

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1911

www.polamjournal.com

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE



**POLAND'S PROTECTOR,  
MIRACLE WORKER**  
PAGE 7

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

**GAGGING MEDIA FREEDOM IN POLAND • A SLAP IN POLONIA'S FACE • CUBA COULD USE A JOHN PAUL II  
ANDERSON COOPER INSULTS POLISH TRADITION • THE KF COMBINES HISTORY AND ELEGANCE • "TRZECI MAJ" EVENTS  
MIKULSKI SETS TERM RECORD • PACIM GETS A NEW HOME • LANDRY, OLKOWSKI, AND LYSIAK TO ENTER PASHF**

## NEWSMARK

### PULITZER FOR KOCENIEWSKI.

David Kocieniewski, 49, of the *New York Times* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting, for a series on corporate tax evasion called "But Nobody Pays That." The West Seneca, N.Y. native, who began working at the *Times* in 1995, said he became a business reporter in 2010, "intrigued by this tax beat that they had been struggling to fill for two years."



His reporting uncovered a vast array of tax loopholes and subsidies afforded to large enterprises. Kocieniewski's editor on the series, Winnie O'Kelly, said "the lead story was about something that didn't happen. G.E. didn't pay taxes."

**CRASH VICTIMS EXHUMED.** Citing flaws in the initial autopsies performed by Russian officials, Polish investigators have exhumed the remains of three of the 96 Poles killed in the 2010 plane crash in Russia that killed President Lech Kaczynski.

Two of the 96 victims were exhumed in Poland, following a first such exhumation last August. Victims families and officials say other victims also have reports riddled with mistakes, and prosecutors say more exhumations are possible.

Col. Zbigniew Rzepa, spokesman for the chief military prosecutor's office, said there were discrepancies in evidence gathered in Poland when compared to the Russian documentation. "We had to carry out the exhumations to clarify all the doubts," he said.

**SOCCER PLANS UNDERWAY.** Security police in Zamosc, Poland, prepared for the Euro 2012 Soccer Championship by staging mock train rescue of hostages. The training scenario showcased Poland's security preparedness for a possible terrorist attack. German and Spanish police conducted the training which involved armed attackers hijacking a train carrying soccer fans and having the security forces storm that train with the aim of releasing the scenario hostages.

**THE POET DID IT.** The former secretary of Nobel Prize-winner Wislawa Szymborska found a crime thriller in late poet's effects. Michal Rusinek described the thriller entitled "Blysk Rewolweru" ("Gleam of the Revolver") stylistically as "a sort of early Agatha Christie" novel. It was found recently in Szymborska's apartment located in the poet's hometown of Krakow.

The crime fiction story was written in the author's youth, and although it will not be published, it will remain in the poet's archives. Plans are that Szymborska's archives will eventually be housed in a museum of literature, a project already approved by Krakow city authorities.

Rusinek revealed that Szymborska's last volume of poems is slated for publication at the end of April and termed that volume "a literary treasure."

**POLES TAKE UMBRAGE AT EXPLANATION.** April 9, 2012, the *New York Times* reported on the poem Germany's Gunter Grass wrote, which is critical of Israel's foreign policy in the Middle East. In attempting to describe the theme of Grass' 1959 Novel, "The Tin Drum," a misrepresentation of Poland's history was offered.

The Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress issued a statement to the *Times*, in which the PAC criticized the paper for saying the 1959 poem was an "exploration of the rise of Nazism in Germany and Poland."

"Polish Americans are justified in expressing their outrage that Poland, the first victim of Nazism, should now be portrayed as co-responsible with Germany for Nazism," said the PAC. "At the time other European nations were appeasing Hitler, the Poles stood firm and became the 'First To Fight' the Nazis in World War II."

## Steps in the Right Direction



**MEMBERS OF THE POLISH HERITAGE DANCERS OF WESTERN NEW YORK** (bottom, left) Alexandria Clark and (bottom, right) Cassidie Pasek get last-minute advice from older members (l. to r.) Jessica Kisluk, Lauren Kocher, and Francesca Sosnowski before the start of Buffalo's Annual Dyngus Day Parade, Easter Monday. In addition to the parade, the troupe made stops at numerous parties around Western New York, where they demonstrated genuine Polish dance steps. Doing the same for the holiday was PHDWNY's contemporary, the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, who also assisted in lending an authentic air to the day's celebrations.

### Philadelphia Archbishop Closes Two More Polish Parishes, Third on Chopping Block

PHILADELPHIA — Two more Polish parishes will die as a result of the first round of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's new "Pastoral Planning Initiative," aimed at merging or closing parishes in the Pennsylvania Archdiocese. The two parishes to be suppressed on July 1 are St. Josaphat's in the Manayunk area of Philadelphia and St. Stanislaus Kostka in Coatesville. St. Josaphat's, founded in 1898, will be merged with a second parish into St. John the Baptist parish. St. Stanislaus, founded in 1907, will be merged with a Slovak parish, St. Joseph, which will become the name of the new parish. The Archdiocese also announced April 15 that a third Polish parish, Holy Trinity in Phoenixville, is being studied for merger with the three other parishes in that Chester County town. Holy Trinity was founded in 1903.

The announcement added that some churches from the merged parishes might actually be kept for use on special occasions (e.g., weddings, funerals) but "this will not be possible in all cases."

Philadelphia Archbishop

Charles Chaput said in January that the Archdiocese would be undergoing severe closings and mergers, signaled already by his January 6 announcement to close 44 Catholic elementary and four high schools.

The Archdiocese justified its decision by citing five factors, including demographic shifts, economic issues, declining attendance, facilities evaluation, and "a decrease in the availability of clergy to staff parishes." The last criterion encompasses both the general decline in the number of priests, as well as ongoing issues related to the Philadelphia Archdiocese's alleged cover-up of clergy sex abuses cases. The trial of two Archdiocesan priests started March 26.

Under Catholic canon law, parishioners who object to closures or mergers can appeal to the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy. The appeal, which must indicate that the bishop somehow violated the rights of the faithful or committed procedural errors in his decision, must be filed in Rome within fifteen days of the bishop's announcement.

### Karski to Receive Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Speaking at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, President Barack Obama announced he will award a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom to Jan Karski,



a former officer in the Polish Underground during World War II who was among the first to provide eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust to the world.

The Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or

See "Karski," page 3

### Dream a Polish Dreamliner

LOT will be the first airline to offer service between Chicago and Warsaw aboard Boeing's newest masterpiece



#### LOT'S 787 DREAMLINER

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Starting January 2013, LOT Polish Airlines, Polskie Linie Lotnicze, will be the first airline to offer service between Chicago and Warsaw aboard Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner. The CEO of LOT, Marcin Pirog, mentioned at a Chicago press conference on March 28, that LOT will be the first European airline to receive the 787 Dreamliner, and it may be

the first airline to fly commercial flights from O'Hare International Airport using the Dreamliner. LOT has ordered eight Dreamliners, thus making Poland the owner of the youngest fleet of commercial aircraft in Europe.

With its largely composite structure, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner is lighter and delivers greater fuel efficiency and range for a craft its size and is said to be the

See "Dreamliner," page 3

## ALMANAC



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## May • Maj

*Kto rano staje,  
temu Pan Bóg daje.  
Who rises early,  
to him God gives.*

- 1 1576. Coronation of **Stephen Batory** and **Anna Jagiellon**
- 2 1952. Birth of Tony Award-winning actress **Christine Baranski**.
- 3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND**  
1791. Polish Constitution Day marked the second oldest democratic constitution in the world.
- 5 1194. Death of Casimir II
- 7 1867. Birth of writer and Nobel laureate **Wladyslaw Reymont** (d. 1925).
- 8 **ST. STANISLAUS**  
Poland's patron, Stanislaus, an early Bishop of Krakow, was slain by King Boleslaw Smialy while celebrating Mass in 1079. His body lies in the cathedral of Wawel Hill in Krakow, Poland. Hundreds of Polish churches across the world are named after him.
- 10 1034. **Death of Mieszko II Lambert**
- 11 1573. **Henry of Anjou** (Henry Walezjy), became the first elected king of Poland.
- 12 1935. Death of Polish Head of State **Jozef Pilsudski**, 67, general, leader in the 1916 Polish independence, prime minister (1926-28, 1930), in Warsaw.
- 13 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**  
1981. Pope John Paul II shot by a would-be assassin at public audience in St. Peter's Square. Also wounded is a Polish American pilgrim from Buffalo, New York, Ann Odre.
- 15 1942. Founding of the Polish Institute of Sciences in America, in New York.
- 16 1211. Death of **Mieszko IV Tanglefoot**
- 18 1920. Birth of **Karol Wojtyla** in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.  
1944. **Second Polish Corps** win the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy.
- 21 1841. Death of Polish poet and writer **Julian Niemcewicz**, who spent the years from 1794-1807 visiting the young American nation.
- 22 1898. Founding of the fraternal benefit society, the **Polish Women's Alliance**.
- 24 1543. Death of **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 992. Death of **Mieszko I**, first Duke of Poland.  
1861. Death of **Capt. Constantine Blandowski**, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 1903. Birth of **Al (Szymanowski) Simmons**, Hall of Fame baseball player for the Philadelphia Athletics.
- 27 1953. Defection to the West of Polish pilot **Lt. Francis Jarecki**, thus allowing the first close look at the new Russian MiG fighter.  
1993. Death of **Andrzej Wasowski**, 69, pianist, in Washington, D.C.
- 28 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**  
1883. Death of poet **Cyprian Norwid**.  
1944. Polish American Congress founded in Buffalo, New York.
- 29 1913. Birth of **Tony Zale** (Zaleski), middleweight champion from 1940-48.
- 31 1972. Visit of President **Richard Nixon** to Poland, the first visit by a U.S. president.

This paper mailed on or before  
**May 3**. The **June 2012**  
edition will be mailed on or  
before **May 31**, 2012.

## VIEWPOINTS

## Gagging Media Freedom in Poland

Poland is currently roiled in a debate over TV Trwam. Like the United States, Poland has its own version of the "culture wars," with debates over religion and values in public life. On those issues, TV Trwam often takes a right-wing position, a viewpoint that does not necessarily endear it to Poland's current ruling coalition.

That coalition appears to have taken its revenge. Back in 2009, U.S. television stations all switched from analogue to digital broadcasting; Poland is now going through the same process. In conjunction with that transition, the Polish National Broadcasting Council (*Krajowa Rada Radiofonii i Telewizji-KRRiT*), a government body, allocated space on the new Polish digital platform to television stations. Surprise, surprise—TV Trwam was left out.

The criteria to be allocated space on that digital platform were never quite clear, nor were the reasons why TV Trwam was excluded. Initially, some questioned the station's finances. Even though TV Trwam has been on the air since 2003, nobody previously had questioned its financial stability. However, unlike Polish state television stations which feed at the public trough and for years collected mandatory viewer fees, TV Trwam depends on viewer donations. What makes this argument even more specious, though, is the fact that various start up stations, with little to no broadcast track record, were given space by the KRRiT.

The denial of space to TV Trwam has sparked huge protests throughout many Polish cities. Mass petition drives have been launched. The Polish Bishops' Conference has also publicly called for inclusion of TV Trwam on the Polish digital platform.

One need not agree with TV Trwam's positions to recognize that the station does articulate the voice of a significant cross-section of Polish public opinion. That voice has a right to be heard, a right of access to the whole of Polish society.

## A Slap in Polonia's Face

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel was looking for ways to expand the Chicago Public School System's academic day and took it upon himself to decide which holidays are more important than others. The two he chose as "unworthy" are Pulaski Day and Columbus Day.

His argument for doing away with Pulaski Day is that Pulaski has "little ties to Chicago." Really? Chicago is the largest Polish American community outside of Poland, numbering over one million. Not to mention that the city and state has named a park, major street, county, village and a city after General Pulaski. Even President Obama (Emanuel's former boss) — from Chicago, of course — has validated the importance

of our Revolutionary War Hero by signing a bill passed by the U.S. Congress conferring honorary U.S. Citizenship on Pulaski in November of 2009.

It's unjust for Emanuel to choose which holidays are more important than others and to undermine the cultural importance of two ethnic icons in Chicago's Polish and Italian communities.

Pulaski Day represents not only our great General but all the major contributions Poles have made both to Chicago and to our nation. Pulaski Day is a source of great pride in our community and to take this away, to make it less important after 35 years, is just wrong on many levels.

Pluralism of opinion is essential to a democratic society, but governments have an interest in controlling public opinion, which makes their lives easier. That is why, in general, governments should have little or no role in the media: their vested interests are always potentially inimical to the real interests of the public to hear, weigh, and assess diverse opinion about public issues. In the past, governments argued that limited broadcast band space necessitated a heavier "administrative" hand in broadcast media (as opposed to print media which, in America at least, the government can't touch). But digital broadcasting expands possibilities.

Besides the free speech issue, there is also a freedom of religion issue. In many countries throughout the world—America included—religious freedom is under assault. Religious freedom is not just about believing but also about doing: it does not just mean you can believe what you want inside your head but can't talk about those beliefs in public, don't share them with others. Religious freedom does not mean insulating society from religious influences. The late public philosopher Richard John Neuhaus coined the term "the naked public square" to describe the caricature of "religious freedom" pushed by secularists: one must strip off one's faith in order to take part in public life. But telling religious people—Americans or Poles—that they must divest themselves of a basic part of their identity in order to participate in public life is discrimination. It is a "religious test." In America and in Poland that is unconstitutional.

Getting TV Trwam off the air tells Catholic Poles they have no right to let their view of influence the way Poland should be shaped. It says that what interests them—even in terms of programming—is not worthy to appear in public. That's plain discrimination. The Polish Government should immediately reverse its decision and include TV Trwam on the Polish digital platform.

## American Polonia Expresses Concern

NEW YORK— President Frank Milewski (right) of the Polish American Congress Downstate New York Division shows Consul General of Poland Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka a copy of the statement New York's Polish American community asked him to present expressing its concerns about new restrictions on Catholic television in Poland. The meeting took place at the Consular offices in midtown Manhattan.



PHOTO: POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

"For those of us Americans who identify with Poland through the ancestry of our immigrant parents or grandparents, this refusal appears to be nothing more than an arbitrary attempt to block the right of the Catholic Church to communicate its message," wrote Frank Milewski in the official statement he personally presented to Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, at the Consular offices in midtown Manhattan.

"It is wrong to do it and it damages the reputation of Poland," added Milewski who also heads the Komisja Obrony Dobrego Imienia Polskiego (Anti-Bigotry Committee). "We urge you not to disregard the concerns of New York's Polonia and allow the Catholic Church the freedom of religious expression to which it is entitled."

Milewski asked the Consul General to pass the statement on to Warsaw because it summarizes a point of view which comes "not only from our members but also from many other Poles in our area."

**GROWING SUPPORT.** Several state divisions of the Polish American Congress issued a statement expressing members concern regarding the TV Trwam controversy in Poland.

"Freedom and democracy are at stake," read the press release. "There is a need for immediate, quick, and prompt action. This open letter supports the efforts undertaken by the Conference of Polish Bishops."

The letter emphasizes a need for corrective action by the Polish community in the United States. PAC members asked the regulator to review the concession process and grant the license to TV Trwam without discriminating against the Catholic majority in Poland.

"We know that this policy, once applied, may be enforced against other religious faiths in Poland," it said.

The letter was signed by division presidents from New Jersey, Southern California, Northern California, Michigan and Florida.

Students would go to school on those days, with curriculum focused on the impact of both historical figures. Or so they say.

"We commit to ensuring schools recognize the contribution of Columbus and Pulaski through instructional activities on those days," said CPS Chief Instruction Officer Jennifer Cheatham.

"It's shocking and disappointing considering that the mayor was elected to congress from a district with one of the largest Polish concentrations in the area," said Gary Kenzer, executive director of the Polish American Association. "To have the City of Chicago say that this is not a considerable holiday for kids to be off school is a bit of a slap in the face."

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture • Established 1911

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

The Polish American Journal is published monthly in five editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, Association of Sons of Poland, The Union of Poles in America and National editions) by:

**PANAGRAPHICS, INC., P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025-0328**

PHONE: (716) 312-8088 / E-MAIL: [info@polamjournal.com](mailto:info@polamjournal.com)

INTERNET: [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

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## Museum Directors Visit the Eastern States

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI



by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — Pictured above at the National Katyn Memorial, March 27, 2012 — along with four members of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation — are a group of nine Jewish museum directors and staff members from Poland.

They were accompanied by an entourage of three interpreters and representatives from Cultural Vistas, and the sponsoring U.S. Department of State / International Visitor Leadership Program. Previously the group had begun their 10-day professional tour in Washington, D.C., and would continue on to Philadelphia and New York before it concluded.

A morning meeting with the NKMF was held in the Governor's Room at the World Trade Center, hosted by The World Trade Center Institute. The museum group was interested in all aspects of the National Katyn Memorial — its genesis, funding, eventual fruition, and the current activities and outreach now undertaken by its

caretaker National Katyn Memorial Foundation, which supplied much in the way of supporting material. Their afternoon was spent meeting with two local Jewish cultural and historic organizations.

The group came to the United States to network with Jewish cultural centers and museums. They were very interested in successful management practices, building and fundraising activities, outreach and educational programs. They want to learn how American museums are sustained through community efforts, about donor support, volunteer recruitment and training. This all would facilitate issues of explaining Jewish culture to non-Jewish audiences, and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding to all museum visitors.

The participating principals represented the Gross-Rosen Museum in Walbrzych, the Museum of the Polish Jews and the Jewish Historical Institute, both in Warsaw.

FORUM / Pawel Styrna

## We Will Not Be Fooled Again

On March 26, in Seoul, South Korea, President Barack Obama pleaded with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to give him "space" until he is reelected, allowing Obama to appease the Kremlin's opposition to U.S.-led Missile Defense in that part of Europe. The message was clear: Moscow, be patient until Barack Obama's power is reaffirmed in November, granting him a free hand to recognize Central and Eastern Europe as a Russian sphere of influence.

Given the historical record, Polish Americans may be excused if President Obama's quite cynical slip reminds them of the Yalta betrayal, whereby the Roosevelt administration effectively surrendered Poland



**OBAMA.** Appears to present a "Yaltaesque" attitude toward Poland.

to the Soviet yoke. Obama's ostensible "Realpolitik" might also conjure up memories of Gerald Ford's Sonnenfeldt Doctrine, which was a *de facto* continued recognition of the Kremlin's occupation of Central and Eastern Europe. Both failed to stem Moscow's aggressive designs throughout the world.

