

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

ESTABLISHED 1911

JANUARY 2021 • VOL. 110, NO. 1 • \$2.25

www.polamjournal.com



“GREATS OF THE PAST”
ENTER THE HALL OF FAME—
PAGE 14

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

**WILCZYŃSKI TAKES GOLDEN LIONS • DEFENDING ST. JOHN PAUL II • HOW MUCH POLAND IN AMERICA?
THE FIRST POLISH AMERICAN CABINET MEMBER • MARDI GRAS / PĄCZKI DAY COOKERY • MINK ON THE BRINK
ZBYSZKO ONE OF WRESTLING’S LEGENDS • POLISH GREETINGS, SAYINGS, AND CURSES • WHEN IS PĄCZKI DAY?**

NEWSMARK

**Matejko’s “Copernicus” to be
Seen in UK for First Time**



Astronomer Copernicus, or “Conversations with God” by Jan Matejko.

Jan Matejko’s 90-foot-wide painting of the astronomer Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik) will be shown in the UK for the first time, to showcase a superstar 19th-century artist little known outside his native country.

Matejko, widely regarded as the national painter of Poland, is revered for his huge, minutely detailed depictions of key moments in the nation’s history. His masterpiece, “Astronomer Copernicus,” or “Conversations with God,” is his portrait of Copernicus, the 16th-century astronomer who transformed our understanding of the solar system.

The painting hangs in the senate chamber of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, from where it rarely leaves. London’s National Gallery announced on that it would display the painting March 25-June 27, 2021 in a free exhibition introducing British audiences to Matejko.

The painting celebrates the achievements of Copernicus, the first person since the ancient Greeks to realize that it is the sun, not the Earth, which is at the center of our planetary system and that we revolve around it.

Deputies Reject No-confidence Bid

(PAP) On December 9, Polish deputies defeated an opposition bid for a vote of no-confidence in Jaroslaw Kaczyński, the head of the country’s ruling conservatives.

A total of 216 MPs voted in favor of the motion, 233 were against, and one abstained.

The opposition bid had no chance of succeeding since Kaczyński Law and Justice party, along with two junior conservative coalition partners, commands a majority in the lower house.

During a hard-hitting debate in parliament, the opposition criticized Kaczyński, who is a deputy prime minister, over the use of pepper spray by police against demonstrators during a protest against tighter abortion laws on November 18.

Conservative deputies said protesters had been aggressive. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki accused the opposition of “slander” and “lies.”

Kraków is the Place to Eat

Kraków has been named European Capital of Gastronomic Culture 2019, beating the Portuguese capital Lisbon. Rafael Anson Oliart, president of the European Academy of Gastronomy, which gave the award, said that among the reasons for choosing the Polish city were its restaurants’ excellent recipes and quality products from local suppliers.

The city’s restaurants have been decorated with numerous Michelin recommendations.

Twenty-six Kraków eateries recommended in the *Michelin Guide*, most of them located on the main market square, on the banks of the Vistula River and on the streets of the former Jewish city of Kazimierz.

Poland Triumphs at Brussels Summit

Rule of law to apply
only to budget issues,
not ideology

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Following days of bitter debate, European Union leaders meeting at Brussels, Belgium finally agreed on a landmark \$2.1-trillion budget and coronavirus recovery package.

Consensus had been obstructed by an attempt to link funds to rule-of-law notions. Poland and Hungary had reacted by deciding to veto the agreement as a threat to their national sovereignty.

At July’s budget summit, a rule-of-law mechanism had been introduced to ensure proper spending of EU funds. But in November, the rotating, then-German-led EU presidency succumbed to pressure from the European Parliament and expanded the list to include “fundamental EU values.” Those would include abortion on demand and the promotion of LGBT ideology, which violate the Polish Constitution. They also violate the EU’s own treaties which do not allow EU politicians to interfere in either the family issues and mores, or judicial matters of member nations. Poland and Hungary feared that could be used to force them to accept undocumented Muslim migrants, abandon judicial reforms, adopt pro-LGBT/Gender policies and in future possibly even legalize euthanasia.



Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán (left) and Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki. The leaders met in Warsaw days before the EU summit.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel worked overtime to hammer out a fragile compromise. Poland and Hungary agreed to withdraw their veto threat after being assured the rule-of-law clause would only apply only to spending, not political or ideological issues.

Under the deal, over the 2021-2027 budget period Poland is due to receive a record \$210-billion package of subsidies and COVID-recovery funds. It will also get an additional \$60 billion to facilitate

its transition to cleaner, non-coal-based energy. The compromise also made it possible for Chancellor Merkel (for whom this was her last EU summit) to avoid going down as someone who had left the EU in budgetary disarray.

While Poland and Hungary had been portrayed as “bad guys” opposed to the rule of law, Warsaw had always opposed rule-of-law innovations not enshrined in EU treaties, and not approved by all 27 member nations.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

Honoring the Memory of Millions Who Suffered the Horror of Nazism

by Leonard Kniffel

Poland was the only occupied nation during World War II whose government never capitulated to the Nazis. As home to more than half the Jews of Europe, it was also the only country where entire families were executed for aiding Jews. Hitler considered both Poles and Jews to be racially inferior and he intended to “Germanize” Poland by replacing the population with German colonists, retaining only enough Poles as needed for slave labor, the rest to be liquidated along with all of Poland’s Jews.

If we do not learn from the mistakes of the past, we are doomed to repeat them, and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie is committed to preserving the stories of millions who suffered and died during the most heinous reign of terror in human history. In an exclusive interview, Kelley Szany, the Museum’s Vice President of Education and Exhibitions, explains its



**An exclusive
interview with
Kelley Szany,
Vice President
Education and
Exhibitions
Illinois Holocaust
Museum &
Education Center**

mission and how it preserves the record of Nazi atrocities while honoring those who resisted. The complex history of Poland and its people is an important element in the exhibitions and programs of the Holocaust Museum, where a memorial fountain honors Poles as “Righteous Among the Nations” for risking their own lives to save others.

Holocaust survivor Jan Krawiec died last October at 101. He was a volunteer at both the Holocaust Museum in Skokie and the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, and he was one of many Polish survivors dedicated to showing that the Nazi Holocaust was not limited to Jewish people and that the Soviet Union was also guilty of crimes against humanity. How does the museum reflect this view?

See “Holocaust ...,” page 4

Warsaw hopes National Lockdown will Stop Spread

WARSAW (Reuters) — Poland entered a national quarantine from Dec. 28-Jan. 17 that will include the closure of hotels, ski slopes and shopping malls, Health Minister Adam Niedzielski said on December 17, with businesses expected to get over \$11 billion in support.

Poland’s health system has struggled to grapple with the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, with new daily cases reaching over 27,000 a day at its peak in November.

Niedzielski warned about a third wave of the pandemic in the new year and told Poles to remain vigilant amidst recent news that the first coronavirus vaccine doses could arrive in Poland this month.

“I call on every Pole to be responsible for themselves and their loved ones. But I know that calls won’t help,”

See “Lockdown,” page 5

PHOTO: ZOLTAN FISCHER / PRESS OFFICE OF THE HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER

ALMANAC

January 🌕 Styczeń

*Najlepsze mienie - czyste sumienie.
The best asset is a clean conscience.*

- 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
*Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Happy New Year!*
- 2 **1919.** Birth of Polish American actress **Carol Landis**.
- 3 **1795.** The **Third Partition** of the Lithuanian Polish Republic was made between Russia and Austria.
- 4 **1944.** Soviet troops cross the former Polish border.
- 5 **1173.** Death of **Bolesław IV the Curly**.
- 6 **FEAST OF THREE KINGS**
Święto Trzech Króli
On this day, K+M+B (the initials of Kaspar, Melchior, and Baltazar, the three kings who visited the Holy Infant) are inscribed above main entry of one's home. Often this is done by one's priest.
- 7 **1882.** Death of **Jan Józef Ignacy Łukasiewicz** (b. 1822), pharmacist and petroleum industry pioneer who in 1856 built the world's first oil refinery, and invented the modern kerosene lamp (1853).
- 8 **1918.** President Wilson announces his "Fourteen Points," the 13th calling for a **free Poland**.
- 9 **1797.** **Jan Henryk Dąbrowski** organizes his legion in Italy, and thus honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.
- 11 **1912.** The **Association of Priests for Polish Affairs** formed in Buffalo, N.Y., its purpose being to afford Diocesan and Religious Order priests an opportunity to share culture and traditions among our Polish Parishes in the diocese.
- 13 **1982.** The Mass for the Nation by **Rev. Jerzy Popiełuszko** at the Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka.
- 14 **1581.** The city of **Riga** joined the Polish-Lithuanian union.
- 15 **1890.** Birth of swing and jazz drummer **Gene Krupa**.
1919. **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 58, pianist, composer, becomes first premier of the newly created Republic of Poland.
- 17 **1732.** **Stanisław II August Poniatowski**, last king of Poland (1764-95), born.
- 18 **1401.** In Lithuania, Vytautas and the country's dukes submitted documents to Poland that Vytautas would rule Lithuania as a vassal to Poland and return the country to Poland upon his death.
- 19 **1945.** The Red Army captures Łódź, Krakow, and Tarnow.
- 20 **1320.** **Władysław I Lokietek** crowned King of Poland.
- 21 **Grandmother's Day**
Dzień Babci
1407. Lithuanian Duke Vytautas leads Polish and German forces for a 2nd time against the Duchy of Moscow.
- 22 **Grandfather's Day**
Dzień Dziadka
- 23 **2007.** Death of **Ryszard Kapuściński** (b.1932), Belarus-born Polish writer and journalist
- 24 **1734.** In Krakow, the 2nd last king of Lithuania and Poland, August III, crowned.
- 25 **1913.** Birth of pianist and composer **Witold Lutosławski**.
- 26 **1934.** Germany signs a 10-year non-aggression pact with Poland, breaking the French alliance system. Germany violates with pact on Sept. 1, 1939 when it invades Poland.
- 27 **1842.** Birth of **Fr. Józef Dąbrowski**, educator and founder of Orchard Lake Schools. (d. 1903).
- 28 **1886.** **Artur Rubinstein**, pianist, was born in Łódź, Poland.
- 29 **1846.** Birth of **Karol Olszewski**, scientist who liquified gases.
- 30 **1667.** Lithuania, Poland and Russia signed a 13.5-year treaty at Andrusov, near Smolensk. Russia received Smolensk and Kiev.
- 31 **1887.** Death of **Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski** (b. July 8, 1824), Civil War general.

This paper mailed on or before **December 29**. The February 2021 edition will be mailed on or before **January 29, 2020**.

EDITOR'S DESK

Here's Hoping to a Better Year Ahead

by Mark Kohan

We wish our readers a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Last year at this time, not one of us imagined the troubles and heartache 2020 would bring. Our condolences go out to those who lost loved ones because of the virus and other illnesses. We also sympathize with those who have suffered economic hardship as a result of the pandemic — we understand their plight only too well.

At this writing, the United States has begun inoculating the first of scores of healthcare workers with COVID vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna.

We are in the darkest hour before the dawn, so it is crucial — now more than ever — to follow the prescribed rules, which we all know by now. Hopefully by summer, we can all meet at Mass, at our Polish clubs, at picnics, dances, and fundraisers. We've all come this far; do not jeopardize the sacrifices made by yourself and others.

Netflix and Ron Howard Disappoint

In early December, Netflix released "Hillbilly Elegy," a film adaptation of J.D. Vance's award-winning account of the life in Kentucky and Ohio. The film was directed by Ron Howard.

I read the book and was interested in Howard's adaptation of it.

As they say, "the book was better." This is understandable. It is true ninety-nine percent of the time.

"Hillbilly Elegy" is a discerning vignette of Rust Belt and Appalachian life, told through the eyes of the author's family, which leaves Kentucky to find work in factories of the Midwest. Vance covers the poverty, health issues, prejudices, and apathies affecting his family and those of the region. You cannot but help to feel sorry for the characters, even if they are often their own worst enemies.

Nonetheless, of all these biases appearing in print, which one made it to the screen? A "Polish joke," of course.

In both versions, Vance is rescued from his mother's countless failings by his grandmother, known as Mamaw, played by Glenn Close on screen. To ensure Vance keeps good company, Mamaw essentially chooses his friends, one of whom is Polish. She tells the young man a beyond-crass joke, and then explains to her grandson that Poles do not have gumption or ambition.

Really, Netflix? Really, Ron Howard? In 2020, where one (correctly so) cannot even suggest impropriety toward any race, color, creed or sexual orientation, Poles are still fair targets?

Contact: Rachel Whetstone, Chief Communications Officer., Netflix, 100 Winchester Circle, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

Just Between Us

Well, as if 2020 wasn't enough, December brought forth more challenges — along with mixed blessings. Our on-line Bookstore had one its busiest years in decades. That was offset, however, by constant inventory problems from vendors, who themselves were having trouble getting product from their suppliers.


Then, in the first week of December (traditionally the busiest week of the year for the Bookstore), we lost telephone and internet service for three days. Our apologies to those who tried to contact us but were greeted with a constant busy signal.

The delay in product supply and internet service meant we had to pay higher postage rates for Priority Mail service to (hopefully) guarantee delivery for Christmas, which was — in many cases — all for naught, as USPS deliveries were, depending where you live, weeks late. We are still waiting for items promised to us in late November, including products still waiting for U.S. Customs clearance. It was 2020; should we have expected anything else?

The bottom line is this: thank you all who did their Christmas shopping with us — and showed an impressive level of patience in doing so.

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku a wszystkimo najlepszego!

KEEP *Christmas* IN YOUR HEART ALL YEAR LONG



Wesołych Świąt i szczęśliwego Nowego Roku dla wszystkich moich wspaniałych przyjaciół

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my wonderful friends

God Bless the Polish American Journal and my friend, Mark Kohan

CRICKLEWOOD, LLC

KIRTLAND, OHIO • EUGENIUSZ J. TRELA • (440) 256-5024

CORRADO GIAQUINTO.
ADORATION OF THE MAGI (1725)

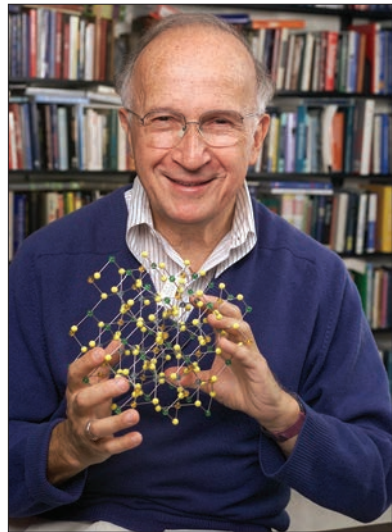


POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 35th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

Make checks payable to The Polish Children's Heartline, and mail c/o Doreen Patras Cramer, 87 Deerfield Dr., Manahawkin, NJ 08050
For information call: (732) 680-0680 • e-mail: childshart@aol.com • website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

Nobel Scientists Hoffmann, Wilczek Named Kosciuszko Foundation Trustees

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation announced the board of trustees elected Nobel Prize-winning scientists Professors Roald Hoffmann and Frank Wilczek as Honorary Trustees of the Foundation.



Hoffmann

Roald Hoffmann was born in 1937 in Zloczow, Poland. Having survived the war, he came to the United States in 1949, and studied chemistry at Columbia and Harvard Universities (Ph.D. 1962). Since 1965, he has been at Cornell University, now as the Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters. He has received many of the honors of his profession, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (shared with Kenichi Fukui).

In addition to his achievements as a scientist, Prof. Hoffmann is also an accomplished poet and playwright. Among his published works are *The Metamict State* (1987), *Gaps and Verges* (1990), *Memory Effects* (1999), *Soliton* (2002), and most recently, in Spanish, *Catalista*.

Prof. Hoffmann is an honorary advisory member of the Kosciuszko Foundation Collegium of Eminent Scientists. In 2016 he gave an inaugural lecture starting the Collegium's lecture series (in the picture), and on December 3, 2020 he moderated a panel discussion between Prof. Maria Siemionow, Prof. Keiko Kawashima and Ms. Susan Quinn during the Foundation's webinar "Maria Skłodowska Curie – A Pioneer for Women in Science?"

Frank Wilczek is an eminent American physicist of Polish-Italian origin. In 2004, together with Hugh David Politzer and David Gross, he won the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of the strong interaction. Wilczek received a B.S. at the University of Chicago in 1970, and a Ph.D. in physics at Princeton University in 1974. He is currently the Herman Feshbach



Wilczek

professor of physics at MIT; founding director of the T.D. Lee Institute and chief scientist at Wilczek Quantum Center, Shanghai Jiago Tong University; distinguished professor at Arizona State University; and professor at Stockholm University.

In 2012 Prof. Wilczek was conferred with an honorary doctorate of the Jagiellonian University. In February 2019 the Jagiellonian University Senate adopted a resolution to establish the Frank Wilczek Award. The \$12,000 prize is awarded biannually to young Polish scientists who have made a significant discovery in physics, astronomy or related fields. It is funded by the JU Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science and the Kosciuszko Foundation. Prof. Frank Wilczek and the Dean of JU Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science are the award patrons.

