoping that if they landed in Russia they would not be interned, but because of the damaged engines they flew south instead. When the pilot could not maintain altitude and air speed, he ordered the crew to bail out. The crew in the rear compartment did so. The bombardier and flight engineer pulled the co-pilot out of his seat, placed a chest pack chute on his harness, and threw him out of the bomb bay opening. The plane crash landed in a field near Żywiec. As everyone got out of the plane, a shout rang out and they were surrounded by German soldiers, who had just been dropped off by trucks. The pilot of the plane was semi-conscious because he had sustained a head injury in the crash, and the rest of the crew was forced to surrender. They were taken to a village nearby, where they spent the night. There Keutman realized what casualties they had.

The copilot, who was hit by flack

(whom Keutman, along with another airman, had helped bail out), and the navigator, who was crushed in the crash, had both died. The following morning everyone was taken to hospitals or prisoner-of-war (POW) camps. Keutman was taken to an officer's camp called Stalag Luft I, which was north of Berlin and close to the Baltic Sea, where he would spend almost eight months. While there, Keutman and the other Americans were not given any jobs to do because the Geneva Convention stated that officers should not do forced labor. The Russians in the camp were given all of the manual labor jobs. The American soldiers would receive one Red Cross parcel a week. On Christmas 1944 they also received a Christmas parcel consisting of special food, including cans of turkey.

Keutman said that it was the last good meal they got, because the trains carrying the parcels were getting attacked by the air force from then on.

RUSSIANS ARRIVE. Keutman recalled that during March and April of 1945 the POWs could hear Russian gunfire coming from the east. They were told by the German commandant that orders were given to move them to a camp further west. The POWs said that they would suffer many casualties if they moved on the roads, but the commandant said that if they didn't move he would have to order them killed. The American commandant threatened, however, that if they tried to kill them, all of the German soldiers would eventually be overrun when the POWs fought back because there were so many of them. So the German commandant let them stay. He also let the POWs build a series of tunnels connected with the barracks, so that the POWs would have a place to shelter from shelling. The ground was soft, so they were able to dig using only tin cups.

In May 1945, the Russians arrived at the camp. The Russian colonel demanded that the camp fences be torn down. When Colonel Zemski, the leader of the POWs, refused because there was no reason to pull the fences down, the Russian colonel pulled out his gun and threatened him; hence, Zemski told everyone to tear down the fences.

Being free, Keutman walked to Barth, a German seaport town nearby. He recalled walking through the town and seeing how the Russians had ruined it. He remembered seeing liquor flowing out of the doors of all of the town's liquor stores. The people in town were very afraid of the Russians. Two women walked up to Keutman and one of his friends, asking them to protect them from the Russians. A drunken Russian walked up to them and started arguing with the girls in German, and began to wave his gun around as he grew angrier. Keutman and his friend returned to the camp. On another occasion, a Russian soldier approached Keutman and, holding a Tommy gun, told him that an American gun is a good gun and fired it down the street to demonstrate his weapon.

END OF HITLER. Keutman talked about Hitler's death: "We had some joyous exclamations over Hitler's death. They had a Tannoy system in the barracks broadcasting, and they had some music come on that was like funeral dirge. He [the radio



PHOTO: TOMASZ TERTEKA

On September 27, 2009, the Museum in Żywiec and the US Consulate in Krakow commemorated jointly the drama that occurred in the sky over Poland in the final months of World War II. The "Dinah Might," an American B-24 Liberator bomber on a mission against Nazi Germany, ended up crash landing in Jeleśnia, near Żywiec, on September 13, 1944. Charles Keutman, then just 19 years old, of North Stonington, Conn., was bombardier aboard that mission.

speaker] said "Hitler is tot, Hitler is tot." ("Hitler is dead.") The barracks went wild then. The 200 people in the barracks all cheered."

Prior to this, German radio stated that Germany had division after division pouring into the Ardennes to surprise the Allies. Keutman remembered the soldiers jokingly going around the barracks doing the Hitler salute and saying "In case we lose, in case we lose."

Keutman clearly recalled the danger of flying in Eastern Europe. He remembered how the Russians — even though they claimed to be American and British allies — were not cooperating with them.

After that, B-17 Flying Fortress from Britain arrived at the airport in Barth. The POWs were put on the planes with 60 people per plane. The planes flew them to a town on the French-German border, from where trains took them to large tent camps on the French shore of the English Channel. Having to stay there for a few months, Keutman and some of his friends got money from the administrative office to visit Paris. They also got to visit London and other places in Scotland.

Keutman compared post-war Paris to post-war London: "They didn't touch Paris; Paris was pretty much an open city, and they respected that. Not like London, or some of the other towns that were hit hard... [London] had blocks on blocks of nothing but rubble."

Keutman talked about his stop in Frankfurt and how the city was also in bad shape. He recalled meeting a German there who had worked in New York and was visiting his family in Germany when he was captured and forced into the army.

BACK TO THE STATES. Keutman finally came back to the States after a four and a half day voyage on the

British ship *Queen Elizabeth*. That trip was not without an "adventure" that might have cost him his life. While on board the ship, he had a bunk bed in a cabin. The officer in the bed under him had a 45 cal. pistol on his bed, and one day the gun was accidentally fired and Keutman was almost shot.

In the States, Keutman received a hero's welcome. Staying with the military, he served at US Air Force bases until attending a school in 1948, where he became a bombardier/navigator/radar operator. He served on B-29 crews until 1952, when he completed pilot training and was assigned to a B-47 wing at Tucson, Arizona. In 1958 he was assigned to a University of Colorado, where he completed his degree in Business and Management in 1960.

His next assignments were in the supply field in Idaho, Vietnam, and South Carolina. His last assignment was a four-year tour at the Pentagon. He retired from the Air Force in 1969 with a rank of Lt. Colonel after 27 years of service.

At the end, Keutman's wife showed me a German helmet that Keutman "liberated" at the prison camp German barracks and brought back from Europe. She also told me about a ten-year-old boy who had witnessed the crash landing and had never forgotten it. Many years later he conceived the creation of a memorial to the crew members of the "Dinah Might" B-24 bomber. The memorial was dedicated in the town of Jeleśnia, Poland, on September 13, 2009, exactly 65 years after the crash, on the very same day. It is there to commemorate the sacrifice made by the "Dinah Might" crew, but it is also a tribute to all American airmen who were fighting over Poland, many of whom laid down their lives to bring freedom to a foreign land.

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Some Things are Cherished Forever

2012 Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland Appeal

by Msgr. Matthew Kopacz
Catholic League Moderator
Diocese of Buffalo

I think that practically everyone has in their possession at least a few items that are full of special sentiment and treasured memories. Some even hold on to these mementos until the end of life. Estate sales reveal this. A first communion prayer book, rosary, family Bible, certificates when sacraments were received for the first time, graduation diploma, family photographs, jewelry, a childhood toy, sports item, a child's expression of love on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents' Day. As the years pass, some things are cherished more and preserved well.

Several years ago, I visited for one week at the Polish Pontifical Institute in Rome where young priests from Poland pursue higher studies. This Institute receives annual financial assistance

from the diocese of Buffalo through the Catholic League Organization. During that time, a visiting bishop, Andrew Suski, of the diocese of Torun, related that, when he was a young altar server, he would observe the priest as he vested for Mass. He noticed that the vestments had a sewn label, "Gift of the Catholic League — United States." It made a deep impression upon him during those difficult, painful years for Poland and the Church — to this day an unforgettable memory, a treasured token of good-will coming from a people of another country who cared.



"May [our revered Blessed Mother of Częstochowa] keep you 'forever' in her maternal care and intercede with her Son for all your spiritual and material needs, now and in the future."

Through the years the needs of the Church in Poland have changed. Churches have been re-built. There is an ample supply of liturgical furnishings. The Church is free. According to the Polish bishops the present need is to send priests for further higher studies outside the country to prepare them for future

leadership in various capacities.

Offering a new generation of young, talented, priests the thrilling opportunity to pursue higher studies in the Eternal City of Rome, to expand one's understanding of "Universal Church," by meeting, studying intellectual exchange of ideas with foreign priests, attending classes, lectures, seminars presented by some of the finest intellectuals in today's Church is indeed a gift that will be remembered and treasured forever. Only a select group receives this invitation and opportunity from a diocesan bishop.

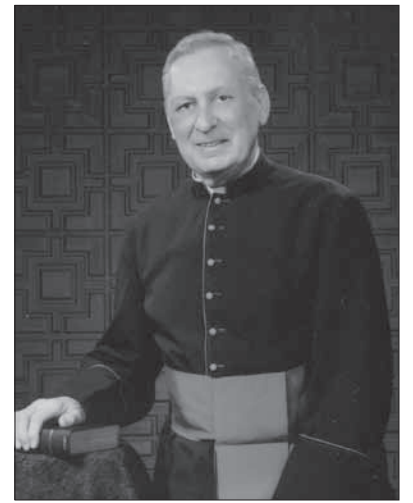
But before this can be possible, there has to be financial assistance, just as in our country. The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland assists in this support. This is what the Polish hierarchy humbly request: to help keep open the Polish Pontifical Institute, the Polish College both in Rome, and the Polish Seminary in Paris, France. They inform us that without our assistance at least one would be forced to close.

THANKS BE TO GOD, that, despite our economic struggling, the August 2011 Catholic League Appeal in the diocese of Buffalo was blessed with another success. Our

priests and laity are very generous. The total raised was \$66,717.34, an increase of 25%. Seventy-six parish communities participated. Special thanks and acknowledgement go out to the pastors and parish administrators who consented and managed to have this collection. Thanks also, to all that contributed with an extra-sacrifice offering last August. Some sizeable contributions were received not only within the diocese but also from individuals in distant cities.

On behalf of the priest-students, "thank you, *bóg zapłać*, God bless you, U.S.A.," many times over. You are remembered in their Masses and prayers. In the future some of these priests are bound to become bishops. At present, they are preparing for that leadership. Thank you for your help.

Be it known that these priests struggle and work hard to achieve their degrees. Writing and defending ones thesis is not easy. They also struggle financially. All is not free-of-charge. The priest too must search and receive a burse or a scholarship in the finance of his education. Catholic League cannot help with everything. Many of these priests help in the parishes of Rome and other cities with Masses



MSGR. MATTHEW KOPACZ. The 2012 Appeal will take place during the month of August.

and hearing of confessions. Fluent in Italian they are a great asset.

We entrust all our benefactors to the revered Blessed Mother of Częstochowa, universally known as the Black Madonna. May she keep you "forever" in her maternal care and intercede with her Son for all your spiritual and material needs, now and in the future.

The Catholic League continues! The 2012 Appeal will take place during the month of August. In preparation, we request your prayers for continued good will and support.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 160 Cable St., Buffalo, NY 14206.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Archbishop Wenski: Pressures Against Religious Liberty

Miami's RC Archbishop **Thomas G. Wenski** observed that efforts to restrict religious liberty are against longstanding American traditions and are part of an effort to "delegitimize" the Catholic Church's participation in public debate. And it is not only Catholics who are under stress or even outright assault, as he noted in the *Miami Herald*. The Health and Human Services mandate requiring insurance coverage for contraception, sterilization and some drugs that can cause abortion are an "unprecedented intrusion by the federal government."

The intrusion is two-fold: religious institutions are forced to facilitate and fund procedures and products "contrary to their own moral teaching" and the government defines which institutions are religious enough to receive the "exemption" to the mandate. A worst case scenario if the Church does not receive relief from Congress and the courts would see the shuttering of Catholic schools, universities, and hospitals by the federal government. Arch-

bishop Wenski went on to insist that "separation of church and state does not require the exclusion of religion from society. To exclude people of faith from making their contributions and their proposals in the public square would impoverish us all."

He also called attention to a "draconian" anti-immigrant law in Alabama would "criminalize Bible classes for undocumented immigrants, to the exclusion of Catholic Charities from foster care and adoption services in several states as a result of the homosexual rights agenda, a recent court decision barring conscience accommodations from federal contractors opposed to abortion, and the State Department's redefinition of religious liberty to mean "merely freedom to worship."

VATICAN ANNOUNCES REFORM OF NUNS' CONFERENCE. Springfield, Illinois' **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** will join **Bishop Leonard P. Blair** and **Archbishop J. Peter Sartain** in an effort to work with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in the United

States to revise the statutes of the organization and review its links with affiliated organizations. The review was announced by the Vatican in its response to deficiencies discovered in the assessment of women's religious congregations carried out by Toledo's Bishop Blair in 2008.

Problem areas to be addressed include a vision of religious life incompatible with the faith of the Church, scant regard for the Magisterium, lack of sufficient doctrinal formation in material prepared for new superiors and formators, certain radical feminist themes incompatible with the Catholic faith, risk of distortion of teachings on the Eucharist, divinity of Jesus Christ, the Holy Trinity and the inspiration of Sacred Scripture.

A second organization of religious women had been founded some years ago by sisters who found that the LCWR had moved too far. The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious includes congregations which are more conservative, some of which are enjoying enrolment of new members in significant numbers, which is not the case for those under review.

JOHN PAUL II EXHIBIT ON US TOUR. A new exhibit entitled "I Have Come to You Again" contains over 100 items from the former pope's personal possessions from the Pope John Paul II Center in Kraków and from the Vatican Collections. This is the first time a collection of the personal belongings of a Roman Catholic Pope has been on display in the United States. The Texas-based National Exhibits Association is running the exhibit tour under the leadership of **Fr. Malcolm Neyland**, its president and executive director. After its stay at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, La., the exhibit will also be taken to Seattle, Wash., and Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit www.nationalexhibits.org.

HONORS FOR ANDREY SHEPTYTSKY. Canada's parliament unanimously passed a motion honoring Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan **Andrey Sheptytsky** for his courageous actions during World War II in sheltering more than 160 Jews threatened with annihilation under the Nazis. He headed the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from 1900 until his death in 1944 and spoke out against the violence being perpetrated against the Jews in Ukraine.

Present for this posthumous honor was **Dr. Leon Chameides**, a retired pediatric cardiologist from Hartford, Conn., who was saved along with his brother and hidden among Ukrainian orphans. The chief rabbi of Ukraine was also saved by being hidden behind a bookcase in the Metropolitan's residence. In addition, Metropolitan Sheptytsky's actions inspired other to do likewise. **Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk**, primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, present at the ceremony, declared, "We represent millions of individuals who in their worst moments — like all humans — might bow to hatred or intolerance. But our Ukrainian delegation is here together today — and most importantly in Ukraine — to insist that we, their leaders reject such attitudes."