President Obama's Yaltaesque treatment of Poland and appease-

ment of Russia poses an important question: can Americans of Polish descent vote for the current president during the upcoming election with a clear conscience? While Obama managed to secure some support among Polish Americans in 2008, his Sonnenfeldt Doctrine *deux* may rather justifiably convince some Americans of Polish background to recall Abraham Lincoln's famous words: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

❖ ❖ ❖

Pawel Styrna is vice president for public relations of the Polish-American Advocacy Group.

## Dreamliner

continued from cover

most technically advanced commercial aircraft ever built This twin-aisle plane promises to be of greater comfort to its passengers and will have passenger-pleasing amenities, such as the largest overhead bins and windows of any commercial aircraft, wider aisles and seats, more comfortable cabin pressure and a cleaner air filtration system. The windows will be dimmable via electrochromic window shades rather than the physical pull-down shades.

As part of the introduction of the B-787 Dreamliner, LOT will implement a new aircraft interior design, new inflight menus, new selection of beverages, new on-board equipment, and even new toys for children. LOT's new image will be modern and trendy, yet will have an ethnic design inspired by the tradi-

tions and famous symbols of Poland.

Chicago is LOT's biggest market not only in the United States, but worldwide. Pirog pointed out that in 2011 the airline flew over 160,000 passengers between Chicago and Warsaw. LOT normally flies seven to nine flights per week from Chicago to Warsaw with Boeing's 767-300. At this time, there has been no comment as to whether LOT will use a Dreamliner for its flights between Chicago and Krakow. Mr. Pirog did announce that, this past February, LOT began operating all-cargo flights between Chicago and Katowice, Poland. Nearly seventy percent of all air freight from Poland to Chicago is transported by LOT.

This May, LOT will mark its 40th anniversary of flying between O'Hare and Warsaw.

## Karski. Medal is nation's highest civilian honor

continued from cover

private endeavors.

"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 Obama. "But let us also tell our children about the Righteous Among the Nations. Among them was Jan Karski — a young Polish Catholic — who witnessed Jews being put on cattle cars, who saw the killings, and who told the truth, all the way to President Roosevelt himself. Jan Karski passed away more than a decade ago. But today, I'm proud to announce that this spring I will honor him with America's highest civilian honor—the Presidential Medal of Freedom."

Karski served as an officer in the Polish Underground during World War II and carried among the first

Ruling inadequate but offers hope

## Strasburg Court's Ambiguous Katyń Verdict

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—A long awaited ruling on the 1940 Katyń massacre by the European Court of Human Rights has left victims' families dissatisfied and frustrated, but has not closed the door on their continued quest for justice. The court, based in Strasburg, France, was not ruling on whether Stalin's NKVD had murdered more than 22,000 Polish prisoners of war without a trial and then denied it for half a century. It was reacting to a complaint lodged by 15 of the victims' descendants that they had been lied to and treated inhumanely by the Russian authorities when requesting information on the fate of their loved ones.

On that score, the tribunal ruled that the plaintiffs "had suffered a dual trauma: by losing their relatives in the war and not being allowed to learn the truth about their death for more than 50 years." It also accused Russia of failing to provide the court with the necessary case documents, but that only let the court off the hook by allowing it to say it was unable to assess what the Polish plaintiffs had described as Russia's defective Katyń investigation.

The court found another legal loophole of sorts, when said it could not assess Moscow's investigation, also because Russia had not ratified the European Human Rights Convention until 1998. That was nearly eight years after Russia's Katyń probe got under way. Since the law does not work retroactively, the court could evaluate only what had occurred after 1998, and no new evidence had come to light since then. Russian officials expressed overall satisfaction at the Strasburg verdict, even though not everything went as they had hoped.

It would be difficult if not impossible to prove anything underhanded on the part of the Strasbourg judges. However, days before the verdict was announced a leading Moscow newspaper wrote that "the Polish side has all but lost this case," explaining that Russia would not have to bear responsibility for the Katyń massacre and would emerge "relatively unscathed" from the proceedings. Although the advance notice appeared to be a typi-

cal psychological-warfare technique to disarm one's opponent, the paper "Moskovskiy Novosti" (Moscow News) indicated that it has sources planted at the European Human Rights Court.

It is a well-known fact that the world's largest country and one of the wealthiest in terms of natural resources has never skimped on propaganda. Around the globe, Moscow's agents, lobbyists and assorted collaborators work non-stop to win the favor of politicians, journalists and authorities in various fields. Ever since former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev admitted Soviet blame for Katyń in 1990, the crime could no longer be openly denied. But, from that time on, the worldwide pro-Russian lobby had its work cut out for it, and clever crisis-management tools were deployed to lessen the damage.

Gorbachev himself ordered his propagandists to think up an anti-Polish argument to offset his country's Katyń embarrassment. Moscow thus began blaming Poles for alleged inhumane treatment and the death of thousands of Russian POWs captured during the 1920 Polish-Bolshevik War. It is true that Russia has turned over some Katyń files to Poland but is holding on to others it says are classified. Recent reports from Moscow have indicated that all the documents will probably never be made available.

Moscow has repeatedly avoided such terms as massacre, atrocity or even crime, preferring to speak of "the Katyń occurrences". While no longer openly denying the mass murder, one Russian report said there was no evidence showing how and when the Polish POWs had been captured or who had actually shot them. In another example of Moscow's checkered approach to the Katyń issue, Gorbachev's jovial, hard-drinking successor Boris Yeltsin did apologize to Poles for the massacre but Vladimir Putin, who replaced him, chose not to.

"I did not expect a verdict condemning Russia — that would be impossible," remarked Ryszard Adamczyk, one of the Polish plaintiffs. "From the very beginning there was the Russian lie and it has persisted to this day." But Roman Nowosielski, one of the lawyers representing the Katyń families, was more optimistic. By calling the massacre a war crime, the tribunal has left the gate wide open. Any new evidence would make it possible to relaunch the entire proceedings, he said.

The lawyer indicated that the case could be reopened when and if the Belarusian list believed to contain the names of the some 3,800 still unaccounted for Polish victims is eventually found. Those victims were civilians and that means that the mass murder can be prosecuted not as a war crime, but as a crime against humanity, Nowosielski explained.

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## Anderson Cooper Backtracks After Insulting Polish Tradition

*Time will prove if apology was sincere*

### Community Reflects on Holiday's Image

by Mark Kohan

BUFFALO, N.Y. — In a CNN segment on Monday, April 9, Anderson Cooper called the Polish community's celebration of Dyngus Day in Buffalo, "ridiculous" and cackled like a little school girl on the air while saying over and over: "It's really so stupid," after he heard the words "pussy willow."

Śmigus Dyngus is a Catholic holiday in Poland celebrating the end of Lent, the rebirth of Christ, and baptism. After 40 days of Lent, in which Catholics reflect and give up alcohol, sweets or other indulgences, they blow off steam the Monday after Easter. Boys splash girls with water. The kids sometimes use twigs or pussy willows to switch each other in a flirtatious manner. It's a day for celebration after fasting and solemn church services.

And — apparently — a day for mocking Polish traditions, all for the sake of a cheap laugh.

By mid-afternoon April 10, Cooper's PR team was trying to correct his gaffe, saying his "stupid" comment was about his own conduct, not about the holiday.

That evening, Cooper gave air time to Eddie Dobosiewicz, one of the organizers of Dyngus Day Buffalo, one of several groups running Easter Monday parties in and around the city.

While Dobosiewicz took the high road and accepted Cooper's apology, not everyone believes the confession was sincere.

"It appears Anderson Cooper apologized because Polish Americans complained to CNN and spoke out on various blogs and YouTube videos about how bigoted that segment was," said Polish American activist Marek Karski.

**CAT OUT OF THE BAG.** To an outsider, Dyngus Day customs can appear ... well ... different. But, as pointed out by Alex Storzynski, president of The Kosciuszko Foundation, they are no different than any other ethnic celebration. "Would Anderson Cooper dare make fun of the Islamic holiday Eid ul-Fitr in which Muslims spend three days celebrating after their month-long fast? Or would he make fun of the Jewish fast Tzom Tammuz?" asked



**COOPER.** "Soaked" in Dyngus controversy.

Storzynski. "No. C N N w o u l d certainly not allow this."

And herein lays the problem: the damage done by his initial coverage outweighs any corrective power his apology may hold.

"Let's not forget his coverage of the Dyngus celebration was on his 'Ridiculist' portion of his show [a segment dedicated to mockery] and he clearly identified it as being Polish in the beginning of the segment," said Karski. That, Karski believes, was to warm up the audience that a "Polish joke" punch line would be coming later in the segment, which it did with his ginned-up laughter to the video of the pretty Polish girl who had a pussy willow in her arm.

**OUR OWN WORST ENEMIES?** As Dyngus Day in Buffalo builds into what promoters hope will one day be of Mardi Gras proportions, we cannot help but wonder if the celebration is losing its Polishness, and is turning into what Cooper called "a bunch of waterlogged drunk people hitting each other with sticks ... There ain't no party like a Dyngus Day party cuz' a Dyngus Day party is the most random excuse to drink there is."

### "Do the Irish ever get offended by the drunken fest that supposedly honors their patron saint?"

Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer, director of Polish Youngstown, is one who — initially — may have agreed with Cooper's observation on the consumption of spirits:

"Do the Irish ever get offended by the drunken fest that supposedly honors their patron saint? It was a question I posed to my German-Irish spouse [in March] after going to Downtown Youngstown's St. Patrick's Day pub crawl. It came to mind again when I was surprised at my own mixed feelings about participating in the Śmigus-Dyngus celebrations in Cleveland on Monday," she said. "Don't get me wrong—it was a fun, festive time. But for someone who devotes hours to educating and promoting pride in Polish heritage to third- and fourth-

generation descendants, I couldn't help but feel something wasn't right about the Dyngus Queen with a kielbasa on her head and a pierogi on her scepter.

"Personally, I think that the women who honored their Polish heritage by donning scarves and labeled themselves as 'babushki' for the day, do little to directly honor the proud culture of Skłodowska-Curie, Kościuszko, Pułaski and Blessed John Paul II."

We agree, but the Dyngus Day we know today is an amalgam of two different worlds, two completely different cultures. It is not necessarily meant to be a day to fly our colors in some sort of heritage fest. At the same time, neither do its roots tell of Polish villagers washing down shots of Sobieski with cans of Tyskie. It is a Christianized custom based on ancient, pagan fertility rites—a young man's fancy and all of that. Like polka music that prevails on Dyngus Day, the custom is now a Polish American one: neither one nor the other, but a blending of ancient Polish tradition with good, old-fashioned American partying.

**LOST IN TRANSLATION?** Whatever Dyngus Day morphs into, it will always have Polish roots. That gives all Polish Americans a chance to promote their heritage.

"I believe enjoying a day surrounded by others in red and white eagle t-shirts smiling and laughing and obviously telling the world they are 'Polish and Proud' can plant a seed of interest," said Heschmeyer. "For years many of these people avoided telling others they were Polish for fear of hearing yet another bad joke. Now, perhaps the next time they hear about an art exhibit at the Centrum in Slavic Village or a Polish Arts Club event at the Butler Museum they will be prompted to attend."

Indeed, many Polish Americans have long shunned association with their ethnicity. While some claim the "Polish joke" is dead, it is not, and there are countless Americans of Polish descent out there who would rather identify with their

twenty-five percent non-Polish heritage than their seventy-five percent Polish blood, all because of the image perpetrated by years of Polish jokes. (By the way, one fact makes the Cooper attack on Dyngus Day even more intriguing: Cooper, the son of Gloria Vanderbilt, has two older half-brothers, Stan and Chris Stokowski, siblings from his mother's marriage to conductor Leopold Stokowski).

### What was once a chance to blow off steam after 40-days of prayer and fasting has turned into a post-Lenten Polish carnival.

Whether or not you agree on how Dyngus Day has turned into what one participant called "The Polish St. Patrick's Day" (with apologies to our traditional Irish friends), it nonetheless brought together an estimated 50,000-plus folks dressed in red and white t-shirts; in authentic folk costumes; and as Polish explorers, scientists, and patriots. Here you could see Chopin marching alongside a giant butter lamb. The Polish firemen of Lackawanna entered a float just to remind others (and themselves) of their pride in their heritage. Ditto for the local ironworkers local. Polkas were heard everywhere, and folks were drinking imported Polish beer and liquor, entering kielbasa-making contests, and splashing each other with water like their great-grandparents did in Poland generations ago.

**HAS DYNGUS DAY** lost its original meaning? Yes and no. What was once a chance to blow off steam after 40-days of prayer and fasting has turned into a post-Lenten Polish carnival. At times, its hype overshadows the fact it is an Easter custom. (Its excessive over-promotion in Buffalo has some wryly referring to Easter as "The 40 Days of Dyngus"). At the same time, it does much to re-instill some good, old-fashioned Polish pride in thousands who otherwise think Kosciuszko invented mustard, or that Copernicus was Latin. It shows that Polish culture has a lighter side.

And this is where Cooper's

mockery hurt the most. "I think 90% of the people who saw his segment that first night, saw it as a form of a 'Polish joke'," said Karski. "I'm sure people at their water coolers the next day said to each other 'Did you see Anderson Cooper laugh like crazy at the Polish people in Buffalo last night?' Maybe Anderson didn't mean it that way, but that's certainly how it came across."

That is the bottom line.

### APOLOGY ACCEPTED ... FOR NOW.

To his credit, Cooper did offer an apology the following day, insisting that "While in the midst of a silly giggle fit I said 'this is so stupid' in reference to my inability to stop laughing. I was not saying Dyngus Day was 'so stupid.' I apologize to anyone who got the impression that I was being critical of Dyngus Day. I am genuinely sorry if I offended anyone by the lighthearted tone of the 'Ridiculist.'"

Karski says he is glad Cooper apologized and was more sensitive to the Dyngus celebrators and Polish people in his segment the day after. "It's good for the American people to see somebody in the media apologizing to Polish Americans, thereby making other media people and people in general more hesitant about knocking Polish people, which was all too common two or three decades ago."

But Anderson would not have been prompted to apologize ... if Polish Americans didn't give him some heat.

Following his apology, Dyngus Day Buffalo organizers invited Cooper to march in 2013's parade and even granted him an honorary title.

"It's only appropriate that Cooper is named the 2013 Pussy Willow Prince as next year's Dyngus Day falls on April 1st ... April Fools Day," said Dobosiewicz.

If his explanation is genuine, he will show up next year and march in the parade. If not, you can add his name to the list of insensitive jerks who make fun of Poles for a cheap laugh, and April Fools will be on those who bought his apology.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

## Cuba Could Use a John Paul II

"Tragically, while the Poles, Russians and other Eastern European dissidents enjoyed the unwavering support of Pope John Paul II and President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, today's democracy advocates in Cuba and elsewhere have Pope Benedict and President Obama, neither of whom seem keen on rocking the boat or rattling the cages of tyrannical regimes."

— Journalist **Jennifer Rubin** from her Washington Post commentary "Cuba could use a John Paul II."

"It's something to see your name like that, when you're only used to seeing your name on memos or bumper stickers."

— Sen. **Barbara A. Mikulski** (D-Md.), at a science gathering, commenting on "Supernova Mikulski" which is 7.4 billion light years away. It was named after her by Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist Adam Riess, who discovered it. Washington Post, April 10, 2012.

"A lack of openness creates conspiracy theories. You can't investigate a major catastrophe in secret."

— American forensic pathologist **Michael Baden**, on the examination of Polish victims from the 2010 plane crash in Smolensk, Russia. Baden is advising

some of the victims' families who feel the Russians are at fault for the crash.

"My mother made traditional Polish dishes like cabbage, and we'd have a huge ham, a turkey, and often wild game that my brother shot. The table was decorated with my grandmother's painted eggs, china, and silver from Czechoslovakia. We also celebrated Polish Easter Monday, called Śmigus Dyngus. Part of the tradition calls for dousing people with water. I was woken by my father dumping a bucket of cold water on me. Then he'd bring the hose into the house and spray everybody. I've never seen my parents completely lose it except on Easter Monday."

— MSNBC's "Morning Joe" co-host **Mika Brzezinski**, discussing Easter at her house as a child. Her father is Polish American political scientist, geostrategist, and statesman **Zbigniew Brzezinski**.

"If you are an ethnic like us, our parents would never have dreamed of starting us out with a birth certificate that omits a real first name."

— Statement from the **Anti-Bigotry Committee of the Polish American Congress**, firing back at Cooper following his attack on Dyngus Day.

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## Spring Fare: Lighter, Fresher

Since the advent of capitalism, the people of Poland can also enjoy strawberries from the Middle East in February and Egyptian “new” potatoes in November. Although pricey, neither can compare in flavor and nutrition to the locally produced garden-fresh variety in season. So Poles to this day look forward to the first locally grown “nowalijki” (young greens – dill, chives, parsley, spring onions, radishes, etc.) in spring and new potatoes and strawberries around June. Here are some of the typically lighter and fresher foods Poles enjoy during the warmer months.



For *botwinka*, you'll need a bunch (about 1 lb.) of baby beets no larger than radishes plus their greens.

**CHEESE & GREENS (twarożek z zieleniną).** Grate or fork-mash 1 lb farmer cheese, salt & pepper, add several coarsely grated radishes, 2-3 diced spring onions mix well and lace with enough sour cream to form a thick spread. Serve with rye bread of rolls with butter as a spring or summer breakfast. Variation: If farmer cheese is not available, briefly process 16 oz creamed cottage cheese, combine with veggies but omit sour cream. Option: To enhance the nutritional value, add 1-3 chopped hard-cooked eggs

**DILLED NEW POTATOES (młode kartofelki z koperkiem).** Try to get real, young, walnut-sized new potatoes. They are truly the immature Polish-style “młode zimiaki” if they need not be peeled because their skin is thin enough to scrub away under running water with a nylon scrubber. Place 2-1/2 lbs. scrubbed (or peeled) new potatoes in pot, cover with boiling water, add 1 t salt and cook on med heat about 30 min or until fork-tender. Drain. Dot with butter (about 1 T) and garnish with finely chopped fresh dill. Toss gently to evenly coat potatoes with melting butter and dill.

**NEW POTATOES & BUTTERMILK (młode kartofelki z maślanką).** Prepare dilled new potatoes as above and serve as a light warm-weather meal in itself with a bold of cold buttermilk on the side.

**SPRING SALAD (surówka wio-senna).** Slice thin with knife of on slicer blade of hand-held grater 1 bunch washed, dried radishes and combine with 1 peeled, halved, thinly slice cucumbers and 1 bunch washed, dried green onions. Feel free to alter the proportions of veggies as desired! Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream with juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1 t salt and 1 t sugar and pour over salad. Optional: Top with sliced hard-cooked egg and dust with paprika.