Prof. Wilczek is an honorary advisory board member of the KF Collegium of Eminent Scientists, and a recipient of the KF Medal of Recognition which was presented to him during the KF Ball in 2012.

The board of trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation may elect as honorary trustees persons who have distinguished themselves by their efforts and achievements in strengthening cultural, academic and scientific relations between the United States and Poland and persons, who have rendered substantial and significant support to promote the purposes, programs and objectives of the Foundation.

Founded in 1925, the Foundation promotes closer ties between Poland and the United States through educational, scientific and cultural exchanges. It awards up to \$1 million annually in fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists, professionals, and artists, and promotes Polish culture in America.

Wilczyński takes Golden Lions at the 45th PFF in Gdynia

by Bartosz Szarek

On December 12, Mariusz Wilczyński's first full-length animated debut *Kill It and Leave This Town* was awarded the Grand Prize "Golden Lions" at the 45th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia (the first animation ever to win the PFF). The film was one of seven presented the in last month's PAJ as the finest Polish films of 2020.

This is a better-than-good opportunity to take a closer look at Wilczyński's feature – the big winner at the most important Polish film event, holding the status of the national film festival in Poland.

"I SIMPLY DON'T BELIEVE in death. Everyone who has gone, has gone. They haven't died, they're still alive in my imagination." An existential contemplation on passing away, reminiscence and nostalgia in *Kill It and Leave This Town* is sewn with a series of implicitly dreamlike, phantasmagorical sketches, torn out of the deepest and grimmest levels of writer-director's subconscious.

But getting inside someone else's head to feel their pain in such an undressed and melancholy manner is never easy, especially when they are openly grieving over the death of their parents. In this context, stressing the space between Wilczyński and his knocking at death's door mother – his absent-mindedness painfully grieving all that he has lost, flooded by a slew of difficult, conflicting emotions, or uncertainty about how to move on with his life – contrast in the film with her yearning to connect. All these combined with recollecting broken memories of his childhood in the industrial town of Łódź in the 1960s and 1970s, create a tense atmosphere of insecurity and metaphysical horror.

The city itself is rendered in unusual detail; made up of factories humming with machinery, exhaling deadly fumes puffing from the industrial skyline. With filthy streets covered in vomit, blood and dog mess, lined with grotesquely-arranged buildings, and the occasional flickering neon sign, exemplifying a life of decay and uselessness. But these are only the sets and artifacts of the *mise-en-scène* characters inhabit – peevish shop-owners, annoying and unhelpful station-masters, frustrated parents, all kind of skunks and bullies – estranged from each other, absorbed with nonsensical babbling "full of sound and fury. Signifying nothing."

REFLECTING ON LIFE UNDER COMMUNISM. Wilczyński presents a deeply personal look at his own time and space. The grey reality of life under the communist regime reaches here into the most intimate domestic spheres. The themes and images of black and white niche-oddity, with an occasional touch of color, is used throughout the film to metaphorically represent the world of hope and humanity in the face of



Wilczyński

horrific inhumanity and destructive interpersonal relationships.

But not without its moments of lyricism and intense melancholy, *Kill It and Leave This Town* shows that the most important things people need to heal, succeed, and thrive is human connection. Most visible in the dance sequence of Mariusz and his senile mother (like in David Fincher's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) getting younger and younger, smaller and smaller, till she died a dwindling embryo.

Kill It and Leave This Town shares many sensibilities with Andrei Tarkovsky's *The Mirror* – reminiscent of Phil Mulloy animated short films as well as early David Lynch's obsession with broken-down industrial spaces that disap-

pear into blackness. But first and foremost, Wilczyński pays tribute to Polish cinema and Poland's significant nationals who are-were important in the field of Polish culture.

The film's striking look and moving sentiment, including a cameo from the late Andrzej Wajda, and other characters similarly voiced-over by legendary artists such as: Irena Kwiatkowska, Gustaw Holoubek, Zbigniew Rybczyński, Tomasz Stańko or Daniel Olbrychski. Some of them dead – some alive, but it is a perfect match to the main concept behind-and-within the story itself. Not to mention the melancholic tones of Tadeusz Nalepa's music, accompanying the audience throughout the film.

Although a downer on this scale will not be everybody's liking, *Kill It and Leave This Town* never fails to stun visually, feeling both professional and truly personal. This harsh but sincere epic is distressingly niche in appeal, but try it for yourself. And if you do, it certainly rewards with one of the most disturbingly original Kafkaesque visions you would like to (or not) encounter in film.

◆ ◆ ◆

Bartosz Szarek is a Polish film critic, freelance journalist, publicist, and festival correspondent. His reviews appear film and entertainment magazines Kino and Ekran. Szarek writes a weekly newspaper and website *Dobry Tygodnik Sądcki*.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donation to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Carol and Steve Ambor, Gettysburg, Pa.; Laura Andres, Bethlehem, Pa.; John Cieniawski, Posen, Ill.; Thomas Funka, Grove City, Pa.; Robert Guyette, Webster, Mass.; Casmir Kowalski, Upper Darby, Pa.; Constance Lauerma, Chicago; John P. Makowski, Paw Paw, Mich.; Mrs. Gordon Millar, Port Orange, Fla.; Arthur Ness, Boston, Mass.; Dr. John Niziol, Clifton, N.J.; Ronald Slobodnik, Armada, Mich.; Matt Stefanski, Washington, D.C.; Kathleen Urbanic, Rochester, N.Y.; and one Friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

**MAIL TO: PAJ PRESS FUND
POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL
P.O. BOX 271, NORTH BOSTON, NY 14110-0271**

I want to make sure the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL continues its service to American Polonia.
Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Please [] include [] do not include
my name in your list of contributors.

Supermarket Gets Polish Food Section

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Market in the Square Supermarket, located in West Seneca, is now carrying a dedicated line of Bacik Polish food products. While products imported from Poland can be found at Tops, Wegmans, and other area supermarkets, the Market in the Square has a section dedicated to Polish specialties, including meat, grocery, and dairy-related products.

Holocaust: “People don’t know enough about people like Pilecki ...”

continued from cover

Jan was a great loss to the broader community. He was a member of our Speakers’ Bureau and part of our museum for about 14 years. I still remember the day that Jan came to our old Main Street location. I had scheduled an hour to interview him for the Speakers Bureau; five hours later I was still sitting there entranced by his story, which was so mind-blowing and so remarkable, the strength and resilience and chutzpah that this man had... His story read like a movie; it was incredible. I know he took great joy in speaking not only to students and adult groups, and he knew the streets of Chicago like the back of his hand. “I don’t need directions just give me the address and I’ll find it,” he said, and he would go out and speak to schools.

At Illinois Holocaust Museum, we really believe that you cannot tell the full narrative and history of the Holocaust without talking about what happened to non-Jewish Polish citizens. That is an incredibly important and integral part of the history of the Holocaust, the story of World War II itself, and we make sure the story is told. Whether it’s through how we are training our docents and the stories they tell and the dialogues they are having or through our public programming or teacher training we’re doing on the topic, or the books we are including in our traveling teaching truck. We use all these tools to communicate not only the stories of Polish non-Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust but the Polish people as victims of occupation and their stories of suffering under Nazism.

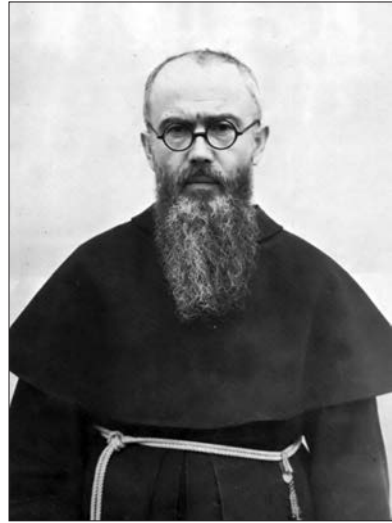
Talk about how you handle programs and exhibitions that tackle extremely sensitive topics like Polish anti-Semitism or Nazi collaboration.

With any difficult topic it’s trying to create an environment in which people feel safe in having that dialogue. When it comes to antisemitism and the issues of complicity and collaboration, I think it’s important avoid generalizations. And also understanding that it wasn’t everybody, and it wasn’t just occupied Poland, that there were opportunities for individuals, for governments, for people in power to make choices and decisions about whether they were involved or not involved. Those that became involved, we can’t necessarily judge if we don’t know the circumstances.

The issue of collaboration is an incredibly sensitive subject. We can’t avoid the fact that some people made the choice to collaborate, to be complicit in the persecution and murder of their neighbors. To get to that place of acknowledgment is difficult. We know that it wasn’t everybody, but not to excuse it because it was under these dire circumstances and you had no choice. They were tough choices, what we call choiceless choices, so approaching these topics with sensitivity and also acknowledging that there were Poles in particular who rescued Jews who weren’t antisemitic, but still rescued Jews because their faith told them this is what you do for another human being. You can’t discount that either.

It’s a larger and complicated narrative, but it’s one, particularly through dialogue with the community and people who visit, that we can continue.

Public perception of the Holocaust Museum is that it is somehow a Jewish institution. Talk about ways in which non-Jewish Poles in particular are honored here and why.



To demonstrate that not only Jews were victims of Nazi Germany’s rage, the Illinois Holocaust Museum has begun to integrate the stories of non-Jewish Poles, such as that of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Catholic priest and Conventual Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

First and foremost, the larger narrative of the Holocaust that we tell is through the Jewish perspective, what happened to the Jewish community. But we believe that Illinois Holocaust Museum at its core is one that teaches a collective and human history.

When it comes to stories of the Polish community, we do that in a number of ways, for example through our Ferro Fountain of the Righteous, which is a beautiful memorial on the outskirts of the building that recognizes those non-Jews who have been named “Righteous Among the Nations” by Yad Vashem, it’s kind of a qualification for being on the fountain. We solely recognize those who were rescuers or are connected to folks who were rescued that live in the Midwest area, who have that connection.

When it comes to the integration into our exhibition, over the past couple of years we have started to train our docents to recognize the individuals behind these objects, these dates, these facts. To tell the story, we have begun to integrate into our exhibition tours that tell of Maximilian Kolbe, which is such an incredible story. There’s an area in our exhibition as you come out of the start of World War II where we’re beginning to talk about non-Jewish victims and there is a picture of a priest standing at the end of a pit.

Then when we are in the camp section or our docents are painting the scene of “upstander or bystander” or “choice” by talking about Witold Pilecki, who volunteered to go to Auschwitz, the absolute courage this man had, and then moving into the Cold War after 1945, what happened to some of these people. So now we are able to integrate Pilecki’s story and the book that Jack Fairweather did, *The Volunteer*. All of our museum volunteers are like, “How come we didn’t know about this?” Jack is now doing a young adult book about Pilecki’s story. Teens have got to know this, because you have the standard books that a lot of schools go to, you have Anne Frank, but you get such a limited view of the

Holocaust. Pilecki’s story is just so incredible.

We are trying to use what we have on the walls, photographs and objects, to integrate the story of the Polish community and also as we look at our exhibition we think about location of objects and about the narratives and stories of communities that are missing within our core exhibit and broader issues of human rights.

What are some of those narratives that we could be telling about the Polish community, you may ask. We are chomping at the bit to try to find a special exhibition that talks about what happened in the immediate aftermath of the war to these prisoners of conscience in Poland and other places that fell under communism. People don’t know enough about people like Pilecki and others who were still fighting for the cause, the struggle.

How do you introduce children sensitively to the horror of the Holocaust and explain how and why the Nazis made Poland their killing field?

First and foremost, you have to look at the age of the children. We never recommend introducing the Holocaust really until a kid is about 12 or 13 years old. They just can’t understand the complexity of the history and if you can’t get into the complexity you then kind of put rose colored glasses on young people about what the Holocaust was really about, because you try to focus on rescue. We get kids who come into the museum and they’ve read *Number the Stars* and they think everybody rescued people, or they have read Anne Frank. To me Anne Frank isn’t a Holocaust story, it’s the diary of a young girl and unless a teacher knows how to use that story, students won’t understand that outside her attic there was an entire world on fire.

We had a Holocaust survivor Aaron Elster from Sokolow Podlaski in Poland. He was ten years old when he was hidden in an attic in occupied Poland for over two years, by a Polish couple, the Gorskis, in complete isolation. When kids become older, 12 or 13, one of the mistakes educators sometimes make is that they want to beat kids over the head with graphic photographs, that this is the only way they are going to understand the history, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. Our role as educators, as a museum is to take our audiences, students, young people “safely in and safely out” of the Holocaust and to give an agency and individuality to those piles of bodies that you want to show, to understand that each of those shoes and coats belonged to a human being. And that connected to that sharing memoirs and diaries, sharing the diversity of experiences, so that if you’re reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel you understand that not everybody was in a camp, that people survived in different ways and to not only focus on the Jewish perspective. To understand the breadth and scope of the Holocaust, you have to understand both the Jewish and non-Jewish perspective of those who were persecuted under Nazism. Unfortunately, a lot of teachers don’t have time to do that. How to do that? Your best start is through individual stories. Looking at a survivor now and seeing this white- or gray-haired woman or man in their 80s and 90s, and then say “Guess what, they were your age when this happened; they were

14-15-16.” Reading about teen angst and getting in fights with mom and dad, they become you, they are everyday people and I think the greatest service we can do as educators is to have young people understanding that after 75 years, they are no different than you or I.

What is the museum still doing to collect stories of Holocaust survivors? What kinds of things are you looking to add to the collection or archives?

To the question of testimony, we are still actively pursuing the recording of survivors of the Holocaust. We are still finding quite a number of survivors who lived in the former Soviet occupied territories who were never recorded by the USC Shoah Foundation in the early 90s. If you were a victim of Nazism, Jewish or non-Jewish, and you have not told your story we want to hear from you. We want to be able to record your story and have it be a part of our archive, and then we’re able to share it with our colleagues at Shoah Foundation and at the U.S. Holocaust Museum. We are also still an active collecting museum as far as objects and photographs. Sometimes people have something they think the museum wouldn’t want. You never know, so call us. Whether it’s just basic household object or it could be a photograph, it could be an object you might think we have hundreds of and we actually don’t, so we are still actively collecting and looking for objects from the non-Jewish and Jewish communities for our collection.

In what ways does the museum cooperate with other museums or institutions such as schools, universities, Polish organizations in particular?

Partnerships are part of the DNA of our museum. At a local level we are great partners with the Consulate General of Poland in Chicago and the Polish American Congress of Illinois and work with them to partner and to promote our respective programs. We are continuing to reach out and have conversations with museums in Poland, whether that’s the Polin Museum in Warsaw or programs at Jagiellonian University in Krakow or as part of consortium training Polish teachers who are teaching about the Holocaust. We are always open to partnering.

A recent report from the American Association of Museums says that one of every three American museums may fail because of the financial fallout of the pandemic—unless supporters and members come forward with massive support. What is the Holocaust Museum doing to raise funds during this crisis? Are people responding?

We’re faring remarkably well as an institution because when we shut our doors at the start of the pandemic, we pivoted so quickly to the digital virtual format. I think some institutions were wondering what to do; we immediately pivoted and said okay, we’re in this for the long haul. The museum reopened July 15, we’re getting visitors, we’re doing well, up to our capacity these days. Our group tours are available virtually, all of our teacher training went virtual, all of our public programs went virtual, and we’re finding way to make our exhibitions virtual and accessible. We have been very successful in doing that. Also, what it has allowed us to do

is to reach people beyond the walls; now when we host programs we’re not limited by geography. If we had a big program in the past, that was 400 people; now we can have 800, 900 people spread across the globe watching our program. We’re doing a program on the 75th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trails and we have people signed up in Germany and France and England. It has really allowed us to expand our reach and impact beyond what we initially imagined or hoped. I know that it is something that when we get to the place, God willing, to whatever the new normal is, the virtual component is always going to be part of what we do because it’s been so successful. We’re always looking for people to become members too. Our members, our constituency, is our life blood and we’ve seen an uptick in new members since the pandemic started.

What can Polish Americans do to promote a better understanding and better relationships between the Polish community and the Jewish community?

I think it’s both communities coming together to understand our mutual history, understand that the Jewish experience during the Holocaust and the war and afterwards and the non-Jewish experience during this period of time were unique, but there were many more things that unite us than divide us, so finding those commonalities and the things that make the experiences in the communities unique and different, finding ways to raise that awareness, to have those programs.

I don’t think a lot of people are aware of the work of people like Jan Karski, like Raphael Lemkin, or the document of Nostra Aetate. There are so many incredible stories where we can at least come to some mutual understanding of what connects us and to get to a good place and create those programs that maybe challenge both of our assumptions, challenge the misconceptions of our respective communities, but at least start at a middle ground and a place that unites us.

I’m Catholic, and ultimately what drew me to this topic was the inhumanity of it — how is it possible, the human inclination to commit such atrocities? I do think it’s not being afraid to reach out to each other and to say: “Hey we’re thinking about this book or this idea.” Coming together as a collective rather than on our own individual communities shows much greater strength and unity that maybe could help to build bridges so we can have some of these tougher conversations.