120 FOR ST. JOSEPH'S. St. Joseph's Church in Camden, N.J. is celebrating its anniversary. The parish has a proud history in the city, and especially for the Polish American community.

A concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, October 21, in the church, followed by a luncheon at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield.

All of Polonia, as well as former parishioners, are invited to the participate in this anniversary. If you cannot attend, you may offer support in the form of a sponsor ad in the parish's anniversary program book.

For information, contact Connie Wilke at (856) 456-9120, or John

Uecker at (856) 428-4836.

PRIESTS ON THE TITANIC REMEMBERED. Three Catholic priests, **Fr. Thomas Byles** (English), **Fr. Joseph Peruschitz, O.S.B.** (German), and **Fr. Juozas Montvila** (Lithuanian) ministered to the ill-fated passengers on the *Titanic* and are remembered as forgoing precious seats in the lifeboats to continue their work of consoling the stranded. Fr. Montvila, the youngest of the three, had secretly ministered to the outlawed Eastern Catholics in Lithuania until he was pressured to leave by the authorities of the Russian Empire. Reports from the sinking ship recount how he "served his calling to the very end."

MODLITWY

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

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, W.S.L.

THANKSGIVING 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, J.P.

The St. Jude Center

760 Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 882-2987

Center for Pastoral Care
and Wellness

On-Going Events

Daily Mass. 4:30 p.m.
(except Saturday)

Novena to St. Jude

Every Wednesday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass. 12:30 p.m.

Bereavement Support Group
(Every 1st Tuesday of the month
2-2:30 p.m.)



AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER — State Rep. **John J. Binienda** (D-Worcester), formally announced he is running for re-election in the 17th Worcester District. The district consists of all of Worcester's Ward 7, precincts 2, 3, and 4 of Ward 8, as well as Leicester.

Binienda, 64, is a member of House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo's leadership team and is in his second term chairing the Rules Committee, which oversees the flow of legislation. He also has chaired the Committee on Revenue and the Committee on Energy.

MICHIGAN

ORCHARD LAKE — Although he did not win, **Kyle C. Anderson**, graduating senior at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory was a semifinalist for the 2012 Presidential Scholars Award, an honor in itself.

Approximately 550 students were recognized as semifinalists for the program.

Kyle scored a perfect 36 on his ACT college entrance exam.

Kevin A. Peart, sophomore at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, also achieved a superscore of 36 on his ACT college entrance exam after his second attempt. A superscore is achieved by taking the best score from subsections at different sittings and combining them for the highest possible score.

NEW YORK

ALBANY — **Michael Kicinski** has filed petitions to run as a Republican candidate in New York's new 22nd Congressional District.

Kicinski said that many grass-

roots supporters assisted in the gathering of petition signatures. He plans to build a campaign team and put his fund-raising plans into action as soon as possible.

Congressional Primary Day is June 26, 2012.

MAYFIELD — The grounds of the Mayfield Fire Dept., North School Street, will be home to this year's **Polish Festival**, June 15-17. The event kicks off Friday at 1:00 p.m., and at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Highlights include crafters, children activities, Polish dancers, Polish and American food and refreshments.

The Rymanowski Brothers Band will perform Saturday, starting at 2:00 p.m., and on 2:00 p.m. on Sun. will be Tony's Polka Band.

Tickets are \$6.00 per person; and \$5.00 pre-sale. Children under 8 are admitted free.

For information, contact Karen at (518) 424-1796 or Margaret 762-7960. For pre-sale tickets, call Linda Wujciak at (518) 393-9126.

No BYOB or food.

OHIO

DUBLIN —The City of Dublin held a dedication ceremony and celebration for the opening of Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park, Sat., May 12.

Following the dedication, addresses were made by Alex Storzynski, president and executive director of The Kosciuszko Foundation, and Republic of Poland Consul Malgorzata Kozik.

The park is situated on property once owned by General Kosciuszko. He was given approximately 500 acres of land along what is now Riverside Drive as payment for his

contributions during the Revolutionary War. The park is a heavily wooded, 36.5 acre recreational area that features many amenities including 1.7 miles of jogging/hiking trails through rain gardens, a 20-car parking lot, gazebo, fishing ponds and a sinkhole overlook.

VIRGINIA

CHESAPEAKE — St. Mary's Catholic Church, 536 Homestead Rd. in the Bowers Hill section, will hold its **30th Anniversary Polish Mass**, June 10, at 4:00 p.m. The Mass pays tribute to the parish's Polish immigrant founders. For information, call the rectory at (757) 488-2663.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

• The Summer Session of Polish Language and Culture Classes at the Kosciuszko Foundation, 2025 O Street, NW, will start Mon., June 18 and end on Thursday, August 21.

Four levels of instruction are offered. All classes start at 6.30 p.m. and end at 8.20 p.m. Interested students please contact Basia Bernhardt at: basiabernhardt@yahoo.com; or call: (240) 338-2592 for further information and registration form.

• On Tues., June 12, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation will commemorate the fifth anniversary of the dedication of the Victims of Communism Memorial to the more than one hundred million victims of communism.

Event activities will commence at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of Massachusetts Ave., NW, New Jersey Ave., NW, and G Street, NW (two blocks from Union Station and

Na lewo i na prawo



MEMBERS OF HOUSTON'S WAWEL DANCERS were among the entertainers at the 6th Annual Houston Polish Festival, held at Our Lady of Częstochowa Catholic Church, May 5-6, 2012.

The festival was billed as "a celebration of all things Polish – the food, the music, the language, the customs and the culture of the Polish people."

Foods included pierogi, golabki, and kielbasa (sausage) and a huge assortment of traditional cakes, rolls and desserts prepared by OLC parishioners.

Music for this year's festival was provided by Brian Marshall & the Texas Slavic Playboys, noted Texas accordionist Chris Rybak; and traditional Polish songs and dances performed by OLC's Children's Choir.

As part of the festival, visitors were able to tour Our Lady of Częstochowa church, which was constructed in the traditional Polish style. On display was the church's Our Lady of Częstochowa icon.

The festival provided a supervised children's area complete with games, face painting, kids' snacks and other fun activities to keep the children entertained. Inside the parish hall, visitors were able to bid in a silent auction, while being entertained by a fine classical pianist.

within view of the U.S. Capitol). A reception and a showing of the on-line Gulag Exhibit at the Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE, will follow, starting at 12 noon.

Among the speakers at this year's

ceremony will be Rep. Dana Rohrabacher and Mrs. Annette Lantos.

To attend the ceremony or lay a wreath or flowers, please RSVP by calling Nathaniel Green at (202) 536-2373 or e-mailing him at vocmemorial@aol.com.

10th Anniversary Polish Heritage Festival

Friday, June 8th 4 PM to 11 PM & Saturday, June 9th Noon to 11 PM



Chardon Polka Band



Polka Relations



Batalion "Burza"



Dave Gawronski



ADMISSION **\$10⁰⁰** Each Day

Youth through age 16 years receive FREE regular Festival admission when accompanied by an adult. Admission includes: entertaining shows, exhibits, Polish music, dancing, & more!

Many 10th Anniversary Specials!
Come, Enjoy, Save!

- Polish Platter \$10
- Polish/American Lunch for 2 \$10
- 3 Beers for \$10
- Kid's Games only 10¢
- Theme Basket Auction 3 Cards for \$10
- Prizes given out: Friday from 5-8pm Saturday from 2-8pm
- Sat. 7pm slice of Anniversary Cake

Festival Contests!

- Polish Heritage Festival Pageant
- Pierogi Eating Contest
- Best Polish Bake-Off
- Poppyseed Roll (Makowiec)



New Brass Express



Buffalo Touch



Polka Family



Mike Randall & Friends

Plenty of free parking is available (including handicapped-accessible).

The Hamburg Fairgrounds

5820 So. Park Ave., Hamburg, NY

For more information go online to: www.polfunfest.com We look forward to seeing you there!

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Peace Through Music – In the Spirit of John Paul II

CHICAGO — On April 23, a unique celebratory concert under the direction of **Sir Gilbert Levine**, a Jewish-bred native of Brooklyn, New York, took place at Chicago's Symphony Center honoring **Blessed John Paul II**. This concert, "Peace Through Music: In the Spirit of John Paul II – Chicago 2012," marked the first anniversary of the beatification of John Paul II. This world-renowned orchestra hall was filled to near capacity as the Polish American and Jewish American community paid tribute to him. The concert was the "brainchild" of Sir Levine, and to have it held in Chicago, the first U.S. city that Pope John Paul II visited after his pontification, was a thrill and an honor. Levine, often referred to as the "Pope's Maestro," presented a program that featured the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Holy Trinity Polish Choir, and a quartet of internationally acclaimed soloists: Amanda Majeski, soprano, Sara Mingardo, contralto, Antonio Poli, tenor, and John Relyea, bass-baritone.

Conductor Levine selected a repertoire that would have pleased John Paul II. With him at the helm, the program commenced with the beloved ancient Polish hymn, "Bogurodzica," sung by 127 members of both the Chicago Symphony Chorus and the Holy Trinity Polish Choir. This simple chant, considered to be



Szpindor Watson Family, Alex Storozynski, Kurzydowski Family

the language of peace and reconciliation. In particular, reconciliation and a shared future between Jews and Christians were the center of the late Pope's desires and dreams."

This memorable concert was made possible by Francis Cardinal George, Archdiocese of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, WFMT Radio Network, Pax Per Musicam Foundation, the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, The Polish Museum of America, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, and the American Jewish Committee.

celebration of the ratification of the May 3, 1791 Polish Constitution. Governor Quinn held a reception at the James R. Thompson Center. Consul General Zygmunt Matynia hosted a reception and concert at the Consulate. The Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance held a VIP pre-parade brunch at the Hilton Chicago, and the Copernicus Center had a two-day celebration. However, it was the Polish Constitution Day Parade on May 5 that metro-Chicago's Polonian community showed its pride.

It was a dreary overcast foggy day and hundreds viewed the parade on Columbus Drive. Sponsored by the Alliance of Polish Clubs, under

Aleksandra is the daughter of Dr. Henryk and Mrs. Michelle Kurzydowski, and Marysia is the daughter of Dr. Anna Szpindor and Mr. John Watson, all of South Barrington, Illinois. Aleksandra is a junior at Loyola Academy, a Jesuit College Preparatory High School, located in Wilmette, Ill. Marysia graduated this past May from Loyola University Chicago with a degree in Biology.

Both Marysia and Aleksandra are past debutantes of the Legion of Young Polish Women's Annual White and Red Ball, *Bal Amaranthowy*. Their brothers, Michael and Karol, respectively, were their sisters' escorts at both events.

The Kościuszko Foundation awarded its prestigious Medal of Recognition to **Frank Wilczek**, Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Theoretical Physics and the 2004 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics. In conjunction with this year's Ball theme, "Polish Contributions to Science," the Foundation's president, Alex Storozynski, announced the establishment of the Collegium of Eminent Scientists to honor renowned scientists of Polish descent in the United States, to highlight and publicize

their achievements, as well as "to provide a nexus of interaction with scientists in Poland."

PAA'S SOLIDARITY AWARD RECIPIENT. The **Legion of Young Polish Women** was honored by the Polish American Association (PAA) at its 2012 Annual Chairman's Brunch on April 22 at the Waldorf Astoria Chicago. The Legion was presented the PAA's Solidarity Award for Lifetime Giving in recognition of its tireless dedication to the mission of the PAA. Presenting this prestigious award was the PAA Chairman, **Conrad Nowak**, and accepting it on behalf of the Legion was its President, **Teresa Skawski**.

The PAA's honored guest speaker was **Victor H. Ashe II**, the former United States Ambassador to the Republic of Poland (2004-2009). Ambassador Ashe spoke candidly and warmly about his family's love of Poland, his ambassadorial responsibilities, and his perspective regarding the visa waiver program. Ashe stated that Poland and the United Kingdom are the United States' strongest allies, that Poland is not a security risk, and that there is no valid justification for not permitting Poland to enter into the Visa Waiver Program.



CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE dignitaries.

about 1,000 years old—perhaps the oldest in Polish musical history—was truly an emotional piece to hear. There were tears, smiles, and positive nods amongst the audience. The concert continued with Edward T. Cone's "Psalm 91," Bach's "Magnificat in D Major," and concluded with Beethoven's "Symphony No. 3, Opus 55, in E-flat Major — Eroica."

John Paul II loved music as a way to express what words sometimes could not. As Francis Cardinal George pointed out, John Paul II "believed that music could speak

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS. Chicago had been buzzing these last couple of months with news and updates on the 2012 World Summit of Nobel Prize Laureates and the NATO Summit. But within the Polonian Community, the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day festivities were foremost on its mind.

Nobel Laureates, such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Lech Wałęsa, the Dalai Lama, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter were in town. The NATO Summit played havoc with the lives of Chicagoans, but wedged between them was the

chairmanship of **Ted Czajkowski**, the 121st Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade was a reality. This year's theme of "One Voice – United Polonia" was ideal.

This year's Grand Marshall was **Grazyna Zajackowska**, **Director of Immigration Services for the Polish American Association**. **Ms. Zajackowska** has worked tirelessly on behalf of Polonia, and for over twenty years provided countless immigrants with the hope of achieving the "American Dream." This year's parade queen was **Arlotta Gromek**. The entire parade consisted of ninety-seven entries, including Polish language schools, political dignitaries, Polish and Polish American organizations, and Polish Veterans posts. Untold thousands more watched the television coverage provided by local ABC-TV-7, news anchor and Emmy award winning television journalist, **Alan Krashesky**, and **Anna Zolkowski Sobor**, the color commentator and Vice Chair of the Polish Constitution Day Parade Committee. Naturally, there was additional coverage provided by Polish television, radio, and newspaper.

CHICAGO'S YOUNG POLONIANS AT KOŚCIUSZKO FOUNDATION BALL. New York City's famous Waldorf Astoria was the site of the 77th Annual Kościuszko Foundation Dinner and Ball. On April 28, 2012, two debutantes from Chicago's Polonia community, **Aleksandra Kurzydowski** and **Marysia Szpindor Watson**, traveled with their families and friends to the Waldorf to be presented at this Ball.