**SPRING ONION SALAD (sałatka ze szczypioru).** Wash, dry and chop

3-4 bunches green onions. Salt & pepper. Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream with juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1 t salt and 1 t sugar and pour over salad.

**CALIFLOWER POLONAISE (kaliafiór z zasmażką).** Place whole cauliflower stem side up in pot, add 1 t salt and cold water to nearly cover, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook covered at a gentle rolling boil 20-30 min or until fork-tender. While it cooks, heat 2-3 T unsalted butter until bubbly and add 2-3 T plain dry bread crumbs, simmer, stirring frequently, until nicely browned. Spoon butter-browned breadcrumbs (known world-wide as Polonaise topping) over drained, cooked cauliflower.

**BABY BEET-GREEN SOUP (botwinka).** You'll need a bunch (about 1 lb.) of baby beets no larger than radishes plus their greens for this recipe. Cut away and said aside the greens. Peel the beets, dice or cut into matchsticks and cook in 2 c salted water containing 2 t vinegar until tender (about 20 min). Transfer to 4 c pork stock or bouillon, add the chopped beet greens, bring to boil and simmer on low 5 min. Remove from heat. Add 1 t sugar and 2 t lemon juice and salt & pepper to taste.. Fork-blend 1/2 c sour cream with heaping T flour until smooth and gradually stir in 3-4 T of the hot soup 1 T at a time, then stir into soup. Heat several min below boiling to rid the flour of its “raw” taste. Garnish with fresh chopped dill and chives and serve over hard-cooked edge wedges or slices (allow 1 egg per serving).

## The KF Combines History and Elegance at Annual Affair The Ball at the Waldorf Astoria

by Peter J. Obst

On April 28 the 79th edition of the annual Kosciuszko Foundation Ball took place at the stately old Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Park Avenue in New York. This year's honoree was Frank Wilczek, the Nobel Prize winning physicist. The theme for the evening was “Polish Contributions to Science.”

The Waldorf Astoria hotel was opened in 1931 as one of Park's Avenue great hotels which it remains to this day as part of the Hilton Hotel chain. The Kosciuszko Foundation quickly adopted it as the place to stage what has become possibly the most prestigious Polonia social event. Though the first one took place in 1933 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, from 1936 on it has always been in the Waldorf Astoria's grand ballroom.

As time went on a standard format has developed for the event. Though initially it was called the “Kosciuszko Foundation Polka Ball” it became a dinner dance, often with two bands playing alternately for guests. Tables were placed around the dance floor and in the balcony lodges on upper tiers. At several of the early balls costume spectacles were staged that tied into an overall theme. For example, the 1937 ball was titled “A Night in Old Krakow” and had an elaborate pageant that included Queen Jadwiga and her court. In 1963 a pageant “Lincoln Greets His Polish Heroes” was organized on the centennial of the American Civil War.

Over time the pageants have been replaced by a presentation of awards to outstanding Poles and friends of Poland. During the last decade individuals such as Duke University “Coach K” Mike Krzyzewski and Tyco Executive Dennis L. Kozlowski were honored with the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition.

Another set-piece of the program is the performance of traditional dances that are a beloved part of Polish culture. For this the dancers are supplied by The Polish Dance Circle of New York. On conclusion of their performance they lead the guests in a grand Polonaise.

For most years the centerpiece of the event is the debutante presentation. This is a quaint old custom that high society of America borrowed from the upper classes of Victorian England as a method of introducing their marriageable daughters



The Kosciuszko Foundation Ball has no equal for prestige and flair.

(16-25) to society. At the KF Ball this ceremony takes place late in the evening after a bugler placed in the upper balcony tier plays the Kraków “Hejnal Mariacki.” Then, young women dressed in white, are escorted, one by one onto the stage with an introduction and musical accompaniment. Each debutante is led by her father and an escort of cadets from West Point or midshipmen from King's Point Merchant Marine Academy. On stage they go through a choreographed set of steps and bow to the audience. This completes the presentation ceremony and the young ladies dance first with their fathers, then with their escorts and other young gentlemen.

The Ball began as a way to raise funds for scholarships offered by the Foundation. In 1957 Stefan Mizwa, then president, reported to the membership in his twice-monthly newsletter that a net amount of \$10,157.38 had been raised from the ball. Adjusted for inflation this translates to \$82,293.94 in today's dollars. In addition, at that time, there were groups in various Polish communities (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Boston, and Chicopee, Mass.) who staged additional dinners or dances to support the Foundation's cause.

Unfortunately, as time went on, costs of the dinner, dance bands, ballroom rental at the exclusive hotel, and incidentals consumed most of the ticket income. Today, even at \$250 per ticket, hardly any of it goes to the scholarship fund. Most of the

money is raised through sales of ads in the very elegant Ball Journal which the guests receive and which is sent to all donors. It is impossible to say exactly how much money is currently raised though this method and the raffle that is held during the event, as the last public financial report released by the Foundation dates was back to 2008. However, one can get an estimate by counting the pages in the Ball Journal. Standard pages are sold to sponsors for \$500, the so-called silver and gold pages (that are on silver and gold colored paper) are more. However, keeping in mind that the last published salary of the Kosciuszko Foundation president was listed as being around \$82,000, the amount raised at the Ball, while significant, is only a partial contribution in relation to the needs of the foundation.

Yet as a social event, a place to meet friends from Polonia and to make new contacts, the Ball has no equal for prestige and flair. Even after it shuts down at 1:00 a.m., guests continue partying in true Polish fashion. Even at what may seem an exorbitant ticket price, the ball is an event that one should experience at least once. And the Foundation is an organization that we should support the year round.

For more information about the Kosciuszko Foundation Ball, or The KF, visit [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org) or call or write The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10065; (212) 734-2130.



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## Wearin' of the White and Red



**CLEVELAND'S** Polish Constitution Day Committee sponsored the first Polish float to ever participate in the city's 145 years of St. Patrick Day parades. The event was held March 17. The Polish Constitution Day parade was held April 29.

**CHOPIN ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY.** The last piano that Frederic Chopin composed on, a death mask made after he succumbed to what was probably tuberculosis, and a lock of his brown hair are among objects on display at a museum dedicated to the life of the Romantic-era composer. Polish authorities began gathering musical scores, sketches and other objects tied to Chopin in 1899, but the central challenge for curators is the loss of many objects related to Chopin's life, some because of the devastation of World War II.

The museum, which opened in 2010, is housed in Warsaw's stately Ostrogski Palace, home of the Fryderyk Chopin Institute, which underwent major renovation and expansion to house the revamped museum.

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## Asking the Pope to Help Cubans

**Lech Wałęsa**, former Polish president, Solidarity Union leader, and Nobel Peace prize winner, urged Pope Benedict XVI to "take up the defense of those Cubans who are demanding freedom" during his visit to Cuba in April. Himself jailed by the Polish communist government during the Martial Law crackdown against the Solidarity Movement, he reminded the pope of those who are in Cuban prisons "because of their convictions."

**MARCH OF THE LIVING.** On this, the 25th anniversary of the March of the Living program in Kraków, more than 10,000 persons came together to study the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate. With concentration camp liberators and holocaust survivors being brought together, many for the first time, a ceremonial tribute to the liberators and survivors was held at the Kraków opera house. Participants also marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau on April 19, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**MUSEUM PAYS HOMAGE TO BLESSED POPE JOHN PAUL II.** Krzysztof Witkowski enjoys giving tours to visitors to his Museum of Coins and Medals Commemorating John Paul II in Częstochowa. A member of the Knights of Columbus, Mr. Witkowski opened the museum on April 11, 2011, the 20th anniversary of the World Youth Day that took place in Częstochowa. After suffering a stroke in 2004, he confided in Our Lady and gradually recuperated cementing his devotion to Mary. He inherited the first 55 coins from his father and over time his collection grew to 365 coins and commemorative medals from all over the world and then to over 6,000, which he purchased from a coin and medal collector **Wojciech Grabowski**. The museum also houses a relic of John Paul II's hair and a fragment of the cross he held on Good Friday 2005, just days before his death, and visitors are given the opportunity to reflect and pray in the darkened room where they are kept before visiting the rest of the museum. For more information: [www.jp2muzeum.pl](http://www.jp2muzeum.pl).

**PHOTO RAISES QUESTIONS.** A photograph claimed to have been taken by a photographer immediately after Pope John Paul II was shot shows him being embraced by the Mary the Mother of God. Vatican officials have checked the film and found no manipulation of the image. **Archbishop Thomas Wenski** had

### MODLITWY

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the image made into a stained glass window for his residence.

**THE NEXT DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH?** Pope John Paul II said of **St. Faustina's Diary**, "Those who read her Diary ... are astounded by the depth of her mystical experience ... Called to the See of Peter I felt impelled to pass on those experiences ... that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church." The proposal by a number of cardinals and bishops to declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church would give her teachings more prominence and visibility.

**NATIVITY TAPESTRY RECALLS VILNIUS OLD TOWN.** In the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi/St. Michael the Archangel in Johnstown, Penn., a tapestry of the Nativity places the Holy Family against a backdrop of Vilnius cathedral, the heart of Lithuania's Catholic life. Visible in the background is the Tower of Gediminas, all that remains of the Upper Castle in Vilnius, a symbol of the city of Vilnius and of Lithuania itself.

**MORE PARISHES FACE REORGANIZATION.** As part of the re-assessment of the parishes in the archdiocese of Philadelphia, **Archbishop Chaput** has called on parishes in Coatsville, which includes St. Stanislaus Kostka (est. 1907), to develop a plan for eventual merger and consolidation.

**STO LAT TO ... Fr. Nicholas Polichnowski, TOR,** on his installation as minister provincial of the Franciscan Friars, Third Order Regular, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The 138-member community sponsors St. Francis University, Loretto, Pa., and Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio. The Pittsburgh native taught nursing at Franciscan University, was ordained in 1977, served in Brazil and South Africa, and was a high school teacher of chemistry and religion.

**BENEFIT AIDS RETIRED SISTERS.** The inaugural fundraising event to assist the retired **Bernadine Franciscan sisters** brought the sisters needed financial support and gave participants an enjoyable evening of sharing stories with the sisters. The congregation was founded in 1894 to teach the children of poor immigrants in the area of Reading, Penn. The 340-strong congregation continues to work across the US as well as in Brazil, Liberia, Mozam-

bique, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

**ABRUPT TRANSFER UPSETS PARISHIONERS.** **Fr. Maksymin Tandek** was removed by his superiors in the Franciscan Order from his position as head of the Higher School of Hebrew Philology in the Polish city of Torun, much to the displeasure of the parishioners where the school is located. His superiors, who reassigned him to Gdansk, noted that his transfer was not due to his advocacy of Polish-Jewish dialogue, which will continue at the center in Torun. The local newspaper editor speculated that he might have been seen as too independent by his superiors, while others thought he might have unnerved his superiors by his growing popularity in the city. **Rivka Halperin**, a former Hebrew teacher at the school, darkly suggested that his superiors were uneasy with his focus on Jewish history and interfaith dialogue. The school was founded in 2000 and reflects a renewal of interest among young Poles in the country's Jewish past.

**SAINTHOOD CAUSE INCHES FORWARD.** The sainthood cause of Shenandoah, Penn. native **Fr. Walter Cizek, S.J.,** has moved forward with the recent transfer of documentation from the diocesan investigation committee in Allentown to the Vatican. There, the Roman postulator will make a presentation, see to the writing of Fr. Cizek's biography, and the compilation of information proving his heroic virtue. These steps are necessary before he can be considered "venerable." Fr. Cizek entered Russia in the chaos of WW II after two years in Poland, so he could minister to Christians who lived under communist persecution. He was arrested by the Soviet authorities and confined to the hard work camp Gulag in Magadan, Russia's Far East. There he said Mass in secret and ministered to fellow prisoners and served in several parishes upon release from prison. He was freed to return to the U.S. in a "spy exchange" in 1963. He narrated his experiences in two memoirs, "He Leadeth Me" and "With God in Russia." Back in the U.S. he continued his spiritual work as a retreat giver and spiritual counsellor. He died in New York in 1984.



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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## Our Lady of Częstochowa, Poland's Protector, Miracle Worker

Kraków's Czartoryski Museum houses *Lady With an Ermine*, one of the world's greatest non-religious masterpieces. In the city of Częstochowa, is a great religious treasure. The tale of the painting of *Our Lady of Częstochowa*, or *Matka Boska Częstochowy* is intertwined with the glory and history of Poland. Legend holds that this portrait of the Virgin and the Baby Jesus was created by St. Luke the Apostle, and that Mary may have actually posed for him. It was found in Jerusalem by St. Helen, given to the Roman emperor in Constantinople, and credited with saving the city from an invasion of Saracens. Later given as a gift to Charlemagne, it was presented to Prince Leo of Ruthenia, once part of Poland but now in Ukraine.

The painting's history now becomes clearer. It came to be owned by Prince Władysław of Opole, Poland, who kept it in Belz, near Halicz. During an attack in 1382, a Tartar arrow hit the image of the Virgin in the throat, a mark which can still be seen today. He prince fled with the portrait to Częstochowa where he turned it over to the Pauline brothers at their monastery on Jasna Góra. The monks built a special chapel for the painting, which from then on came to be called Our Lady of Częstochowa.

In 1430, Hussite vandals stole the por-

trait, but their wagon with the picture loaded onto it would not move. One of the frustrated bandits struck the face of the Madonna twice across the cheek with his sword. Before he could come down with a third blow, legend says he was struck dead on the spot, and the other looters fled. Despite attempts at repair, the slashes on the Virgin's cheek remain to this day.

Once, the chapel burned to the ground, but the painting miraculously survived unharmed, except that the smoke had darkened it. From then on it also became known as the Black Madonna.

The most famous miracle attributed to it occurred in 1655, when Swedish forces had conquered all of Poland except for Częstochowa. The few defenders at Jasna Góra monastery prayed before the painting then defeated the invaders, who were soon routed from all of Poland. The following year King Jan Kazimierz declared the Black Madonna the Queen of Poland. It's chapel became the destination of visiting pilgrims from all over the kingdom.

In 1920 the Russians invaded Poland and reached the River Wisła. It is said that an apparition of Our Lady of Częstochowa appeared in the sky above the battlefield and the huge Russian army was then turned back by the much smaller Polish forces.

The dark days of World War II seemed to threaten the existence of the painting. In the first days of the war, Warsaw reported that it had been destroyed, but that was not true. As with *Lady With an Ermine*, Nazi Governor Hans Frank controlled its fate. The Nazi leaders were a superstitious lot, who supposedly feared the mystical power of the Black Madonna. German Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels visited the shrine. A legend says that Adolf Hitler came to Częstochowa in disguise and viewed the painting.

Frank considered himself a good Catholic, despite carrying out the Nazi regime's policies of slavery, torture and mass murder. "I bow before the Polish Christ ... prompted by my own conscience as a German Catholic," he once told an Italian reporter. But pilgrimages to the Black Madonna were prohibited, Frank said, because it would have been dangerous to the German occupation of Poland to allow thousands of people to gather at the shrine. He also forbade any public display of the picture.

The reporter did receive permission to view the painting in the chapel, accompanied by a couple of priests and SS men. They



were followed in by a group of Poles who happened to be in the adjoining church, who were allowed to enter and tearfully pray before the icon.

Though the chapel was seriously damaged during the war, the painting of Our Lady was un-

harmful. The communist regime also restricted pilgrimages to Częstochowa, but as the years went by, more and more people defied the authorities. The two men credited with bringing down communism in Poland, Pope John Paul II and Lech Wałęsa, were both devotees of the Blessed Virgin. Wałęsa always wears a Black Madonna lapel pin on his jacket.

Skeptics and investigators say that the painting is no older than the thirteenth century, that it was almost completely painted over in 1434 to repair damage, and restored yet again in the nineteenth century. But no matter. Our Lady of Częstochowa's reputation as a miracle worker and protector of Poland is quite intact and she remains a powerful symbol of Polish faith and perseverance.

MUSIC REVIEW / Maja Trochimczyk

## On the Artistry of Wojciech Kocyan

When I first saw the Polish pianist Wojciech Kocyan on the concert stage about twenty years ago, I felt he looked just like Fryderyk Chopin: frail, with longish dark-blond hair, sensitive, and sophisticated. Here was a pianist with great emotional and musical intelligence, a refined technique, and subdued charm. He excelled in the Mazurkas, but was equally fascinating in the repertoire of Debussy, Ravel and Skryabin. I felt that his well-thought-out large-scale musical structures and his attention to expressive and textural detail made him a "pianist's pianist" — like Chopin himself who was thriving in salons of the aristocracy but abhorred crass and vulgar behaviors of the general public.

Over the years, I have invited Kocyan several times to play for events I organized, and I was always delighted with the charm and virtuosity he shared with his listeners, helping us make new discoveries even in well-known pieces. One outstanding appearance was not at a concert at all: Kocyan agreed to play a number of Chopin's compositions in between readings of poetry from the anthology *Chopin with Cherries* in May 2010 at the Ruskin Art Club in Los Angeles. Magic was in the air!

**DEPTH AND BREADTH UNCOVERED.** On Friday, March 9, 2012, Kocyan's Faculty Recital at Loyola Marymount University's was another feast of music-making that revealed

a side of his talent I did not know well. After listening to his monumental interpretations of Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt, I looked for an appropriate adjective to capture my experience. The old-fashioned expression, "a Titan of the keyboard," with its 19th century extravagance and uncanny accuracy, came to mind.

The program followed a trajectory from an early Beethoven Sonata, through Chopin's *Barcarole Op. 60* and *Concert Paraphrase of Verdi's Rigoletto* by Liszt, to a culmination in the latter's composer's masterly *Sonata in B minor*. Kocyan also found the right tone for the various movements of Beethoven's lengthy "Grand Sonata." Chopin was next. How would a simple gondolier's song, the *Barcarolle*, fit in this context? Surprise, surprise ... in this most beloved Chopin's work, Kocyan revealed the "titanic" elements of Chopin's style that permeate many of his etudes, sonatas and scherzos. Under the pianist's fingers, the *Barcarolle* was neither sentimental, nor simplistic — he was able to structure the overall arch of dramatic flow of the music, reaching a climax of expressive passion.