Is your ethnic heritage Polish and did it influence your career choice?

My last name is actually more of Hungarian origin, but my husband’s family is Polish — Nowinski. They owned and operated a Polish deli in East Chicago for years. Me, I am Irish and German. And yes, in talking with my husband and his grandmother, who has since passed and came from the Warsaw area, it did inspire me to learn more. But I think what really pushed me was visiting Auschwitz and seeing the long hallways of pictures of Polish prisoners — it was aweing for me and really spurred me to learn more.

Interview with Kelley Szany conducted by Leonard Kniffel, November 6, 2020.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture

ESTABLISHED 1911

IGNATIUS HAJDUK • Founder 1911-1920
JOHN DENDE • Publisher 1920-1944
HENRY J. DENDE • Publisher 1944-1983

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

Published ten times each year in four editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, National, and Digital) by:

PANAGRAPHICS, INC.

P.O. BOX 271

N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271

(800) 422-1275

(716) 312-8088

info@polamjournal.com

www.polamjournal.com

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, N.Y. AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

P.O. BOX 198

BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026-0198

Editor in Chief Mark A. Kohan
editor@polamjournal.com

Associate Editors Benjamin Fiore, S.J., Mary E. Lanham, Jennifer Pijanowski, Staś Krniec, Thomas Tarapacki

Contributing Editors John J. Bukowczyk, John Grondelski, Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab, James Pula, John Radzilowski

BUREAUS. Chicago Geraldine Balut Coleman, Minneapolis Mark Dillon; Toledo Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk; Warsaw Robert Strybel; Washington Richard Poremski

Columnists Mary Ann Marko, Ed Poniewaz, Matthew Stefanski, Stephen Szabados, Greg Witul, John Ziobrowski

Newsclippers John Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Dvornicky, Henry J. Kensicki, Walter Platek, John Yesh

Proofreader Larry Trojak

Circulation Manager John Tanner

TO ADVERTISE IN THE PAJ CALL

1 (800) 422-1275

Regular rate:

\$12.50 per column inch

Non-profit rate:

\$10.00 per column inch

The Polish American Journal does not assume responsibility for advertisements beyond the cost of the advertisement itself. We are responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of an advertisement. Advertisers are advised to check their advertisement immediately upon publication and report at once any errors. Claims for error adjustment must be made immediately after an advertisement is published.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Regular Mail	First Class
UNITED STATES		
1-year	\$25.00	\$40.00
2-year	\$45.00	\$77.00

	Regular Mail	First Class
FOREIGN		
1-year	\$35.00	\$50.00
2-year	\$55.00	\$94.00

	Regular Mail	First Class
LIBRARY / NON-PROFIT		
1-year	\$21.00	\$35.00
2-year	\$37.00	\$67.00

	Regular Mail	First Class
DIGITAL (Adobe PDF® FILE)		
1-year	\$22.00	n/a
2-year	\$41.00	n/a

DISCOUNTS. For non-profit and organization subscription discounts, call 1 (800) 422-1275.

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR CLERGY, ELECTED OFFICIALS. To keep elected officials abreast of issues affecting the Polish American community, the Polish American Journal will provide free PDF editions of the newspaper to state- and nationally-elected officials and government agencies representing Polish American communities. To have your representative placed on this list, please send his or her name, address, and email address to info@polamjournal.com. Diocesan offices of Roman Catholic, Polish National Catholic, and other faiths within Polish American communities may also request a free PDF subscription.

REFUNDS and CANCELLATIONS. Request for subscription cancellations must be made by calling (800) 422-1275. Refunds will be prorated based on one-half of the remaining subscription balance plus a \$5.00 cancellation fee. There is no charge for transferring remaining subscription balances to new or existing accounts.

FAIR USE NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER. This notice is to inform readers of both the print and digital editions of the Polish American Journal that it contains copyrighted material, the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. The Polish American Journal states it is using this material for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, education, and research in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107.

RELIGION

Defending St. John Paul II

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

At the fall 2020 meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the bishops discussed the recently released report on former Cardinal McCarrick and his unseemly record of sexual abuse. While many of the bishops preferred to lay the blame for the disgraced Cardinal's rise on St. John Paul II, who awarded him the cardinalate, Springfield, Illinois' Bishop Thomas Paprocki corrected the late pope's record in the affair.

In the first place, he noted that the accused cardinal lied shamelessly in his letter to the pope in which he denied all the allegations and highlighted his service to the dioceses he administered and the universal Church. The advice from the pope's own advisers supported the cardinal's worthiness for the honor. What's more, given the tactic of the communist government in Poland by which they defamed good priests with charges of sexual impropriety, the pope might well have been inclined to see this tactic being used by the cardinal's opponents in this case. Despite the fact that in the 450+ page report there are plenty of Church figures implicated in the ex-cardinal's rise to power, it appears that the bishops targeted the late pope for blame as a scapegoat who couldn't defend himself from the grave.

Funeral for the Unborn

A Catholic bishop presided Saturday at a funeral Mass for 640 unborn children in Poland.

Bishop Kazimierz Gurda of Siedlce celebrated the Mass Dec. 12 in the Church of Holy Trinity in Gończyce, 50 miles southeast of the capital, Warsaw, said the Catholic News Agency.

In his homily, he said: "These children have the right to a worthy burial as they are persons from the moment of conception. The right to life is a right that cannot be taken away from anyone, including and above all from a defenseless child in the womb.

"Whoever has received the gift of life from God has the right to

life and has the right to love. Even if their life story ended in a few months, even before they were born, it doesn't mean they ceased to exist. A person's life changes, but it doesn't end. Their life goes on. God has prolonged it for all eternity."

After Mass, the unborn children's coffins were solemnly buried in a nearby cemetery. The coffins contained the bodies of children who had died following stillbirths, miscarriages and abortions. They were collected from different hospitals, mainly from Warsaw.

The ceremony was the initiative of Maria Bienkiewicz, of the New Nazareth Foundation, who has been organizing funerals for unborn children since 2005.

That year, the Holy Family Hospital in Warsaw began to put into practice new principles for the care of the bodies of children dying before birth, under the guidance of its then director, Professor Bogdan Chazan.

The principles were adopted by other hospitals, but some institutions reportedly still store the bodies indefinitely.

The hidden life of the reputed stigmatist tortured by Stalin's secret police

(CNA) — Sr. Wanda Boniszewska led an extraordinary life. The Polish nun was a reputed stigmatist tortured by Stalin's secret police. Her spiritual journal, published after her death in 2003, recorded her astounding mystical experiences. Her beatification cause opened in December.

But to one religious sister who lived with her in the last years of her life, Boniszewska didn't seem outwardly remarkable.

Sr. Halina Skubisz belongs to the same congregation as Boniszewska: the Congregation of the Sisters of the Angels, a habitless religious community founded in 1889. She lived twice under the same roof as the mystic, first in 1988 and then for a few years from 1997.

"Sr. Wanda was a person who did not stand out from among our older sisters," Skubisz told CNA.

She described the frail and el-



Sr. Wanda Boniszewska

derly Boniszewska as "rather withdrawn." As she was bed-ridden and suffering from progressive dementia by the late 1990s, the younger sisters had limited access to her.

"What I remember is that I felt the atmosphere of peace in her room, as if the world around me was slowing down," Skubisz recalled. "In her suffering, she was essentially calm, reconciled with the Lord's will. Sometimes the younger sisters told me that they would come to Sr. Wanda when they needed to calm down..."

The younger sisters had no inkling of the exceptional nature of Boniszewska's spiritual life. Her spirituality centered on offering her sufferings for the expiation of sins, especially those of priests.

At the age of 16, she had sought to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of the Angels in Vilnius, nowadays the capital of Lithuania. After her first profession, she said that she received a mission from Jesus to offer her sufferings for the expiation of the sins of "souls consecrated to Me." She made her full profession in 1933.

"The superiors knew her special graces and spiritual experiences and some of the older sisters also heard something about it, but we in the younger generation had no idea. Only after Wanda's death did the secret come to light," Skubisz said.

She explained that when Christ had entrusted Boniszewska with her mission, which required her to share in the experience of his Passion, she asked to remain hidden and unknown until she died.

Boniszewska had asked her superiors to keep her secret and it was only after her death that Fr.

Jan Pryszynt, who was close to her, began to publish works about her life and mission. Her "Spiritual Journal," issued in 2016, recorded her mystical experiences between 1921 and 1980.

A turning point in Boniszewska's life came on April 11, 1950, the day she was arrested by the NKVD, a forerunner of the KGB.

The Soviet secret police seized the nun in connection with the arrest of a Jesuit priest, Fr. Antoni Ząbek. The priest served the sisters while hiding in a separate location in an underground shelter. When he was arrested, the police found documents in the shelter relating to Sr. Wanda and the Congregation of the Sisters of the Angels. The NKVD arrested 20 of the sisters, including Boniszewska.

During interrogations, her captors beat her head against the wall, kicked her legs out from under her and forced her to stand all night answering questions.

The ill treatment took its toll: she was transferred to a hospital, but the questioning continued. When she felt better, she would be taken on a stretcher for further interrogation.

Finally, she was judged in absentia and sentenced to 10 years in a correctional camp as a Vatican spy and enemy of the system.

When she went into ecstasies, Sr. Wanda would say the names of people she prayed for. They included Stalin, the NKVD official Viktor Abakumov and the notorious secret police chief Lavrentiy Beria. Skubisz said Boniszewska inspired conversions among those who came into contact with her, including medical personnel and even her interrogators.

Boniszewska traced her stigmata back to the day of her First Communion, Sept. 29, 1919, when she began to feel pain in her hands and legs. In 1927, she felt pain around her head, while the discomfort in her limbs diminished. Her suffering would peak during Masses.

Skubisz believes that Sr. Wanda's spirituality, with its focus on prayer for struggling priests, is highly relevant to the Church today. The opening of her beatification cause coincided with a series of high-profile clerical abuse cases in the Polish Church.

"I believe that the current experience we are going through as a Church is a cry for witnesses. Sister Wanda can be such a witness."

Need free help researching your Polish ancestors?

Want to help others researching their Polish heritage? Join ...

POLISH GENIUS

<https://groups.io/g/PolishGenius>

or direct sign-up: PolishGenius+subscribe@groups.io to send emails to the list: PolishGenius@groups.io

Attention Business Owners: Are You a PAJ Subscriber?

Advertise your business at a super-discount. Designed for companies / owners who support the Polish American Journal.

Business-sized card ads at only **\$10.00 per month** 3-month minimum

For more information, call (800) 422-1275 Or send card with pre-payment to: POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL P.O. BOX 271 N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271



Lockdown

continued from cover

Niedzielski said.

While no new restrictions were imposed for Christmas, there was curfew on New Year's Eve from 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 31 to 6:00 a.m. on Jan. 1 to limit the virus's spread and that there would be a 10-day quarantine for those returning to the country by public transportation.

The government will seek to support businesses affected by the new restrictions with \$11 billion in fresh financing, Poland's Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin added in a separate news conference.

Poland aims to vaccinate its entire adult population of around 30 million, setting up 8,000 vaccination points across the country in one of the largest logistical challenges its health service has ever faced.

MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF ST. SR. FAUSTINA. St. Sr. Faustina, you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will." Relying on this, I ask your intercession for the graces I need, especially (silently mention your petitions). Help me St. Faustina, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify his mercy every moment of my life. Amen. St. Sr. Faustina, pray for us! **W.C.**

MINNESOTA VOICE

How Global Mink concerns link Poland and America

by Mark Dillon

As mink farmers in Poland and around the world grapple with outbreaks of COVID-19, a Wisconsin farm has become America's first test site for a new animal vaccine that farmers hope will save mink from the virus.

Following disease outbreaks at farms in Wisconsin, Utah, Michigan and Oregon, drug makers have stepped up work on mink versions of COVID-19 vaccines, and began field testing one version in early December in Wisconsin, says Michael Whelan, executive director of Fur Commission USA, the industry's trade group in Medford, Oregon.

If successful, vaccine trials would be expanded nationwide at many of the more than 150 mink farms in the United States. Most are family-run businesses, some with multi-generational roots to Central Europe, producing a combined 2.7 million pelts this past year.

"We are hoping to see vaccination on a large scale by the spring," Whelan says. The trade group did not identify the test site. However, Wisconsin has America's largest concentration of mink farms, with 19 businesses, most between Milwaukee and Green Bay.

Farm minks in both the United States and Poland are catching the COVID-19 virus from farm workers. The disease is more fatal to mink than to humans or domestic pets.

That has led to strict protection protocols that includes not just masks and gloves but temperature checks for both mink and workers, says Whelan. New animal handling procedures and greater state inspections are occurring amid the deaths of more than 8,000 mink in Utah and about 5,000 in Wisconsin since October.

"Biosecurity is an essential part of the business" Whelan adds.

Poland: the world's biggest mink farmer after Denmark cull

Meanwhile, fear in Europe that the disease will mutate in minks to a strain that will reduce the effectiveness of human COVID-19 vaccines has led to a political crisis in Poland, a mass culling in Denmark and lobbying by advocacy groups hoping to persuade lawmakers in Warsaw and elsewhere to end mink farming.

In Poland in late November, COVID virus testing through the Medical University of Gdansk found eight minks had been infected at one farm, Reuters reported. This followed a public debate that saw hundreds of Polish farmers rally against legislation to ban mink farming, as the ruling PiS party leaders were divided over the issue.

Animal advocacy groups lobbied to get mink farming banned in the Czech Republic in 2019 and a year earlier convinced Norway to phase out mink farming by 2024. Germany and France are phasing out the industry as well. Europe has about 4,350 mink farms, about 750 of which are in Poland, according to a BBC report in November.

Denmark's decision this autumn to end the lives of more than 15 million farm mink with lethal gas rather than risk potential human exposure to a mutant version of COVID-19 last month has left Poland as the biggest mink fur pro-

ducer. Mink in Italy, Spain, Ireland, France and Sweden have also been put down at farms following COVID outbreaks.

Polish mink have ancestors in New York

Poland's mink are linked to America by blood as Europe's commercial mink population is descended from the *Neovison vison* species of mink first raised at a U.S. Civil War-era farm in Cassadaga Lakes area, southwest of Buffalo, N.Y., according to the Fur Commission and academic researchers.

By the mid-19th century, extensive hunting decimated wild mink populations in the Eastern United States and Europe. Fur trapping had been a major industry in North America since French explorers pioneered the business in the late 16th century in Quebec, and it helped finance growth and early development of many states, including Minnesota.

"Fur traders were concerned about extinction," Whelan says. "Farming saved the species." In the 1850s, a larger species of mink known as Sea Mink, *Neovison macrondon*, that was native to coastal New England and Canada was hunted to extinction.

From upstate New York, farm breeding of American mink spread to Western Europe from the 1870s through the start of the 20th century. Poland's first mink farm was started in 1928, and industrial scale cage-farming was developed as Russian mink farmers brought the business to Poland following the death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in March 1953.

The 1950s saw a global fur boom that went bust in the 1970s amid overproduction in Europe and recession, according to a report by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. By 1970, Poland was producing 1 million mink and blue fox furs. Growth of the industry re-accelerated after 1989, and last year Poland produced 10 million mink pelts, making mink is one the country's top luxury exports. About 50,000 Poles work in the industry.

Feral American mink are also found throughout Poland, the descendants of escapees from Communist era cages as well as descendants of surviving migrant escapees from Belarusian and Lithuanian mink farms. Native European mink are now rare.

"The first observations of mink in the wild in Poland took place in the middle of the last century. Within 60 years, the American mink colonized almost the entire country and the process of invasion and colonization is still ongoing," a European Union wildlife research report says.

Globally, 80 percent of pelts for clothing pelts come from mink raised on farms, with a global annual production at about 50 million pelts. Prior to the culling, Denmark had accounted for 28% of global production.

Minnesota has a dozen mink farms with several hundred thousand animals. Trapping is permitted, and around 20,000 mink are taken by hunters annually from public lands. As of early December, the Minnesota Department of Animal Health in St. Paul was reporting that there were no confirmed



PHOTO: MINNESOTA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MINK, AND DOUBLETHINK. The species American Mink, or *Neovison vison*, was first raised in cages in Poland in 1953 when the Russians introduced commercial mink farming for luxury furs for families of party bosses and export during Poland's Communist period.

case of mink COVID on farms or in the wild.

An industry on the brink

If Poland's mink farms succumb to disease or politics, China and Russia would be biggest beneficiaries since the two countries are the next largest fur producers, with Chinese consumers also being the world's biggest buyer of mink furs. (See chart).

In Russia, Ivan Nesterov, head of the state-owned fur company Russian Sable, said in late November that his country would vacci-

ative effect on farmers because of how global supply chains work. For example, pelts from mink raised in the United States or Poland might be sown in China and then re-exported.

"Tariffs cut both ways" Whelan noted. More than half of U.S.-raised mink is exported to China. The incoming Biden administration has decided not to make any immediate changes in tariff policies in January.

A clash of cultures

The debate over mink and COVID may illustrate cultural divides in North America and Central Europe. For farmers and those involved in various aspects of the industry for generations, mink farming is an environmentally sustainable business no different than raising cows for leather or geese for down winter coats.