OHIO

Simply Slavic Returns



THE KRAKOWIAKI POLISH FOLK CIRCLE is among the groups that will perform at this year's Simply Slavic Festival in downtown Youngstown, Ohio. Pictured above at center is member D'ella Heschmeyer.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Simply Slavic, the downtown festival created specifically to celebrate the area's colorful Slavic community, will take place Sat., June 16 from noon -11:00 p.m. on Federal Plaza East. The event was created last year to educate both the region's large number of Slavic descendants and the community-at-large about Slavic heritage.

"Nearly 4,000 people joined us last year to enjoy our showcase of Slavic culture," said Ken Shirilla, event chairman, adding that attendees also came from Cleveland, Pittsburgh and beyond. "The overwhelming, positive response of the community proved that a festival of this nature could become a reality among different groups with a common background."

"For 2012, we are expanding the Festival site to two city blocks to give our guests more elbow room and allow people to interact in a better street fair-like layout," Shirilla

said. "We also will have more food vendors to feed the people later into the day and provide non-stop live entertainment until midnight."

The modern-day European nations representing the origins of Slavic ancestry are Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

Numerous local parishes and organizations already enthusiastically have signed on to support and participate in this effort. These include: the City of Youngstown, St. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Polish Youngstown, the American Slovak Cultural Association of Mahoning Valley, the Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Society, and many others.

For further information refer to the event's website www.simplyslavic.org or contact event director Ken Shirilla at (330) 503-9874 or info@simplyslavic.org.

WANTING TO BE JACKIE KENNEDY. The tale of family secrets and forbidden love set in the Milwaukee, Division and Ashland Avenue neighborhood in the 1960's was presented at The Polish Museum of America (PMA). An evening with author Elizabeth Brodzinski Kern, was hosted by the Polish Women's Civic Club (PWCC) and discussed by Ms. Kern.

"Wanting To Be Jackie Kennedy" is



Elizabeth Kern and PWCC President Ann Burzycki.

a heartwarming novel of love and loss, as told by a Polish American woman, Ellie Manikowski, who returns to her Chicago roots in 1994 to celebrate her fiftieth birthday. It is the death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis which spurs the main character, Ellie, to return to the Polish Triangle (Stanislawowo), where she grew up and revisit the "bittersweet memories of her teenage years." The evening of April 27 made PWCC proud. The Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of the PMA was filled with guests anxious to hear Ms. Kern present her novel which brought back memories for those teenagers, who experienced growing up in a Polish neighborhood in the 1960s.



984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622-4141
(773) 384-3352
PMA@PolishMuseumofAmerica.org
www.PolishMuseumofAmerica.org
501(c)(3) non-profit organization

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

PAC Elects New Leadership

BUFFALO —The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** installed the following leadership for the next two years at its recent Swieconka: Richard Solecki (president), Bernadine "Dina" Szymanski (vice president), Andrzej Kucharski (treasurer), Adeline Wujcikowski (secretary) and Barbara Solecki Felski (corresponding secretary). Stephen Flor, James Lawicki, Richard Mazella and Mira Szramel were elected to the local board of directors. Stephen Flor and Richard Mazella were also chosen to represent the group as national directors to the Congress. Flor's election to the board and national director post marks the first time in recent memory that Rochester's Polonia has had direct representation in the WNY Division.

Polish Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka presented the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit to Dr. Amarjit Atwal, Renee Harzewski and Stanley Markut, and the Cross of Merit to Christine Jozwiak and Jozefa Solecki, at the event, which was held at the St. Stanislaus Parish Hall in Buffalo's historic Polonia District.

POLISH ARTS CLUB OF BUFFALO UPDATE. The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo presented a lecture by Wanda Slawinska entitled "Forfeiting a Kingdom, Gaining a Duchy: King Stanislaus Leszczynski" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on April 18. This was followed by a recital by Polish pianist Kristian Tkaczewski at the Canisius College Montante Center on May 6 and a lecture on "Unique Polish Dolls" by Polish American painter and doll artist Kathleen Fliss Rumfola at the Harlem Road Community Center on May 16. The group also honored Dr. Thomas Witakowski, the music director of the Chopin Singing Society, at its Annual "Biesiada" Banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on May 31.

POLONIA TIDBITS. **Rose Orcutt**, a senior associate librarian at the State University of New York at Buffalo, has been named the new curator of the university's Polish Room ... The 75th **Polish Roman Catholic Union of America** Bowling Tournament was held at the Thruway Lanes in Cheektowaga April 20 through 22. Tournament participants were invited to the "Buffalo Bowling Bash" at the Adam Mickiewicz Library in Buffalo's historic Polonia District on April 21 ... Also on the 21st, the **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** held its Annual Meeting at St. John Fisher College. The organization also awarded its 2012 scholarships to Matthew Juskiewicz (Webster Thomas), Marta Labecki (Webster Schroeder), Catherine Ives (Irondequoit), Alexa Foley (Victor), Megumi Madura (Our Lady of Mercy), Elizabeth Piotrowski (Pittsford Mendon), Trevor Brudz (Brockport), Thomas Mscichowski (Aquinas Institute), Warren Solomon (McQuaid Jesuit), Stefan Styk (Pittsford Mendon) and Timothy Zielinski (McQuaid Jesuit) at its Scholarship Luncheon that day.

The **Kalina Singing Society** marked its 111th year with a dinner at Cheektowaga's Millennium Hotel on April 22 ... Piotr Uzarowicz's documentary film on the Katyn Massacre and its aftermath, "**The Officer's Wife**," was screened as part of the Rochester Polish Film Festival at the Little Theatre in Rochester on April 28 and at the

Market Arcade Film and Arts Centre in Downtown Buffalo on the 29th. The Buffalo event was sponsored by the Permanent Chair on Polish Culture at Canisius College in cooperation with the Polish Legacy Project. Mr. Uzarowicz attended both local screenings. ... The WNY Chapter of the **Kosciuszko Foundation** recently chose its officers for the coming year: Dr. Peter Gessner (president), Christopher Golinski (vice president), John Medwid (treasurer) and Craig Bucki (secretary).

Andrew Golebiowski established a Facebook page entitled "**Majowka - Polish May Days in Buffalo**," which contains many photographs of how Buffalo's Polonia Community marked the various days special to Poles and Polish Americans at the beginning of May ... On May 5, **Dr. Frederic Skalny**, the former president of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, was presented the President's Medal for service to St. John Fisher College and the Rochester Community. ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress, Polish Veterans of WWII and Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School marked the anniversary of the beatification of John Paul II, Polish Flag Day, Polish Constitution Day and Polish Veterans Day with a Mass, dinner and cultural presentation at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of WNY Polonia, on May 6. Other commemorations of **May Day**, **Polish Flag Day** and **Polish Constitution Day** were held at Buffalo's Adam Mickiewicz Library, Corpus Christi Church and St. Casimir Oratory, the Syracuse Polish Home and Toronto's SPK Hall.

Polish Cultural Foundation President Dr. Kazimierz Braun, canon lawyer Rev. Joseph Klos and former Polish American Congress (WNY Division) President Joseph Macielag were interviewed by Kevin Keenan as part of a "**Matters of Faith**" broadcast on the legacy of Blessed John Paul II on WIVB-TV, WNY's CBS affiliate, on May 6 ... Also on the 6th, WNED-TV, WNY's PBS affiliate, aired an episode of "Finding Your Roots" featuring Buffalo native **Martha Stewart** ... The Bar Association of Erie County celebrated the legal and judicial career of NYS Appellate Division Justice **Jerome Gorski** at a retirement party held at the Marquis de Lafayette in Downtown Buffalo on May 11.

Dr. Andrzej Rozbicki's Celebrity Symphony Orchestra presented a 110th anniversary **salute to Jan Kiepura**, a "Festival of Tenors," featuring Andrzej Lampert, Christopher Dallo, Michael Ciufio and Andrzej Stec at Toronto's Christian Performing Arts Centre on May 12 ... The **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society** met at American Legion Post 1465 in Niagara Falls on May 15 ... The **Polish Consulate** in Toronto presented Polish pianist Maciej Grzybowski in concert, and **St. Casimir's Oratory** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood presented Quiet Waters' "Rosary Musical" on May 18 ... On May 18 through 20, the **Polish FIVB Volleyball World League** team participated in an international tournament at the Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto.

The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** announced that it will honor Robert Nowak as its 2012 Man-of-the-Year ... Buffalo's **Corpus Christi Parish** participated in the New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites Open House Weekend on May 19 and 20.

The 10th Annual **Polish Heri-**

tage Festival will take place at the Hamburg Fairgrounds on June 8 and 9. This year's festival will feature the Chadron Polka Band, Polka Relations, Batalion "Burza," New Brass Express, Buffalo Touch and the Polka Family. More information is available at www.polfunfest.com ... The **Polish Scholarship Fund of Syracuse** will host its 58th Annual Polish Festival in Clinton Square the weekend of June 8 through 10. More information is available on this festival at www.polishscholarship.com ... The International Joint Committee on **Camp Kosciuszko** will sponsor the 95th Annual Pilgrimage to honor the memory of the Polish American volunteers of Haller's Blue Army at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on June 10. The featured speakers at this year's ceremony will be Polish American Congress National President Frank Spula and Polish Falcons of America National President Timothy Kuzma. Charles Tomaszewski, Deputy Police Commissioner of Buffalo, will be a Vice Marshal. The event begins with a Mass to be celebrated in the cemetery behind St. Vincent DePaul Church on Picton Street at noon.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month, (i.e., June 6 for the July edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszka@verizon.net.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Bits and Pieces

MAY 3 IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY in Poland, Święto Konstytucji 3 Maja, to celebrate the adoption of that country's May 3, 1791 constitution, the first democratic constitution in Europe. May 3 is also a national holiday in Japan, Constitution Memorial Day, which commemorates the day in 1947 when Japan's post-war democratic constitution went into effect.

GERMAN GENERAL ERICH LUDENDORFF (1865-1937) was born in Kruszwonia near Poznań in the German partition area of Poland. His maternal grandmother was Polish. Ludendorff was the leader of the German war effort during World War I. One of his tactics was that of unrestricted submarine warfare, which is said to have been the ultimate factor in bringing the United States into the war, thus ensuring Germany's defeat. He later joined the Nazi party, but came to disapprove of Hitler.

THE POLISH WORD FOR KING is *król*. It is said to have derived from the name Karol, Charles in English. King was an unknown concept to early Poles, so they had no word for one. When King Charlemagne



BOLESLAUS ruled the Franks in the ninth century, perhaps the first time Poles had heard of a king, his name was translated as Karol Wielki, that is, Charles the Great. So to Poles, lacking a word for king, every king became a karol. The word eventually evolved into *król*. When Poles say Boleslaus the Brave

Receives Precious Relic of Pope John Paul II

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — St. Stanislaus Kostka Church received a first-class relic of Blessed Pope John Paul II, a gift to the parish from Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow and the late pope's close friend.

The relic was installed in a place of honor in the church's shrine honoring Our Lady of Czestochowa and Pope John Paul II, Sun., May 6, during a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Matthew Clark. The bishop was assisted by Rev. Adam Ogorzaly, St. Stanislaus' pastor for the past 12 years; Rev. Roman Caly, who will become the parish's new pastor at the end of June; Rev. Tadeusz Rudnik of Syracuse; and Deacon Don Eggleston.

The relic is a small piece of cloth from one of Pope John Paul's cassocks, stained with a drop of blood taken from a vial of blood that was drawn from the pope in the hospital during his last illness. Because the relic contains a drop of Blessed Pope John Paul's blood, the Roman Catholic Church considers it a first-class relic, one having the highest significance.

Few churches in the United States have been given the privilege of housing a first-class artifact of Pope John Paul. Cardinal Dziwisz, who was the pope's personal secretary for almost 40 years, responded to a request made by Father Adam for a remembrance that could be placed at the church's shrine. The shrine, created in 2008, features a magnificent icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa painted in Poland by Anna Maria Torwirt, and a strikingly beautiful portrait of Pope John Paul painted by Cameron Smith of North Carolina.



was their first king, they are in essence saying that he was their first "Charles."

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, alleged assassin of President John F. Kennedy, traveled across Poland by train with his Russian wife and baby after he left the USSR on June 2, 1962, where he had lived for three years. They entered Poland at the Brest-Terespol crossing and left through Kunowice-Frankfurt on their way to Holland, and the United States. Investigations showed the Oswalds stopped and detained somewhere in Poland "just for a few minutes." Oswald applied for a new American passport in June 1963 and listed Poland among the countries he intended to visit. It is not known why Poland was mentioned. Possibly only as a country through which he would travel if he went back to the USSR. His wife was then planning to return to the Soviet Union. Also, Jack Ruby, aka Jacob Rubinstein, murderer of Oswald, was an American Jew whose parents were born in Poland.

COUNTESS CONSTANCE GORE-BOOTH MARKIEWICZ (1868-1927) was an Irish woman who was married to Count Casimir Markiewicz, an Englishman of Polish descent. She was a radical Irish nationalist who agitated for Irish independence from the British Empire. In December 1918 she became the first woman ever elected to the British parliament, but as was common practice among Irish radicals, she refused to take her seat in the House of Commons.

WORLD WAR II GERMAN GENERAL Erwin Rommel, known as

the Desert Fox, was a distant cousin of Polish General Juliusz Rómmel (1881-1967). Rómmel was commander of the Army of Łódź when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939. He retreated to Warsaw where he was given command of the defense of that city. He signed the surrender of the Polish capital, signed the order creating the first Polish resistance movement, and was held prisoner by the Germans for the entire war until freed by American forces in 1945. Afterward, he came home to Poland, the highest ranking military man to return to the communist country. The Communist Party honored him as a great hero and used him for propaganda purposes in the post-war years.

STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA is named after the Stanislaus River that flows through it, which was named for an American Indian chief who fought against the Mexican army in the early 1800s. He was baptized Estanislao, the Spanish rendition of Stanislaus, after Poland's St. Stanislaw. Paradoxically, located in the county is the Stanislaus Food Company, one of the largest food wholesalers in the United States, which specializes in tomato products and calls itself the "Real Italian" Tomato Company.