I thought that Liszt's *Rigoletto Concert Paraphrase* was the most difficult piece on the program, but Kocyan stated that the *Sonata in B-minor* was by far the most complicated and involved work that he had ever learned. And learn he did; the truly sublime

work reaches the heights of elation when waves of sound wash over the whole concert hall only to collapse in the tragic darkness at the end. Kocyan deserves an award for the incomparable profundity of expression in rendering Liszt's dark chords more piercing and dramatic than any of the contrasts and upheavals that went on before it. Hopefully, the documentary recording will be made available. We are so lucky that music once played remains.

**BORN IN POLAND** and a student of the legendary pedagogue Andrzej Jasinski (M.A. degree with the teacher of Krystian Zimerman) and the eminent John Perry at USC (DMA degree), Kocyan won his share of awards at piano competitions, including the Busoni, Fiotti, XI International Chopin Competition (special prize), and the Paderewski Piano Competition (first prize). In addition, He is notably at home in the recording studio and issued many CDs, on the Dux label.

In 2007, *Gramophone* magazine chose his recording of Prokofiev, Scriabin, and Rachmaninoff as one of 50 best classical record-



**KOCYAN.** Professor of Piano and world-class musician recognized for technique, interpretation.

ings ever made. Kocyan's *Dux CD* (no. 0389) with sonatas by Prokofiev and Skryabin, as well as Rachmaninoff's preludes merited praise: "Small label and unknown pianist deliver world-class artistry and first-rate engineering. Wojciech Kocyan not only stands ground alongside Pollini, Ashkenazy and Richter, but he also offers original insights that totally serve the music. If you see this disc, grab it."

Kocyan currently serves as the Professor of Piano at Loyola Marymount University and Artistic Director for the Paderewski Music Society in Los Angeles. His students are lucky, indeed—and so are his listeners.



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## PAHA



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

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

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Eclipse Aerospace to Manufacture New Business Jet in Mielec

CHICAGO — Eclipse Aerospace, Inc., an American aviation corporation has announced production of its new twin engine business jet, the Eclipse 550, at the Sikorsky Aircraft facility located in Mielec, Poland. Sikorsky is the company that builds the well-known S-70i Black Hawk helicopter. This facility was known as PZL-Mielec, *Polskie Zakłady Lotnicze*, Polish Aviation Works, and has a reputation for its high quality productions.

Sikorsky Aircraft, a division of United Technology Corporation (UTC) and the largest shareholder of Eclipse, will manufacture most of the primary airframe components, such as the empennage, wings, and fuselage in Poland. These parts will then be shipped to the Eclipse factory in Albuquerque, New Mexico for final completion, including installation of engines, electronics, and interiors, painting of aircraft, and flight testing. The delivery price of the Eclipse 550 will be \$2.695 M.



**ECLIPSE 550.** Components, made in Poland, will be assembled in New Mexico.



(l. to r.): Richard Jaminski, Anna Sokolowski, Consul Zygmunt Matynia, Micheline Jaminski, and Joseph Drobot, Jr., PRCUA president.

**WESOLY LUD CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY.** Over 1,000 guests filled the auditorium of Lincoln Way East High School in Frankfort, Ill. to help **Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company** of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) celebrate its 35th anniversary. Not only did 108 dancers along with twenty-eight young children entertain the enthusiastic audience with crowd pleasing folk dances, but they were in store for more excitement.

On behalf of the Republic of Poland, Consul General Zygmunt Matynia awarded the Resident Vice President of the PRCUA, Anna Sokolowski, with the Gold Cross of Merit (*Krzyż Zasługi*), and both Micheline Jaminski and Richard Jaminski, each with the Silver Cross of Merit.

The Gold Cross of Merit is the highest civilian award presented by the Republic of Poland recognizing individuals for their exemplary public service or humanitarian work in the service to their country, in Poland or elsewhere. The Silver Cross of Merit is awarded to those indi-

viduals promoting Polish culture. In this case, Michelle and Richard worked tirelessly for over thirty-five years to make Wesoly Lud Folk Dance Company, a showcase dance troupe. These three individuals exemplify the spirit of love of their mother country, Poland, dedication to their Polish heritage, and a commitment to further Polish culture for generations to come.

**PWCC HOSTED PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON.** The Polish Women's Civic Club (PWCC) hosted its annual Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 1, at the Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove Village, Ill. Ann Burzycki, PWCC president, welcomed over

150 guests, as they enjoyed an afternoon of music, entertainment, camaraderie, and fine dining. This year's event was a success through the efforts of ten PWCC members under the chair leadership of Barbara Marquart. Dr. Robert Dutka provided the musical entertainment with his renditions of popular musical favorites. There was something for every guest: children were treated to custom-made Easter baskets, while the older set patiently waited for the drawing for forty custom-made Easter. Each of these baskets was filled with a variety of gift cards or certificates, popular jewelry items, household must-haves, and gourmet delights. The suspense



**PWCC LUNCHEON.** (l. to r.): Ann Burzycki, Barbara Marquart, and Henriette Rocks.

mounted as guests anxiously waited to hear the winners of the seven "Gold Raffles." Each "Gold Raffle" winner walked off with a \$160-\$300 prize. Additionally, children enjoyed face painting, custom balloon creations, and dancing. Everyone was treated to a dance presentation of the *SwingKids*, a group of Chicago area college-age dancers who dance the salsa, Polish and Greek folk dances, but primarily "swing." Their dance routines earned them

enthusiastic applause, while their version of Chicago-style swing merited a standing ovation.

The Polish Women's Civic Club holds two or three events annually to fulfill its mission in supporting the Polish American community by awarding scholarships to qualified college and/or university students of Polish descent throughout the Chicago area. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERESA J. POTASIAK

**TOPINKA'S ENTHUSIASTIC PLEA.** Illinois State Comptroller **Judy Baar Topinka** certainly ignited the crowd at the Casimir Pulaski Day celebration at the Polish Museum of America. Topinka highlighted the importance of changing United States' Visa Waiver policy as it pertains to America's staunchest ally — Poland. She had the audience cheering and clapping as she emotionally stated, "There is no logical reason for the United States government to continue to discriminate against Poland and its people ... American policy must change."

Pictured above at the Museum are (l. to r.): Hanna Gronkiewicz, Mayor of Warsaw; Most Reverend Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop, Chicago; and Judy Baar Topinka

## Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Gets a New Home

MINNEAPOLIS — This Spring the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) moved to its new home along the banks of the Mississippi River.

Riverplace at 43 Main Street in Minneapolis is already a familiar backdrop for the Twin Cities Polish Festival. Add to the mix PACIM and its library, and it becomes a hub for Polish culture, art and celebration.

Since PACIM's founding more than 25 years ago, there has been steady growth in membership, events and especially its library. From the first box of used books donated, the library now possesses more than 5,200 holdings and is one of PACIM's most consistently used services. The new suite in Riverplace will accommodate the current library and offer room to grow.

PACIM president, Ania Scanlan, is excited about the move. "We are investing in PACIM's future." Scanlan and the Board of Directors felt it was time to move to a more central location that offers important amenities such as increased electronic capabilities, handicap accessibility, secure and covered

parking, large meeting rooms for classes, and a beautiful atrium for hosting receptions, concerts and lectures.

For the last three years, PACIM's Board of Directors has worked with a strategic plan for the organization's growth and mission. The move to Riverplace now allows the organization to move ahead with programs and events which are key to the continued reach of PACIM. The new location also provides a contemporary look, reflecting its members and the volunteers who work within the organization. "Our new space will portray a much more professional image-one which PACIM needs in order to attract additional members and continue growing," President Scanlan shared.

One of PACIM's plans over the years has been to purchase a permanent location. Proceeds from events and membership have added to a strong building fund; however, the volunteer-based group did not feel it was ready to tackle ownership yet. "The Board considered purchasing a space, but decided that the ongoing maintenance and lack of human capital was not con-

ducive to a purchase at this time," reflected Scanlan.

Some of the highlights of PACIM's new space include a computer-based library catalog for patrons to search for books by title, author or subject; a small children's area to keep young visitors occupied while adults utilize the library; large windows and designated spaces to showcase art PACIM owns; a library drop box; 24 hour on-duty security and escort to vehicles; access to nearby cafes, shopping and the beautiful Nicollet Island area.

A real attraction to the new area is its close proximity to the St. Anthony Main Theatres, which regularly host international films and film festivals. Polish films, directors, and celebrities are commonly brought to the Theatres, underscoring PACIM's desire to be closer to events surrounding Polish art and culture. PACIM will now have attractive and adequate space to invite Polish and Polish American guests for special events.

PACIM looks forward to greeting everyone at their new home. Make plans to stop by and say "dzień dobry."

## Mikulski Sets Term Record

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On March 17, Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) 75, became the longest-serving woman in congressional history, passing Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, a Massachusetts Republican who spent 35 years on Capitol Hill. Mikulski is already the longest-serving female senator, having cleared that hurdle in January 2011. But she also spent a decade in the House before being elected to her current post in 1986.

Mikulski's Senate colleagues paid tribute to her on the chamber floor, and was later honored at a reception hosted by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

Known now as the "dean" of Senate women, Mikulski has been in office long enough to see significant changes come to the Capitol. When Mikulski began her House tenure in 1977, she was one of 21 women serving in Congress — 18 in the House and three in the Senate. Today there are 92 women serving, with 17 in the Senate.

Along the way, she had to battle stereotypes, including some that suggested women couldn't be serious legislators.

When she entered the Senate, she told *The Washington Post* last year,



"I was greeted with a lot of skepticism from my male colleagues." She added: "Was I going to go the celebrity route or the Senate route? I had to work very hard."

Among Mikulski's other "firsts": She was the first female Democrat to serve in both chambers of Congress and the first female Democrat to be elected to the Senate without succeeding her husband or father. In the Senate, she was the first woman to chair an Appropriations subcommittee and the first woman to serve on a handful of other panels.

— *Washington Post*



POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka



**MEMBERS** of the Chopin Singing Society, whose clubrooms were the home of the Easter Monday revival over 50 years ago, warm up before a performance.



**CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH**, now run by the Pauline Order, is an icon on the city's once-Polish East Side. Here, parishioners on its float wait for the parade to start.



**BOLESŁAW THE BRAVE** was at the helm of this Viking ship, sponsored by the Polish Cadets of Buffalo.



**ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF** Tim Howard (foreground, left) provided both security and entertainment, as the Mounted Reserve Unit was in fine form.



**MARCHERS** from the Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School.

# Dyngus Day 2012

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — A pussy willow crop decimated by unusual weather, cool temperatures and gusty winds did not dampen the enthusiasm of thousands of Western New York Polonians, and wannabe Polonians, from celebrating Dyngus Day on April 9th.

Dyngus Day festivities were held across the region, including the Chopin Singing Society's 51st Annual Dyngus Day Celebration at the Hearthstone Manor, St. Stanislaus and Corpus Christi parishes, Polish Falcons and Polish Cadets Halls, Pvt. Leonard Post VFW Post, Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, Buffalo's Central Terminal, Pussy Willow Park and more restaurants, bars and taverns than you could shake a pussy willow at.

WNY was transformed into a polka heaven. The sound of polka music was heard everywhere, the music being provided by Those Idiots, Buffalo Touch, New Direction, PhoCus, Rare Vintage, Ed Guca, Hocus Polkas, John Gora, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, Knewz, John Steven's Doubleshot, Kielbasa Kings, Piatkowski Brothers with Eddie Biegaj, Al and Kenny Krew, Tom Mrocza & the Music Box, Bedrock Boys, Tony's Polka Band, Twy-Lytes, Al Kania's Polka Smile, Eastern Style Band, Stephanie & her Honky Band, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Bob Uleck's Polka Relations Band, City Side with Ted Szymanski, Dynabrass, Docenko Brothers, True Colors, Polka Family, Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, Joe & the Schmoes and John Valby.

The Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and Toronto's White Eagle Dancers amazed the crowds with their knowledge of traditional Polish dances and expertise.

The Polish Legacy Project opened a Polish cafe to promote its plans to create a WNY Polish Museum, folk artists Sophie Hodorowicz Knab and Barbara Frackiewicz instructed the littlest Polonians in various aspects of Polish culture at the Explore & More Children's Museum, and the Adam Mickiewicz Library hosted Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest.

**PARADE TIME.** The highlight of this year's Dyngus Day festivities was the 6th Annual Dyngus Day Parade. The parade started at the "Superman" corner of Clark and Kent Streets in front of Corpus Christi Church. Leading the way was the Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol, followed by Dyngus Day parade grand marshals Victoria Prusaczyk and Dominik Kucharski. The marchers proceeded down Broadway to Fillmore Avenue to Peckham Street to Memorial Drive, ending at the Central Terminal. Showing that Dyngus Day brings everyone together, NYS Senators Tim Kennedy and Mark Grisanti, NYS Assembly Member Dennis Gabryszak, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard, Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka, Erie County Legislator Tom Mazur, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Buffalo Common Council President Rich Fontana, Buffalo City Court Judge Amy Martoche and Buffalo Deputy Police Commissioner Charles Tomaszewski were visible along the parade route.

Many WNY Polish American parishes and organizations were represented, including the Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee, Corpus Christi Church, Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School, St. Stanislaus Parish, Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, St. Adalbert's Parish, SUNYaB Polish Student Association, Polish Cadets of Buffalo and many others. Members of the local Polish dance troupes in brightly colored traditional Polish garb helped bring authenticity to the event.

Thousands of people lined the parade route and, when all was said and done, Dyngus Day 2012 was a fun-filled and impressive display of Polish pride in WNY.

Kudos to Dyngus Day Buffalo founders Eddy Dobosiewicz and Marty Biniarsz and all of the other Dyngus Day event organizers for another great celebration of Polishness. Plans are already in the works for Dyngus Day 2013, which will take place on April 1st — April Fools Day.



**POLISH HERITAGE DANCERS** are ready to go!



**REV. CZESŁAW KRYSA**, administrator of St. Casimir's Oratory in Buffalo, explains the history of Śmigus-Dyngus before blessing food for Chopin party attendees.



**AS THE PARADE** grows every year, the number of floats and marching groups increase. Here is the cab and flatbed of the International Ironworkers, Local 6.



**CREATIVITY** was the order of day, evidenced by this Silverado covered in "polka" dots.



**MSGR. THADDEUS BOCIANOWSKI**, pastor of St. Stanislaus and St. John Kanty parishes, was joined by Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, ready with pussywillow in hand.



**BALCONY VIEW** from Buffalo's Central Terminal.

ALL PHOTOS: MIKE PIETRUSZKA UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

PHOTO: MARTY BINIARZ

## BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

## POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

## Marie Curie – The First Woman to a Earn Ph.D. Title

*continued from last month*

Finally in 1902, after four years of hard and repetitious work with pitchblende residuals, after innumerable washes with acids, alkaline salts and water, 0.1 g of radium was separated. The Curies made the information about its isolation and properties public.

According to Marie's letters, these six years (1898-2004) of hard work to separate radium, in a primitive laboratory were really happy times for the Curies. They were so preoccupied with their work that they did not really care about the poor working conditions and exhaustion caused by radioactivity. Their marriage was also cementing. Marie, who was not completely sure earlier on whether she was ready to marry Pierre, wrote to Bronya, her sister, that she was married to the most wonderful man in the world.

There were some problems at home, since Marie's daughter Irene bonded closely with Eugene Curie, Pierre's father who took care of her after the death of his wife. When Irene was about 3.5 years old, she asked why her mommy is at work so much, since her friends' mothers stayed at home. Eugene defended Marie saying that her mother is doing a great work. Wladyslaw Sklodowski, Marie's father, passed away two months before the public announcement of radium. He was aware that his daughter was already in a possession of radium salts, so according to Marie he died satisfied that his daughter had accomplished a really great work.

Since Marie was mainly involved in the experimental part of the sepa-



**WŁADYSŁAW SKŁODOWSKI** with daughters (from left) Maria, Bronisława, and Helena, 1890. According to Marie, he died satisfied that his daughter had accomplished a really great work.

ration of radium and polonium from pitchblende residuals, Pierre tried to explain theoretically what was causing the radiation. For a long time Pierre believed that radiation was caused by the atom's capacity to release the energy outside itself. On the contrary, Ernest Rutherford, the famous New Zealand-British chemist and physicist, argued that the energy release is caused by transmutation – a change in the atomic internal structure. Rutherford and Soddy, his assistant, made the experiments with uranium and thorium and described the mechanism of their radiation correctly, stating that thorium was disintegrating and transmuting into argon gas. Finally even the Curies had to agree. In 1904 Pierre Curie replicated Rutherford's experiment and had no choice but to adopt the Rutherford view.

In 1903 Marie Curie defended her doctoral thesis, becoming the first woman in France to achieve it. Bronya, Maria's sister came from Poland to celebrate this achievement. Bronya and Casimir Dluski, her husband, after receiving medical degrees, left France for Poland where they established a sanatorium in Zakopane to cure people sick from tuberculosis. Rutherford and his wife, who were celebrating a long-delayed honeymoon in Paris, joined Marie at the dinner to celebrate her doctoral thesis. In spite of the tension and competition between Rutherford and the Curies, they respected each other. Rutherford admired Marie's laboratory technique and her hard work. After the last toast when it was completely dark the group of scientists went for a stroll to the garden. Pierre reached to his pocket and took a glass tube with radium bromide, so that everybody could see its magnificent luminosity. Rutherford also noticed a cracked flesh and burned skin on Pierre's destroyed fingers. As we mentioned before, not too many people were aware how harmful nuclear forces could be in these times.

In the next article we will talk about Marie and Pierre's first Nobel Prize.

#### References:

- Barbara Goldsmith: "Obsessive Genius"
- Eve Curie "Madame Curie"

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Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us)

## Katyn's Lone Survivor

In April of 1940, crammed into a railroad boxcar with a hundred other Polish officers, Stanislaw Swianiewicz began to sense that the end was near. The train stopped at the station in Gniezdovo, near the Katyn Forest. Soviet NKVD agents ordered the Polish officers out of the rail car, bound their hands behind them and forced them into buses with blackened windows. Just three kilometers from the Katyn Forest, Swianiewicz was taken off the bus by an NKVD Colonel, and thus became the only known survivor of the Katyn Massacre.

Born in 1899 in Dvinsk in Imperial Russia, and raised near the multi-cultural city of Livonia, Swianiewicz became fluent in Polish, German and Russian. He attended Moscow University where he studied law, social sciences and economics, then returned to his homeland following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. As a reserve army officer, Swianiewicz helped defend Vilna during the Polish-Soviet war of 1920. Demobilized after the war, he attended University of Wilno where his academic career blossomed and he became an internationally known scholar, writing many books and articles on the economies of both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

It was this expertise in the economy of Nazi Germany, and his fluency in Russian, that probably saved Swianiewicz's life. After being taken off the bus bound for Katyn, he was interrogated by the NKVD for over a year in prisons at Smolensk and Moscow. Finally, the Soviet government declared that his books on the Soviet economy amounted to "espionage" and Swianiewicz was

sentenced to eight years forced labor in a Siberian Gulag.