For example, Alan Herscovisi of Quebec, an industry spokesman in Canada, can trace his family heritage to 19th century furriers in Romania and Poland. His grandfather came to Canada in 1913, having learned how to craft fur coats from his own father in Paris.

In Minneapolis, one of the city's oldest operating family businesses in the North Loop neighborhood is a furrier, Ribnick Luxury Outerwear, founded as a mink pelt wholesaler by Latvian immigrant Isaac Ribnick more than a century ago.

However, Minnesota is also home to anti-mink farming activists whose ignorance of the differences between farm-raised animals and

is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus when composted for 120 days, says a Nova Scotia Agricultural College report.

Compared with farming conditions in Asia, mink are generally given more space on American and some European farms. Polish mink farms are typically not as densely populated as were those in Denmark.

Europe's pain, China's gain

The Polish mink political crisis surfaced after Polish television aired a documentary earlier this year depicting cramped living conditions and inhumane treatment of animals at some farms. A December 3 Reuters reporters suggests Chinese farmers see the bad publicity and the waning fortunes of Western mink farming as an opportunity to increase market share.

That alarms global animal rights groups, who believe Beijing officials may put potential profit and production for their domestic industry, one that is alleged to have even lower standards of animal care, ahead of public health.

"When it comes to public health risks, these (Chinese) farms and markets are much like the live animal market in Wuhan where the novel coronavirus is widely believed to have originated," Jason Baker, Senior Vice President at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) told Reuters in December.

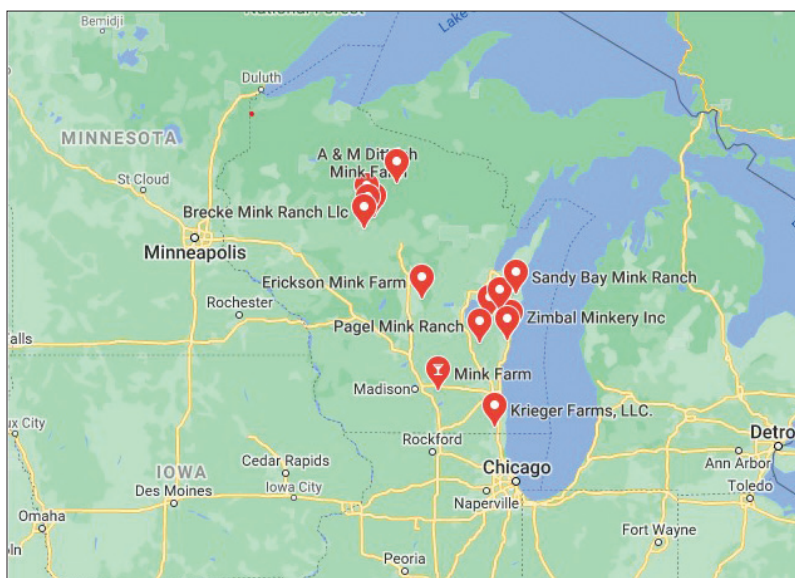
A report by researcher Jens Malmkvist at Aarhus University in Denmark found that mink are happiest, healthiest and have the best fur when paired as male-female couples in larger two-story cages with room to climb rather than kept separated in high-density, single animal cages.

Mink born in the wild tend to be solitary animals, preferring to keep a wide social distance from people, something that researchers say may now help them survive COVID.

Further reading

For more about the historical importance of fur trading in Minnesota and globally, see *Where the Waters Meet: A Story of Where Minnesota Was Born*, published in 2019 by the French American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota ISBN: 9781721257762

For more about consumer demand for fur in China and fur trade relationships with Europe and the U.S., see a report called *China's Fur Trade and its position in the global fur industry* www.actasia.org/wp-content .



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS

CHEESE AND MINK. A map of mink farms in Wisconsin. The state is the epicenter of America's mink farming because a big part of mink diet are dairy products that don't pass muster for humans such as expired cheese and eggs.

nate its mink population. However, Moscow has not provided details on the extent to which its mink are infected. Russia once dominated the global fur trade, and during the Czarist period levied a tax payable in fur on Siberian peasants.

Well before COVID, times were tough on mink farmers in the United States and Poland because of both global overproduction and the U.S.-China trade war. Wholesale auction prices for a pelt have dropped from a peak of \$94.30 each in 2012 to \$21.90 last year as consumer demand has plummeted as China's economy has weakened. The strength of the U.S. dollar relative to the Polish zloty since 2012 has exacerbated the effects of the price drop.

Meanwhile, U.S. tariffs of 25% imposed on imported Chinese fur garments and retaliatory tariffs on exports since 2018 have had a nega-

those in the wild has had fatal consequences. Three years ago, more than 30,000 mink died after activists vandalized fencing and opened cages at an Eden Valley, Stearns County farm. The mink escaped and then nearly all perished in the mid-July heat from exposure, thirst and a contaminated water source.

Why mink in Wisconsin? It's the cows.

Wisconsin has become the epicenter of mink farming in America because a big part of mink diet are dairy products that don't pass muster for humans such as expired cheese and eggs. Beef and fish by-products are also on the mink menu.

"Mink farming helps reduce the waste stream," Whelan said. "They consume material that would otherwise wind up in landfills."


Mink manure is also considered a very desirable fertilizer because it

POLISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

- Official documents, letters, e-mails, etc.
- Reasonable rates.
- Fast, reliable service by e-mail or regular mail.
- Translation to from other languages available as well.
- Over 40 years experience working with genealogists, attorneys, businesses, film makers, government, medical professionals, etc.

ANDY GOLEBIOWSKI
109 Rosemead Lane
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 892-5975
andywbuffalo@yahoo.com


THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY



THE GENEALOGY ASSISTANT

Tim Firkowski - Professional Genealogist

TheGenealogyAssistant.com
(603) 748-0577



NASZA POLONIA

GENEALOGY

How much Poland in America?

by Robert Strybel

PolAms attached to their heritage who expect getting transferred may wonder what Polish amenities they'll be able to find in the city they're moving to. That question is also often raised by senior citizens planning to retire in warmer climates.

HERE ARE THE TOP TEN

American cities with the largest Polish-American and Polish population in descending order: New York City, N.Y. - 213,447 (2.7%); Chicago, Ill. - 210,421 (7.3%); Philadelphia, Pa. - 65,508 (4.3%); Milwaukee, Wisc. - 57,485 (9.6%); Los Angeles, Calif. - 56,670 (1.5%); Cheektowaga, N.Y. (Buffalo suburb) - 37,560 (39.9%); Buffalo, N.Y. - 34,254 (11.7%); Phoenix, Ariz. - 32,050 (2.4%); Toledo, Ohio - 31,792 (10.1%); Warren, Mich. - 28,370 (21%) and Pittsburgh, Pa. - 28,178 (8.4%).

ALTHOUGH LOS ANGELES has more PolAms than the Buffalo suburb of Cheektowaga, in LA they account for only 1.5% of that city's population of nearly four million and are far overshadowed by people of Hispanic, Black and Asian background. Someone would therefore be far more likely to have a PolAm as a next-door neighbor, find a Polish parish, club and stores stocking Polish delicacies and date a person of Polish ancestry in Cheektowaga, where more than 39% of its 88,000 people are Polish.

In terms of ethnic percentiles, the list of America's most Polish localities is far different from that shown above.

The single most Polish-dom-

inated community in the United States is tiny Pulawski Township (population 372) in northern Michigan, 65.7% of whom or 241 are of Polish extraction. In the same area (Presque Isle County) one also finds Posen Township which is 65.4% Polish.

In descending order are: Sharon - 53.7% and Bevent, Wisc. - 52.7%.

Next in line are: Sloan, N.Y. - 46.8%; Dupont, Pa - 46.6%; Wallington, N.J. - 45.5%, as well as Alban (44.7%), Independence (43.7%) and Linwood, (43.1%) - the latter three all in Wisconsin.

POLISH NAMES have also made their imprint on America. One can encounter Poland, Maine, known for its famous Poland Spring bottled water, as well

as Poland Township, Ohio. There are a number of places called Kosciusko (including Oprah Winfrey's birthplace in Mississippi) and Pulaski, as well as some 15 localities called Warsaw, including Warsaw, Ind., known for its annual Pierogi Festival. There is Cestohowa, Polonia and Panna Maria, Texas - the area of America's first permanent Polish community, as well as localities named Posen in Illinois and Michigan. Probably the most Polish-themed toponyms are found in Wisconsin with such names as Kraków, Lublin, Toruń, Pulaski, Sobieski and Polonia.

A growing number of PolAm snowbirds can be found in such warm-weather states as Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona and California. While many cities and neighborhoods up north are undergoing gradual de-Polonization, the PolAm population of popular Sunbelt localities is growing.



The sign on Sobieski, Minnesota's town line welcomes visitors with a Polish greeting.

Move Your Research Forward in the New Year

by Stephen M Szabados

As we start the new year, I find this is a great time to review the necessary steps in researching our Polish ancestors. I use a four-step method that seems to simplify my Polish research.

THE FIRST STEP requires collecting town names from various documents that may indicate where our ancestors left. The names we find may refer to the general area, a nearby large city, the village of birth, or the church's location. The best document to use, if available, is a copy of a birth or baptismal record from Poland. Family stories are also a great source but be careful because the town's spelling may be phonetic or refer to a general area. I have also used marriage license applications, church marriage records, naturalization petitions, passenger lists, and social security applications to generate my list of place names. Death certificates and obituaries may also have clues but are usually less accurate because a third party who may not know the correct birthplace gave the information. However, collect as many place names as possible, even if some seem dubious. We need to use more than one place name because multiple locations in Poland may have the same town name, and a second or third name from your list will be needed to confirm which location is correct.

MY SECOND STEP uses the list of place names found and considers the history of Polish border changes to find my ancestor's correct loca-

tion. I then use gazetteers and maps to narrow my choices. Envision a map of the area around the birthplace of your ancestor. Each place name is a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that represents a portion of a map. Once you fit all of the clues together, you will be able to recognize the area's location and where to look for your ancestors.

Always to start your search using known information and work backward to the unknown.

STEP THREE in my process involves finding a source for the birth and marriage records for the identified location. Use various sources and search the records for a specific location for the birth or marriage records for an ancestor. If you find them, you have confirmation you are looking in the right location. My first efforts usually use online databases at Familysearch.org and Genealogy.pl (*metryki* and *geneteka*). I have also used the databases on Jewishgen.org. If I do not find the records in online databases, I check the catalog on Familysearch.org for films covering the records from the location. I have also hired local Polish researchers when I cannot find the records online or in LDS films. PGSA.org has a list of Polish researchers.

STEP FOUR involves translating the records I find. Translating the

documents is important because the records include information that will help find more records, add family history facts, and confirms the record refers to my ancestor. The difficulty in translating the documents depends on the format, understanding the Polish alphabet, and recognizing the hand-written letters in old German script. Work to develop tools and skills to overcome these challenges.

I have found success using this process many times in my research. It is getting easier each day because of Poland's many genealogists who are making more records available online. If you focus on the details you find, be patient and thorough, you should also find success.

Additionally, do not use global searches for your ancestors. Begin your research using specific databases such as a specific year for census records or the death records for a specific state or county. The search pages for these databases will allow you to enter more criteria that you know are correct, and the search results should produce fewer outcomes that are not your family. You will have a smaller number of results to analyze, and this should allow you to focus and find documents for your family faster.

Another tip is always to start your search using known information and work backward to the unknown. Do not try to immediately jump across the Atlantic and try to find Polish records. Start with people you know using documents generated in the United States and work backward to your Polish ancestors. The results should give you the clues to identify where they left and where to look for their Polish records.

My last tip is to use books, genealogy programs, genealogy conferences, genealogy societies, online educational offerings, and social media to sharpen your genealogy skills. Again, once you start your journey, it will probably be a life-long passion.

TRAVEL TO POLAND

with JOHN GÓRA

905-902-1345

email: john@johngora.com

www.johngora.com



Plan Now Your 2021 Vacation In

POLAND

Choose from over 55 tour departures from May to October!

Escorted Tours • Pilgrimages
Family Reunions • Unique Cultural Tours
Airline tickets • Hotel & car reservations
Tours to the Baltics and Central Europe

1-800-388-0988

www.pattours.com

e-mail: info@pattours.com



Specializing on travel to Poland for over 48 years

CONSIDER A GIFT OF POLISH HERITAGE!

A family surname is a unique personal possession which didn't just appear out of nowhere. It can tell your kids and grandkids who their distant ancestor's father was, what he did for a living, where he lived or what he looked like. A custom-researched analysis of your Polish surname will be like passing your family heritage down to your younger generation. They will learn what their last name means, how many other people share it and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it.

If one is found, its image and the story behind it will be included. In many cases such knowledge can spark a new-found interest in their family history and Polish heritage.

To order, kindly mail a \$19 personal or certified bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding a cut-rate \$15 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and onomastician (name researcher): Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

IMPORTANT: FOR THE DURATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS LOCK-DOWN, INTERNATIONAL AIR MAIL SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE. PLEASE SEND YOUR ORDERS ONLY BY SURFACE MAIL (If you include your email address, you will receive the results electronically without delay!)

Included is a helpful genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information, please contact: strybel@interia.pl.

We invite you to join the American Council for Polish Culture and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.

Support Polish Culture

Please enroll me as an individual member in the American Council for Polish Culture! Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Polish Heritage*.

___ \$10 One Year Membership
___ \$18 Two Year Membership

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Please make checks payable to:
ACPC, c/o Frances T. Pudlo
Membership Chair, 33 Worthington
Rd., Glastonbury CT 06033-1372

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Copernicus Center Sues City of Chicago

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The City of Chicago has apparently sold a 114-year-old former firehouse located at 4841 N. Lipps Avenue on the Northwest Side, to the developer, Ambrosia Homes, for \$1, after it rejected two proposals from the Carpenters Union Local 58 and the Copernicus Foundation. However, through a series of meetings and, perhaps misunderstandings, the Copernicus Foundation filed a lawsuit against the City of Chicago alleging that the process used by the city and its Department of Planning and Development (DPD) was biased and unfair. Copernicus is seeking an injunction to stop the city from going forward with plans to sell the firehouse to Ambrosia.

The Copernicus Foundation offered to purchase this site for \$300,000, well over the property's \$208,000 appraised value. It is also willing to cover environmental rehab costs. The Copernicus Foundation wants to acquire this property, in part, to retain the architectural heritage of the Polish community in Jefferson Park. The Department of Planning and Development argued that "the \$1 planned sale to Ambrosia makes sense given the cost of the lead-based paint removal that the building needs."

What is controversial about this entire scenario is that, back in July, as reported in the media, the DPD wanted the historical integrity of the building not to be altered in order to accommodate the request of the community. According to Preservation Chicago, this building is noted for its "elegant beaux arts detailing." However, Ambrosia's plan is to have a local brewery, Lake Effect, run a brew pub/restaurant on the first floor, build nine rental loft apartments on the second floor, and also add a third floor. This appears to contradict the DPD's requirements of not altering the historic integrity of the building.

The Copernicus Foundation's plan is similar to Ambrosia's with a brewery and restaurant on the first floor, but the second floor would have four apartments and would not add a third floor. Both the Carpenters Union and the Foundation have



Original firehouse.



Present-day firehouse.



Copernicus rendition of new firehouse.

committed to restoring the original facade.

The Carpenters Union Local 58's proposal was rejected. It claims, as does the Foundation, that it was denied access to the firehouse during the bidding process. Its plans were to relocate the Union offices to the second floor of the firehouse and lease out the ground floor. It, too, offered \$1 for the property. A Carpenters Union representative stated that the Union supports the Copernicus Foundation's lawsuit and is considering its options, which may include joining in the lawsuit.

Both the Copernicus Founda-

tion and Ambrosia Homes have established websites detailing their plans for the property and have launched petitions. The City of Chicago's Law Department declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Acquisition of the firehouse would extend the Copernicus Center campus considering its close proximity to the Center and would include the firehouse as part of the festive grounds for the "Taste of Polonia," an event that attracts close to 40,000 attendees each year. Unfortunately, the event was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

"RENEW MY CHURCH" NORTHWEST SIDE TO BE FINALIZED. Much concern and controversy surround the "Renew My Church," consolidation of parishes throughout the

Archdiocese of Chicago. The final decision on which parishes and schools will stay open and which ones will merge is expected around the end of the year. Last year, the Archdiocese merged three Northwest Side parishes, (St. Thecla, St. Tarcissus, and St. Cornelius) due to reduced school enrollment, a shortage of priests, declining mass attendance, and less donations.

Those schools merged into the St. Tarcissus location, and the new parish and school were renamed St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. Prior to the announcement of this merger, there

was much controversy, at least with St. Thecla parishioners and their supporters. Parishioners felt that their voices were not being heard and that the large piece of land on which St. Thecla Church and its school resided were being considered by the Archdiocese for land value, not in the best interests of the parishioners.