Visit our On-line Bookstore at **WWW.POLAMJOURNAL.COM**. Subscriptions, butter and chocolate molds, cards, music and more! Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Discover accepted. Secure Server. You can also renew your subscription on-line!

BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

Maria and Pierre Curie Win the First Nobel Award

Continued

In 1903 Marie Curie defended her doctoral thesis. In spite of a very active work in the laboratory and work on her thesis, Marie had to travel to Poland a year earlier, in 1902, soon after she learned that her father was very ill after gall bladder surgery. Unfortunately Władysław Skłodowski, 70 years old, died before she was able to complete her two-and-a-half day train trip to Poland. Marie was still able to participate in her father's funeral and meet other sisters and brothers.

Marie was back at work in France soon. Both, Marie and Pierre were showing real signs of exhaustion not only from the hard work, but also from exposure to radioactive materials. Marie lost lots of weight and looked pale. She had a miscarriage in 1903, probably due to the irradiation. Pierre suffered violent spasms of pain, especially at night. Both also had to work outside of the laboratory; Marie taught girls in Serves, Pierre took care of several students and their research activities. Even today, the Curies' notebooks are still radioactive and can be only accessed through a thick lead glass window after signing a release form.

In late fall 1903, for their work in radioactivity, Marie Curie, her husband Pierre, and Henry Becquerel, were awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry by the Swedish Academy of Science. Shortly before the Nobel Prize — Pierre and Marie were awarded the Davy Medal by the Royal Society of London. The Nobel Prize finally brought more money to the Curies. Unfortunately



they could not go to Stockholm until three years later due to their teaching commitment and Marie's bad health.

Radium and radioactivity became a sensation not only in France but around the world. The Curies published several reports about their radium discovery and its properties. Other researchers also contributed since radioactive material was available to use for the research. The Curies refused to get a patent for radium and radioactivity.

In 1903, Ramsay and Soddy, two English scientists demonstrated that radium produces a small amount of helium, a light gas. Nowadays this is known as the alpha decay process. The scientists also became aware of so called "radium emanation" — which means that it also produced a heavy gas that was later spontaneously transmuted into the solids. Now, we know this gas as radon, and it is also a product of uranium nuclear decay series.

Radium transmutation (change of radium to another physical ele-

ment), first suggested by Rutherford, and later acknowledged by the Curies, caused a commotion, since until then it was believed that only organic substances can change. Radium radiation from the same mass was over 2 million times stronger than uranium radiation. The radiation could of the natural radioactive uranium series. The radioactive series produces several elements and emits three types of radiation (alpha, beta and gamma). The gamma radiation is the most penetrating. William Crookes published information that radium produces the phosphorescence in diamonds. That phosphorescence is a process of light illumination lasting longer than fluorescence. Radium also makes an impression on radioactive plates, spontaneously giving off heat and producing static electricity. Radiation also seems to be "contagious," meaning it shares its radioactive properties with other substances present near them.

The Nobel award not only opened a door for Pierre Curie to become a professor in the French Academy of Science in 1905, it also made the Curies celebrities in France, especially since it was never before heard of a wife working with her husband on scientific discovery. They achieved a great success, but at the expense of their health.

More about Curies in upcoming articles.

Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us
References: Sarah Dry: "Curie"
Eve Curie "Madame Curie"



Wojtek the Soldier Bear

In 1942 the soldiers of the 22nd Artillery Supply Company of the Polish 2nd Corps were traveling through a mountainous area near Hamadan, Iran when they encountered a young Iranian boy carrying a burlap sack. When they asked the

boy what was in the sack they were surprised to find a tiny bear cub that the boy had rescued a few weeks earlier. The bear cub was suffering from malnutrition and the soldiers—many of whom had only recently been released from Siberian work camps—quickly became enamored with the honey-colored young animal. They traded the boy several tins of canned meat in exchange for the bear cub and proceeded to nurse him back to health, feeding him condensed milk from a vodka bottle.

The soldiers named the bear Wojtek, an old Slavic name that, roughly translated, means "smiling warrior." As Wojtek became stronger the soldiers supplemented his diet with fruits, marmalade, honey and, as a special reward, beer, which became his favorite drink. Wojtek also became very fond of cigarettes which he would eat as well as smoke. Wojtek enjoyed wrestling and was taught to salute when greeted. The soldiers treated him, not as a pet, but a fellow trooper and he soon became the unofficial mascot of the 22nd Supply Company as they traveled through Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Egypt.

When the company was sent to Great Britain to join the British 8th Army in preparation for the assault on Italy, a problem arose about how to get a bear on board the ship. The solution turned out to be straightforward — Wojtek was officially drafted into the Polish Army as a private and his name was added to list of soldiers in the 22nd Supply Company.

Wojtek's moment of fame came

during the bloody battle of Monte Cassino. The 22nd Supply Company was charged with the task of transporting supplies and artillery shells up and down the mountain. According to numerous accounts, Wojtek's caretaker, noticed the bear standing

on his hind legs near a stack of ammunition cases with his paws extended. The caretaker placed a heavy case of shells in Wojtek's paws then watched in awe as the bear quickly loaded it onto the truck. Over and over again, Wojtek tirelessly carried ammunition cases, artillery shells and sacks of supplies to the waiting trucks, never dropping a single one. After the Allied victory at Monte Cassino, the Polish 2nd Corps approved a new official emblem for the 22nd Supply Company — a sketch of a bear carrying an artillery shell.

Following the end of the war Wojtek traveled to Berwickshire, Scotland with other soldiers of the 2nd Corps. He instantly became a popular attraction and the Polish-Scottish Association made him an honorary member. Wojtek lived out the rest of his life in the Edinburgh Zoo until he died in 1963 at the age of 22. Numerous items commemorating Wojtek's achievements include plaques in the Edinburgh Zoo and the Imperial War Museum in Ottawa, Canada, as well as a sculpture in the Sikorski Museum in London. In December, 2011, a film titled "Wojtek, The Bear That Went To War," was shown on the BBC in Scotland.

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



Fulbright Scholarships for Study in Poland Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Fulbright Scholar awards to the Central/Eastern Europe and Eurasia is now open. Applications for the 2013-14 academic year are currently being accepted from all levels of faculty and professionals, including early career.

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars is soliciting applications for a broad range of awards throughout Europe. Among

them is a program Fulbright-University of Warsaw Distinguished Chair in East European/Eurasian Studies.

Candidates at the associate professor or professor level are eligible to apply. Knowledge of Polish is not a requirement.

There is also a scholarship in Poland for International Relations or Political Science.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens

and hold a Ph.D. or appropriate professional/terminal degree at the time of application. Application deadline is August 1, 2012.

For further information about these opportunities, applicants are encouraged to follow the link http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/us_awards, or contact Krisztina Miner, Program Officer, at kminer@iie.org. (202) 686-8645.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Święta Katarzyna

In Spanish it is Santa Catalina and is the island off the coast of California, nineteen miles from Los Angeles. The place is mostly controlled by the Wrigley family (chewing gum and the Chicago Cubs), is a nature conservancy, and is a quaint seaside village, ideal for hikers, cyclists, and tourists looking for a relaxing getaway from the noise and smog of the city. It was here that Alina Casimira and Michael Robert professed their marriage vows at St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, April 27, 2012. As father of the bride, I was bursting with happiness.

This destination wedding had it all: it was the perfect mix of people, a beautiful setting, great eats, and readily available resort activities. "The perfect mix" was a gathering that included Alina's St. Louis parents, family, and friends along with Mike's parents, family, and friends from New Jersey, New England, and Florida. Grandma and Grandpa Poniewaz made the trip. Andy and Elka from Los Angeles came over on the ferry to be with us. Mike's Uncle Billy and Aunt Bernie (also known as "Billy and Bernie") were there. Erin, Brig, Gabby, Doctor Dan, Pete the Surfer Dude, Dave, Dave, Dave ("uh ... Mr. Poniewaz, my name is Stewart"), and ChiChi were there. As for New Jersey, good God I'm morphing into Bruce Springsteen. Greetings

from Asbury Park!

In all the excitement and activities of the wedding, I didn't think to give the kids a Polish blessing. To be honest, I never had to give one so I didn't know any existed. A search on the internet will return a number of sources for blessings and traditions that have a Polish twist. June is the beginning of the wedding season and for all of the Polish fathers and mothers getting ready for your child's wedding, there might be a place to slip in a blessing or a poem during the ceremony or at the reception.

To get your juices flowing, here is a Polish blessing that you can find at www.wedding-ministerct.com/wedding-blessings.htm.

A Polish Blessing

May your heart be as patient as the earth, your love as warm as harvest gold. May your days be full, as the city is full, your nights as joyful as dancers. May your arms be as welcoming as home. May your faith be as enduring as God's love, your spirit as valiant as your heritage. May your hand be as sure as a friend, your dreams as hopeful as a child. May your soul be as brave as your people, and may you be blessed.

And while scouring the internet for blessing, I happened upon the the poem "Love at

First Sight" by Wislawa Symborska. It is a beautiful verse that rings true for Mikey and Lin, and one that you might consider for Janina or Tad's wedding.

Here is an excerpt:

*They're both convinced
that a sudden passion joined them.
Such certainty is more beautiful,
but uncertainty is more beautiful still.*

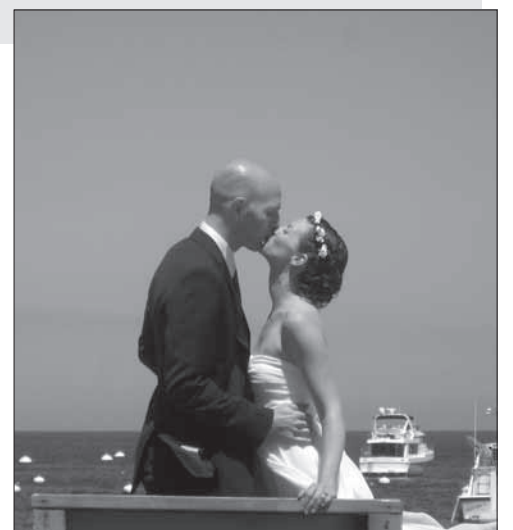
Of course I have the inside scoop on Mikey and Lin, and I am going to guess, (as only they really know), what was in their hearts the first time they actually met. And as the verse implies, it was love at first sight, whether they knew it or not.

QUESTION FOR JUNE: Do you have a Polish blessing or love poem you would like to share?

FESTIVAL CHECKLIST. Summer is also festival season so start planning and thinking of new ideas now.

Planning and thinking includes ways to educate, preserve, and bring the people together. Na zdrowie! in advance.

POLISH OR NOT. Frank Yablans, movie director of *Mommie Dearest*, *Congo*, and *North Dallas Forty*, and the head of Paramount



Pictures during "Paramount's Golden Years" (www.imdb.com/name/nm0944747/), born in Brooklyn, New York, 1935. Is Yablans short for Yablanski or even Jablonski? Polish or not?

IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT about this month's topic, an answer to the question, 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.

Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Dies at 70

CHICAGO (PMN) — Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., an icon of the polka field, longtime leader of Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones, unchallenged in its height as America's Number 1 Polka Band, passed away in the early hours of May 21, 2012 from natural causes related to a stroke and heart problems.

His passing was announced on news radio in Chicago throughout the day on May 21, a flurry of messages were posted on internet social networks such as Facebook, and journalists wrote numerous articles extolling his many attributes and accomplishments. The story was also picked up by the Associated Press, Huffington Post, TimeEntertainment, and other outlets.

The popularity of Blazonczyk's music was due, of course, to his talent and excellent voice, but also to the fact that he was a perfectionist, always requiring the very best of his musicians.

Blazonczyk was a native Chicagoan, son of Fred and Antoinette Blazonczyk, who for years operated the Pulaski Village Ballroom and later the Club Antoinette in Chicago. His parents were Gorale immigrants, and Blazonczyk grew up listening to both Polish Highlander music and the music of Chicago's top polka bands that played at his parents' club. He started playing polkas in the early 1950s with a four-piece combo known as Happy Eddie & his Polka Jesters. They performed at many Polish weddings, anniversaries and other engagements in Chicagoland.

In 1958 Blazonczyk went into the pop music field as a song writer and recording artist for Mercury Records. Under the name of Eddie Bell and the Bel-Aires, he recorded a few hits. He toured the country and appeared on television on *Dick Clark's American Bandstand* and the *Jim Loundsbury Show*.



PHOTO: MARK KOHNAN

EDDIE BLAZONCZYK was a popular entertainer, band leader, record company owner, and a powerful organizing force in the polka world for over four decades.

In 1962, Blazonczyk came back to the polka field, joining and eventually managing the Versatones, then run by long-time friend Chet Kowalkowski. They toured and played in all parts of the United States and Canada. A Poland European Tour included Italy and France.

He was honored at a testimonial in Buffalo, New York, in 1967, being given a gold key to the city and a gold plaque naming him the Nation's No. 1 Polka Man. This citation was registered with the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

He was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1970. In 1986 he won a Grammy for "Another Polka Celebration."

The Versatones were a very popular band. During their heyday it was not uncommon for the group to play around 200 jobs a year. The

band was also home to some of the best musicians in the country.

Blazonczyk was also a polka promoter, a disc jockey and president of the Bel-Aire Record Company with studios in the Chicago area.

He received one of America's most prestigious cultural honors, a National Heritage Fellowship, presented by then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1998.

A special tribute to Eddie Blazonczyk, featuring his Versatones under the direction of his son, Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., was featured at the 2011 edition of Pulaski Polka Days near Green Bay in Wisconsin.

His other son, Tony Blazonczyk leads a popular band, known as New Phaze. His wife Tish and daughter Kathy manage the Bel-Aire Enterprises and the Bel-Aire store in Bridgeview, Ill.

Some of Blazonczyk's big hit recordings, to name only a few, included "Angeline Be Mine Polka," "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie," "Poor Boy Polka," "My Girlfriend Katie Polka," "Marylou," "Hey Pretty Girl," "White Roses Waltz," "Polka Celebration" and "Another Polka Celebration."



BLAZONCZYK'S first recording on his own label, Bel-Aire Records.