With the help of numerous Polish politicians, Swianiewicz was released from the gulag in 1941 and joined the Polish Army being formed by General Anders in southern Russia. As one of the first witnesses to inform Polish authorities about Katyn, Swianiewicz spent the next year in the Polish embassy in Moscow searching through records to try and learn the fate of more than 20,000 missing Polish officers. He left Russia in 1942 and went to Great Britain where he remained active in the Polish Government in Exile.

Remaining in London after the war, Swianiewicz continued his efforts to bring out the truth about Katyn. During the Madden Committee hearings of the U.S. Congress in 1952, Swianiewicz was called to testify about his eyewitness account. However, with his family still confined in Stalinist Poland, he had to give his testimony wearing a mask and using a false name.

In 1956, after eighteen years of separation, Swianiewicz's wife, Olimpia was allowed to leave Poland and join him in London. Twenty years later, in 1976, Swianiewicz authored the book, *In the Shadow of Katyn*. He never returned to Poland.

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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*. Mr. Jacobson's second historical novel set in Poland in World War Two, *The Katyn Order*, was released in May, 2011.

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## War and Peace

Lot of war being waged these days.

The Republicans are at war with women over birth control. The Obama administration is at war with the Catholic Church over religious freedom. Two cases of unruly college basketball fans shouting "USA" and "where's your green card" to opposing Hispanic players prompted a Hispanic representative from the state of Illinois to ask if there is a war on Hispanics in this country. The Trayvon Martin case highlighted the war on hoodies. The atmosphere is ripe for the next struggle. I am constantly losing the war against hair loss.

Is there a war on Polonia? I hope not, but we seem to be embroiled in our own share of battles. Very seldom are the attacks national news and confrontations take more of a psychological toll based on what attitude is being copped or on what is going to happen to us next. Those of us that still cling to the reality of a Polish ethnic parish watch with bated breath to hear which bishop will close, merge, or tear down another Polish congregation. We were all disgusted by the bigoted slur by the president of Ohio State University. I get anxious about each new movie or sitcom. Then there are those beloved DJs that cannot resist a jab or insult when any news is reported out of Poland, or when a person's name is Polish or Eastern European. Last week, a guy I listen to regularly stumbled over pronouncing "St. Stanislaus."

I get into arguments and will debate anyone over the extent of

the punishment meted out for Rob Blagojevich, the ex-governor of Illinois. Though he is not Polish, my sentiments are with him as he is of Eastern European extraction. I could throw in Martha Stewart (insider trading) and Dennis Kozlowski (former CEO of Tyco, International) for this argument. The spin is all of them were being used as "examples" but please give me the names of all the other "examples" out there. Their behavior ranged from irresponsible and outlandish and by legal definition, I think, they broke the law. For me, it is a question of degree, and I feel the punishment does not fit the crime. It seems like others with similar charges and situations did not get as harsh treatment and time in the slammer. I hope I am not getting a complex, but I am getting a vibe.

**SWITCHING TO POSITIVE GEARS**, I am watching a 60 Minutes spot about Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)). The online school was founded by Massachusetts Institute of Technology grad Salman Khan with the "goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education to anyone anywhere." He accomplishes this by putting a wide range of classes online, free of charge, for students, teachers, parents, and anyone in search of learning. There are over 3100 lessons covering subjects in math, history, science, and other academic fields. As Salman says, "I teach the way that I wish I was taught. The lectures are coming from me, an ac-

tual human being who is fascinated by the world around him." He has taught or has assisted teaching millions of children and adults since he began his school.

Two concepts emerge that are worth noting: innovation and service. And of course my mind immediately morphed Khan into Kosciuszko. Even without channeling Khan, there is an increasing capacity in Polonia for sharing our resources with our American friends and also with our Polish brothers and sisters in the rest of the world, including Poland. I can think of many ways to reach out and let me suggest a few:

I do not know what the statistics are but there are most likely a large number of children in Poland who are very adept with information technology. A nice project would be donating either funds or equipment to schools so more children can benefit from Khan or a whole host of online educational resources for those without internet.

We worry about what is going to happen to our churches but perhaps it would be in our interest to utilize these facilities with another ethnic group or use our churches in other ways such as food pantries, clinics, or community centers. Multiple purpose facilities might be less enticing to closures or merges while protecting the heritage and the church at the same time. The Polish Heritage Center located at St. Stanislaus Church in St. Louis provides banquet facilities to people, a large portion of whom are African American, with a convenient and reasonably priced place for weddings, business

meetings, etc.

There are hundreds if not thousands of other examples of how Polonia is currently reaching out or can do so in the future.

**QUESTION FOR MAY:** Can you walk and chew gum at the same time? I do admire the folks in our community who are open to giving a small amount or a great deal of what we have learned or earned or have been blessed with. That can mean sharing our heritage, our property, our education, or our material wealth. I do admire the folks in our community that call foul, push back, or slug it out when appropriate. The battles, it seems, will always be with us and are a drain, but I hope we are at a place that allows us to rearrange that monkey on our psychological and emotional back and step to the next level. I do want what is on the next level and I think that next level is innovation and service.

**MODELS!** A list of the fifty top models can be found at [http://www.models.com/model\\_culture/50topmodels/top50.cfm?number=5&lnumber=1](http://www.models.com/model_culture/50topmodels/top50.cfm?number=5&lnumber=1). Five of them were born in Poland and another two have Polish names but the list updates weekly and I did not check it for March 19, 2012. (On the March 19 list though, Anja Rubik is currently in the number three slot; Natasha Poly 'Polevshchikova' is in the number two place and was born in Russia. See if you can find the other six.)

There are two models listed under many of the numbers and there-

fore it is possible the top 50 could be the top 100. So, roughly speaking, about 10% of all the models in the world according to models.com come from Poland or have Polish names. The Russians produce gymnasts, the Czechs give us tennis players, and the Poles generate a slew of beautiful women. Aren't high cheekbones a sport in the Olympics?

**POLISH OR NOT?** Speaking of models, Elle "The Body" Macpherson, former model, was born Eleanor Nancy Gow in Sydney Australia (<http://www.biography.com/people/elle-macpherson-9542464>). Is "Gow" short for "Gowronski" making Elle a *piekna dziewczyna*?

Does Khan have any Polish in him? I know the man Salman Khan doesn't but what about the academy? I did not check the course list so I am wondering if there is a Poland section and if so, is it accurate and positive? Sorry to say, but I have experienced at least one disaster for non-Poles teaching Polish history and culture.

**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](mailto: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

## Edwin Pytel, Drummer Extraordinaire

Age is Just a Number for This Living Legend, Who at 90 Plays Over 50 Jobs a Year



**IN DEMAND.** When celebs come to town, they call Pytel.

by Roman (Travers) Truskolaski

CHICAGO — This is a story of a polka drummer who didn't play the polka circuit: he played his entire musical career in the Chicagoland area. The amazing thing is that he will be 90 years old in July of this year, and he still plays more than 50 gigs a year! Above all, he is in demand — when polka celebrities,

like Jersey Polka Richie come into town, they call Edwin Pytel to accompany them.

Let me tell you what I know about him: First and foremost he has been married to his wife Jeannie for 65 years, has a son and two daughters; is a grandfather, and a great grandfather. But this story is about his music career.

Edwin started in the late 1930s with Gene Urban's big band, but his love was polka music. His start was with the Joe Durlak ("Tell Me Whose Girl Are You") polka band. In the 1940s he played with the Eddie Zima band, and for the past 20 years he has been a member of the Pensionaires, playing every week at the Stardust Banquet Hall on the northwest side of Chicago.

Here is something of a novelty: Edwin is a left-handed drummer, beating the bass drum with his left foot and snare on the right. He has a style that other drummers copied, and a polka beat that dancers love. Many times people would come up and say "We could dance to his beat all night and not get tired." Now that's a compliment to a good drummer!

Oh incidentally, if you are curious and would like to see Edwin in person, he is at the Stardust Banquets, 5688 Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, each and every Tuesday morning. Stop by and say "hello."



Following his career in the 1930s with Joe Durlak's group, Pytel played drums with the Eddie Zima Band, pictured here on March 19, 1947. (l. to r.): Andy Cygan (trumpet), John Mall (bass), Roman Truskolaski (clarinet), Wally Kendzior (clarinet), Ed Zima (concertina), and Pytel (drums).

## All Aboard the Adirondack Polka Express!



OLD FORGE, N.Y. — The event management team, Adirondack Special Events, is now offering an "Adirondack Polka Express" Train as part of this year's Polkafest USA, the 15th Annual Adirondack Polka Festival, which runs Saturday and Sunday, Memorial Day Weekend, from 1:00-9:00 p.m.

The Adirondack Polka Express runs one day only, Saturday, May 26, 2012. The excursion includes round trip train fare from the Utica Rail Station, leaving at 10:00 a.m., returning at 8 p.m., with Fritz's Polka Band playing on the train. Included in the \$60 fare is a traditional Polish luncheon at the Hildebrandt Pavilion in Old Forge. A free shuttle will transport riders from the

Thendara station to the Hildebrandt Pavilion in Old Forge. Lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. and live music begins at 1:00 p.m. with The Boys and the Eddie Forman Orchestra providing the music.

Around 5:00 p.m. the shuttle returns riders to Thendara for the train ride home from 6:00-8:00 p.m. An optional overnight lodging special is being arranged with The Utica Hotel.

To pre-order tickets, and for more information, call Donna Pohl at (315) 354-5532. Further information is continually being posted on the website and Facebook pages, [www.polkafestusa.com](http://www.polkafestusa.com) and [www.facebook.com/polkafestusa](http://www.facebook.com/polkafestusa).

## Polka Fireworks 38th Annual Festival

CHICAGO — Seventeen of the nation's top polka bands will be featured at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania, Thursday, June 28 thru Tuesday, July 3, 2012.

Bands scheduled to perform include: Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men, Stacy Morris & The Nu-Tones, Andy Fenus & The Trel-Tones, The Polka Family, The Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Jeff Mleczo & The Dynabass, The Downtown Sound, The Boys, Henny & the Versa J's, The Knewz, Little John & The ATM,

Kenny Olowin will take place Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday. Saturday will feature Big Dan's Poolside Extravaganza. Saturday night will feature an after hours "Jam Session" hosted by



**DENNIS POLISKY & THE MAESTRO'S MEN.** Award-winning band to perform at this year's festival.

Stephanie and her Honky Band, Pan Franek & The PolkaTowners, Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze, Stas Golonka & The Chicago Masters, Ray Jay & the Carousels, DJ Ken Olowin, and Paul Herczko's Party Time.

Partytime. Steve Litwin's 29th Anniversary Concertina Jam will take place on Sunday, July 1.

For more information or room reservations contact: Bel-Aire Enterprises at (708) 594-5182, email [BelAire7208@aol.com](mailto:BelAire7208@aol.com) or visit [www.polkafireworks.com](http://www.polkafireworks.com).

Outdoor pool parties with DJ

### POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

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



John Gora and Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Polka Fireworks, Champion, Pa., 1998



Joe Dipytic and Jimmy Weber of The Sounds. Polka Fireworks, Champion, Pa., 2003



Ania Piwowarczyk, OLC Festival, Doylestown, Pa., 2002

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## My, How the Time Does Fly!



**JOHN and MARY MONCZYNSKI.** Celebrating 20 years together.



**CAROL and DAN McCUE,** organizers of the annual St. Patrick's / St. Joseph / Dyngus Day party.



**BEV and TED** thoroughly enjoyed themselves at Pott's Banquet Hall.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — I hope everyone enjoyed all the Easter and Dyngus day festivities. It still amazes me when I see and hear about the enormous crowds that filled so many places. Our Dyngus Day celebration in this area is getting bigger each year — more venues, a longer parade, more bands playing and more people coming out.

I usually attend a couple Dyngus Day events. The new one this year at the **Millenium** turned out very well for both days. **Val Bakowski** did a tremendous job putting this together. He called it the World's Largest Dyngus Day celebration for all generations. With Polka Family, Piatkowski Brothers, and Ethnic Jazz in the main hall, guest appearances by Johnny Karas, Eddie Biegaj, and John Valby, Joe and the Shmoes (a rock 'n roll band playing in the courtyard by the pool), and Al Krew doing his show in the hotel lounge, this venue offered the most and varied entertainment. The **Leonard Post** was also packed on Sunday and Monday to see Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push, The Buffalo Touch and The Knewz.

**TEMPUS FUGIT.** How fast the time goes by. This month, we will be honoring all the mothers on Mother's Day and on Memorial Day, remembering all Americans who lost their lives in all the wars while serving our country.

**STO LAT!** I was informed that **Stephanie's** birthday party at the Potts Hall on March 10 drew a large crowd including some out-of-towners. Her guest star, Jimmy Killian, did a fabulous job singing many songs made popular by Li'l Wally.

**A EXERCITUS TEMPORE.** On March 24, The Knewz played at the **Potts Hall** and again a nice turnout. A tour bus from Schenectady brought in a few newcomers who really enjoyed themselves. It was so nice to see Mary and John Monczynski out. If you remember, John was the bartender at the Town Edge many years ago! He and Mary met

there and are now married 20 years!

The next day, March 25, it was the **Irish Center** hosting the St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day, Dyngus Day party. Music was provided in three separate rooms by the Blarney Bunch, The Formula Band, and the Knewz, and it had lots of people dancing. Carol and Dan McCue and their committee did a great job with this doing!

It was a good idea on March 30 to have a **Catch and Release** party at Potts Hall. The Buffalo Touch played and offered their latest CD **Back In Touch** at a reasonable price. This new CD is dynamite—lots of super songs on this one. Kenny Krew also provided the entertainment between sets and I have to mention that he sang one of the best versions of the Star Spangled Banner I ever heard. Danny Potts cooked and served his famous delicious fish fry throughout the evening. Turned out to be a great combination!

**ISKIERKI.** Ted Szymanski, leader of Cityside, was on Ron Dombrowski's and Scott Cleveland's radio show on April 1 premiering their new song titled, "On Dyngus Day," a catchy tune.

On April 7, Cityside did a live concert and DVD recording at the Broadway Market. That should be interesting to see!

Bob Krawczyk sent me information regarding the opening of the **Lamm Post Grove**. It will open on Sat., June 2 with the Polka Country Musicians playing from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10 and at the door it will be \$13. A half BBQ chicken will be available for \$8.00.

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** to Roseann Zielinski on her retirement from Rich Products at the end of this month. Her children, grandchildren and husband, Bob (concertina player with Concertina All Stars), will keep her busy! ... and to Robin Pegg, who announced his retirement from the stage. Most recently a member of The Touch, he said you will still see him from time to time, but for now wants to devote more time to his other interests.

**GET WELL WISHES ...** go out to **Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak** who had gall bladder surgery just before Easter. Hope everything is going well and we'll see him out soon! ... **Tony Rozek, Jr.** is home after having his second knee operation. He'll be back to full speed after a few weeks of rehab.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** wishes go out to all the mothers for their special day on May 13!



**THE BUFFALO TOUCH** released its latest CD, but the band will be without Robin Pegg, who has retired.

### UPCOMING

**May 5.** *Cinco de Mayo* Polka Party at Potts Hall, 694 S. Ogden St., Buffalo, with music by the New Direction band from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Drink specials, Coronas, and Margaritas and taco bar. Admission is \$7.00.

**May 11.** Stas and Stella's Mostly Traditional Polish wedding at the Echo Club, 341 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$39.99 which include the show and a Polish Buffet. Call Deborah at (716) 282-3246.

**May 19.** Eric Bakowski announces the first appearance by Buffalo's newest polka band, TruHeritage at Potts Hall, 694 S. Ogden St., Buffalo. Music from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Admission \$10.

**May 20.** The Buffalo Touch plays at Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**May 22.** Buffalo Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Club, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information, call Chris at (716) 892-7977.

**May 23.** The Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194.

**May 25-27.** The USPA Polka Festival at the Doubletree Hotel, Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, OH 44131.

**May 28.** Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga. Music from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00.

Until next time, have an enjoyable and safe holiday weekend.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## A Great Workshop with Rosemary Chorzempa

I had the pleasure of attending an afternoon workshop about Polish Easter traditions with local Polish American artisan Rosemary Chorzempa on March 31st. The Polish American Community of Toledo "PACT" sponsored this event, held at Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylva-

nia. Rosemary, who grew up in north Toledo and now resides in Bedford Twp, Michigan, opened the session with a brief talk about the origins of *święconka*, *Dyngus* and *Śmigus*, *gorzkie żale*, *pisanki*, and the foods of a Polish Easter.

Rosemary crafted a butter lamb for the dozen or so of us in attendance. She explained how to wedge two butter sticks together and, using a small knife and a toothpick, she then created the facial features, body and the effect of curly lamb's wool. After she embellished and finished the lamb, it was given away as a prize.

Next she moved onto the art of *pisanki*. Rosemary has been creating

*pisanki* for over thirty years and she displayed a few dozen of her creations prior to creating three eggs, each with a different theme. She explained many of the symbols found on *pisanki*, such as dots representing the tears of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pine trees for health, roosters for fertility, and birds for happiness. Rosemary walked through each of the steps, and offered tips she has learned over the years, such as placing the finished eggs in a 225-degree oven for 15 minutes the day after decorating to make removal of the beeswax easier. She also talked about resources for purchasing the supplies. Primarily, Rosemary shops at the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck.

The session concluded with a brief overview of the traditions that used to be very common in Toledo, but that have gone by the wayside over the years. For example, Toledo's Ss. Hedwig & Adalbert Church still maintain a *święconka* tradition on Holy Saturday. And, while not

in league with the Dyngus Day celebrations found in Buffalo, Toledo's own Randy Krajewski has created a new Dyngus Day tradition in downtown Toledo that has attracted growing crowds over the past few years.

It was as much fun to reminisce with the other participants and bring back memories from childhood as it was learning how to create butter lambs and *pisanki*. Thanks to the Polish American Community of Toledo for sponsoring this event. More info about PACT may be found at [www.polishcommunity.org](http://www.polishcommunity.org).

### JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## Meixner, Ostanek, On Sunshine's Latest

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Come to the circus, the Alex Meixner *Three Ring Circus*, a collection of 23 different musical styling, tempos, instrumental presentations, dynamic arrangements and improvisations.