In mid-November, the executive committee of the Archdiocese issued a partial decision on the consolidation plans of other remaining parishes that encompassed Jefferson Park, Portage Park, and Old Irving Park on Chicago's Northwest Side. Even though the finalization of merger plans has yet to be determined, it appears as though the schools of St. Constance, Saint Robert Bellarmine, St. Viator, and Pope Francis Academy, located at the St. Pascal campus, will remain open. What seems to be the plan, is that the Pope Francis Academy, St. Robert Bellarmine, and St. Viator schools will continue their current programs and stay at their current locations and be parish-governed. The plan states that St. Constance, which has maintained dedicated financial support, "... is not recommended for structural change. This will remain dependent on ongoing donor financial support. It will shift to a new governance structure rather than being parish-governed to avoid having one pastor administer two schools. The pastor and parish will still provide the school pastoral and Catholic identity support."

Still to be determined will be the merger of those parishes. Families of St. Constance, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Viator, St. Pascal, Our Lady of Victory, St. Bartholomew, and St. Wenceslaus will apparently learn their fates around Christmas.

There remains concerns about Spanish and Polish masses with both the Hispanic-speaking and Polish-speaking communities concerned about the continuation of their ethnic-language masses. There is a recommendation that the Polish mass at St. Pascal parish be discontinued, and that the merger of St. Pascal, St. Bartholomew, and Our Lady of Victory support bilingual ministry (Spanish and Eng-

lish).

The Archdiocese has considered that St. Constance, with its large Polish-language parish community and its highly attended Polish-language masses, should not be closed. St. Viator Parish will retain its Spanish-language masses.

Parishioners of all churches should know by January 2021 the decisions of Cardinal Cupich and the "Renew My Church" Committee.

BAL AMARANTOWY POSTPONED.

For the first time in its 81-year history, the **Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW)** has postponed its annual **White and Red Ball, Bal Amarantowy**, and rescheduled it for February 26, 2022. They did so to ensure the safety of Legion members, prospective debutantes, families, guests, and supporters in this time of COVID 19. Since 1939, the Legion has continued in its mission to help those in need and will continue to do so in the future.

CHICAGO AREA POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS SEEK HELP.

The pandemic has spread everywhere. Restaurants are on the brink of closing, and museums and theaters have been forced to close their doors. Among them are two of Chicago's well-known Polish cultural institutions, struggling with financial difficulties during the closings. **The Chopin Theatre** and **The Polish Museum of America** are seeking financial support. Art Gallery Kafe has suspended its activities until further notice. Both are (501)(c)(3) not-for-profit institutions.

The Chopin Theatre, celebrating its 30th anniversary, can be supported through GoFundMe at <https://charity.gofundme.com/en/campaign/chopin-theatre-humble-request-for-30th-anniversary>, or donations/checks can be sent to the **Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division Street, Chicago, 60642.**

You can support The Polish Museum of America by sending checks to **PMA 2020 Christmas Appeal, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101, or donate via PayPal.**

Pool Dig Uncovers Ancient Village

WARSAW — The remains of the prehistoric settlement, which belonged to the Lusatian culture, were found deep below the ground in what is today's Białołęka district of the city.

The Ab Terra foundation, which was tasked with the digging and research, said they expected to discover a small seasonal camp, but instead found "the remains of a large settlement of Lusatian culture from 3,000 years ago."

Archaeologists knew for a while that there were remnants of some Bronze Age structures nearby, but they never expected to find an entire settlement.

Local authorities commissioned the excavations to green-light a planned swimming pool construction, after fragments of ceramics kept popping up in the ground. The excavation resulted in an astonishing haul of 1,500 artifacts, including a rare jar looking like a colander, which could have been used to make cheese. Most of the findings are ceramics. The rest, made from wood or leather, have decayed.

In addition to everyday-use objects, archaeologists also uncovered many hearths and hundreds of storage pits and caverns. Artifacts from the Trzciniec culture (1600 – 1200 BC), as well as World War II remnants, were also found.

Archaeologists said the settlement can shed light on the early history of this region.

City Mourns Passing of Phyllis Jaskot, Queen of Division Street

Phyllis Jaskot, 93, nee Kelczewski, born December 20, 1926, passed away on November 20, 2020.

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., she was the only child of Polish immigrants. In 1944, at the age of 18, Jaskot travelled to Chicago with a suitcase, an accordion, and a dream. Playing at various bars and performing odd jobs, she managed to save \$9,000 and bought the building at 1800 W. Division Street on February 4, 1954. Thus, **Phyllis' Musical Inn**, a polka bar, was born. It was almost unheard of for a single woman to purchase a building, let alone a bar.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the strip of Division Street, referred to as "Polish Broadway" between Ashland and Western Avenues, was filled with some 50 or more taverns. Polka music could be heard everywhere. It was at Phyllis' Musical Inn that Clement Jaskot, Sr. danced into the bar one night. Phyllis and Clement were married in 1956. Clement passed away in 1997.



Though Jaskot would occasionally bring out her accordion and play for the bar crowd, the Inn evolved into a county-rock venue in the 1980s and, today, it remains a friendly and interesting "watering hole" on the now gentrified Division Street.

On February 4, 2021, Jaskot's Musical Inn will celebrate its 67th anniversary. Jaskot's vision made her beloved bar a successful business and a cornerstone of Chicago's Wicker Park history.

Jaskot was a multitasker, a pioneering entrepreneur, and an astute and independent businesswoman. But she was also a musician, performer, dedicated wife, and loving mother. She had a sly sense of humor, loved being around people, and wanted all to have a good time.

Jaskot leaves behind four children, Charlotte, Clement, Jr., Maria, and Susan, along with six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. (G.B.C.)

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL BOOKSTORE

TO ORDER BY MAIL Use form below

TO ORDER BY PHONE (800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088 MON.-FRI., 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

TO ORDER ON LINE: polamjournal.com MANY MORE BOOKS AND GIFTS ON LINE

For detailed descriptions of books and gift items, visit www.polamjournal.com



FOLKLORE

1-643 Polish Herbs, Flowers, and Folk Medicine (pb) \$24.95 Polish Herbs, Flowers, and Folk Medicine captures the history and role of plant life once essential to the people of Poland. It takes the reader on a historical tour of herbs and flowers used throughout the centuries, explores the growth of medicine and pharmacies, wanders through monastery, castle, and cottage gardens. It provides information on the use of over one-hundred-seventy plants used in healing, as well as in the customs, traditions throughout the year, and within the life cycle. There are legends, cautionary tales, love potions, and a chapter devoted to wedding plants and herbs. There are home remedies for everything that ailed Poles. Gleaned from old Polish herbals, there are balms for the numerous ailments of the human condition. It also includes homemade herbal vinegars, soups, syrups, and liqueurs made from herbs including elderberry syrup, homemade Benedictine, and a healing vodka drink.

GENEALOGY

Family research books by Stephen Szabados 2-218 My Polish Grandmother \$14.95 From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden In America 2-668 Polish Genealogy \$19.95 Four Easy Steps to Success 2-670 Memories of Dziadka \$14.95 Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America 2-271 Polish Immigration to America \$17.99 When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? 2-653 Finding Grandma's European Ancestors \$19.95 This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage.

HISTORY

2-682 The Polish Presence in American Screen Images \$29.95 by Joseph Zurawski / Pol-Ams and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens since 1894. 2-702 Busia: Seasons on the Farm with My Polish Grandmother \$15.00 by Leonard Kniffel / One year in the life

of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s. 2-703 Busia: School Days on the Farm with My Polish Grandmother \$15.00 by Leonard Kniffel / More from Kniffel's childhood growing up with his Polish grandmother in rural Michigan. "Brilliant memoir..." Hamtramck Museum Director Greg Kowalski. 2-704 Both Busia Books by Kniffel \$20.00 PAJ Bookstore special. (Seasons on the Farm and School Days). SAVE \$10.00! 1-659 Poland: A History \$19.95 by Adam Zamoyski / Revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, The Polish Way. 1-660 Choral Patriotism \$14.95 by Stanislaus Blejwas / History of the Polish Singers Alliance of America.

HOLIDAYS

2-648 A Polish Christmas Eve \$26.95 by Rev. Dr. Czeslaw Krysa, S.T.L. / A quick and easy reference to folklore, stories, recipes, carols and decorations, with photos, illustrations, glossary, pronunciation guide, and more.

LITERATURE

2-620 Polish Princess \$18.95 by Gail Engebretson / Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski. 2-152 Stars and Crosses \$18.95 by Curtis Urness / A compassionate tale of courage and survival; the paths of two strangers intertwine in Poland 2-400 The Chopin Trilogy hc \$49.95 2-401 The Chopin Trilogy sc \$39.95 by David Trawinski / Interconnected novels tell the story of retired CIA officer Wisniewski, called to solve a drowning of an aerospace executive in Amsterdam. 2-755 The War Within \$19.95 by Patricia Walkow / Story of Josef, a Catholic Pole, was forced into slave labor. 1-161 Polish Fairy Tales \$7.95 by A.J. Glinski / Trans. by Maude Ashurst Biggs. Classic tales provides a marvelous glimpse into the world of Polish legend and folklore from the mid-nineteenth. 2-636 Fairy Tales of Eastern Europe \$12.95 Retold by Joanne Asala / Slavic tales that echo other stories told around the world. 2-679 Polish Folklore and Myth \$12.95 by Joanne Asala / Engaging folk stories includes with wycinanki illustrations.

2-612 Boy Who Wanted Wings sc \$14.95 2-612 Boy Who Wanted Wings hc \$25.95 by James C. Martin / Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, wishes to become a hussar to battle the Turks. 2-609 Push Not the River \$15.95 Book 1 of James C. Martin's Poland Trilogy. Book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess. "Poland's Gone with the Wind." 2-610 Against a Crimson Sky \$15.95 Book 2 of Martin's Trilogy. Book 1's characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era. 2-611 The Warsaw Conspiracy \$17.99 Book 3 of Trilogy. Saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831).

RECIPE BOOKS

2-203 Polish Pierogi \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki / Collection of over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California. 2-302 Polish Restaurant \$10.00 by Jonathan Becklar / Replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City. 2-301 Polish Girl Cookbook \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki / Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods.

RELIGION / SPIRITUALITY

1-675 Seasons of the Slavic Soul \$14.95 A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality by Claire M. Anderson. The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on seasons. 1-333 Life and Legacy of Fr. Justin \$9.00 Originator of the "Fr. Justin Rosary Hour," his weekly messages influence generations of Polish immigrants. In English or Polish (please specify).

WORLD WAR II

1-662 The Volunteer \$25.95 by Jack Fairweather / The true story of Polish resistance fighter Witold Pilecki's infiltration of Auschwitz. 2-642 Wearing the Letter "P" \$19.95 by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab / An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. 2-674 The Color of Courage \$19.95 by Julian E. Kulski / Remarkable diary of a boy from ages 10 to 16, who waged his own private war against the Germans.

2-667 Echoes of Tattered Tongues \$21.95 by John Guzowski / Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war.

PLASTIC MOLDS

1-600 Small Butter Lamb \$4.95 1-601 Large Butter Lamb \$7.95 Coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. Small 3-1/2" width by 3" tall (uses less than 1/4 lb. of butter or chocolate). Large 5" width by 4" tall (uses less than 1/2 lb. of butter or chocolate).



BIRTHDAY CARDS

Envelopes included ALL BIRTHDAY CARDS \$7.50 10-pack \$6.00 50 or more \$0.50 each



CARD 402. 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" Full color design with poppy, "Sto lat" lyrics in Polish and English, and role of poppy in Polish culture. Inside blank for personalization. Glossy stock.



Card 403 Sto lat! May you live 100 years!



Card 404 Wszystkiego najlepszego z okazji urodzin! - All the Best to You on Your Birthday!

SHIPPING (If ordering cards only) 1-10 cards \$4.00 11-20 cards \$4.50 21 or more \$5.95

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORDER? Call 1 (800) 422-1275 MON.-FRI. 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

ORDER FORM • or order on-line polamjournal.com

Table with columns: ITEM/TITLE, PAGE #, PRICE, QNTY., TOTAL

Shipping chart table with columns: SHIPPING, STANDARD, PRIORITY, FOREIGN

SUBTOTAL (all boxes) NY residents - add sales tax S&H (See charts at left) TOTAL TO SUBMIT TO PAJ

Items may be delivered in two or more shipments. You will not be charged for separate packages.

Order form fields: [] CHECK or M.O. ENCLOSED CHARGE TO MY: [] AMEX [] DISC [] MC [] VISA CARD NO. EXP. DATE DAYTIME PHONE ()

Send to: POL-AM JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 271, N. BOSTON, NY 14110

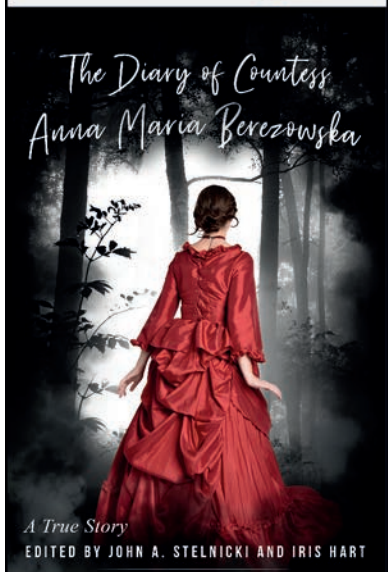
PRINT CLEARLY OR ATTACH ADDRESS LABEL. THIS IS YOUR SHIPPING LABEL.

From: POL-AM JOURNAL P.O. BOX 271, NORTH BOSTON, NY 14110-0271 To: NAME ADDRESS APT. CITY STATE ZIP

OPŁATEK-ONLY ORDERS (i.e., no other items) See SHIPPING CHART on page 10

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Great Winter Reading



The Diary of Countess Anna Maria Berezowska
A True Story
EDITED BY JOHN A. STELNICKI AND IRIS HART

AN EXCITING HISTORICAL DIARY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH IN VIVID AND INTIMATE DETAIL.

Beautiful glossy-cover paperback. Available on Amazon.com for \$11.99

The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma: A Novel

by Mary E. Lanham
THE CAREER OF NICODEMUS DYZMA: A NOVEL
by Tadeusz Dolega-Mostowicz
Translated from the Polish by Ewa Malachowska-Pasek and Megan Thomas
Northwestern University Press 2020, 300 pgs.

Regarded as one of the great political satires of our modern time, *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* chronicles the meteoric rise of the titular character through Polish government. Through nothing more than pure chance and meeting the right people, Nicodemus Dyzma, is a prime example of failing up.

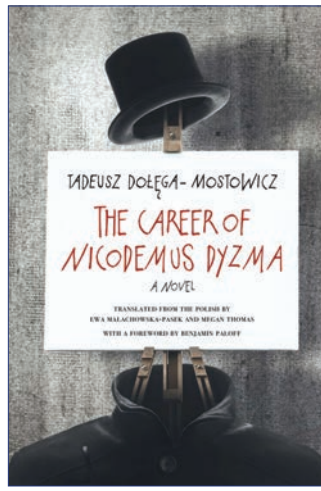
Dyzma, an unemployed clerk hard on his luck, happens to find an invitation to a posh dinner party. Seizing the opportunity, he dresses up in his best formal suit and attends. His rudeness to a legitimate partygoer is overheard by a minister in the government, who congratulates Dyzma on putting the other attendee in his place. Another partygoer notices Dyzma speaking to the minister and offers him a lucrative position. Dyzma, uses his lim-

ited cunning to take advantage of the situations that are presented to him and excels more than he ever thought possible.

Long-awaited by those familiar with classic Polish literature, this is the first English translation of the famous novel. Though other English translations may be released, Malachowska-Pasek and Thomas, would be a difficult act to follow, capturing the nuances presented in both Polish and English. Below is an example of how they deftly interpreted the original.

“Dyzma could barely grapple with the fact that, in a moment, he was going to be speaking to the minister, and that what had seemed utterly implausible on his journey from Koborowo was now taking real shape. This course of events had swept him along, carried him on its current., he could see and feel these actions, but he was unable to explain himself the reason for their

existence, why this was all happening to *him*, Nicodemus Dyzma.”



Nicodemus Dyzma has known a long life since its publication and has been adapted as a movie twice in Poland, once in 1957 and again in 2002. In 1980 it was broadcast as a televised miniseries in Poland. It also, as some may remember, strongly influenced the American novel, *Being There* by Jerzy Kosinski,

which was published in 1970. At the time, Dolega-Mostowicz’s novel wasn’t read or known by non-Polish

readers and in the 1980s, Kosinski was accused of plagiarizing the 1932 publication. This new translation allows the public to draw its own conclusion on how influential *Nicodemus* has been on *Being There*.

Born in 1898 in Okuniewo, Vitebsk Governorate, Russian Empire, Tadeusz Dolega-Mostowicz was a journalist and author of over a dozen novels. *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* is one of his best-known works. *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* afforded him the opportunity to write over a dozen more novels before his untimely death. Like many of his peers, he was sent off to war and never came home. He died on September 20, 1939, struck down in battle.