Dynatonnes to Reunite for 2012 Frankenmuth Summer Music Fest

FRANKENMUTH, Mich. — It is one of the longest-running and most popular polka festivals in the upper Midwest. Now in its 25th year, the Summer Music Fest 2012 in Frankenmuth, MI is poised to once again "bring the goods" with a mixture of the finest polkas around and some good ol' rock and roll. Come early, stay late, and enjoy a bit of Frankenmuth's world famous "gemütlichkeit."

Included in the all-star polka line up from August 7-11 is Squeeze Box, Peter Wendinger & The Wendinger Band, The Del Sinchak Band, Fred Ziwich, Marv Herzog Tribute Band, Polka Family, Pan Franek, Brass Express, and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push.

The proverbial icing on the cake will be a special reunion appearance by one-time polka powerhouse The Dynatonnes on August 10th & 11th. Joining Polka Hall of Famer Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak, will be Larry Trojak on drums and vocals; Mark Trzepacz on trumpet and



Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak of the Dynatonnes

Also back by popular demand, The Fabulous Hubcaps, one of the nation's most sought-after oldies show bands, will appear on August 17 and 18. Shows start at 7:00pm, followed by dancing from 9:00pm until midnight.

Tickets and scheduling for the Summer Music Fest are available online at frankenmuthfestivals.com and by calling 800.FUN-FEST. Tickets are also available at the gate the day of the event.

Polkamotion by the Ocean: The Party at the Beach Continues

REHOBOTH, Del. — Founded in 1980, Polkamotion by the Ocean continues to draw polka fans from across the nation to the beautiful Mid-Atlantic seashore.

For the ninth straight year, the four-day festival returns to the charming, ocean-resort town of Rehoboth Beach. The Convention Center, located at 229 Rehoboth Ave, is perfectly suited to create that intimate polka atmosphere everyone loves.

For the 33rd Polkamotion by the Ocean, September 13-16, Polkamotion hosts Mike Matousek and Mike Ziemiński have assembled a great collection of polka entertainment including Polka Family, Stacy Morris & The NuTones, Henny & the Versa Js, The Eddie Forman Orchestra, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, The Boys, The IPA Tribute Band, Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, and a rare reunion appearance of Jimmy Weber & The Sounds.

Sunday will offer a Polka Mass 11:00 a.m. followed by an afternoon of polka/variety music provided by the Tommy Thomas Trio and Stacy Morris & The NuTones.

In addition to the polka festivities in the convention center, Rehoboth Beach offers a terrific beach, fun boardwalk, gourmet dining, and tax-free shopping all within walking distance. To get all the details about Polkamotion by the Ocean, Rehoboth Beach, and lodging options visit www.RBPolka.com or call

Mike Matousek at (410) 729-9697. For ticket information call Mike Ziemiński at (410) 654-4724. Tune in to "The Mikes Are On!" polka show on www.247polkaheaven.com for updates. Your hosts Mike and Mike promise a fun-filled experience at Polkamotion, the festival where you'll feel like family.

Cleveland Polka Association Summer Events

CLEVELAND — On Sun., July 22, the Cleveland Polka Association's Summer Picnic will be held at St. Sava's Picnic Grove, 2300 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma. Gates open at 2:00 p.m. with music by Jimmy Kilian's Honky Chicago from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

This is a no BYOB affair, with food and beverages available.

For more information or large table reservations call: Sylvia or Paul at (216) 228-1134.

On Sat., July 28, CPA's 4th Annual Golf Outing & Split Raffle will take place at Valleaire Golf Club, 6969 Boston Road, in Hinckley, Ohio. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter.

For more information, to make donations, to sponsor a hole, or sign up for golf or dinner only, call Ron Witkiewicz at (216) 642-0390; Steve Kubit at 375-1208; or Don Maringo at 524-5225.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

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



ED WOLINSKI with Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. 1981.



TOM BUTASH. Pennsylvania Merry Makers. 1975.



BRUCE NOWAK. Modernaires of Buffalo. 1976.

TOLEDO POLONIA

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Another Successful "Gift of Life" Dance

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Congratulations to Ron and Sue Biskup on throwing another very successful "Gift of Life" dance, held April 28, 2012 at the PRCU Hall in Wyandotte, Michigan. The Lisa Biskup Gift of Life Memorial Dance has grown to become a major event in the Midwest. From the results this year, it looks as if it will continue to be successful for years to come.

This year the entertainment was provided by Chicago's Downtown Sound and The Knewz from Buffalo. Randy Krajewski assisted the efforts by emceeing the event, and Mitch Biskup, cousin to Ron, took the stage and sang a few of his signature tunes. Of course, the dance would not be complete without the testimony of organ recipients and the words Ron spoke during the break on behalf of his daughter and people everywhere in need of an organ transplant. Ron and Sue Biskup and their many volunteers are to be commended for their efforts, and the polka community looks forward to another Gift of Life dance in 2013.

A bit closer to home, Doc Lula and his band he calls the "Boyz from Toledo" entertained a room full of fans at the Friendship Park Mothers' Day dance held May 5, 2012 at the Community Center in Point Place. The "boys" in the Boyz from Toledo vary from time to time, but this event marked the first public gig for Aaron "AJ" Zalewski, who is none other than the son of TPM founder Joe Zalewski. Other musicians included Eric Hite, Paul Mocek, and Andy Pawlak. Though the crowd was modest, the audience was well entertained.

Look for some great summer festivals in and around the Toledo area this summer, such as the Blessed Sacrament Church festival in June with Randy Krajewski providing music, and the LaGrange Street Summer Festival in July with an all star line up. Stay tuned for more events listed in this column in and July.

Oberek on Aisle Six

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Five area Wegmans stores continued the Dynsus Day celebrations with polka music by live bands playing to the delight of their customers on April 14th. Entertainment at the various locations was provided by **New Direction**, **Kenny Krew**, **Rare Vintage**, **Dave Gawronski's Musical Magic**, and **The Buffalo Touch**, who certainly livened up the shoppers' afternoons.

STO LAT! Belated happy birthday wishes go out to my dear friend, **Benny Kaukus**, who turned 90, May 1. As you may know, Benny now resides with his daughter and family in Arkansas. May God bless him with good health and happiness.

CONGRATULATIONSTO ... Ryan Joseph, who many of you may remember better as **Ryan Ogradny** of Henny & the Versa Js, has really made the big time. He is now a member of Alan Jackson's band. The multi-Grammy award-winning Jackson is country music singer, known for blending traditional honky tonk and mainstream country sounds and penning many of his own hits ... **Barbara and John Zwawa** on their 50th wedding anniversary, and **Kyle and Mark Kohan** on their 25th. Best wishes for many more happy years together! ... Also, congrats to their son, **Justin**, who is this year's recipient of the "Freddie K., Jr. Memorial Scholarship," created by Fred and Linda Kendzierski in memory of their son. Freddy Jr. played polka music with his father in the Freddy K. Band, so each year an award is made to a promising high school senior musician. Justin also is the recipient of the "John Philip Sousa" award, given to top high school band students.

A NEW RECORD. The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** set a record for attendance at its April 29th meeting — 149 people filled the Polish Falcons Hall. Music was provided by John Gora, who did a marvelous job. Everyone also enjoyed the *swieconka* being served by the officers. Many people cooked, baked and helped getting this traditional meal together. Some delicious *placki* and baked goods were brought in by many



JIMMY JOHNSON. Bass and piano player for area bands will not be forgotten.



JOHNNY KARAS of the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra and friend Liz made a Dynsus Day trek to his hometown.



RYAN JOSEPH. Going on the road with Alan Jackson's band.

members and were enjoyed by all. Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you at our future meetings and events.

IN SYMPATHY. While still shocked from the news of Eddie Blazonczyk's death, I was saddened to learn that one of our bass players is no longer with us. **Jimmy Johnson**, who played bass guitar and piano with numerous groups — The Dynatonas, Eddie "O", PhoCus, and New York Sound, to name a few — passed away in early May. He also worked as a studio musician, and played on many recordings. May he rest in peace.

AROUND THE TOWN. The **Knewz** played at Potts on April 20, part of the events for members of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, who were in town for that fraternal's bowling tournament. It turned out to be lots of fun.

On April 29, **New Direction** played at a Cinco de Mayo party at Potts, and did a super job. It was nice to hear many songs off their new CD.

NEW HOURS. Mike and George Pasiereb's *Rockin' Polkas* radio show is now broadcasted on Sundays from 8:00-9:00 p.m. The times for the Saturday show remain the same, 2:00-3:00 p.m. They play some really great stuff!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. Best wishes go out to all the dads out there for a very happy Father's Day, June 17.

Enjoy your special day.

UPCOMING

June 2. Opening of the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williams-ville, NY Music by the Polka Country Musicians from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Barbecue Chicken dinners available. \$10 advance or \$13 at the door.

June 8-9. Polish Heritage Festival at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY Music by Polka Family on Friday, and Chardon Polka band, Buffalo Touch, and New Brass Express on Saturday. There will be very many vendors, exhibitions, contests, historians, authors, a pageant, kids activities, displays, and much more. For more info, call (716) 998-2501.

June 10. The Buffalo Touch are at Houghton Park in Kaisertown at 5:00 p.m.

June 12. The Buffalo Touch play

at the River Grill, 70 Aqua Lane, Tonawanda, N.Y. starting at 6:30 p.m.

June 17. The Buffalo Touch entertain at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, N.Y. at 3:00 p.m.

June 19. Polka Boosters Club Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. Call Chris for more information: (716) 892-7977.

June 23. The New Direction Band plays at the Lackawanna Festival at Veterans Stadium on S. Park Ave. in the beer tent from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 27. Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. New Members welcome. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194.

July 4. Bedrock Boys, 2:00-6:00 p.m., Cheektowaga Town Park, following parade.

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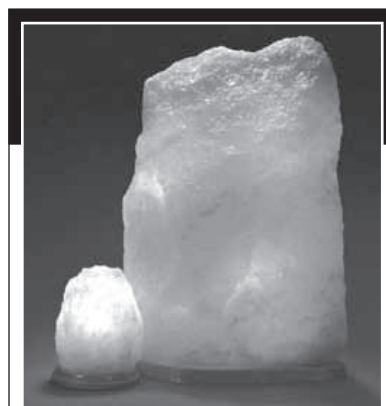
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2012 Hall of Fame Inductees and Award Winners

CHICAGO (PMN) — On Sunday, April 29, 2012, the International Polka Association (IPA) officially announced this year's Polka Music Hall of Fame inductees and the 2011 Polka Music Award winners.

Each year two prominent living personalities and one deceased celebrity, who have made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of the polka music industry, are elected into the Hall of Fame. An academy of over 165 qualified electors from across the country select the Hall of Fame inductees and music awards recipients. The voting is tabulated by the Institute of Industrial Relations of Loyola University of Chicago and the entire process is administered by an eleven-member

Board of Trustees.

The 2012 IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- Living Category – **Wally Dombrowski and Craig Ebel**
- Deceased Category – **Paul Wendinger**

The 2011 IPA Polka Music Award Winners are:

- Favorite Album or CD – “A New Day” by The Boys
- Favorite Song – “Years Ago” by The Knewz
- Favorite Instrumental Group – **Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men**
- Favorite Male Vocalist – **Lenny Gomulka**
- Favorite Female Vocalist – **Mol-**

lie Busta Lange

The induction ceremonies and award presentations will be conducted at the IPA's Polka Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet held this year on August 4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence, Ohio.

The banquet is a part of the 44th Annual IPA Polka Festival and Convention that takes place from August 2-5, 2012.

During the festival, world-class polka music will be provided by Squeezebox featuring Ted and Mollie (Busta) Lange of RFD-TV fame, the IPA Tribute Band with guest Polka Hall of Famers, The Eddie Forman Orchestra, Danny Mateja & Downtown Sound, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, The Boys, and The Knewz.

A Polka Mass followed by a convention with election of IPA officers will take place on Sunday, August 5. For all the details about the festival, banquet, accommodations and convention visit www.internationalpolka.com or call 1-800 TO-POLKA. To make hotel reservations, call (216) 986-9900 and mention “IPA Polka Festival” to get the special \$99 room rate.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 5TH
9:00 a.m. Polka Mass

10:00 a.m. Annual Election of Officers & Convention Meeting (IPA Members Only)

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BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

An Account of Salem's Polish American Community

THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF SALEM

by Felicia Wilczenski and Emily Murphy

Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2012. Pp. 128, PB, \$21.99

To order: Call (888) 313-2665

Say "Salem" and most Americans will reply "witchcraft trial." Although the "Salem Witchcraft Trials" took place in several Massachusetts towns, Salem has become indelibly associated with those events from the 1690s. Some Americans might also connect Salem with Nathaniel Hawthorne's "House of the Seven Gables," which stands there.

But not many Americans would connect Salem with Polish Americans. That's unfortunate, because Polish Americans make up about 7% of this city of about 41,000 people. This book tells something of their story.

Arcadia specializes in local histories of particular towns, generally produced by local amateur historians. The format is pretty standard: about 128 pages, about 200 photos, at least 80% of which are 40+ years old. There

is not a lot of text in Arcadia books: they are largely picture books with three or four sentences at most serving as captions to the photos. Recording local history well within those parameters can be a challenge, but it can be done.

For some, these books are expressions of local pride; for others, a trip down memory lane. Although their content can be somewhat uneven, I like them because they record for posterity at least something of the story of a local Polonia. Alas, not very many people write about Polonia period, and those who do generally focus on Chicago, Detroit, or other big cities. Arcadia, which has been very friendly to Polish Americans, gives voice to the all the towns and villages where our *rodacy* made a new home in America and, for that, they deserve recognition.

Poles started coming to Salem in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As in other Polonias deriving from the *emigracja za chlebem*, Poles settled where work was, and in New England that often meant textiles. In Salem, that meant Pequot Mills and leather goods

work. Where Poles settled, a parish church soon followed: in Salem, that meant St. John the Baptist Church and School. When Poles of those times came to America, they often set up self-help societies: in Salem, that meant the St. Joseph Society. They also organized a rich organizational life: in Salem, that meant the Polish Roman Catholic Union and the Polish League of American Veterans Post 55. With Polish organizational life also came Polish and Polonian traditions: in Salem, that meant the annual *Święconka* dinner as well as "Litwin's Polka Variety" radio show. It also meant political activity: in Salem, that meant the Salem Women's Polish American Citizens Club. It also meant all kinds of sports: baseball, basketball, and bowling. All these aspects of Salem Polonia are represented with many historical photographs.