Meixner may be one of the hardest working musicians I've seen and his eclectic approach makes him popular with every audience. Polkas are in his blood, however.

"Our live set list on many of the gigs is really going all over the board—bringing everything together under the umbrella of polka music," states Meixner.

From the haunting sounds of "Moskau" on this musical package, to the classic waltz smoothness of "Reflections" waltz, to the jazzy riffs of "Shake up the Night," to a Strauss march, to an upbeat, driving version of "Clarinet" polka, all the three rings of the Meixner show are filled with total entertainment.

Featuring the talents of eleven musicians, playing a combination of seventeen different instruments, *Three Ring Circus* is a show to please everyone. *Three Ring Circus* was mixed and mastered by Dynamic O Productions, engineered by Brian O'Boyle & Ed Klanclnik and produced by Alex Meixner. Visit [www.alexmeixner.com](http://www.alexmeixner.com) on the internet.

**WALTER OSTANEK** is like your neighbor and in reality he is our neighbor to the North. He has been providing us with quality music for decades in a smooth, pleasing style.

Canada's Polka King now gives the polka world two new recordings, *Polka Celebration* and *Carefree Polkas and Waltzes*. Teaming up with Joey Miskulin on *Polka Celebration*, these two legends of the music world present everything from Eddie's B's "Polka Celebration," to "Until We Meet Again" waltz. With 20 tracks, there is something for everyone.

*Carefree Polkas and Waltzes* offers 22 selections of Ostanek's accordion magic with the addition of a button box tune and the "Green Gables" polka with the Klanclnik & Friends band.

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## Meet Chicago's D Street Band

CHICAGO — D Street Band has its roots in the polka music of Division Street in Chicago. At one time, fourteen lounges and halls on that famous street had music seven days a week, serving as the stomping grounds for many of the famous polka musicians Chicago produced.

The band's goal is to bring the polka audience many of those songs that were popular during the 1960s, '70s and '80s. This group of talented musicians can emulate the spirit of those



**D STREET BAND** (l. to r.): Tim Okrzesik (clarinet and sax); Andrew Okrzesik (concertina and accordion); Brian Kapka (drummers); Lenny Kapka (bass); Lenny Zielinski (concertina); and A.J. Okrzesik (trumpet).

songs and artists and embrace the different style that each song dictates. The intention is "to bring the soul of this music into the future."

Consistent with many of the groups of that era, D Street features the trumpet, clarinet, sax, drums, bass guitar, accordion and concertina. Vocals, sung by several members of the group, are in both Polish and English. The style of music consists of polka, waltz and oberek

they have been invited to play not only in Illinois, but Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Their music can be found on YouTube.

D Street looks forward to a bright future as they bring their music to the fans. For further information about visit their website: [www.dstreetband.com](http://www.dstreetband.com)

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*The Alleghenies*

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

## A Look at the 1948 Election Year

**1948**  
*Harry Truman's Improbable Victory and the Year that Transformed America*  
by David Pietrusza  
Union Square Press, 2011  
index, notes, photos, sources,  
\$24.95.

What an opportune time to read and review this book. This political year is filled with TV appearances and talk shows, but the activities behind the scenes as described in this book, are much more interesting than the present political debates.

Pietrusza brings the reader into the backrooms of political parties, their debates, arm twisting and pressures in bringing forward a likely candidate who will successfully win the presidency. Brief biographical sketches of over 100 characters is a handy reference for the reader as Pietrusza plows through the election year, revealing the inside politicking that goes on in the parties as they debate, support or encourage their presidential candidates. While the proclamations swung wildly on election eve and it appeared Dewey would win, Truman went to bed and a restful sleep to awaken to the news that he had won after all.

A thought-provoking study of the 1948 election year.

### SACRIFICIAL RITUALS

by Wade Sikorski  
Create Space, 2011, 334 pp.

This is a story of a small rural community in Montana struggling to survive as businesses leave town and farmers put up their ranches for sale. Ross Electric comes to town, promising to solve their problems if they will allow the company to create mega landfills and hazardous waste disposal dumps. It is a solution to some townspeople, but others consider the health risks and the fact that Ross Electric has been closed down

by the State in other areas. When a librarian, who protested strongly, suddenly moves out of town and no one knows where, when a man about to prosecute the company and law-breaking local government officials dies mysteriously, the town is in an uproar. This is a historic event that many people are willing to ignore, unable to make sacrifices for the future wellbeing of all.

### TIME BETWEEN TRAINS

by Anthony Bukoski  
Holy Cow Press, 188pp., \$16.95

Bukoski takes the reader into the lives and secrets of the working class residents of Superior, Wisconsin. The collection of twelve stories is about the declining population, the hopes and disappointments of a lifetime of struggle. He opens the door to the priest who hears the faults and desires of the elderly, feeling he himself is sinning by writing down their confessions. And the old woman podiatrist who shakes as much as her house when the train roars through the town. For twelve years Joe, the railroad track inspector, has kept the trains accident free with his careful scrutiny of the rails along his section of track. Having learned the sound of the rails, he knows when there is a problem before even seeing it. Year after year he drove his truck, outfitted for the rails, up and down his stretch, seldom talking to anyone with the exception of the dispatcher who notifies him of trains arriving. The time between trains is spent in lonely isolation until he notices an elderly retired schoolteacher living by herself in a run-down house near the tracks.

The stories are a delightful collection of disappearing occupations, of the flour mill and Catholic Church, the trains that ran through the town, of the love and yearnings of this group of hard working people.

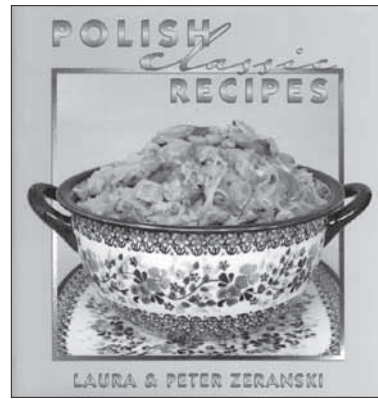
## PAJ Bookstore Adds Laura and Peter Zeranski's Polish Classic Recipes to Catalog

**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES**  
by Laura and Peter Zeranski  
Photography by Matthew Aron Roth  
Pelican Publishing Company  
h.c., 96 pp.; English;  
\$16.95 + \$5.95 s&h  
Available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore.  
(800) 422-1275  
www.polamjournal.com

Hospitality and hearty food are the hallmarks of the Polish dining experience, and traditional Polish cuisine is as rich in flavor as Poland's history is rich in traditions. This beautifully photographed collection of authentic Polish recipes features dozens of favorite dishes from throughout the Eastern European country, as well as preparation techniques, ingredient selections, and titles given in both Polish and English.

Seasoned with fragrant dill and caraway, richened with sour cream, and dressed with onions, horseradish, and butter, Polish cooking is hearty, hospitable, and remarkably varied. The classic recipes in this book were carefully selected to provide a cross section of dishes, from the popular kielbasa, pierogi, and cabbage rolls to less well-known dishes such as Veal Stew with Dill, Baked Fish with Mushrooms and Cheese, and Plum Cake. Organized by course, the offerings range from appetizers and salads to sides and sweets, featuring the most iconic and national of dishes—Hunter's Stew and Barszcz—alongside simple peasant fare and a handful of desserts, including honey cake, poppy seed rolls, and chocolate mazurka. A chapter devoted to pierogi presents the dumplings with an assortment of fillings, and the final chapter of sweets tops off any meal in true Polish fashion.

Tested to perfection, each heritage recipe has been updated for



the modern kitchen while retaining traditional roots. Accompanied by sections on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

**GREAT REVIEWS.** "This beautiful book offers a selection of classic Polish dishes for holidays and other festive occasions... Descriptions of Polish customs and personal recollections of Peter Zeranski enliven the text. The authors are clearly proud of Poland's rich and varied culinary traditions so faithfully passed down through generations."

—Board of Directors, Polish Library in Washington, D.C.

"Here is a wonderful compilation of home-grown recipes that have been perfected by generations,

steeped in Polish history, flavored by traditions, spiced by foreign influences and stewed in proverbial Polish hospitality. Smacznego!"

—Aleksandra Zajackowski,  
author and librarian

**THE AUTHORS.** Laura and Peter Zeranski are a husband-and-wife team who have been cooking and eating classic Polish food together for decades. Peter Zeranski was born in Europe to Polish parents. He is a retired marketing professional. His family's love for Polish cuisine and traditions is showcased in *The Art of Polish Cooking*, the critically acclaimed cookbook his mother Alina Żerańska wrote in 1968. Laura Zeranski learned to cook Polish dishes from her mother-in-law and began preparing Sunday family dinners and special holiday celebratory meals. Laura is a retired health records administrator who has consulted with clients throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. The couple resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Matthew Aron Roth has worked as a photographer and photojournalist and has interned at the Washington Examiner, among other publications. He graduated from Corcoran College of Art + Design with a B.F.A. in photojournalism. He lives in Washington, D.C.

## Polish Cafe at Festival of Nations

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Festival of Nations will be held May 3-6, at RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. The "Polish Cafe" is one of 35 cafes from around the globe, offering unique ethnic food to partake, along with viewing various artists providing ethnic cultural events, and the opportunity to purchase those one of a kind ethnic items from the international bazaar.

One of the nation's largest and longest running multicultural events. Help support your heritage and volunteer in the Polish Cafe by calling Marie Przynski at either przynski@comcast.net or (612) 501-2799 for volunteer shifts. A limited number of discount parking passes are available for purchase (\$5 each), please contact Przynski for further details.

BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

## A Popularly Accessible Portrait of Solidarity's "Golden Age"

**BE NOT AFRAID!**  
*The Polish (R)evolution, "Solidarity."*

by Heather Kirk  
Ottawa: Borealis Press, 2011.  
Softbound, pp. 275, \$19.95CDN.  
To order: [www.borealispress.com/benotafraid.html](http://www.borealispress.com/benotafraid.html) (U.S. credit cards accepted) or call toll-free 1 (877) 696-2585

Polish history is full of events of which Polish Americans can be rightly proud. Medieval Poland was a sanctuary for Jews in a Europe where they often faced persecution. Polish medieval and Renaissance philosophers and theologians like Pawel Wlodkowic laid key foundations for international law theory. Sixteenth century Poland was "a state without stakes" amidst the religious warfare of Reformation Europe. The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 was among the most progressive of its time, exterminated at the hands of repressive empires like Russia, Prussia, and Austria. In our own times, a son of Poland who sat on the Chair of Peter is increasingly recognized as one of the few Popes worthy of the title "the Great." And one common element of all these historical events is that they did not just benefit Poland alone, but represented milestones in Western civilization (even if, sometimes, Western civilization chooses to forget them).

Also in our own day, another of those great milestones through which many readers lived was the emergence and achievements of the trade union Solidarność (Solidarity). Inspired by the inaugural call of John Paul II's pontificate—"Be Not Afraid!"—and concretized by the Pope's first visit to Poland, Solidarity did just what John Paul prayed for in Warsaw

in 1979. Solidarity helped "renew the face of the earth" by its struggle and its example. It can be argued that tearing down the Berlin Wall began not at the Brandenburg Wall but in Gdańsk's Lenin Shipyard.

Canadian author Heather Kirk has written a popularly accessible portrait of Solidarity's "golden age," 1980-90. The book is especially suited to (but not limited to) high school and college students. Be Not Afraid is her take on a movement that "was the greatest non-violent resistance movement in history. It lasted ten years. It involved ten million people. It helped change the world. It killed precisely no one."

The book is divided into eleven chapters. Each chapter, in turn, includes sections like "creative nonfiction," "history," "biography," "analysis," and even "a Polish joke." The "jokes" are, indeed, political jokes taken from the time, intended to show how the Poles could shrewdly size up their own situation, even with humor. When little Jasiiek is asked by his Communist teacher in school "why do we call Czechoslovakia and East Germany our friends but the Soviet Union our brother?" the boy is quick to reply "Because you can pick your friends but you're stuck with your brother."

Kirk begins by introducing readers to Polish history, especially its twentieth century lot of being consigned behind the Iron Curtain (a five page outline of Polish history, focusing mostly on the twentieth century, is provided). Special attention is given to World War II (including both Katyń and the Underground Polish resistance). The book then moves through the worker-inspired uprisings of 1956, 1970, and 1976, as well as the student uprising of

1968 and KOR. The election of Karol Wojtyła as Pope and his first visit to Poland is detailed, along with the path to the beginnings of Solidarity in Gdańsk in the summer of 1980. The history of that first phase of free Solidarity (1980-81) is discussed, as well as its brutal persecution under the martial law imposed in 1981. But Solidarity continued its work underground throughout the 1980s (which led, for example, to the murder of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko). Kirk's story ends with the Roundtable Agreements of 1989, the end of the Polish Peoples' Republic and, finally, the end of the USSR. Among the biographies included in the book are: Karol Wojtyła, Anna Walentynowicz, Lech Wałęsa, Adam Michnik, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Wojciech Jaruzelski, and Bronisław Geremek.

The book is designed for people who know little to nothing about Poland: it often provides contexts that a pure history of Solidarity would not. For example, the "geography" component in various chapters introduces readers to Kraków, Warsaw, and Gdańsk. The book is amply illustrated. It includes examples from songs and texts of the time, e.g., "The Ballad of Jacek Wiśniewski," a poem about the 18-year old killed in the December 1970 food riots in Gdańsk, whose body was borne by workers atop a door in newsreel footage. Each chapter also offers suggestions to view various films, e.g., "Kanał," or listen to music, e.g., Gorecki's "Symphony No. 3" to expose readers further to Polish culture.

If somebody was teaching a course in Solidarity, this work would be a good textbook. But anybody who wants a good, well-rounded and comprehensive mainstream presentation of Solidarity can read this book. Polish Amer-

ican youth will especially learn much about their ancestral homeland in this thoroughly modern presentation. ("Modern?" Well, the "suggested activities" also include "look up X on the Internet.")

**The book is designed for people who know little to nothing about Poland: it often provides contexts that a pure history of Solidarity would not.**

The book ends in 1990 and, of course, subsequent events do raise questions about how we should interpret the history of Solidarity. Solidarity, after all, held together a Catholic wing as well as a wing that was happy to avail itself of Catholic protection even as it would subsequently pursue its own culture war against the "confessional state" once Poland was free. The meaning of the Roundtable Agreements, especially in terms of holding or not holding communists to account for what they did to Poland for forty-some years, also raises questions of how to interpret Solidarity. Lech Wałęsa's own background remains a subject of controversy. But these issues are beyond the scope of Kirk's book, which focuses on Solidarity's "Golden Age" in the 1980s. Awareness of these subsequent issues, however, does not detract from what this book offers.

Know some young people — Polish American or not — who should learn something about Poland and Solidarity at the same time? Want to personally learn something about those issues in an easy-to-read, well-written book? Consider giving or getting *Be Not Afraid*. Placing a copy in your local library would also be a good idea.



## Brandstaetter Play in Washington



SILVER SPRING, Md. — The Theater Club of Our Lady Queen of Poland/St. Maximilian Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, presented Roman Brandstaetter's drama, "Dzień Gniewu" (Day of Wrath) in the Washington Metropolitan area in March 2012. The play was staged in Silver Spring on March 17 and at Holy Cross, the Polish parish in Baltimore, March 25.

Club Director Dorota Ponikiewska was responsible for adapting Brandstaetter's play, which explores the moral dilemmas of a group of Franciscan priests during World War II. A Jew, Emmanuel Blatt, escapes the 1943 liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto and seeks refuge in the cloister. The friars, aware that helping Jews is punishable by death, nevertheless take in the refugee. The superior is regularly visited by Born, a German officer who knew him when both were seminarians in Rome in the 1920s. Born, who switched his faith from Christ to Hitler, wants to break the

superior. Born's concubine had noticed Blatt jump over the wall, and tries to blackmail the superior over his unauthorized guest. The play reaches its climax when Born returns one night, announced, to search the cloister. Earlier, a member of the Polish Underground had come to the superior, asking him to open a window as a signal that Born has left so the Underground could ambush and kill him.

Should a priest give over a Nazi to an Underground execution? How to deal with responsibility towards a persecuted Jew and towards his fellow friars, who could suffer collective death for their heroism? Can Born recover his faith?

Mirosław Podloch played Blatt, Waldemar Izdebski, Born, and Jarek Trocki, the Superior. The parish Theater Club was formed in 2009, and usually stages two plays per year. It plans to put on a Molière comedy in the fall. For information, contact Ponikiewska at dorotatm@yahoo.com.

KULTURA / Staś Kmiec

## The New Must-have Polish Book

### REVIEW

#### *Rose Petal Jam: Recipes and Stories from a Summer in Poland*

The poetic title *Rose Petal Jam* evokes idyllic visions of Poland's countryside — fields, meadows, streams, trees, clear sunlight and the open sky, and the sense of a sweet fragrance floating on a gentle breeze. This recipe holds nostalgic sentiment to author Beata Zatorska.

At age 4, she would collect rose petals for her grandmother Józefa — "Mama Druga," who would make this jam. It is also Beata's favorite filling for Polish *paczki*-doughnuts. It is best made with fresh petals from the wild rose *Rosa canina*. They must be gathered in the morning, before they have been in the sun too long and have released all their fragrance.

In the kitchen of a farmhouse in a remote village in the foothills of the Karkonosze Mountains where she grew up in the 1960s and 1970s, Beata learned to make delicate *pirogi*, and other family recipes.

Her return to Poland, accompanied by her husband, Simon Target (who shot the dreamy, sensuous photography) provided an intriguing and personal exploration of her home country and a heartfelt journey through the recipes of her childhood. Your own memories are likely to resurface as you follow Beata's eloquently-written culinary recollection — "Today when I turn a yellowed page filled with my grandmother's neatly written recipes it is as if I am touching her hand, covered with flour and speckled with diamonds of sugar."

This exquisite, lushly-produced volume that weaves a tale of Poland is the next "must-have" book for every Pole — part memoir, part travelogue, part cookbook. As far as the recipes, there is nothing groundbreaking; no reimagined exotic cuisine; and it is not an encyclopedia of every recipe imaginable. What you will find is a treasure trove of old-world recipes "from the heart" that utilize seasonal produce and reflects daily life. There are no extravagant ingredients, only practical, simple and economical recipes that offer unique ideas for using fruit, vegetables and meat.

With a catalog of 50 recipes that are both subtle and varied, there is: herring in sour cream, beef goulash, pork with caraway and onion, beetroot soup; as well as favorites like *bigos*, *goląbki* and *kluski Śląskie*; along with liqueurs such as *nalewka wiśniowa* (sour cherry), mint, and pepper *wódka*; and sweet treats such as *pierniki*, strawberry fruit *kisiel*, Carpathian vanilla torte and, of course, rose petal jam.