An Annotated Bibliography of Katyn Forest Massacre Books in English

On September 1, 1939 Nazi Germany started World War II by invading Poland from the West. On September 17th of that same year, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the East. The two totalitarian powers split Poland between them. Approximately 250,000 Polish soldiers were captured by the Red Army. Of those, about 15,000 military officers, police officers and border guards were segregated and interned in three camps: Starobelsk, Kozelsk, and Ostashkov.

On March 5, 1940 NKVD Chief Lavrentiy Beria provided Stalin with a written proposal to execute the Poles at the three camps as well as thousands of other Polish prisoners in the jails of Western Belorussia and Western Ukraine. Beria described the Polish prisoners as “sworn enemies of Soviet power, filled with hatred for the Soviet system of government.” He proposed to “apply to them the supreme punishment: shooting.” In the operation that followed in April and May 1940, 21,857 Poles were shot by the NKVD and buried in hidden mass graves.

The Katyn Forest Massacre: An Annotated Bibliography of Books in English by Andrew Kavchak begins with a history of the Katyn Massacre and an overview of the literature on Katyn. The subsequent chapters discuss the authors and contents of some 38 books that have been published over the decades in English

about Katyn. Each book contributed something to the evolving literature and general knowledge about the history of the Massacre. Books were written by some prisoners who survived (Czapski and Mlynarski), witnesses who were brought to the exhumations (Stroobant and Werth), diplomats and generals who tried to find out what happened to the missing officers (Kot and Anders), family members who were deported to Kazakhstan and Siberia (Adamczyk), researchers and historians (Zawodny, Ciencala, Sanford and Maresch), and authors who believed that raising awareness about Katyn was worthwhile because it might help rectify an injustice (FitzGibbon and Allen). Books written before the 1990 Soviet admission of guilt pointed an accusatory finger at the Kremlin. Those written afterwards had the benefit of archival revelations that helped shed light on previously unknown details of the NKVD Katyn operation.

The Foreword is by Dr. Alexander M. Jablonski, president of the Oskar Halecki Institute in Canada.

Andrew Kavchak studied political science (M.A., Carleton University) and law (LL.B., Osgoode Hall Law School). His grandfather was among the Polish officers held at Starobelsk and murdered at Karkov in April 1940.

The book is available in ebook and paperback from Amazon.com.



The Life of Marek Zaczek, Vol. 1
A New Novel from the Author of the Chopin Trilogy

A peasant boy becomes a man during the times of the Partitions of Poland



The Life of Marek Zaczek
Volume 1: Under the Wings of Eagles

A Novel by David Trawinski

amazon kindle BARNES & NOBLE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BOOKS OF DAVID TRAWINSKI (DAVIDTRAWINSKI.COM)



THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
EXPANDED EDITION
Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

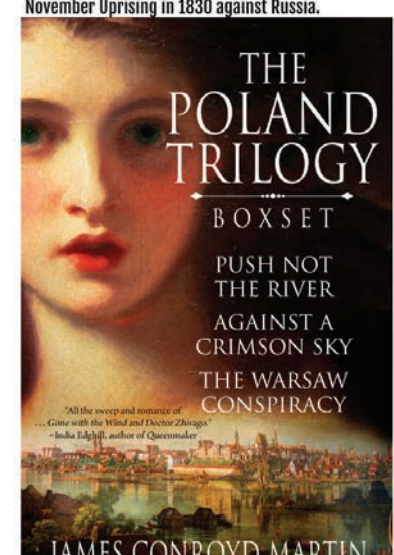
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, & FOLKLORE
GIFT EDITION
Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
Introduction by Rev. Czeslaw M. Krysa

Polish Herbs, Flowers & Folk Medicine
Revised edition
Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

Wearing the Letter P
POLISH WOMEN AS FORCED LABORERS IN NAZI GERMANY, 1939-1945
Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

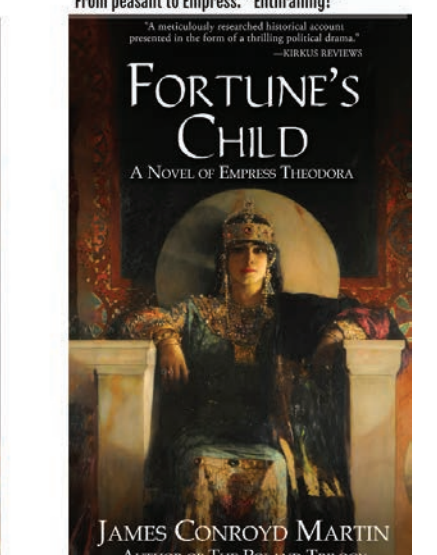
Happy New Year!
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku
from
Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

Perfect Gifts for the Reader



THE POLAND TRILOGY
BOX SET
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY

JAMES CONROYD MARTIN



FORTUNE'S CHILD
A NOVEL OF EMPRESS THEODORA

JAMES CONROYD MARTIN
AUTHOR OF THE POLAND TRILOGY

Books can be ordered from independent bookstores or through Barnes and Noble or Amazon. E-books are available on Amazon. Check out the author's website: www.JamesCMartin.com

POLONIA PLACES

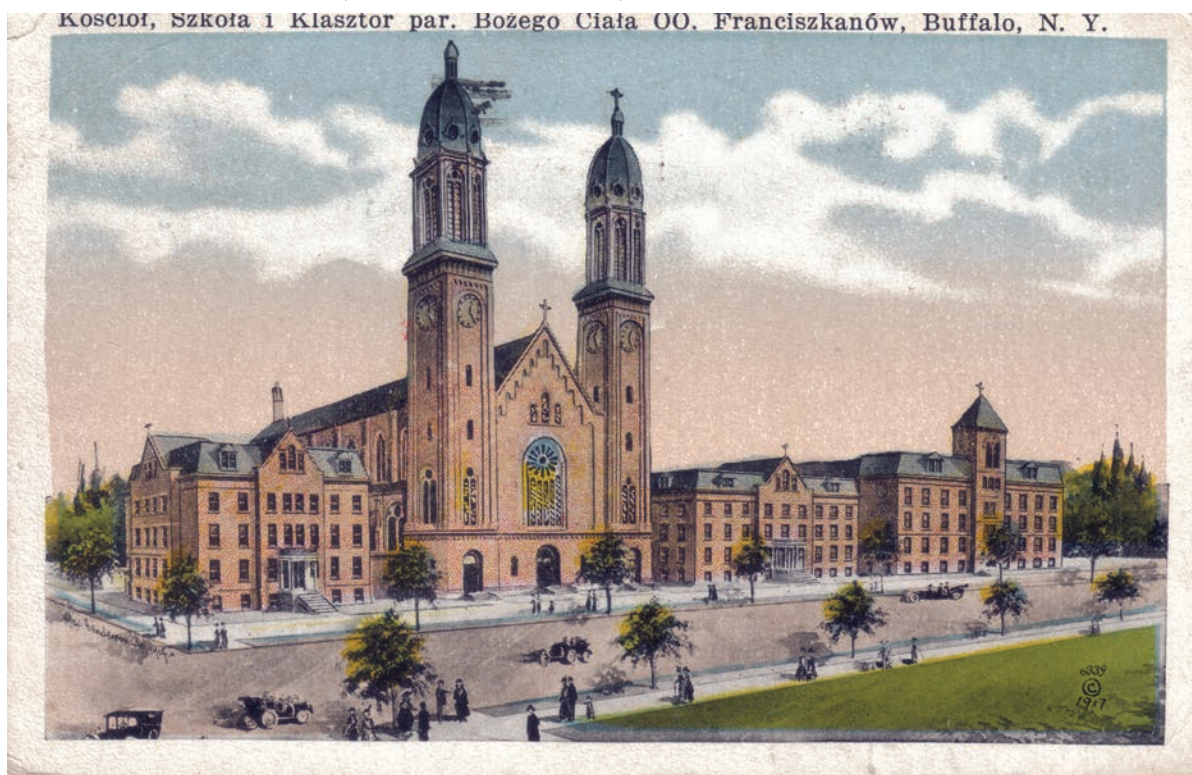
Corpus Christi Church, Buffalo, N.Y.

by Gregory L. Witul

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
199 Clark Street
Buffalo, New York
Status: Open

In 1895, a group of self-determining parishioners at Saint Adalbert's Basilica in Buffalo, N.Y. broke off from the Catholic Church and started their own Polish National Catholic Church. To offset the growing influence of the Polish Nationals and to relieve the population pressure on the surrounding Catholic parishes, Bishop James Quigley petitioned the Very Reverend Hyacinth Fudzinski of the Franciscan Fathers in Syracuse, New York to establish a parish within the city of Buffalo. On April 22, 1898, the parish of Corpus Christi was formally established. To build his new church, Fr. Fudzinski purchased 29 lots on the corner of Clark and Kent Streets. One of the frame buildings was converted into a temporary church which Bishop Quigley dedicated on May 27, 1898.

Fr. Fudzinski hired the Buffalo architectural firm of Schmill and Gould to design a new Romanesque church. On June 13, 1909 Bishop Charles Colton blessed the complet-



ed edifice and Bishop Paul Rhode, the first Polish American bishop was given the honor of performing the first mass in the new church. Fr. Fudzinski would stay at Corpus Christi until his retirement in 1923.

Fr. Michael Cieslik took over Corpus Christi and soon started a

campaign to decorate the interior of the church. Fr. Cieslik asked Fr. Justin Figas to order and oversee the installation of the stained glass. On June 12, 1925 Fr. Figas ordered 27 stained glass windows from Franz Mayer of Munich, Germany. Most of the saints preserved in glass were

of Franciscan origin: St. Anthony of Padua, St. Clara, St. Francis, but Figas ordered one distinctly non-Franciscan saint, St. Hyacinth, in honor of the founder of the parish Father Hyacinth Fudzinski. Fr. Justin began broadcasting his *Rosary Hour* from Corpus Christi Church

in 1931. At its peak in 1959, the popular show was carried on 73 stations across the country and reached a weekly audience estimated at five million people. Changing tastes and the passing of older listeners, however, forced the show from the airwaves in late 2020.

The parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1948 and for it, Fr. Bartoszewicz hired artist Marion Rzeznik to add a mural of Christ and the Children and the portraits of the saints in the clerestory. In the 1970s, a future rock star roamed the corridors of Corpus Christi when a young John Rzeznik of Goo Goo Dolls fame attended the parish school.

In 2003, the Franciscan Fathers decided that they would leave Corpus Christi and the church would be closed by the end of the year, however the Pauline Fathers and Brothers assumed control of the church before that could come to pass. Since that time, the Fathers and Brothers have revitalized the parish and the community surrounding it. The Paulines worked diligently to have the parish placed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and in 2007, they accomplished their goal.

Listen to the
**POLISH
AMERICAN
RADIO
PROGRAM**



Hosted by Andy
"Andrzej" Gołębowski

Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sundays, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
(BOTH EASTERN TIME)

on **WEBR1440.COM**

or **WEBR 1440 AM**

for information, call or write
(716) 510-7562
andywebr1440@gmail.com

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Dariusz Adamczyk is an American businessman. He is the chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Honeywell, an American multinational conglomerate. Adamczyk was born in Poland on February 8, 1966 and immigrated to the United States at the age of 11, speaking no English and settling with his family in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He went to Michigan State University to study electrical and computer engineering, where he received his bachelor's degree. He received a master's degree in computer engineering from Syracuse University, and an MBA from Harvard University.

FAMOUS POLISH AMERICANS

The First Polish American Cabinet Member

The first Polish American to serve in the Cabinet as United States Postmaster General was John A. Gronouski. Born in Dunbar, Wisconsin on October 26, 1919 of Polish-Irish parents, Gronouski attended St. Peter's School in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and studied at Oshkosh Teachers College. In 1942 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.A.

Upon graduation, Gronouski enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a navigator with the Eighth Air Force. After being discharged from the service in October 1945, he returned to the University of Wisconsin earning a master's degree and Ph.D. He became a professor and researcher; however, in 1952 he was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate against Joseph McCarthy. In 1959, he joined the Wisconsin Tax Department as research director and later execu-



tive director of the Revenue Survey Commission. In 1960 he was appointed state tax commissioner.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy selected him to be United States Postmaster General. In that position, he instituted a vertically improved mail system of delivery, proposed to do away with airmail postage and reclassified first class

mail as priority class and added the use of zip code.

He resigned this position in 1965, to accept President Lyndon Baines Johnson's appointment for two years as Ambassador to Poland. In 1969, Gronouski accepted Johnson's offer to serve as Founding Dean of the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. He remained as Dean until 1974 and later taught at the school for fifteen years. In the late 1970s he served as Milwaukee's court-appointed master on school desegregation. He served as a member of the Eisenhower Commission and was chairman of the board for International Broadcasting in the 1980's which included Radio Free Europe.

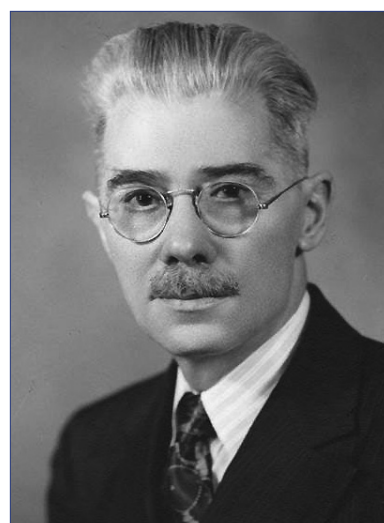
He died on January 7, 1996 and is buried in Allouez Catholic Cemetery, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

— Basia Szydłowski

Mieczyslaw Haiman, Polonia's Historian

January 15, 2021 will mark the 72nd anniversary of the death of Mieczyslaw Haiman (1888-1949) — historian of Polonia, pioneer researcher on Polish emigration in the United States (17th-19th centuries), and discoverer of its early history. Haiman wrote in both Polish and English on the lives of Poles who settled in various states and their participation in American wars.

He remains one of the most distinguished figures in American Polonia and Poland. Born near Lviv, he was a sailor and a traveler, an active member of the Polish Falcons of America, a poet, journalist, writer (including: 14 books, five academic dissertations, 20 popular publications, 65 major newspaper articles, two short stories, 51 poems, two translations — a total of 159 titles), translator, émigré activist, collector, archivist, librarian, founder,



donor, and first curator of the Polish Museum in America (1935-1949).

He led the Polish American Historical and Museum Society, which from 1936, published the historical "Annals of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum."

Until his death, he managed the organization of the Polish American Historical Association (1942); its journal, "Polish American Studies," is still published today. He was distinguished many times — in both Poland and the United States, including with the Order of Polonia Restituta (1932), the Laurel of the Polish Academy of Literature (1935), the Golden Order of the Legion of Honor of the Polish National Alliance in America (1936), and the award of the Polish Roman Catholic Union in America (1938).

The Polish Museum of America holds collections from Haiman, of which some items are displayed at his desk, exhibited in the IJ Paderewski Room.

More information at <https://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/mieczyslaw-haiman/>

— Polish Museum of America

ZOSIA'S BLOG. If you are interested in Polish customs, traditions, and food, you may be interested in the words and works of long-time PAJ contributor Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab.

Visit her blog, <http://www.sophieknab.com/>.



John A. Niziol, MD, FAAP
john@niziol.com

140 Hepburn Road, 12L
Clifton, NJ 07012

(973) 207-6024



Szcześliwego Nowego Roku! Happy New Year!

Chopin Singing Society

www.chopinsingsociety.com

POLISH CHEF

Mardi Gras / Pączki Day Cookery

by Robert Strybel

Here are some favorite Polish delicacies to serve at your Mardi Gras or Pączki Day dinner-party:

TRIBE SOUP (flaki, flaczki). Cut 2-1/2 lbs plain, fully cooked tripe into thin 1" strips. Scald with boiling water to cover and cook 10 mins, then drain. Combine tripe with 6-7 c beef stock and a portion of soup greens, sliced into matchsticks and cook on med until vegetables are tender. Dissolve 3 T flour in 1 c of slightly cooled stock and return to pot, simmer briefly. Season to taste with salt, pepper, marjoram, ginger, paprika and several gratings of nutmeg. Provide Tabasco for those who like it spicier. Good brands of heat & serve tripe imported from Poland are available at Polish groceries and delis.

BREADED CHICKEN ROLL-UPS (zrazy zawijane z kurczędzią). Pound 4 skinned and halved chicken breasts on both sides into 8 cutlets 1/4" thick. Thinly spread each cutlet with powidła and a sprinkle with salt, pepper and marjoram. Roll cutlets up from wider towards narrower end. Coat in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, gently shaking off excess. Place seam-side-down in hot butter or oil to seal. Brown on all sides, then reduce heat and simmer another 8-10 min or until fully cooked. Drain on absorbent paper and serve at once with rice and sliced cucumbers and dressed with sour cream.

BREADED PORK CUTLETS (kotlety schabowe). Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops (reserving them for soup stock) or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" - 1/3" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately.