Sometimes I wish, however, that the authors had added a little more history. Reading this book, one gets the distinct impression it salutes a day gone by: a few words about what remains of Salem Polonia (they still have a Polish Mass Sundays) would have been nice.

Although the book mentions Americanization programs for Poles organized by the House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association, a little more on the interface of Poles and Yankees might have also been useful. Salem is one of America's oldest towns, founded in 1626: Poles must have sometimes rubbed the Brahmin North Shore the wrong way! Finally, there were just instances where I expected something to be said that wasn't, like mentioning Salem's witchcraft past under a picture of Polish women at a 1940s Halloween Party or noting the significance of the Battle of Monte Cassino beneath a picture of Victoria Kowalski who "cared for the allied soldiers wounded at the Battle of Monte Cassino" (p. 117). The National Park's Service brochure on Polish Salem (see <http://www.nps.gov/sama/history-culture/upload/SAMA-rpt-small.pdf>) could have offered some interesting factoids.

That said, it's a good thing that books like this are recording for posterity at least something of Polonia's history. This book is a sentimental trip down memory lane for small town Polonia New England. Interesting reading.

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Tales of an Englishman in Poland

POLSKA DOTTY

Carp in the Bathtub, Throttled Buglers and other Tales of an Englishman in Poland
by Jonathan Lipman
wordpress.com. (E-book available through Amazon).

I am not an advocate of e-books, but was forced into the situation with a book coming from England. Anxious to read this book, I ordered it for my daughter's iPad. Alas, nothing can take the place of the feel of a book, or the smell of fresh printed pages. Will Gutenberg's invention die by the wayside? Unable to easily refer to the end notes was frustrating.

Polska Dotty, written by an Englishman, reads like a detailed travel guide of the country and its people. Lipman meets and marries a Polish girl, and works for a firm assisting foreign investors in Poland. For two years they explore the country while Lipman learns of the value Poles place on family. Engagements, weddings, and religious feasts are seriously celebrated.

They live in both Warsaw and Krakow during the two year period, 1997-1999, as Lipman describes the weather, the mountains and sea, major holiday celebrations, the many museums and castles, medical services, relaxed attitude of workers, family gatherings, theater, arts and literature, love of education, the entrepreneurial spirit in the country and much more.

I personally enjoy a hard book copy in my hands, but many people have already adopted this e-book method of reading. Co będzie, będzie.

THE MESSENGER

by Yannick Haenel

Counterpoint Press, 2011, 224 pp., \$24.00.

Part biography and part fiction, Haenel provides an interesting book, divided into three parts, of a well-known person. The first section relates to an interview with Jan Karski as the film *Shoah* is being made. Karski has great difficulty going back to the early World War II years. Thirty five years later he shudders and recounts some of his experiences in the Ghetto, and being called to be a messenger to the world that ignored him.

The second part relates to his war

experiences in his book, *Courier from Poland, The Secret State*. Published in 1944, this well-received book reveals his life as part of the underground operations, and the unbelievable treatment of the Jews. Smuggled to England, he warned the government and Roosevelt in Washington of what was happening, but it was so horrible, no one wanted to believe him. Karski himself could not believe the inhumanity of man and continued to have nightmares of what he saw happening. Nothing was done to prevent further massacres and he felt he had failed in his mission to help the Jews.

The last section, fictionalized, is told in the first person. He demonstrates the torment, and futility of convincing mankind of the plight of the Jews. Forced to sanitizing his book so as not to insult the powers that be, Karski felt he failed to bring the plight of Poland to the world and any prevention of further atrocities weighted on him all his life. Again, fictionalizing, the author has Roosevelt walking toward Karski, greeting him in the Oval Office. The British and Americans had already given Eastern and Central Europe to Stalin, but Roosevelt only murmurs "I understand." If he had any worry about what to do about the Jews, there was no need to worry — Hitler was exterminating them. The Romanian government tried to ship 70,000 to any place of refuge, and the British considered it black-mail and unfounded when asked to pay for the cost of transportation. This was found to be true during the Nuremberg Trials.

In the years to come, Karski's statements were recognized as truthful. Fictionalizing such a courageous and moral person is belittling, especially now that Karski — a freedom fighter and an officer of the Polish Underground during World War II — will posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

TEARS FOR MY CITY

An Autobiography of a Detroit White Boy

by Dean Dimitrieski
Book Publishing, 2012, 256 pp., photos, \$15.95.

Dean's parents believed they would make a better life for their children in America, coming from

Macedonia. But they did not realize they were one of the few white families living in a black community. What they discovered was a city at war with itself. When the auto industry closed down, Detroit became a warzone, with burning buildings, drugs, murder and extortion an every-day occurrence.

Dean has a fascination for guns at an early age, stealing a toy gun from a department store at an early age. As they grow, Dean and his sister learn to defend themselves from the gangs with real guns, as does his father. When Dean witnesses a murder of a leader of a gang and he testifies in court, the family realizes they must move from the city and go to the suburbs of Sterling Heights.

From there, in spite of this terrible boyhood, Dimitrieski is able to graduate from Wayne State University in Business Administration, marry and make a life for his wife and children.

One short chapter is devoted to the plight of the Polish community. Through eminent domain, people are forced to move from Poletown as their homes and community are leveled to make room for a new General Motors plant. Over 4,000 people are affected, with no compensation from the city.

NA ZDROWIE! Bottled water has overtaken beer as Poland's number one beverage of choice, according to a study by Euro-monitor International. The study said the average Pole drinks over 24 gallons of bottled water, an amount that is growing yearly.

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NEWSWIRE

MIXED BLESSING. A shale gas rig in the midst of farmland in the central Poland village of Szymkowo has raised both hope for the community's future prosperity and fear that the endeavor will ruin the bucolic country life. The rig, owned by Talisman Energy, Inc. of Canada, represents one of among about two dozen international companies exploring for underground deposits of natural gas throughout Poland.

Poles would love to sever their seventy-percent dependence on unreliable imports from Russia.

ELTON JOHN TO GIVE TWO CONCERTS IN POLAND. Music legend Elton John will play at the Ergo Arena in Gdansk on July 8, and the day before at Atlas Arena in Lodz. He last visited Poland in May 2010, with the concert at Polonia stadium in Warsaw.

In his four-decade career John has sold more than 250 million records, making him one of the most successful artists of all time. His single "Candle in the Wind 1997"

has sold over 33 million copies worldwide, and is the best selling single in *Billboard* history.

JOHNSTON TRANSLATION WINS AWARD.

Stone upon Stone by Polish writer Wiesław Myśliwski has received this year's "Best Translated Book" award in the United States. The novel was published by Archipelago Books, a small non-profit publishing house from Brooklyn specializing in the literature from the non-English speaking countries.

The book was translated by Bill Johnston, a professor at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, and director of its Polish Study Center. He is one of the most prominent translators of Polish literature into English and has translated works by the Romantic poet Juliusz Słowacki, the novelists Bolesław Prus and Stefan Zeromski, the avant-garde playwright and prose writer Witold Gombrowicz as well as contemporary Polish authors, Andrzej Stasiuk and Magdalena Tulli.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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Spring Fare: Lighter, Fresher

continued from last month

SUMMER BIGOS (bigos letni): Remove the skin from 1 lb smoked kielbasa and dice or slice into thin rounds. Place in pot, add boiling water to cover and simmer covered 30 min. Wash well 1 head baby cabbage at the loose-leaf stage (not yet formed into a compact head). Trim away base and any wilted or damaged leaves. Chop cabbage coarsely and add to sausage pot. Mix well and simmer under tender. In saucepan lightly brown 2 T flour in 2 T bacon or fatback drippings and stir into cabbage. Simmer covered another 5 min. Season with salt and pepper, sour to taste with lemon juice (1-2 t) and garnish with chopped dill. Note: Mature cabbage may also be used, but requires somewhat longer cooking.

ROAST CHICKEN POLONAISE (kurczę pieczone po polsku): Soak 2 broken-up stale white rolls or French bread in milk to cover until soggy. Process or grind together with 3 raw chicken livers. Combine mixture with 1/4 lb raw ground veal, 1 - 2 eggs, 1 - 2 T soft butter or margarine. Work well by hand until fully blended. Season with salt, pepper, a dash of nutmeg, and 1 heaping T or more finely chopped fresh dill. Mix well. Use mixture to stuff 2-1/2 - 3 lb broiler and pat dry. Sew up, tying legs together. Rub chicken all over with a little oil, sprinkle with pepper and paprika and rub in. Add 1 c boiling water to baking pan. Bake in preheated 375° oven about 75-90, basting from time to time.

STRAWBERRIES & SOUR CREAM (truskawki ze śmietaną): Wash but and hull 1 lb strawberries. Dust generously with confectioner's sugar and add a dollop of sour

cream to each portion. Note: Larger berries may be halved.

SUGARED STRAWBERRIES (truskawki w cukrze): Wash but do not hull 1 lb strawberries. Place in serving dish stem-side-up and provide a bowl of sugar on the side so diners can dip their slightly moist strawberries in sugar before popping them in their mouth. The stem (hull) serves as a convenient holder.

RHUBARB COMPOTE: Bring 8 c water to boil. Wash and peel (or leave unpeeled) 1 lb rhubarb, diced. (Leaving it unpeeled will give the compote a nice pinkish hue!) Add rhubarb to boiling water with 2 cloves and 1/2 c sugar, reduce heat and simmer about 15 min. Sweeten with a bit more sugar to taste if desired and (optional) add a pinch of cinnamon. A heaping T red-colored jam (strawberry, cherry, red currant) stirred into the hot compote will improve its color and flavor. Serve at room temp or chilled as a refreshing home-made drink.

Also very good are compotes made with strawberries and cherries. Prepare as with rhubarb compote (above). Or try a mixed fruit compote: rhubarb and strawberry, rhubarb and cherry or rhubarb, strawberry and cherry.

EASY STRAWBERRY TORTE (łatwy torcik truskawkowy): Wash, drain and halve 1 lb strawberries. In saucepan melt a 9 or 10 oz. jar strawberry jelly, add the strawberries and simmer on low about 10 min. Set aside to cool. Spoon mixture over the top of a store-bought sponge-cake bottom (spód biszkoptowy). Cut into wedges and top with home-made or aerosol whipped cream just before serving.

In Memory of John Paul II

The 7th Annual Tribute Concert in memory of Pope John Paul II took place on Mother's Day, May 13 at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The concert entitled *Thank You, Women Who Are Mothers!* included The Aria Chorus



of Passaic, NJ, American soprano Jenufa Gleich, Polish-born actress Dagmara Domińczyk (above), and special guest – former first lady of Poland Danuta Wałęsa (left).

May 13, also marked the 31st anniversary of the assassination attempt on the Polish pope.

"The Pope fortunately survived, and as he later said he survived because he was under the care of Our Lady," said Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka.

In English and Polish, Domińczyk gave an impassioned dramatic reading of poetry dedicated to the mother selected from the volume *Matka (Mother)* by Karol Wojtyła. Domińczyk's first novel, *The Lullaby of Polish Girls* has just been published.

Wałęsa read a section in Polish from her recent memoirs *Marzenia i Tajemnice (Dreams and Secrets)*, which became a bestseller in Poland. The subsequent excerpts were read by the Consul General and Piotr Adamowicz, when Wałęsa experienced vocal problems.

Several classical selections — "Pie Jesu Domine," "Agnus Dei," and Verdi's "Ave Maria" were sung by Gleich. The Aria Chorus presented "Gaude Mater Polonia," "Laudate Dominum," *Nie Lękajcie się*, concluding with the papal song "Abba Ojciec." All in attendance

then sang the Polish religious hymn "Boże, Coś Polskę".

IN RECOGNITION OF KARSKI The First Annual Jan Karski Celebration was held at the Consulate of Poland in New York on April 24th. In the midst of World War II, Jan Karski worked as a courier, entering the Warsaw ghetto and the Nazi Izbica transit camp, where he saw first-hand the atrocities occurring under Nazi occupation.

He was dispatched by the Polish Underground to inform the West about the atrocities being committed by the Nazis in occupied Poland — including the ongoing slaughter of the entire Jewish population and to seek their intervention. Karski traveled to London to meet with the Polish government-in-exile and with British government officials. He subsequently traveled to the United States and met with President Roosevelt. His eyewitness account of the Holocaust was not taken seriously.

Karski published the book *Story of a Secret State*; earned a Ph.D at Georgetown University, and became a professor at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service — educating generations of students about the dangers of staying silent in the face of tyranny and danger. Born in 1914, Karski became a U.S. citizen in 1954 and died in 2000.

The program began with a film clip of President Barack Obama's announcement at the US Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington that the late Dr. Karski will posthumously be awarded America's highest honor — the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "We must tell our children about how this evil was allowed to happen—because so many people succumbed to their darkest instincts; because so many others

stood silent," said President Obama.

Remarks were made by Wanda Urbanska of West Virginia, the Campaign director of The Jan Karski Centennial Campaign — an initiative of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. "This highest of civilian honors in our great land validates the principles that Jan Karski stood for: tolerance and understanding among people of all faiths and the courage to speak the truth in the worst of times," said Urbanska.

Through a very thick Polish accent, with eyes glued to the text, Marcin Lapiński delivered an impassioned dramatic reading from Karski's memoir *Story of a Secret State*.

During the event, Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka awarded Simon Bergson of the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and was herself distinguished with the first ever *Jan Karski Spirit Award*. Presented by David Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, the award embodies the nature of Karski — a person with a combination of "moral, physical, intellectual and courage" traits and one who leads from the "head, heart, soul and spine."

It was announced that 1944 best-seller and "Book of the Month" classic — *Story of a Secret State* was in the process of being reprinted in a new release for a new generation. One of the initiatives of the Centennial Campaign was to have the book made as required reading in U.S. schools.

END OF SEASON CONCERT

The Polish American Folk Dance Company (Adults, Children and Kapela Folk Band) will have a concert of new dances, Sun., June 10, 3:00 pm at the Polish National Home, 261 Driggs Ave, in Greenpoint-Brooklyn, N.Y. Tickets are available at Polish National Home or Forum Agency (718) 389-1010.