Minor quibbles are describing *pirogi* as *ravioli*, identifying *pirogi Ruskie* as Russian (instead of Ruthenian), and the popular Polish vegetable salad (*salatka jarzynowa*) should not be credited as Russian. Due to the initially targeted Australian and British market, the ingredient proportions are listed in grams and lbs/ounces. A conversion table will convert these to more suitably American cup measurements.

The book is beautifully and lav-

ishly illustrated with hundreds of full-color photographs of the cuisine, the countryside, and main cities of Poland. The artistry of the visual design with overlays of handwritten recipes, lace, folk art, embroidery and textile patterns, lends to the detail — giving this book a truly Polish atmosphere and three dimensional experience.

Tales, psalms, legends, customs, and poems by Kochanowski, Szyborska, Norwid, Miłosz and Pope Karol Wojtyła, along with well-known paintings and an album of family photographs will evoke strong memories and entice others to discover this beautiful country.

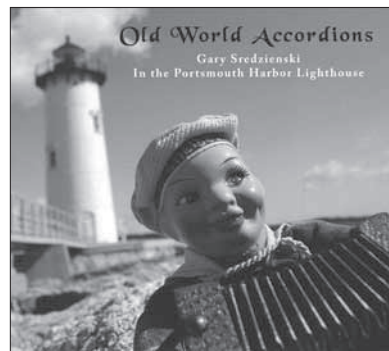
This elegant thick volume (319 hardbound pages, printed on thick matte paper) should be on display on your coffee table for all to see — it is visually enthralling and will become a conversation piece. Be careful not to butter-smear the book, as you will want to cherish it for its many virtues.

*Rose Petal Jam* is the first in a series of four books on Poland by Australia's Tabula Books and the publisher has spared no expense in creating it. A sequel - *Sugared Orange Zest - Recipes & Stories from a Winter in Poland* is forthcoming.

### Can't stop Dancing!

#### CD REVIEW

##### *Old World Accordions*



There is nothing like the sound of an acoustic accordion inside an old lighthouse! *Old World Accordions* by Gary Sredziński is a collection of tunes recorded with 10 different antique accordions at the top of a 44-step spiral stairway, in the watchroom of the 1878 Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. This eclectic mix of traditional Polish, Irish, Scottish, Greek, Russian, and French ethnic music and a few originals is Gary's 6th recording. The 27 selections from the mid to late 1800s are what lighthouse keepers might have enjoyed. I could not stop visualizing imagery and my body couldn't stop moving.

The bulky accordion, with a piano-like treble keyboard on one end of its bellows and scores of bass buttons or keys on the other has a broad range of chromatic and almost orchestral possibilities. Sredziński's artistry bubbles over with fascinating and intriguing insights to the power of this instrument that morphs across time, space

and cultures.

The Polish *Wszystkie Rybki* (All the Fish) has an open sound and a quality that brings about visions of a grandfather or uncle sitting on a porch stoop, as men in straw hats and bowties, women in hats with parasols and children with ice cream cones pass by. Other Polish selections include the whirling inn-style *Obereks in Minor*; *Za Ebru Fala* (By the Waterfall) and the uprising song *Nasz Chłopicki*.

Particularly fine are the fully developed Gypsy-invoked *Two Guitars*, the smoky Greek *Karaguna*, the droning bagpipe sound of *Wooley and Georgey*. Sredziński's virtuosity can be heard in Brahms *Hungarian Dance No. 6* and Grieg's *Folkevisse*.

The original work *Keepers of the Light* has a rhythmic stomp pattern and arcs in a journey of variations. *For David* (my favorite) is the most personal track on the recording.

An accomplished accordionist, Sredziński has been playing and entertaining audiences for over 40 years — beginning at age 9. His grandparents came from Poland at the turn of the century and as a young child he was immersed in Polish culture and traditional music. Since 1987, he has volunteered a 1950's style radio program, "Polka Party," on WUNH-FM — one of the most downloaded polka radio shows on iTunes. His compositions and recordings have been featured in a number of film soundtracks, such as *The Bad News Bears*, *Meet Dave*, *The A Team* and *Love Hurts* and on CBS, NBC, ABC, MTV television and other networks.

A portion of the sales of this CD will benefit The Friends of Portsmouth Harbor, NH Lighthouses. Available through: [www.garysred.com](http://www.garysred.com) or [AccordioNH@aol.com](mailto:AccordioNH@aol.com).

### POLISH STARS AT MET OPERA

The Metropolitan Opera unveiled its new production of Massenet's *Manon* with nuanced and magnificently sung performances by Polish tenor Piotr Beczała, Polish-Brazilian baritone Paulo Szot, and Russian-born soprano Anna Netrebko in the title role.

Choosing wealth over love, the young coquette with a fatal weakness for pleasure and riches finally realizes the folly of her ways. *Manon's* first love, Chevalier des Grieux — whom she abandons and then wins back, was played in a tempered, layered and passionate performance by Beczała. His tenor is powerful, bright, and delicately emotional as in Act II's "Le Réve."

Szot gives *Manon's* cousin, Lescaut an entertaining component that is not often found in this role. He commands the stage and his Act 3 centerpiece is an engaging tour de force. Szot is a Brazilian of Polish descent; his parents had emigrated following World War II. He studied at the Jagiellonian University in Poland, and began singing professionally in 1990 with the National Song and Dance Ensemble — *Śląsk*. In 2008 Szot won a Tony Award for his performance in the Broadway revival of *South Pacific*.

### HISTORY IN ART / Staś Kmiec

## James (Jakub) Sadowski

James Sadowski (Jakub Sadowski), later Sadowski was a Polish-American fur trader. In 1770, he settled in New York, and his sons were among the first white men to penetrate as far as Kentucky.

One of the first Kentucky pioneers, Sadowski with his brother Joseph took part in Captain Harrod's expedition which founded the first white settlement in Kentucky (Harrodsburgh) and built in 1775 in Pleasant Run the first agricultural settlement (Sandusky's Station).

According to one theory, Sandusky, Ohio was named after him. French maps as early as 1718 identified Sandusky Bay as Lac Sandouské.



ARTUR SZYK'S illustration of Jakub Sadowski was one of a series of 20 American heroes released in 1939.

## POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Landry, Olkowski, and Lysiak to Enter PASHF

Former Detroit Lion Pro Bowl quarterback Greg Landry, women's basketball great June Olkowski, and three-time NHL All-Star Tom Lysiak have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. The election of the trio brings the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame roster to a total of 126 honored inductees. Landry and Olkowski were elected from the NPASHF national ballot, while Lysiak was selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee.

**Greg Landry** was the first quarterback selected in the 1968 NFL Draft after a great career at the University of Massachusetts, where he twice earned All-Yankee Conference honors. He played 14 years in the NFL with the Lions (1968-'78), Colts (1979-'81) and Bears (1984), and was named to the Pro Bowl in 1971. Landry was unique among QBs of his era in his ability to run the ball—he rushed for over 2600 yards and 21 touchdowns in his career. In 1976, he was named NFL Comeback Player of the Year. After his playing days, Landry coached in the NFL with the Browns (1985), the Bears, where he served as Offensive Coordinator from 1988-'92, and the Lions (1995-'96). In 1993 and 1994, he served as Offensive Coordinator for the University of Illinois.



**June Olkowski** excelled as a student athlete at Rutgers from 1978-'82, where she led the Scarlet Knights to the AIAW National Championship in her senior season, averaging 19.6 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. She became only the second Rutgers player to be named a Kodak All-American and was a finalist for Player of the Year honors, while becoming the only Rutgers player ever to have her uniform number retired. Olkowski was a member of the gold medal winning teams at the 1978 National Olympic Sports Festival and the 1979 World University Games. Following her playing days, Olkowski was an assistant coach for five years, before being named head coach at the University of Arizona in 1987, becoming the youngest head coach in NCAA history. She then spent six impressive seasons as head coach at Butler, compiling a 114-56 record, while being



named MCC Coach of the Year on three separate occasions. Olkowski finished her head coaching career at Northwestern University from 1999 through 2004.

**Tom Lysiak** was selected as the second overall pick in the 1973 National Hockey League Draft, and went on to star in the NHL for 13 seasons (1973-'86), with the Atlanta Flames and the Chicago Black Hawks. In the '73-'74 season, he finished second in Calder Cup voting for the league's top rookie, and led the Flames in scoring for each of his first five NHL seasons. Lysiak was a consistent scorer, excellent passer and stick handler, played the point on power plays, and worked hard on defense. He even showed a willingness to take on the era's legendary tough guys, like Dave "The Hammer" Schultz and Don Saleski. For nine consecutive seasons, he scored 20 or more goals, and on three occasions eclipsed the 30 goal mark. During his career, Lysiak played in 919 NHL games, scoring 843 points on 292 goals and 551 assists. A three-time All-Star, he was the Flames all-time leading scorer when he retired. He created his own landscaping business just outside of Atlanta where he also owns a horse farm.



The inductees will be honored at the 40th Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 21st, at the American-Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan, with WDIV-TV sports personality Katrina Hancock serving as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$85, and include an open bar and traditional Polish family-style dinner. Tickets can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at [www.polishsportshof.com](http://www.polishsportshof.com).

**SYPNIEWSKI PASSES.** Record-setting runner **Henry Sypniewski** died recently at the age of 93. Over the last 20 years he set numerous national age-group records, even though the resident of the Buffalo suburb of Cheektowaga didn't start running until he turned 70.

Sypniewski helped get recognition to runners of all ages, urging race directors to create categories for runners over the age of 50. A tough athlete, Henry persevered despite various ailments and injuries over the years. Health problems limited his running in recent months,

but he still ran the national Masters 5-kilometer championship in Syracuse last October in 47:41, breaking the record for 93-year-olds by more than 13 minutes. In November he ran his last race, finishing the 5K Bob Ivory Run in 45:47.

Among his marks, Sypniewski set American records for the fastest half-marathon by a 90-94 runner (3 hours, 3 minutes and 56 seconds), and at 15-kilometers by an 85-89 runner (57:33).

Sypniewski, who died of stomach cancer, always hoped that he would inspire others, especially older people, to maintain active lifestyles.

**BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT.** It was 50 years ago — in 1962 — that bowling legend **Billy Golembiewski** won his second ABC Masters Championship, a feat that only three other men have been able to accomplish. Standing just 5-8, 135-lb., he proved that little men can do big things.

Over his career he won four Professional Bowlers Assn. tournaments in the 1960s, and was named to four No. 1 All American teams selected by bowling publications. He had five sanctioned 300 games. In 25 ABC tournaments, he averaged 200. The Grand Rapids MI native was inducted into the ABC Hall of Fame in 1979, and the Polish Sports Hall of Fame in 1981. He died in 1998.

**GONE SOUTH.** **Wojtek Wolski** might have found a home with the Florida Panthers, judging by his early performance. Wolski picked up 8 points in his first 11 games, including a game tying goal in the final minutes in his first game against Carolina.

Wolski was taken with the 21st overall pick of the 2004 draft by the Avalanche and became a full-time player by the 2006-07 season. The Avs eventually traded him to Phoenix in 2010, and he initially played well for the Coyotes, scoring four goals in seven playoff games to earn a two-year deal worth \$7.6 million. However, his role eventually diminished and he was traded to New York in 2011. Then, after recovering from sports hernia surgery, the forward was dealt to Florida just before this year's trading deadline.

Born in Zabrze, Poland, Wolski's family escaped the Communist regime and fled to West Germany in 1989. The Wolski family eventually went to Canada and Wojtek developed into an outstanding hockey player. He excelled with the Ontario Hockey League's Brampton Battalion where he earned league MVP honors.

## Mary Heslin Honored by CCSU



NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — On March 8, 2012, which also was the celebration of Polish Women's Day, Mary Mazurek Heslin received the Medal of Merit at a ceremony at Memorial Hall at Central Connecticut State University. This award recognizes achievement for service in the Polish and Polish American communities.

Given by the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies of the University, the award honored Heslin for her outstanding work in Polish clubs and civic and cultural organizations. Most especially, she serves as a member of the advisory group at the Polish Chair at CCSU. In 2006, Heslin undertook the fundraising to finance the permanent exhibit of the Kosciuszko Squadron at the New England Air Museum.

The idea for this project came about in October 2006, when M.B. Biskupski, Ph.D. was the invited

speaker at the Annual Commemoration of Pulaski/Kosciuszko Day. This Holder of the Endowed Chair spoke on the legendary Kosciuszko Squadron, who after World War I, helped against the Russians and later reorganized to fight the air war over England against the Luftwaffe.

Heslin headed a committee which in one year helped to raise thousands of dollars to bring the Kosciuszko Squadron Exhibit to fruition. Today, visitors to the Museum are introduced to a valiant group, who for so long were unknown, but today are the focus of an inspiring exhibit.

Twenty members of the Polish Cultural Club attended this ceremony. It is with pride that they acknowledge and laud Mary Mazurek Heslin, the distinguished honoree and a past president of the Club.

It should be noted that, of the four recipients of the Medal of Merit, three are part of the Club. In addition to Mrs. Heslin, Dr. Blejwas received the first Medal posthumously in 2005 and two years ago, Dr. Stanislaus Milewski received it prior to his death.

Honored with Mrs. Heslin was Dr. James S. Pula, professor of history at Purdue University and the editor of Polish Studies, an interdisciplinary research journal published twice yearly by the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA). Among his other honors, Dr. Pula received the Oscar Halecki prize for editing the Polish American Journal. This reference book was recently acclaimed by the American Library Association.

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## POLONIA'S HEROES

## Joseph J. Sadowski Gave His Life to Help Fellow Soldier

Joseph J. Sadowski (December 8, 1917 – September 14, 1944) was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration — the Medal of Honor — for his actions in World War II.

Sadowski joined the Army from his birth city of Perth Amboy, N.J. in May 1941, and by September 14, 1944 was serving as a sergeant in the 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division. On that day, in Valhey, France, Sadowski's tank was disabled by enemy fire. He and his crew dismounted the vehicle, except for one man who was trapped inside the burning

tank. Despite intense enemy fire, Sadowski returned to the tank and attempted to rescue the crewman, but was killed before he could do so. For his actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor seven months later, on April 23, 1945.

Sadowski, age 26 at his death, was buried in Saint Stephens Cemetery, Keasbey, N.J. The Sadowski Field House at Fort Knox is named in his honor. A monument to Sadowski was erected on the Parkway bearing his name in Perth Amboy by the Society of Polish Combatants (Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantow), Post 40. In 1999, the citizens of Valhey, France, also erected a monument honoring Sgt.

Sadowski.

In September, 2009, ceremonies were held at the monument recognizing 65 years since Sgt. Sadowski's death. Colonel James Herbert (Jimmie) Leach Company Commander in the 37th Tank Battalion at the time of Sgt. Sadowski's death made remarks.

"The heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sgt. Sadowski, which resulted in his death, inspired the remainder of his force to press forward to victory, and reflect the highest tradition of the armed forces," reads the last line of Sadowski's Medal of Honor citation.

— Julius Warzybok



Image of Sadowski from memorial plaque at the Perth Amboy Veterans' Memorial.

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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!



## PGSGC Re-Elects Officers for 2012

CLEVELAND — As in recent years, the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland re-elected their entire slate of officers for 2012.

Returning are (l. to r.): Ben Kman, treasurer; Sonia Chapnick, secretary; John F. Szuch, president, and Ron Kraine, vice president. This is Szuch's 20th year as president.

The organization meets the first Tuesday of the month (no meeting in July or August) at 7:30 p.m., at St. Mary's PNC Church, 5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio. Refreshments are served prior to each meeting. Dues are \$24.00 a year and are pro-rated at \$2.00 a month from the month you join until the end of the year.

Four quarterly issues of "Our Polish Ancestors" are included in your membership.

Meetings consist of a short busi-



ness session, speakers, and member participation as they discuss their genealogical search results or stumbling blocks. More information can be found by searching our web site: [www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/](http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/).

President Szuch encourages any interested parties (young or old) to either contact him at: [pulaskipro@aol.com](mailto:pulaskipro@aol.com), (330) 769-4603, or Ron Kraine at [ronkraine@aol.com](mailto:ronkraine@aol.com) (440) 838-5743.

**GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados**

## Find a 1940 Snapshot of Your Family

Census records contain information that describes your family members and gives you a snapshot that is not available in your scrapbooks.

The U.S. Federal Census was mandated in 1787 by the Constitution to count the U.S. population to determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Our Constitution required that the census should be done in 1790 and every ten years thereafter.

Genealogy researchers have found that census records are much more than a list of individuals and families. The records include many facts about the family members

and are a fantastic snapshot of their families. They are able to find many facts of their family members that are not available in oral histories or other documents.

The 1940 census which was released on April 2 is no different and includes a wealth of information about your family. It includes the standard information that is found on previous census records such as names of family members, ages, address, education, occupation. New questions found on the 1940 census records include residence in 1935 and sixteen questions examining the employment history of all individuals.

Finding your family's 1940 census record may be initially a challenge. The indexes that allow for searches by name will not be available at first. Armies of volunteers are working to complete indexing the 1940 census but none are available yet. Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org will be releasing indexes by state as volunteers complete them. They estimate the first indexes will be available for use late in 2012. If you know where your family lived in 1940, you can use a program on [Stevemorse.org](http://Stevemorse.org) to find the for the enumeration district number where they lived. This will allow you to narrow your search to one or two sets of documents that contain about 25 to 50 pages.

Another point to remember about searching the 1940 census records is that Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org received the images on April 2 but will need some time to upload them and format the images for their databases. The National Archives set up webpages at [www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov) that will allow you to browse and view the images on April 2. Now, turn on your computer, go to [Stevemorse.org](http://Stevemorse.org), then go to [www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov) and have fun finding a snapshot of your family.

**SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel**

### Oj, Mój Brzuch Boli!

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:

**Bolibrzuch:** Compound formed from "boli" (hurts, pains) and "brzuch" (belly, stomach) — probably a nickname for someone frequently complaining of stomach aches.

**Cyganiewicz:** The "-wicz" is always a patronymic ending; "Cygan" is a gypsy, so together it means "the Gypsy's son."

**Kaczorowski:** Root-word is "kaczor" (drake, male duck); most likely emerged as a toponymic nickname for a resident of Kaczorów or

Kaczorowo (Drakeville).

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.