CHICKEN-BREAST CUTLETS (kotlety z piersi kurczaka) Pound 4 skinned and halved chicken breasts to between 1/8" and 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and (optional) hunter's seasoning, dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, shaking off



HUNTER STYLE ROAST CHICKEN (kurczę po myśliwsku): Wash and pat dry, whole 3-lb broiler-fryer. Rub inside and out with salt, pepper, about 1/2 t ground juniper (in Polish: jałowiec), 1 T marjoram and 2 crushed buds garlic. Rub outside of chicken with 1 T oil. Bake in uncovered baking pan in pre-heated 450° oven for 10 min., then reduce heat to 350°. Mix 1/3 c powidła (Polish plum butter) with equal part boiling water and brush chicken all over with mixture, adding remaining plum sauce to cavity. Pour 1 c water into bottom of pan and bake about 1-1/4 hrs or until done, basting occasionally with pan drippings. After 45-50 min. of baking, add 12 small peeled potatoes 2-3 carrots, 6 small onions and bake until veggies are tender.

excess. Fry in several T hot butter to a nice gold-brown (several min per side), drain on absorbent paper and serve immediately.

HUNTER'S STEW (bigos stew). Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, rinse in cold water, drain again, squeeze dry and chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to baking pan and add some or all of the following: 2 qts various cooked cubed meat (beef, venison or other game, pork, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage (or other deboned, cubed smoked meat like ham, ribs, hocks), 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 1 c stewed tomatoes, chopped, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples, peeled and diced. Mix ingredients and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate overnight. Reheat at 350° for 90 min before serving. If too moist, pour off some of the liquid and stir in a T or more flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. Serve with rye bread or potatoes.

KIEŁBASA & SAUERKRAUT (kielbasa z kapustą). Drain 2-3 qts sauerkraut and rinse in cold water. Drain, press out moisture, chop,

place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1 bay leaf and cook uncovered 45. Drain and transfer to baking pan. Cut 2 lbs smoked kielbasa into 2" or 3" pieces and mix with sauerkraut. Sprinkle with caraway seeds and season with several dashes liquid Maggi seasoning. Bake in 350° oven 90 min or so. Leave in oven 30 min after switching off heat. Taste improves with each reheating.

GOŁĄBKI/STUFFED CABBAGE (gołąbki). Combine 1-1/2 lbs raw ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork-veal-beef combination, or ground dark-meat turkey) with 3-4 c undercooked rice, 1-3 chopped butter-fried onions and 1 egg. Mix ingredients by hand and salt & pepper to taste. Other seasonings can include: 2-3 dashes of garlic powder and/or Tabasco, or a sprinkling of chopped fresh parsley or dill. Use meat-rice mixture to fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves. Before filling and rolling, cut out or shave down the thick central vein near the base of the cabbage leaves. Place gołąbki snugly in roaster no more than 2 layers and drench with 3 c tomato juice (plain or containing 1/2 c spicy-style ketchup). Bake covered in pre-heated 350° oven 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 90 min. Switch off heat and leave in oven until cooled to room temp. Refrigerate overnight, as they are best reheated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Chicago Society Deadline March 1

THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge #1450 of the PNA, announces it will be awarding up to four scholarships, consisting of one \$7,500 scholarship and three \$5,000 scholarships each, for the Fall 2021-Spring 2022 academic year, through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund.

Jim Kulze, a former president of the Chicago Society, and his wife, Lillian, generously endowed the Fund to be able to provide meaningful scholarship support benefit-

ing worthy student scholars each and every year. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through March 1, 2021. Selections will be made in April 2021 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements can be found on the Chicago Society's website, www.chicagosocietypna.org.

ASK OUR MAN IN WARSAW

Potato Pierogi Popularity

Questions? Kindly send your inquiries to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24 01-529 Warsaw, Poland; e-mail strybel@interia.pl or research60@gmail.com

Q: I was born and raised in Poland and never had potato pierogi. When I moved to the United States, that's pretty much the only flavor people know. I gave it a try but I will stick with the ones I grew up eating.

Karolina Straker (Everything Polish Facebook page)

A: Potato pierogi flavored only with a little fried onion, salt & pepper were typical of former Galicja, Austro-Hungarian-ruled SE Poland, the poorest part of the country. Polish immigrants from there brought their potato pierogi over to America. Check around and I'll bet many if not most of your local Pol-Ams trace their roots to immigrants from the Rzeszów, Leżajsk, Tarnobrzeg, Krosno or Przemyśl areas.

Q: My wife is of Polish descent. Her maiden name was Mieszaniec. I would like to give her the Mieszaniec coat of arms for her birthday. Any suggestions? If not, what other gift suggestion would you have.

Bill Gee, via email

A: Of Poland's more than 290,000 last names, only some 19,000 of them include family members of szlachta (gentry) status, and those share one or more of some 3,000 different coats of arms. Unfortunately, Mieszaniec is not one of them. If you want to get her a Polish-themed gift, I suggest you contact Michigan's Polish Art Center, They boast America's largest selection of Polish books, recordings, maps, folkcrafts, amber jewelry, crystalware, folk costumes, decorator items, gifts, etc.

Q: On the back of an icon from Poland is a label in Polish, It looks like the artist's name which is hand-scrawled and appears to be something like M. B. Czysowski. Can you make it out?

Jerry Lynn Hale, via email

A. It is not the artist's name but the name of the icon itself: M.B. Częstochowska or Matka Boska Częstochowska (Our Lady of Częstochowa). This is Poland's most venerated image of the Blessed Mother and Infant. Many Polish immigrants brought them over from Poland and displayed them in their homes.

A: I saw a film clip showing throngs of nuns in Poland. Wow! I had no idea there were still so many nuns there!

Danuta Mudd, via Facebook

A: According to the Polish Episcopate, some 32,000 nuns belong to Poland's 80 different women's orders. They work in hospitals old-people's homes, teach catechism in schools and help around the parish. Some work in mission countries, and there are also cloistered orders whose members never leave the convent grounds and lead a life of work and prayer.

Q: What is the difference between sweet cheese and farmers cheese?

Laurel Tombazzi, via email

A: Both start with plain white farmer cheese or *twaróg* in Polish. As a filling for *pierogi* or *naleśniki* (crêpes) the cheese can be prepared to be either sweet (by adding sugar, for example) or savory (cinnamon, garlic, ginger, etc).

Q: I'm looking for a saying to put above my kitchen that I can wood-burn into a sign. Are there any popular sayings for friends or family gatherings?

Alex Butterfield, Radford, VA

A: Traditional Polish sayings displayed on kitchen cloth wall-hangings wooden boards include: "Gość w dom, Bóg w dom" (When a guest enters the home, God enters the home); "Czym chata bogata, tym rada" (our cottage is happy to share what it has"); "Dobra żona tym się chlubi, że gotuje co mąż lubi" (Only that wife is called good that cooks her hubby's favorite food).

Życzenia Noworoczne
Best Wishes for 2021

STAŚ KMIĘĆ
ETHNOGRAPHY, INTERNATIONAL
CULTURE AND DANCE

PRESERVING AND PRESENTING
ETHNIC TRADITION AND FOLKLORE
Certified Choreographer • TV spokesperson
Lecturer • Author • Historian • Editor & Columnist

Director - Choreographer - Theater & Film
lublinstas@aol.com



THE GENEALOGY ASSISTANT
A FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVE
General genealogy with specialties
in Polish & French-Canadian research

Tim Firkowski
Professional Genealogist

[603] 748-0577 tim@thegenealogyassistant.com
TheGenealogyAssistant.com

apg member
Association of Professional Genealogists

Zbyszko One of Wrestling's Legends

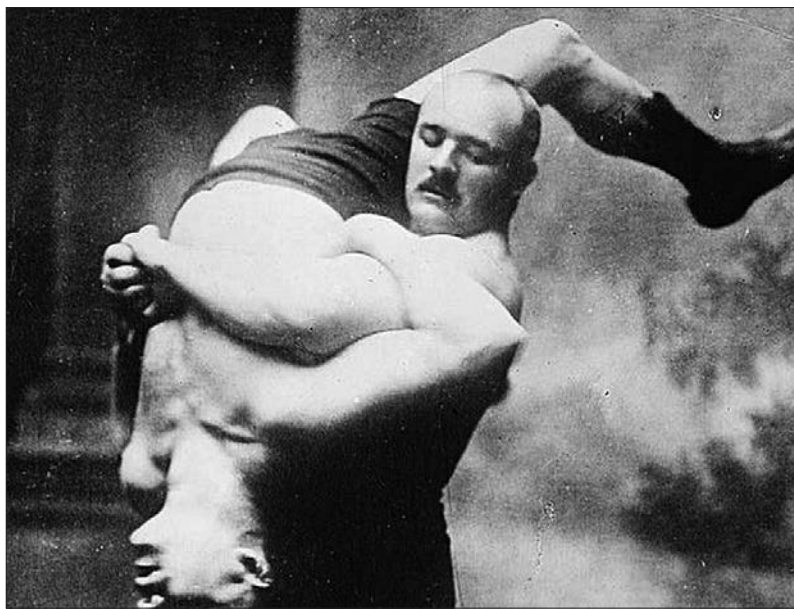
by Tom Tarapacki

In Polish culture, whether it be in the Christian or Jewish tradition, the strongman is a figure that has long been held in high regard. Perhaps because Poland was partitioned and dominated by foreign countries for so many years, the person with immense physical strength was admired and held in high esteem. Both in Europe and America, Polish strength athletes have intrigued and inspired many over the years. They showed off their prowess in circuses, carnivals and sideshows, as well as in wrestling rings and sports arenas. Here are a few who have stood out over the years.

One of the best known was the legendary **Zbyszko**, born **Jan Stanislaw Cyganiewicz**. He was given his nickname at an early age by schoolmates, after the fictional medieval Polish knight in the historical novel *The Knights of the Cross* by Henryk Sienkiewicz. A three-time world champion in the 1920s, the powerful 5'8", 230-lb. athlete is considered one of the best wrestlers of the early 20th century. He bridged the era from when professional wrestling was a legitimate sport to when it became a scripted affair we now refer to as "sports entertainment." A noted intellectual, he studied music, philosophy, and law, and spoke 11 languages. He also earned a doctorate in philosophy, and was granted a patent in 1964 for his invention of the tilt-top table, a unique exercise apparatus.

Another fine wrestler was his brother, billed as **Wladek Zbyszko**. In the 1970s a Polish American wrestler from Chicago named **Lawrence Whistler** took on the ring name Larry Zbyszko as a tribute to them.

Joe Greenstein "The Mighty Atom" was born in Suwałki, Poland in 1893. He left home to join a traveling circus, and learned from the strongmen who performed feats of strength. Greenstein built himself up through a strict nutrition and exercise regimen, and he studied Eastern meditation and mind control techniques. Remarkably strong for being just 5'4" and 145-lb., he was featured in *Ripley's Believe It or Not* and in the *Guinness Book of*



Jan Stanislaw Cyganiewicz was given his nickname "Zbyszko" by schoolmates. Zbyszko was a fictional medieval Polish knight in the historical novel *The Knights of the Cross*.

World Records for such amazing displays as biting through an iron nail and bending iron horseshoes by hand. Greenstein continued performing into his 80s. His son Mike, known as **Mighty Atom, Jr.**, did his own strongman act and was even was a contestant on America's Got Talent a couple of years ago at 93 years old.

Another Polish Jewish strongman was **Abe Coleman**, born **Abbe Kelmer** in Zychlin, Poland. He made his way to the United States through Canada in 1923, becoming known as the "Hebrew Hercules" and "Jewish Tarzan." A colorful character, he claimed to have invented the dropkick while watching kangaroos during a tour of Australia. He is the only known wrestler to live past the age of 100 years, passing away in 2007 at 101.

Coleman sometimes faced another Polish-born strongman-wrestler, **Karol (Piwoworeczyk) Krauser**, billed as the "Polish Apollo" and the "Polish Superman." Not only was he very strong but he also had an impressive build, and was the model for the Superman animated series in the 1940s.

Interestingly, another Polish-born strongman, **Zishe Breitbart** reportedly inspired the comic book Superman in the 1920s. Breitbart, billed as the strongest man in the world, toured extensively in Europe and America performing a strength

act derived from his former background as a blacksmith. The native of Stryków bent iron bars around his arm in floral patterns, bit through iron chains or tore them apart.

Stanley Radwan was very strong at an early age, and it helped him survive World War II. Captured by the Nazis in 1939 while serving in the Polish navy, he was imprisoned in Bergen-Belsen until the end of the war. Afterwards he came to the United States and settled in Cleveland. Known as the Polish Strongman and King of Iron and Steel, he performed feats like straightening horseshoes and pulling cars with his teeth, and for twenty years was undefeated as a professional wrestler. He was a member of several Polish fraternal organizations and clubs, hosted a Polish language radio show and wrote for two Polish language newspapers.

Ben Helfgott was born in Piotrków Trybunalski, Łódź, Poland. He was 10 years old when Germany invaded the country in 1939. By the end of the war the 15-year-old boy had lost most of his family, and was very weak and emaciated. He was sent to England with hundreds of other orphaned youngsters. Helfgott became a British citizen and regained his strength. Within a few years, he was winning local championships and became British middleweight weightlifting champion and record holder. He captained the British Olympic weightlifting teams of 1956 and 1960.

Ireneusz Paliński was the first Polish weight-lifter to win an Olympic gold medal, which he did in the middle-heavyweight class

in 1960. He was followed by many other Poles who medaled, including **Waldemar Baszanowski**, who won two Olympic golds and set 24 world records as a lightweight.

One of the best Olympic weightlifters in the world was Detroit native **Norb Schemansky**, the first weight-lifter to win four Olympic medals. **Stanley Stanczyk** was another Polish American from the Motor City who, between 1946 and 1952, won five consecutive world titles in three different weight classes, six consecutive national titles, as well as gold at the 1948 Olympics. He was unique in that he was also a very successful bodybuilding competitor.

Certainly, any mention of Polish strongmen should include **Bronko Nagurski**, the football legend known for his incredible strength. Bronko also wrestled when his NFL career was over, and became a legend in the ring as well.

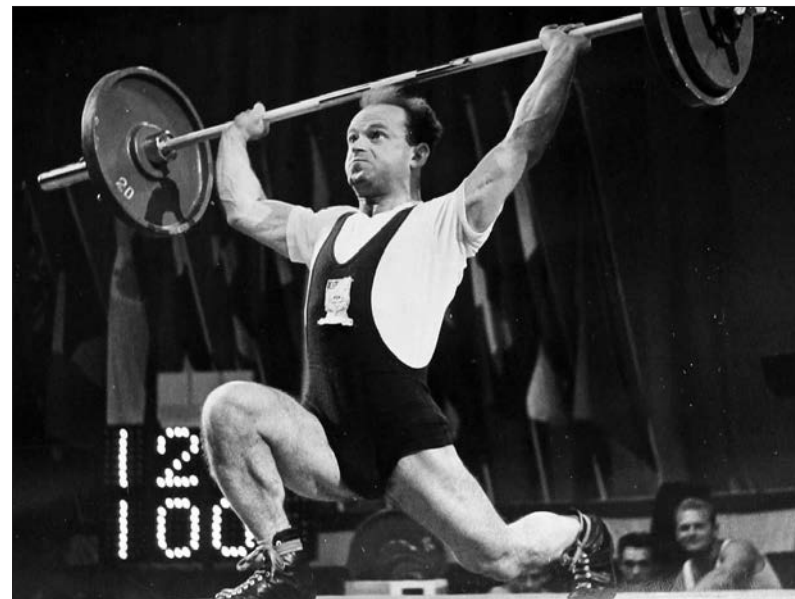
A strongman who wrestled from the late '20s to the mid-'50s was **Walter Podolak**. Known as the "Golden Superman" or "Polish Adonis," the blond-haired native of Syracuse had an impressive phy-

sheba.

There were many powerful wrestlers with Polish roots as the sport gained huge national popularity in the late 1950s and early 1960s, including **Killer Kowalski (Walter Spulnik) Rob Van Dam (Rob Szatkowski)**, **Ole Anderson (Alan Rogowski)**, **Édouard Ignacz Weiczorkiewicz (Édouard Carpentier) Johnny and Greg Valentine (Wisniski)** and **Reggie "The Crusher" Lisowski**.

However, **Ivan Putski (Jozef Bednarski)** had perhaps the best strongman credentials of the wrestlers. The native of Krakow was resettled in Texas with his family following World War II, and wrestled as "Polish Hammer" or "Polish Power." The 5'8" 243-lb. Putski was so strong that he took part in the second World's Strongest Man Competition in 1978 and finished eighth competing against much bigger men, mostly massive powerlifters. One of the strongmen Putski defeated at the event was pro football star **John Matuszak**. No slouch himself, the 6'7", 280-lb., "Tooz" finished ninth.

Polish strongmen continue to



Ben Helfgott, born in Poland, was 10 years old when Germany invaded the country in 1939. At the end of the war, he was sent to England with hundreds of other orphaned youngsters, and became British middleweight weight-lifting champion and record holder.

sique as well as great strength, even breaking the world's deadlift record. Despite being in a serious car accident in the 1930s, he had a great ring career. He also performed feats like pulling six cars with his teeth and lifting over 500 pounds with his teeth. Another great wrestler of that era was **Wladyslaw "Iron" Talun**, a native of Poland who was mentored by Zbyszko. Standing 6'8" and weighing 300-lb., he played Goliath in 1951's *David and Bath-*

stand out, and in recent years many have performed in the World's Strongest Man contest, which has become a big international event. Poles who have competed included **Jarek Dymek**, **Mateusz Kieliszkowski** and **Krzysztof Radzikowski**. The biggest name of all is **Mariusz Pudzianowski**, the only five-time winner of the WSM titles. He also captured two runner-up titles in 2006 and 2009. He retired from strongman competition and became an MMA fighter.