HISTORY IN ART / Staś Kmieć

The Oldest Polish Settlement

In the midst of the Texas wilderness, Panna Maria (Virgin Mary) is the oldest Polish settlement in the United States, and was founded by the Franciscan priest, Father Leopold Moczygęba and about 100 families from Pluznica, and surrounding villages in the Śląsk region in southwestern, Poland.

Father Moczygęba had arrived in 1852, and it was his correspondence home to the province that served as the catalyst for emigration. The 1854 group, some 300 people in all, was made up of farmers and artisans, including several brothers of Moczygęba. The Polish immigrants were not destitute — from a propertied class with the resources to finance the long journey.

The settlers had been forced by persecutions of the enemy government when the region became part of the Kingdom of Prussia, and came to seek freedom and land in the free American country. The effect of government policies left the Polish people with only their language and the Polish Catholic church structure to distinguish them from the Orthodox Russians and Lutheran Prussians.

After a nine-week voyage at sea, they reached the Port of Galveston; hired carts to carry their belongings and walked to the junction of the San Antonio River and the Cibolo Creek where they celebrated their first Mass on December 24, 1854 under an oak tree.

In 1855 they built their first church next to the oak tree and dedicated it to the Virgin Mother. The first church was destroyed by lightning in 1875. The present church was completed in 1877 and was enlarged in 1937. During a recent renovation, it was discovered that the church has a painted ceiling. The beautiful ceiling



has been restored.

A series of disasters in 1850s Poland created the impetus for significant immigration to Texas — severe weather, a poor economy, floods, lack of food, epidemics of typhoid and cholera. The town became an insular Polish enclave.

To ensure that their children were properly educated, the Polish immigrants held classes at various sites as early as 1855. In 1868 they built St. Joseph School, the first Polish private school in the United States. The children were taught English and Polish.

In 1856, whether because of the continued ill-feeling or merely because of needed service elsewhere, the Franciscans moved Father Moczygęba to the Midwest where other Poles were moving into cities. Today their legacy is seen in the large Polish communities from Illinois to Pennsylvania. Moczygęba died in Michigan in 1891 and was buried in Detroit, but in 1974 his remains were brought to Panna Maria and reinterred at the spot where he had celebrated the inaugural Mass in 1854.

According to the 2000 U.S. census, there are at least 228,309 Texans of Polish ancestry, making them the seventh largest ethnic group in the state.



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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

A Smart Move

Brad Keselowski (below) scored his second Sprint Cup victory at Talladega Superspeedway, using a push from Kyle Busch to pass Matt Kenseth in a green-white-checked finish.



Keselowski was running second alongside Kenseth when the race restarted a final time on lap 193 (the race went six laps beyond the scheduled distance of 188 laps).

"I had this whole plan if I ever had a situation of when I was leading here," said the Penske Racing driver. "I thought about it, dreamed about it. I knew the move I wanted to pull, and it worked. The guy running second should have the advantage. Now everyone's seen it, and they know. It was the right move, and I'm glad it worked."

Busch was the runner-up, followed by Kenseth.

Despite winning twice this season, Keselowski is only 12th in the Sprint Cup standings, 79 points behind the overall leader. However, his two wins should ensure he earns at least a wildcard for the 12-driver Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field.

RADWANSKA MOVING UP.

Agnieszka Radwanska defeated Maria Sharapova 7-5, 6-4 to capture the Sony Ericsson Open for her second title of 2012 and the ninth of her career.

It was the biggest win for the 23-year-old native of Poland, who improved to 9-2 all-time in WTA finals. Radwanska did not drop a set during the event. She also claimed the title in Dubai earlier this year and is 26-4 [not including a walkover loss in Malaysia] in 2012.

Radwanska, who had just six winners and committed only 10 unforced errors, earned a first prize of \$712,000. As a result, Radwanska moved to a career-high third place behind Victoria Azarenka and Sharapova in the latest women's tennis rankings issued by the WTA.

MOOSE PASSES. **Bill "Moose" Skowron** (inset, next column), the Yankee first baseman of the 1950s and '60s and the hero of their come-from-behind 1958 World Series triumph over the Milwaukee Braves, died at age 81 from congestive heart failure after a long battle with lung cancer.

Skowron, a five-time All-Star, was the Yankees' regular first baseman from 1955-62, averaging 21 homers and 75 RBI and finished his career with a .282 average, 211 homers and 888 RBI. He was clutch in the post season, compiling a .293 average, eight homers and 29 RBI in 39 games over eight World Series.

In the 1956 World Series for the Yankees, Skowron had been held hitless by the Dodgers until the seventh game when he came to bat with the bases loaded in the seventh inning. He then hit a grand slam into the left field stands to break the game open. Two years later, Skowron sparked the Yankees to a comeback from three games to one against the Braves by singling home what proved to be the winning run in the 10th inning of their Game 6, 4-3 victory. He then hit a three-run eighth-inning homer off Yankee killer Lew Burdette for the 6-2

Game 7 win.

The 6-ft. 200-lb. Skowron wasn't called "Moose" because of his size. As a child, his grandfather gave him a short haircut, and his schoolmates thought he looked like the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and began calling him "Moose."

Skowron was a two-sport star in high school and went to Purdue on a football scholarship as a full-back and punter. After his freshman year, however, he felt his calling was baseball and signed a \$25,000 bonus as an outfielder with the Yankees in 1951. He played baseball for the Boilermakers under another Polish American, football assistant Hank (Wilczek) Stram. After hitting a Big Ten-record .500 as a sophomore, Skowron waited for an offer from his beloved Cubs but instead got a \$25,000 bid from the Yankees. "Forget the matriculation Moose and take the dough," Stram told him.

After hitting .341 and leading the American Association in homers (31) and RBI (134), the Yankees knew Skowron could hit, but weren't enamored with his outfielding skills. It was decided to move him to first base and, another year of minor league seasoning, he was platooned at first base with another Polish American, Joe (Kollonige) Collins. From 1958 on Moose became the Yankees' full time first baseman.

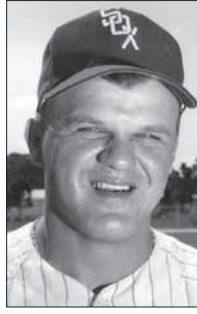
Former Yankee Tony Kubek recalled that when he joined the Yankees legendary manager Casey Stengel "decided to put his two young 'Polacks' — me from Milwaukee, Moose from Chicago — together as roommates." Kubek first thought the pairing was because both he and Skowron were of Polish descent. "But I also came to realize part of Stengel's genius. The Polish thing really wasn't why he had me with Moose. He wanted me with a winner, with a mentor who was a consummate professional and knew how to win championships. And that's what Moose was."

After his tenure with the Yankees, Skowron was traded to the Dodgers, with whom he won another World Series Championship in 1963, sweeping the Yankees. He also went on to play for the Washington Senators, California Angels, and Chicago White Sox. In June of 1980, he was inducted into the National Polish-American Hall of Fame. In 1999, he joined the White Sox full time as a community ambassador. Among other things, he periodically called bingo games in the team's right-field patio area — in Polish.

POLISH LEGAL EAGLE. Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski recently signed into law an amendment to the **Bill on Emblems, Colors and the National Anthem** under which the Polish eagle emblem will be obligatory on the national team's shirts.

The decision to amend the law was made after Poland's National Football Association (PZPN) unveiled Poland's Euro 2012 football strip on which the traditional eagle was replaced with the association's own logo.

The president said that it seemed obvious that Polish sportsmen had the Polish eagle emblem on their



shirts or helmets. "But sometimes obvious things must be confirmed by a law," he added.

POLES VAULTING. **Jenn (Stuczynski) Suhr** cleared 15 feet, 3 inches to win the women's special pole vault at the Drake Relays. She cleared her winning height on her first try to break the Drake Relays record.

Suhr only planned to take part in a special exhibition for the Drake Relays held in a nearby mall.

However, Suhr said that "the crowd was so great when I was at the mall and I was pumped up and I thought technically I was on and I figured where else to open up my outdoor season than here." The 2008 Olympic silver medalist was named the meet's outstanding female performer.

Utah State track and field senior pole vaulter Sonia Grabowska earned Western Athletic Conference Women's Outdoor Field Athlete of the Week honors for her performance at the BYU Robison Invitational. A native of Warsaw, Poland, Grabowska won the pole vault, tying her season-best height of 13-06.25. Her mark is currently ranked first in the WAC and 27th in the nation in the event so far this season.

THE OLYMPICS ARE COMING!

The 2012 Summer Olympics will be held in London from July 27 to August 12, and Poland hopes to perform well. Some of Poland's top athletes are expected to be **Tomasz Majewski**, who won gold at men's shot put in Beijing; discus thrower **Piotr Malachowski**; and weightlifter **Marcin Dolega**. The men's quadruple skulls rowing team is expected to do well also.

Majewski has continued to excel since Beijing, where his gold medal was Poland's first Olympic medal in shot put since 1972 (when the late Wladyslaw Komar took the gold). Malachowski, who makes up for his lack of optimal height with incredible speed, has also looked good. Dolega suffered a shoulder injury that kept him out of the 2011 World Championship, so his status is uncertain.

Poland won three gold (men's shot put, men's rowing, men's vault), six silver and one bronze at the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Polish American Nights at Major League Stadiums

DETROIT TIGERS. The 42nd Annual Polish American Night at Comerica Park will be held Fri., June 1. Game time is 7:05 p.m., when the Tigers and the Yankees take to the field. Pre-game festivities start at 5:30 p.m. and include (weather permitting) polka music, Polish folk dancing, and a ceremony honoring local Polish dignitaries. Pre-game music will be provided by: The Steve Drzewicki Band; Big Daddy & the La De Das; and The Kielbasa Kings. There will be a 15-minute fireworks show following the game.

Although the Polish American ticket package is sold out, you can still get individual tickets to the game. For groups of 15 or more, please contact Corey Bell at (313) 471-2361 or e-mail corey.bell@detroit-tigers.com.

Comerica Park is located near the original Polish immigrant neighborhood of the 1800s. The original Polish churches from the 1800s are still standing and can be seen from the upper deck concourse behind home plate. St. Josaphat church is the closest and only a short walk from the park.

Polish American Night is the only ethnic night hosted by the Tigers.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES. The Polish American Cultural Center invites all to attend Polish American Night at the Phillies, Citizens Bank Park, Thursday,

Euro 2012 – Poland's Biggest Sporting Event

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—In the past, Poland had played host to such international contests as the world skiing championships (1929, 1939, 1962) and last year's European women's basketball tournament. But the inaugural Poland-Greece match at Warsaw's new National stadium on June 8th will mark the opening of the biggest international athletic event ever held in Poland. The European Football (soccer) Championship Finals, co-hosted with neighboring Ukraine, are considered the world's third most important sporting tournament after the Olympics and the World Cup.

Barring unforeseen calamities, the event will provide a great opportunity for Poland to put its best foot forward and play host to a majority of the some one million foreign fans pouring into the region. Poles hope that the costly infrastructural upgrade will create the impression of a modern, attractive nation on the move and encourage many of the visitors to come again as tourists or even investors.

Over the past five years, modern facilities of every kind have been modernized or built from scratch. That includes stadiums, motorways and highways, rail lines and train stations, hotels, dining establishments, entertainment facilities and campgrounds. Airports have been renovated and expanded and a former military airfield in Modlin just north of Warsaw has been turned into the capital's second civilian airport. It is expected to serve as a base for budget airlines.

In May, sports minister Joanna Mucha announced that Poland was ready to host the event. Well, almost! A key stretch of motorway remained uncompleted, but crews worked round the clock to at least make it passable to traffic by the kick-off date, even though final touches would have to wait until after Euro 2012.

FOR MONTHS EURO FEVER has intensified. Euro 2012 logos, images, advertising and programming are everywhere, and stores are stocked with T-shirts, caps, scarves, flags, mugs, toys and assorted gad-

gets touting the event. Although some Polish women are also into the game, by and large football (as it is called everywhere in the world except the U.S.) is mainly a male pursuit. Leading Polish feminist Kazimiera Szczuka reduced the event to "beer, prostitutes and machos roaring their lungs out at stadiums."

Although Polish fans will be in for a real treat, they are only moderately optimistic about how Poland's performance. A recent survey has shown that less than half (48%) believe Poland can advance to the next stage of the tournament, meaning it would have to beat group rivals Greece, Russia and the Czech Republic. Only a scant three percent think Poland can win the event, and four percent predict second place. British bookies are giving 51 to one odds if Poland were to become the European champion.

BUT POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES have also cast their shadow over the preparations. Various European political figures have said they would not attend matches held in Ukraine in protest against the Ukrainian government's alleged mistreatment of former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Sentenced last year to seven years in a penal colony for signing a disadvantageous gas deal with Russia, Tymoshenko again made headlines in April when she charged prison guards had beat her up, and photos of her bruises made the rounds world media. Poland's ruling camp, however opposes any boycott, claiming that would only push Ukraine into Russia's embrace.

On the home front, Polish government leaders have appealed to Polish unionists to postpone their strikes and protests until after the finals. Solidarity leader has threatened to throw up picket lines around the four stadiums (Warsaw, Gdańsk, Poznań and Wrocław) to protest the raising of retirement age to 67. Prime Minister Donald Tusk has appealed to Poles to be cordial and hospitable towards visitors and not exhibit their political gripes and sullen faces during what he called "the three most important weeks for Poland."



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POLISH GIFT OF LIFE. Dla Zycia Dziecka. We are a group of dedicated volunteers that comprise the Polish Gift of Life, Inc. With your support for the past 31 years, we have assisted in saving the lives of almost 400 Polish children (16 in 2010), who suffer from heart-related illnesses. Surgery is performed by Polish pediatric cardiologist Dr. Edward Malec. Sick children wait for our help to lead a healthy, normal life. Join in this mission. Together we can fulfill their dream. To find us: The Polish Gift of Life, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Albertson, NY 11507-0273, or call (516) 746-1532 or (516) 371-5156. Thank you! Dziękuję bardzo!



THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



REPRESENTING THE INNOCENTS EXECUTED BY THE NAZI-GERMANS. Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Oswiecim, Poland. May 22, 1976.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Talk to Grandma Before it's too Late

Saving oral history is a critical early step in your genealogy research. A great deal of family history is passed down orally and the memories of your older relatives are at risk of being lost. It should be a priority to interview your older relatives as early as possible.