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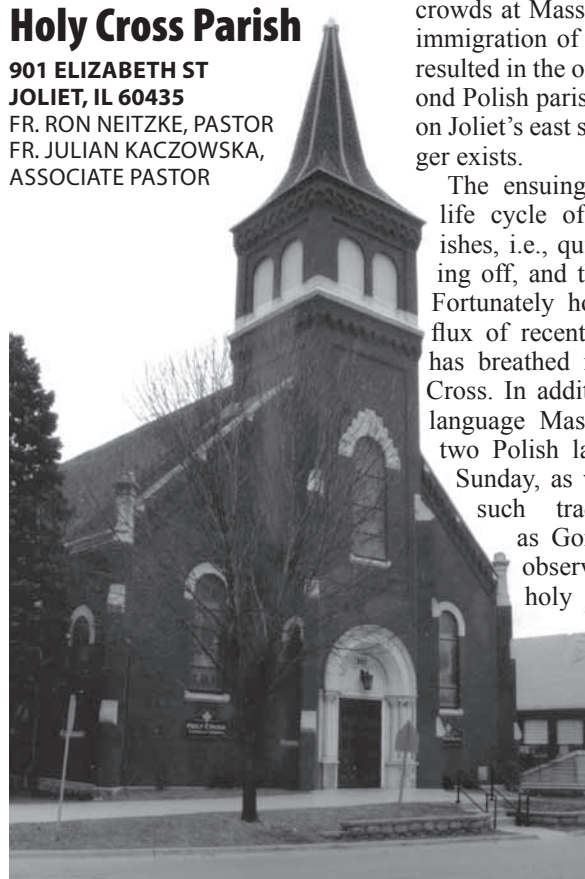
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REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

### Holy Cross Parish

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crowds at Masses as well as a later immigration of Poles from Galicja, resulted in the organization of a second Polish parish in (St. Thaddeus), on Joliet's east side. Sadly, it no longer exists.

The ensuing years typified the life cycle of many Polish parishes, i.e., quick growth, a leveling off, and then a slow decline. Fortunately however, a large influx of recent Polish immigrants has breathed new life into Holy Cross. In addition to the English-language Masses, there are now two Polish language Masses on Sunday, as well as a revival of such traditional devotions as Gorzkie Zale, and the observance of important holy days such as Boże Ciało, Rezurekcja, and the midnight Pasterka, to which many attend in Polish regional dress. Additionally, a Polish language and culture school for young people meets once

Holy Cross Parish, located on the west side of Joliet, — about 35 miles southwest of Chicago — was established in 1893, with Fr. Casimir Slominski as pastor. Succeeding him was Fr. Boleslaw Pawlowski, who directed the construction of a new church and school in 1901, which stands to this day. The current church, which holds about 300 faithful, was built with the support of Polish immigrants who came to Joliet from the region known at that time as Prus. Frequent overflow

a week, and a highlander folk song and dance group from Holy Cross, called Holni, does frequent appearances, both locally and nationally.

The church has recently been renovated and is in beautiful condition despite its 110-year existence. Lifelong parishioner Bill Smith summed up the lengthy and proud history of Holy Cross by stating, "This parish would not have survived without the generous and faith-based support of Polish parishioners, both past and present."

*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.*

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

### Telling Time

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

r clock is used in Poland for many purposes, particularly in print, such as schedules. However, in everyday life the 12 hour clock is often used. "In the morning," "in the afternoon" or "at night" is used if necessary.

druga godzina ..... (DRUH-gah goh-DJEE-nah)  
two o'clock, literally second hour  
*[The word godzina, for hour, is usually omitted if obvious from the context]*

wpól do trzeciej ..... (vpuhw doh CHEH-chay)  
half past two, literally half to three  
*[Instead of the English "half past," Polish uses "half to."]*

Która [jest] godzina? ..... (KTUH-rah [yehst] goh-DJEE-nah)  
What [is] the time? or What time is it?

[Jest] pierwsza ..... ([Yehst] PYEHR-fshah)  
It's one o'clock.

[Jest] dziesiąta ..... ([Yehst] djeh-SHOHN-tah)  
It's ten o'clock.

Wpól do drugiej..... (Vpuhw doh DRUH-gyay)  
Half past one or Half to two

Wpól do czwartej ..... (Vpuhw doh CHFAHR-tay)  
Half past three or Half to four

Pięc po pierwszej ..... (Pyechn poh PYEHR-fshay)  
Five after one

rano..... (RAH-noh)  
in the morning

po południu ..... (poh po-WUHD-nyuh)  
in the afternoon

wieczorem ..... (vyeh-CHOH-rehm)  
at night

## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



WHERE THE NAZI-GERMANS SPILLED INNOCENT BLOOD. Auschwitz Camp, Oswiecim, Poland. May 22, 1976.

## OBITUARIES

**EDWARD S. DANIELCZYK**, 86, of Philadelphia, husband of the late Laura (nee Hendzel) Blichasz Danielczyk, passed away March 28, 2012. Danielczyk, also known as "Spike," was an owner of a Port Richmond tavern with his late wife for many years. During his retirement he was a volunteer at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Philadelphia.

His stepchildren, Irene Blichasz Evangelist, and her family and Michael Blichasz, and his family, and his brother, Joseph Danielczyk, and his family thank all for their condolences.

A Funeral Mass was said March 31, 2012 in St. Laurentius Church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; (215) 922-1700. Online donation reply form at: PolishAmericanCenter.org/Memorial.pdf, or to St. Laurentius School Fund, 1608 E. Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19125.

**LUTZ H. OLKIEWICZ**, 79, was executive pastry chef for the Drake Hotel in Chicago whose specialty was the art of sugar blowing and sugar pulling. After 25 years at the Drake, Olkiewicz worked at Sara Lee Corp. as manager of product development. He began his apprenticeship at 17 in Germany, making pastries for the U.S. Army. He went on to a three-year apprenticeship and then a five-year journeyman program that led to a master's degree. He worked in Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden and Canada before coming to the U.S. After winning several culinary competitions, he was named to the American team for the 1972 Culinary

Olympics and won a gold medal.

**FR. JEROME POHL**, 79. St. Joseph Church in Oborniki, Poland, was standing room only for the January 13 funeral of Fr. Jerome Pohl.

Fr. Pohl was born in Oborniki on July 16, 1932, and was ordained by Cardinal Boleslaw Kominek on July 1, 1967 for the Archdiocese of Wroclaw, Poland. He was sent to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in May, 1984, where he served as parochial vicar at St. Laurentius Parish and St. Adalbert Parish, both in Philadelphia, St. Hedwig Parish in Chester, and St. Mary Parish in Conshohocken. He retired from active ministry in 2003 and lived at St. Adalbert Parish in Philadelphia for a short time before returning permanently to Oborniki. However, during every Lent and Easter, Fr. Pohl would return to St. Adalbert Parish to serve the faithful.

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## Teen Publishes E-Book on Amazon and Barnes & Noble

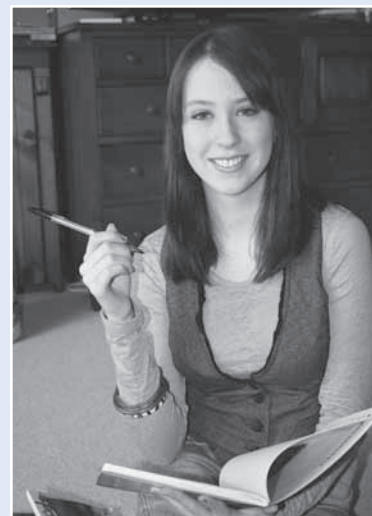
BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Emily M. Spina**, a 17-year-old student at Starpoint High School in Wheatfield, N.Y. recently published her first, full-length novel, "Book Of The Legion," as an e-book on both amazon.com and bn.com.

Spina, first place winner of the PAJ's 100th Anniversary Scholarship contest, wrote the novel when she was 13, and already has the sequel written, plus the first book of a trilogy, titled "Machine." She is currently looking for a publisher or publishing company for her novels.

The thirty chapter e-book, "Book of the Legion," is an adventure story of five young men and women who band together to help save their kingdom. Written with a Christian viewpoint, this tale is one that will appeal to both kids

and adults. It sells for only \$2.99 on both retailers' websites. And for those who don't own a Kindle or Nook, you can go to amazon.com and download a free application that will allow you to purchase the book on your Kindle Cloud Reader, PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Android, or Windows Phone 7. Just search "kindle store" "free kindle reading apps."

Besides writing novels in her spare time, Spina is a dancer and instructor with the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, sings in her school's select choir, is a youth reporter for NeXt in *The Buffalo News*, and has a TV program that she writes and produces — *That Variety Hour*, on LCTV 20. You can watch full episodes on Facebook.com.



**SPINA**, first place winner of the PAJ's 100th Anniversary Scholarship contest, wrote the novel when she was 13.

## "Trzeci Maj" Events Honor Polish Constitution of 1791

"Trzeci Maj" recalls the the proclamation the May 3, 1791 Polish Constitution, based on the American Constitution of 1783, assuring freedoms for all citizens. The democratic principles threatened Poland's neighbors of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, who decided to partition Poland, and eventually erase the nation from map of Europe. Observances in American Polonia remind all of the bonds shared by the United States and Poland in the protection of freedom.

CHICAGO — Each year, the Windy City hosts one of only two Polish Constitution Day parades in the nation (the other being in Cleveland). The event celebrates the significance and impact of Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791. Each year, the Parade Committee of the Alliance of Polish Clubs in the United States accepts nominations for the distinguished position of the Grand Marshal for the parade.

Conrad Nowak, the Chairman of the **Polish American Association** (PAA) Board of Directors, announced that **Grazyna Zajackowska**, PAA's Director of Immigrant Services, has been elected the Grand Marshal of Chicago's 2012 Polish Constitution Day Parade.

The parade is Sat., May 5. It steps off at 11:30 a.m. at Columbus and Balbo Drives.

The PAA has three offices in Chicago. To learn more, call (773) 282-8206.

UNIONTOWN, Pa. — For the past 20 year, the **Polish Heritage Club** has prepared for and conducted an observance of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791. This year's observance is set for Sun., May 6 in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Footedale. Starting at 3:00 p.m., offices, members, and friends will gather for hymns, prayers, readings, and a special address. Newly-elected President Frank Ceter invites all the attend this event. Club Chaplain Rev. Joseph L. Sredzinski will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Afterward, light refreshments will be served in the parish hall.

The Club has been promoting Polish culture since 1973.

### DO SOMETHING POLISH!

Learn about your immigrant ancestors, where they came from and where they settled and consider developing a family tree. You can start by reading "Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy" by Ceil Jensen (cjensen@mipolonia.net). Also check out [www.polishroots.com](http://www.polishroots.com) and [www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org). (RS)

### TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. Al "Jolly Joe" Truskowski's band was the first band in the United States to record the: a. "Chicken Dance" b. "Clarinet" polka c. "Blue Skirt" waltz
2. At a Polish wedding, a *starosta weselny* is: the groom b. father of the bride c. wedding host
3. *Zamek Królewski* is a: a. fortress b. lavish castle c. open-air market
4. Warsaw's greatly loved monument is that of: a. a mermaid b. an angel c. a young bride
5. Seek shelter if there is a *burza*, which means: a. below-zero temperatures b. a storm c. a heat wave
6. The Wisła River is located in: Krakow b. Warsaw c. Torun
7. Held under a giant circus tent at the Horsetrack in Sluzew, was an extravaganza featuring: a. Britney Spears b. Madonna c. Janet

8. Frankie Pytlak, Whitey Kurrowski, and Eddie Lopat were: a. wrestlers b. former Baltimore mayors c. baseball players
9. At the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, Lech Walesa received a: a. set of commemorative pins b. Polish flag c. concussion
10. Geographically, Poland is located in: a. the Ural Mountain region b. the Black Sea area c. the center of Europe

**ANSWERS.** 1a. The Chicken Dance; 2c. a wedding host; 3b. lavish castle; 4a. a mermaid; 5b. a storm; 6a. Krakow; 7a. Britney Spears; 8c. baseball players; 9c. concussion (from a falling television camera); 10c. the center of Europe.

### HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

## Legend of the Knights

How well did a blacksmith of old keep a secret he promised not to reveal?

Legend tells us that Polish Knights of old, were most courageous, brave and loyal to their causes. It is also said that these knights have been asleep in a cavern far beneath Mount Pisana.

One bright and sunny day, in a quaint and peaceful village, a stranger approached the village smithy.

"I have need of a very special job that I would like you to do. For this, you will be handsomely rewarded. But you must promise to never tell a living soul about what you have done and what you have seen," explained the towering stranger.

"Absolutely!" answered the smithy with much anticipation. Then hidden beneath his coat, the stranger took out a precious gold bar. The smithy was then instructed to carefully mold the gold bar into a horseshoe. This the smithy did, creating a magnificent piece.

The satisfied and pleased stranger then requested that the smithy accompany him to the Koscieliska Valley. Upon their arrival, they walked for hours, eventually entering a cave that was well hidden by rocks and trees.

What the smithy saw was awesome! Amid the cave's golden light, there appeared an army of knights, dressed in full armor. Their helmeted heads rested on the saddles

of their steeds, and they were all holding spears and battle axes. Also, within the cave were sleeping horses arrayed in beautifully rich blankets. All of the horses sported golden horseshoes.

But one of the horses had a broken shoe. Smithy was instructed to repair it. Once repaired, the horse continued to just lie there. The stranger then explained the situation to the pondering smithy.

"These knights have been sleeping for hundreds of years. They will only awaken when there is need to do battle. At this time, there will be thunderous, crashing boulders. Out of the cave they will emerge to bravely fight for Poland once again."

Smithy had now completed his task. He returned to his village, once again reminded not to tell anyone of his adventure. He was then given his reward, a large bag of gold.

But the smithy was not one to keep quiet about anything. Yes, he told his wife, his neighbors, and even strangers about his most unusual adventure. He simply could not keep his word. So, as he greedily clutched his bag of gold, it had now been transformed into worthless grains of sand.

For ever and a day, the smithy roamed the countryside, far and wide. He desperately hoped he would come upon the hidden cave, hoping to retrieve his precious gold. He never found it.

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — Beginning April 2, libraries, research facilities and the internet were invaded by genealogical researchers gathering intelligence from the 1940 census to solve some of their research dilemmas.

As an aid to this challenge, the speaker at the next meeting of the **Polish Genealogical Society of America**, May 20, will be Cynthia Piech whose topic is "What's in the 1940 Census."

This is the largest and most comprehensive group of census records that have ever been released. Piech will explain what information is included and what search aids are available. You will also learn more about the work that is being done to index the 1940 census and how you can contribute to that effort. Polish genealogical researchers can be ideal volunteers as they are familiar with the challenges that handwriting and ethnic names can present.

The meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. For more information check the PGSA website at [www.PGSA.org](http://www.PGSA.org).

## NEW YORK

ALBANY — The 11th **Frederic Chopin Piano Competition** will be held Sept. 15, 2012. Area piano students ages 6 to 21 are invited to participate. The event will be held at Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Church, 250 Old Maxwell Road in Latham.

Deadline for registration is Aug. 17; limited to the first ten applicants in each category. The registration fee is \$30, non-refundable. Previous winners are not eligible to register in the same category. For more information or to register call (518) 373-0092, or visit <http://bvmc.org/Chopin.htm>.

## OHIO

COLUMBUS — The mother of one of three Ohio soldiers killed in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan said he was a natural leader who

belonged to a family of men who chose to serve their country by enlisting in the military.

Pamela Mitchell, of Dublin, said her son **Capt. Nicholas Rozanski** loved being a soldier for the National Guard. She said he had a passion for military service that was shared by one of his younger brothers who was part of a Columbus-based Marine unit that lost almost two dozen of its members in 2005.

Rozanski was among three members of an Ohio-based National Guard unit killed in an attack in Maimanah, the capital of Faryab province, the Department of Defense said. Also killed were Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Hannon, of Grove City, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Rieck, of Columbus. Four others were wounded.

## RHODE ISLAND

CUMBERLAND — On Sat., May 19, the **Rhode Island American Polish Cultural Exchange Commission** will feature a presentation on the **Crazy Horse Memorial** located in South Dakota. Clifford Archie of the Polish Cultural Organization of Hartford, Conn. will be the guest speaker. A DVD on the Crazy Horse Memorial will also be viewed.

Korczak Ziolkowski, a Polish sculptor was chosen by Chief Henry Standing Bear of the Lakota tribe to begin carving the Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This private, non-profit project began in 1935 and is continuing to this day. Even though Ziolkowski died on October 20, 1982, his work continues today carried on by his wife and children who remember his famous quote "Never forget your dreams."

The May 19 program will be held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 in the Hayden Center on the grounds of the Cumberland Public Library, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd. The Polish community extends an invitation to all to attend this free and informative presentation. If there are any questions,

please contact Con Lamansky at (401) 769-1044.

## VIRGINIA

McLEAN, Virg. — The **Merian C. Cooper-Heroes of the Kosciuszko Squadron Hollywood Movie Project** announced that James D'Arc has joined the Advisory Board of the Foundation to assist in the development of the Film Project. D'Arc has worked closely with Hollywood producers Peter Jackson and Kevin Brownlow, and will be personally inviting both to join the Advisory Board and to assist in the film project.

Cooper, born in Jacksonville, Fla. in 1893, was an American aviator, United States Air Force and Polish Air Force officer. He was a founding board member of Pan American Airways, adventurer, screenwriter, film director, and producer of film — the most famous of which was the movie: "King Kong."

Following World War I, in which Cooper was a distinguished bomber pilot, he was the moving spirit behind the creation of the Kosciuszko Squadron of the Polish Air Force. Cooper was linked to Poland by the fact that his great grandfather had fought alongside Kazimierz Pulaski during the American Revolution.

To learn more, visit [www.illuminateamericaheroes.com](http://www.illuminateamericaheroes.com).

## Volumes Donated



FALL RIVER, Mass. — The Polish-American Citizens Club donated two books to the Fall River Public Library. Above, Laurel Clark (left), Library Administrator, accepts a book on Tadeusz Kosciuszko entitled "The Peasant Prince," from Peter Ramut, Jr., chairman of the Book Selection Committee of the Kosciuszko Club. Ramut holds the other donated book "Hollywood's War with Poland 1939-1945."

The book about Kosciuszko, written by Alex Storozyński, utilizes new original sources about the Revolutionary War hero Kosciuszko not mentioned in other books. The author elaborates about how Kosciuszko's engineering knowledge was used several times during the war to prevent attacks against American forces.

"Hollywood's War With Poland," written by M.B.B. Biskupski, discusses the negative portrayal of Poland and Polish people in movies during the World War II and the reasons behind it.

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