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

The interviews should be an equal exchange of information. The questions should flow as normal conversation and not as an interrogation. Avoid questions that seek a "Yes" or "No" answer. Try to be a good listener and give your relatives a chance to tell their stories. Don't talk or interrupt while the person is speaking. Ask your relatives to help identify the people in the pictures. Try to record the conversations to have an accurate record and you will be free to interact with your relative. Remember that memories often

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

SUMMARY:

- Interviewing older relatives is a critical early phase
- Organize your documents and photos to show your relative
- Interviews should be an equal exchange of information
- Avoid questions that seek a "Yes" or "No" answer
- Let your relative talk
- Record your interviews

Stephen M. Szabados, the author of Finding Grandma's European Ancestors, is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society, Illinois State Genealogical Society, and is also a genealogy volunteer at the Arlington Heights Illinois Library.

DO SOMETHING POLISH. Is there a wedding coming up in the family? The bride and groom to be meet at the home of the girl's parents before the wedding to receive the parental blessing. After the nuptial, they are greeted at the reception by the parents with bread and salt. During the meal guests chant "gorzko, gorzko" (bitter, bitter) for the newlyweds to kiss, a money dance is later held and finally the unveiling/becapping ceremony. Next day, it's *poprawiny* (a follow-up celebration).

— Robert Strybel

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

Holy Cross R.C. Church

31 BIRUTA STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06053 • REV. DARIUSZ GOSCINIAK

Holy Cross R.C. Parish, *Parafia Świętego Krzyża w New Britain*, was founded April 8, 1927 by Polish settlers. The first pastor was the Rev. Stephen Bartkowski.

Membership in New Britain's original Polish national parish, Sacred Heart, had risen to about 9000 when a movement for a second parish was sponsored by the Holy Trinity Society. On November 3, 1927, Bishop John Joseph Nilan authorized Fr. Bartkowski to organize what became Holy Cross Parish.

The first Mass was offered on November 13 at a local hall. Fr. Bartkowski broke ground for a new church on Farmington Ave. on December 29, 1927. A year later, he offered the first Mass in the new wooden church, which was dedicated on July 11, 1927 by Auxiliary Bishop Maurice F. McAuliffe. So many Poles soon crossed over from Sacred Heart that Bishop Nilan recognized Holy Cross Parish as a national, instead of a territorial parish, as originally planned.

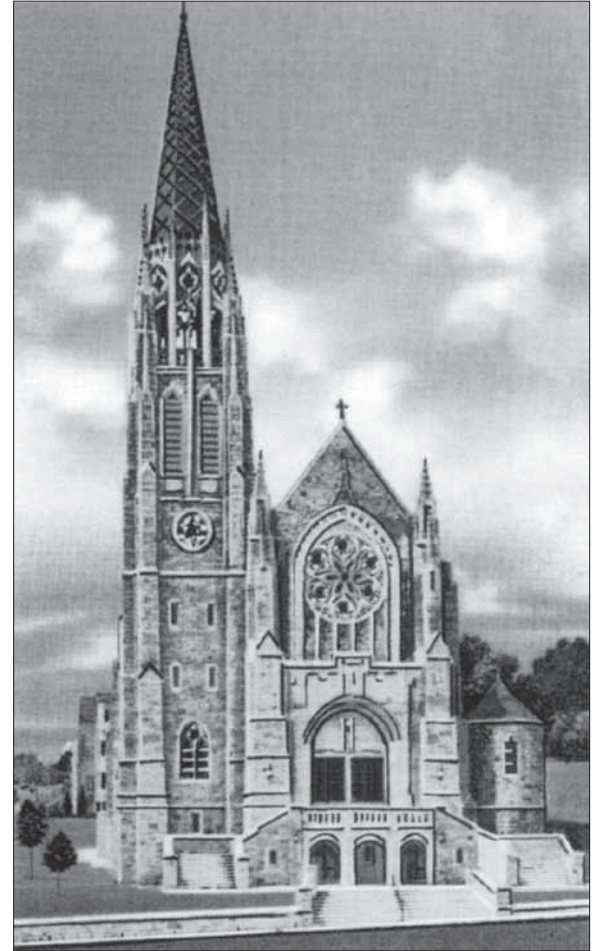
The current church building, neo-Gothic in architecture, was designed by Anthony J. DePace of New York in 1936. The superstructure was dedicated September 13, 1942.

On September 19, 1969, His Eminence Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, the Archbishop of Krakow who became Pope John Paul II in 1978, visited the parish.

The parish celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2007.

In order to maintain the ethnicity of the parishes, third generation Polish Americans work with new immigrants to perpetuate the customs and traditions of the church's founders.

— Wanda Stolarun Dabrowski



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.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Poor as Dirt

Consider giving a loved one (or yourself) a unique, different and unusual gift of Polish heritage which can be passed down from one generation to the next — a Polish surname analysis.

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

Baldyga: A gnarled or misshapen walking stick or staff; someone who carries such a stick; and by extension — an oaf or galoot.

Golaszewski: root-word "golas" (naked person, nude); probably a

toponymic tag for an inhabitant of Golaszew or Golaszewo (Nudeton, Poorville); the adjective "goly" (naked) also suggests someone who is dirt-poor.

Potwora: Feminine form of "potwór" (monster). Someone who had such traits, such as being scary, large, nasty, etc.

For a custom-researched analysis of how your Polish surname came about, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you

wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

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

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

Days and Months

niedziela Sunday	marzec March
(nyeh-DJEH-lah) f	(MAH-zhets) m
poniedziałek Monday	kwiecień April
(poh-nyeh-DJAH-wehk) m	(KFYEH-chayn) m
wtorek Tuesday	maj May
(FTOH-rehk) m	(mai) m
środa Wednesday	czerwiec June
(SHROH-dah) f	(CHEHR-vyehts) m
Czwartek Thursday	lipiec July
(CHFAHR-tehk) m	(LEE-pyehts) m
piątek Friday	sierpień AUGUST
(PYOHN-tehk) m	(SHEHR-pyehn) m
sobota Saturday	wrzesień September
(soh-BOH-tah) f	(VZHEH-shayn) m
styczeń January	październik October
(STIH-chayn) m	(pahzh-DJEHR-neck) m
luty February	listopad November
(LUH-tih) m	(lees-TOH-paht) m
	grudzień December
	(GRUH-djayn) m

Phonetic ch is like ch in loch
m, f, n = male, female, neuter

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OBITUARIES

Maurice Sendak, Guardian of Children's World

Maurice Sendak, an American writer and considered by many, the most important illustrator of children's literature died on May 7 in Danbury, Conn. He was 83.

Maurice Bernard Sendak was born in Brooklyn in 1928, to a Polish Jewish immigrant family. Such experiences as the Depression; World War II; the Holocaust, in which many of his relatives died, exposed him to the concept of death and mortality, which he later expressed in his works. As a child with health problems he developed the love of books and drawing.

Widely praised and at the same time censored, Sendak's books were essential for the generation born after 1960, and for its children. He was known in particular for more than a dozen picture books he wrote and illustrated himself, most famously "Where the Wild Things Are," which was genre-breaking as well as career-making.

In 1964, the American Library Association awarded Sendak the Caldecott Medal, considered the Pulitzer Prize of children's book illustration, for "Where the Wild Things Are." The book told the story of

Max, a naughty boy who rages at his mother and is sent to his room without supper.

Every book of Sendak was breaking with the traditional idea of children's literature, in which young heroes and heroines were beautiful and polite; nothing bad ever happened to them; and everything ended in a moralistic bow. His pictures were dark, grotesque and often scary. They were terrifying, however he showed the real children's world that parents could learn a lot from.

Sendak's work was the subject of critical studies and major exhibitions. His art graced the writing of other well known authors for children and adults, including Hans Christian Andersen, Leo Tolstoy, Herman Melville, William Blake, and Isaac Bashevis Singer.

Sendak understood children and cherished them as well as children cherished the world he created for them. "Dear Mr. Sendak," read a letter from an 8-year-old boy. "How much does it cost to get to where the wild things are? If it is not expensive, my sister and I would like to spend the summer there."

Roman Totenberg, Debuted in Warsaw at 11

Roman Totenberg, an ageless violinist and teacher who spent more than 80 years on the concert stage and continued to see students until the day before his death, died May 8 at his home in Newton, Mass. He was 101.

He was friends with many of the 20th century's greatest musicians and composers, including Igor Stravinsky, pianist Arthur Rubinstein, violinist Yehudi Menuhin and cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. He performed at the White House for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, was one of Mr. Totenberg's early benefactors, lending him her husband's Stradivarius violin.

He was six when he began to study the violin with a neighbor, who was concertmaster of the Bolshoi Opera orchestra. After a while, Totenberg's family moved to Warsaw, where he studied at a conservatory and made his solo debut with an

orchestra at age 11. He received a gold medal from the Chopin Conservatory and moved to Berlin in 1928 to study with renowned teacher Carl Flesch.

He toured South America with Rubinstein and performed at the White House. Through the 1940s, Totenberg was an itinerant virtuoso, performing as a soloist and chamber musician around the globe.

In 1961, he joined Boston University and took on select private students, including a 13-year-old Leon Botstein, who later became a conductor.

"One of the joys of teaching," Totenberg said, "is that you open ... doors to students. It's very gratifying to open a new door and have them say, 'Oh, what a beautiful room!'"

In his final days, many of his students, including renowned violinist Mira Wang, came to his bedside to play for him.

IN MEMORIAM

Sophie McGloin, Teacher, Union Official

Sophie Elizabeth Krasucki McGloin, age 90, died April 24, 2012. She was a vice president of the Michigan Federation of Teachers, and vice president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, serving on their Negotiating Team, Executive Board, Editorial Board, the Women's Rights Committee, and held positions as Co-Chairperson, Building Representative, Political Action Chairperson, and Classroom Management.

McGloin was recipient of the Martin Luther King Award & Education Fund. The Executive Board member of the AFL-CIO, Delegate to their Labor Council and a life-long Democratic Party activist with her husband.

Born Sophie Krasucki in Hamtramck, she met her high school sweetheart, Eddie McGloin, at Hamtramck High. She graduated from Wayne State University in 1940 and began her life-long career as a school teacher. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of more than 60 years, Eddie.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Detroit Federation of Teachers Memorial Scholarship Fund, 2875 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202.

Eleanor Theresa Ochylski, Active in Church

Eleanor Theresa Ochylski, 81, died April 16, 2012 at Indian River Medical Center, Vero Beach, Fla.

Married to husband Edward, Eleanor was a loving and devoted wife of 60 years. Shortly after they were married in Detroit, they moved to Chicago. There they had seven children, and Ed founded the American Meat Packing Corporation (AM-PAC) in the Chicago Stockyards.

When the Union Stockyards closed in Chicago, the Ochylskis moved to Des Moines, Iowa in 1970 and founded the Iowa Packing Company.

Both Ed and Eleanor were active in the church, and were known their charity to Polish causes.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Catholic Relief Services, 95 Cypress Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33415 or Catholicrelief-services.org in her memory.

YOU MAY BE A MILLIONAIRE. If you live in New York State, you may be entitled to over \$10.5 billion in unclaimed funds. You may look as an individual or as a company. There were over fifty companies that had funds unclaimed under the heading "Polish." You can check it out on-line at <https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/>. If you do not have internet access, you can write or call your NYS Senator.

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Casmira Odrobina, Fraternalist

CASMIRA and MITCHELL ODOBINA. Both were very active in the PNA. Mitchell was a commissioner and director. Their son, Paul C., is currently serving his third term as the fraternal's vice president.

Casmira Odrobina of Hamtramck, Mich., wife of former Commissioner and Director Mitchell Odrobina and mother of PNA National Vice President Paul C. Odrobina, passed away on May 2, 2012. She was 94 years of age.

Odrobina was very active in Lodge 1758 and Council 122 with her husband and son for many years. She held many offices in both the Lodge and Council. Casmira would come with Mitchell to Chicago for PNA Board meetings and was known for bringing gifts to the PNA officers and employees at Christ-

mas.

Odrobina was remembered for her charity and volunteerism. "Mom filled out so many applications of all sorts for no remuneration," said son Paul. "It was an act of love for others. She never even considered collecting a dime."

Donations in the memory of Casmira Odrobina are to be made to either St. Florian Church, in Hamtramck, Michigan or Orchard Lake Schools in Detroit, Michigan. Condolences may be sent to: Paul C. Odrobina, 7612 W. Catalpa Ave., Chicago, IL 60656.

Hieronim T. Wyszynski, Veteran, Nowy Dziennik Founder and Manager

Hieronim T. Wyszynski, 92, died April 26, 2012, at his home in Perth Amboy. Born in Nowe Zalubice, Poland, he was the son of Adam and Helena Wyszynski. He attended Lyceum College and the underground University in Warsaw.

At the outbreak of World War II, answering to an appeal, he volunteered for military service to defend Warsaw. At the end of the siege, he was wounded, and after the fall of Warsaw, while being transported together with other prisoners of war to Germany, escaped en route. In the fall of 1939, he joined the Polish Underground Movement, completed his officer training, and was given command of an infantry platoon. He was captured by the Gestapo in 1943 tortured and sent to concentration camps in Mauthausen, Gusen I and II. In 1945, he was liberated by the United States Army. He spent time in England and came to settle in Perth Amboy.

He worked for the Copper Works

in Perth Amboy, Ford Motor Co., as a draftsman and designer for several years. For 10 years, he owned Henry's Colonial Inn in Perth Amboy. In 1952, he organized and served as the first president of the United Poles in America in Perth Amboy (ZPA). A member of the Polish Home Army Assoc. and Post Commander twice; president of United Poles in America Enterprises, United Poles Federal Credit Union, he was Assistant Executive Director of the Polish-American Immigration and Relief Committee from 1976 to 1994; vice president of the Building Committee of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, Pa., and was the founder and manager (1976-1994) of *Nowy Dziennik-Polish Daily* in New York City.

Wyszynski was a parishioner of Saint Stephen's R.C. Church, a member of the Milicia Immaculata of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and a member of Secular Franciscan Order of St. Stephen's Fraternity.

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