In recent years Poles have also fared well recently in strength events at the Olympics. **Tomasz Majewski** won gold in the shot put in 2008 and 2012, and **Piotr Małachowski** won silver in the discus in 2008 and 2016.

Poland's **Jaroslav Olech** is widely considered the best powerlifter of all. Last year, at age 43, he won his 17th straight IPF World Title in the 74 kg division set a world record total with 908 kilograms (2001.8 pounds), for the three lifts (bench press, deadlift squat). Jaroslav's best bench press is 485 lb. That's very impressive, especially considering that he weighs 163 lb.!

Wow! When I started writing this article, I didn't realize how long it would be. Still, it seems as if I've only scratched the surface — and I haven't even mentioned any women!



AIR CONDITIONING • MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

CMC 056913 • ESTABLISHED 1997

CHUCK SREDINSKI
PRESIDENT

5910 TAYLOR RD., UNIT 105
NAPLES FLA 34109
(239) 248-4022

P.O. BOX 110594
NAPLES, FL 34108-0110
NAPLESCHUCK@AOL.COM

www.cnsindustriesinc.com

POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

308 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106
(215) 922-1700

When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District, Visit The Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall

Featuring Polish History and Culture

OPEN 10:00 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m. • FREE ADMISSION

January through April • Monday to Friday

May through December • Monday to Saturday

Gift Shop is Open During Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

Visit Us on the Internet: www.polishamericancenter.org



Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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 \$40.00. (\$25.00 for students) made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

Polish American Historical Association
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050
www.polishamericanstudies.org

SPORTS

“Greats of the Past” Enter Hall

by Tom Tarapacki

Green Bay Packers president **Dominic Olejniczak**; track and field champion **Frances Sobczak Kaszubski**; Notre Dame football All-American **Emil Sitko**; All-American Girls Professional Baseball League star **Connie Wisniewski**; and billiards champion **Frank Taberski** have been elected as Greats of the Past into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF).

Since the Hall was unable to hold the normal induction ceremony due to the pandemic, it chose to induct these Greats of the Past whose accomplishments in sports were in an earlier era but still merit recognition.



Olejniczak led Packers out of dark days.

Dominic Olejniczak (1908-1989) was the son of John A. B. Olejniczak, a Polish immigrant who created a real estate firm, the Green Bay Land Company. He also led the effort to establish Green Bay's first Polish parish, St. Mary of the Angels.

Dominic followed his father into in real estate. He also was an alderman, and was the first Polish American mayor of Green Bay, a post he held for 10 years. He was also on the board of directors of the Packers from 1950-1989. Beginning in 1958, he served for 24 years as president, the longest tenure of any Packers president. He took over at a time when the franchise was struggling, having gone 10 years without a winning season. A soft-spoken consensus-builder, he convinced the board to hire Vince Lombardi in 1959, and the Packers won five NFL championships and two Super Bowls in the 1960s. At the same time, Olejniczak's quiet leadership and fiscal management helped the NFL's only community-owned franchise in the league's smallest city thrive. He was inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame in 1979.

Frances Sobczak Kaszubski (1916-2010) was a four-time National AAU Champion in shot put (1943, 1945, 1948 and 1950), and two-time Indoor Champion in 1948 and 1951. The long-time Polish Falcon was the National Champion in the discus throw seven-times (1943, 1945, 1947-1951.) In 1951, Kaszubski won the bronze medal in discus at the Pan-Am Games, and competed in 1948 Olympic Games in both shot put and discus. An outstanding basketball player as well, in 1943, she was named national AAU center. Her husband, Peter, whom she married in 1946, was also a standout basketball player with the Falcons.



Sobczak Kaszubski helped change women's athletics.

She was six feet tall, and newspaper accounts frequently mentioned her femininity. “Another girl so athletically gifted might have grown mannish,” wrote the *New York Daily News* in 1948, pointing out her beauty, poise and grace. “Unlike some women athletes,” it added, “Frances does not scorn cosmetics.”

Frances continued to contribute after competing, including serving as the manager of the 1959 U.S.A. women's track team at the Pan-Am Games that won gold medals in all but two events. In 1960 she managed the U.S.A.'s track team for the Rome Olympics. That year she was unanimously elected the first woman president of the 43 affiliates of the Lake Erie Association under the National AAU. She was a forceful advocate for women's athletics at a time when it had second-class status. Kaszubski was inducted into the inaugural class of the Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 1976.



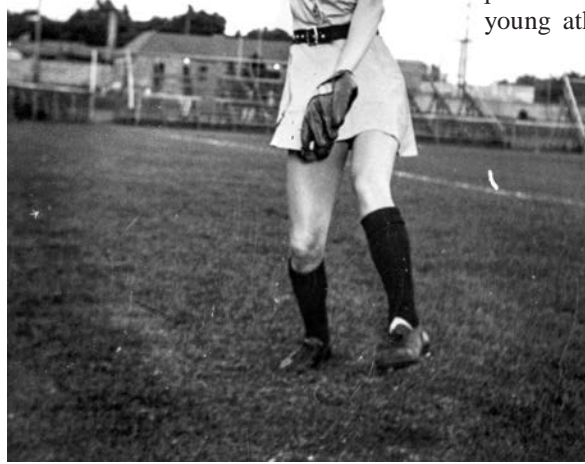
With “Six Yard” Sitko, Notre Dame never lost.

Emil Sitko (1923-1973) was born to Polish immigrants Louis and Sophia (Szewczyk) Sitko in Fort Wayne, Indiana. After service in World War II, he enrolled at Notre Dame in 1946 as a 23-year-old freshman. “Emil was about 5' 8” with virtually no neck and short legs,” according to sports writer Jack Doyle. “He was especially quick at getting through holes.”

Sitko was a starter on the football team three years at halfback and one year at fullback. In those four years, Notre Dame did not lose a single game — its record was 36-0-2. “Six-Yard Sitko” led his team in rushing all four years and his career average was 6.1 yards per carry. In 1949, he also led the team in kickoff returns, averaging 22 yards. He was a consensus All-American in 1948 and a unanimous All-American in 1949. Also called “Red” because of his red hair, Sitko played three seasons in the NFL before going into auto sales in his hometown. He died at the age of 50 in 1973, and was

inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984.

Connie Wisniewski (1922-1995) was a softball star for Hudson Motors in her hometown of Detroit where she developed an overpowering underhand “windmill” pitch. She went on to become one of the greatest players in the groundbreaking All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (1944-1952). The “Iron Woman”



Wisniewski was an All Star at two positions.

played almost the entire run of the AAGBL. She posted a 107-48 career record to become one of only seven pitchers to collect 100 or more victories in AAGPBL history. “The Polish Rifle” also holds the league's all-time record for best winning percentage (.690) and the best single-season record for innings pitched (391). She was named Player of the Year in 1945

The league made famous in the movie “A League of Their Own” decided to modify rules to be more like major league baseball, and went to sidearm and overhand pitching. Connie then became an outfielder and once again made the All Star team in 1948. She finished third in the league with a .289 batting average and was second in RBI. She was named an All-Star four times, and played on two championship teams with eight playoff appearances.



Taberski was a billiards great.

Frank Taberski (1889-1941) was born in Amsterdam, N.Y. but grew up in Schenectady. He was the son of Andrew and Frances (Olejniczak) Taberski, who left Kaczanowo, Poland in 1883. Frank learned billiards in the parlor located in his parents' hotel in beginning at 13, and by 16 was the Central New York champion. He turned pro in 1915 at the age of 26, and in 1916 became world champion.

At the time, any champion who won 10 consecutive challenge matches would receive a ruby and diamond studded gold medal. The closest anyone came was five straight defenses. By 1918 Taberski

had accomplished the seemingly impossible task and was awarded the medal. Taberski retired in 1918, but returned to billiards in 1925 and regained the world title.

The low-key Taberski was called “Silent Pole” around the same time that baseball great Stan Coveleski was given the same nickname. When Taberski's hair turned silver he was called the “Gray Fox” as well. Another nickname was “The Snail,” because of his very slow and deliberate style of play. Always a gentleman, he was lauded by the

press as “a fine example for young athletes who take up the green cloth game.”

He was also successful in business, starting out driving a milk cart and eventually establishing his own grocery business. While still in his 20s he sold the business, and used the profits to purchase three billiard parlors.

He is ranked by *Billiards Digest* as Number 7 of the 50 Greatest Players of the Century. Taberski died in 1941, and was posthumously inducted into the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame.

Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at www.polishsports-hof.com.

DODGER GREAT PASSES. Ron Perranoski, a top reliever and a renowned pitching coach, passed away at 84.

Perranoski established himself as a closer for both the Dodgers (1961-67) and Twins (1968-71) before the term became widespread. He also played for the Angels and Tigers.

Perranoski's best year came with the Dodgers in 1963, when he went 16-3 as a full-time reliever with 21 saves and a 1.67 ERA. The lefty earned a save in relief of fellow Polish American Johnny Podres in Game 2 of the World Series against the Yankees as LA swept the Series.

Following his 13-year career as a player, Perranoski served as a pitching instructor for the Dodgers, helping develop pitching stars Orel Hershiser and Fernando Valenzuela, among others. During his tenure, LA ranked first or second eight times among National League clubs, and his staffs also led the Majors in ERA five times (1982, '83, '85, '89 and '91). He also coached for the Giants.

The New Jersey native was inducted into the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1983.

HEART STOPPER. Michael Knapinski, a hiker who was found unconscious in whiteout conditions on Washington's Mount Rainier, “came back from the dead” after his heart stopped for 45 minutes.

Knapinski, 45, was put on life support after arriving at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, but doctors were able to jumpstart his heart. “He came back from the dead,” Dr. Jenelle Badulak, an intensive care unit doctor at Harborview Medical Center said. “It wasn't a miracle though, it

was science.”

He lost consciousness and had extreme hypothermia. Michael's heart stopped though he did have a pulse. The doctors quickly decided to try the life support machine known as ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation), a specialized heart-lung bypass machine that removes blood from the body and runs it through an oxygenator before pumping it back in. After 45 minutes, the ECMO machine got Knapinski's blood flowing. “The main concern was his brain and if there had been any permanent damage while his heart was stopped,” Badulak said. However, two days later, Knapinski opened his eyes for the first time, and after just eight days he was discharged. Badulak said he will make a fully recovery.

FAMILY TRADITION. The great-grandson of Jim Thorpe, once known as the world's greatest athlete, is carrying on the family's great athletic tradition.

James Thorpe “JT” Kossakowski Jr. is a sophomore goalie for the Southern New Hampshire University ice hockey team, and majors in mechanical engineering. The Elgin Ill. native previously attended Larkin HS.

Born in the region that would later become Oklahoma, Jim Thorpe was one of the most accomplished and versatile athletes of his era, and is widely considered one of the greatest of the first half of the 20th century.

Tony Kossakowski, a Chicago native, married Sharon, the daughter of Thorpe's daughter, Gail. Sharon and Tony's son, James, and his wife Michelle, are JT's parents.

JT's father was a terrific athlete too. James Thorpe Kossakowski was an AAU Wrestling National Champion at Northern Illinois University from 1989-2003 and was inducted into the Elgin Sports Hall of Fame.

Poland's Robert Lewandowski – World's Best

by Robert Strybel

Polish star striker **Robert Lewandowski** has been named the world's best player in the world's most popular sport by FIFA, the international soccer authority.

With 63 international goals to his credit, the 32-year-old Pole beat out such all-time football greats as Argentina's Lionel Messi and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo for the title. Lewandowski, who play for Germany's Bayern Munich, has scored 250 goals in the Bundesliga (Germany's major league) and has won the league's Top Scorer Award five times. He is also the all-time top scorer for Poland, has been named Polish Player of the Year a record eight times and in 2015 won the World's Top Goal Scorer Award. Lewandowski was also awarded four Guinness World Records after scoring a spectacular five goals in only nine minutes against Germany's Wolfsburg team in 2015.

He is the first Polish athlete to win a “world's greatest” award since 1974, when that title went to runner Irena Szewińska in the track and field category.

POLAND BRIEFS

by Robert Strybel

Biden presidency not necessarily bad for Poland says ex-ambassador

The new administration of Joe Biden will not necessarily be bad for Poland, a former U.S. ambassador to Poland stated recently. Poland's place in the Donald Trump's foreign policy was unique, acknowledged former U.S. ambassador to Poland Steve Mull, now a professor at the University of Virginia. At a time of frosty relations between the United States and the EU, Warsaw and Washington shared a deep commitment to America's increased military presence in Poland and both sides strongly opposed illegal immigration. U.S.-Polish bonds were strengthened by a shared belief in traditional patriotism as well as family and religious values.

"Although many aspects of American foreign policy will change, I do not think that will occur in Poland's case Mull said. There may be differences in the approach to such things as LGBT minority rights, but both countries will continue to support Poland's role in NATO's eastern flank and share opposition to the controversial Russo-German Nord Stream 2 project.

Biden is well-versed in Polish affairs, has visited Poland on several occasions and while vice-president was sent as a special envoy to Warsaw following Russia's 2014 attack on Ukraine. In fact, he quipped that he would soon be known as "Joe Bidenski," Mull added.

Poland orders 45 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines

The Polish's government has announced details of its plans to make the Covid-19 available to the country's population. It will be available free of charge and on a voluntary basis. Three weeks after being vaccinated, a patient will receive a booster dose of the vaccine. Healthcare staff on the front-lines of the pandemic war on the Coronavirus, the elderly and uniformed services will be the first to be vaccinated.

Although the procedure will remain voluntary, the authorities hope that 70% to 80% of the population will choose to get vaccinated. The immunization campaign is due to begin at the end of January. Since the start of the epidemic in Poland on March 4, 2020, by early December the number of Covid-19 cases had crossed the one million mark. and the overall death toll was approaching 19,000. During that period 647,000 patients had recovered. The hardest hit have been populous, urbanized regions including Mazowieckie (Warsaw), Małopolskie (Kraków),

Śląsk (Katowice) and Wielkopolskie (Poznań). The fewest cases and deaths have been recorded in largely rural voivodeships such as Opolskie, Lubuskie and Podlaskie.

Only 36% of Poles want Covid vaccination – survey

A survey conducted by Polish pollster CBOS has shown that only 36% of those polled are willing to get an anti-Covid vaccination, and 47% said they were unwilling to. The results were released the same day the government provided details of a mass voluntary vaccination program due to begin at the turn of January and February 2021.

The main reason Poles do not want to get inoculated, according to the poll, is their concern over the new vaccine's potential side effects (69%), while others (25%) questioned its effectiveness. Ever since the virus appeared on the scene, not only Poland has been awash with conflicting reports, rumors, predictions and speculations defining the pandemic and suggesting how to deal with it.

New financial-aid for pandemic-crippled businesses

The government continues to introduce successive financial-aid programs for business sectors hardest hit by the pandemic. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has announced another hefty stimulus package for companies affected by the Covid-19 crisis. He said the package would be worth at least 35 billion zlotys or \$9.3 billion (at the rate of \$1 = 3.68 zlotys, including 3 billion zlotys) for micro-companies, 7 billion for small and medium-sized businesses, and 25 billion for large companies in nearly 40 different fields. The latest assistance package is expected to help 200,000 businesses weather the crisis and save some 372,000 jobs in the restaurant, entertainment and fitness sectors as well as retail trade.

Polish, US troops hold joint maneuvers near Russian border

Regular Polish Army troops together with Territorial Defense (National Guard) units have carried out military exercises with their NATO allies, including U.S. troops stationed in Poland. The joint maneuvers involving 5,000 troops were held at a military training ground near the northeastern town of Orzysz, some 57 miles from the Russian border. "Their main purpose was to test the readiness of soldiers to perform tasks and to raise their training level while following health safety protocols amid the pandemic," Poland's Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak explained. "The exercises were a part of efforts



Prime Minister Morawiecki announced another hefty stimulus package for companies affected by the Covid-19 crisis.

to strengthen the alliance's eastern flank." So far, most such maneuvers had taken place some distance away from Poland's border with Russia's Kaliningrad exclave.

Poland acquires German media group under re-polonization plan

Poland's state-controlled fuel giant PKN Orlen has announced its acquisition of the German-owned Polska Press publishing concern.

"Thanks to the transaction, we will gain access to 17.4 mln website

users," Orlen CEO Daniel Obajtek said. Part of the German Verlagsgruppe Passau media group, Polska Press owns 20 out of Poland's 24 regional dailies and nearly 120 local weeklies. It also includes 500 web sites, making it Poland's online general-information leader. The price paid by Orlen has not been disclosed. In 2019, Polska Press generated revenues of nearly \$105 million. When the ruling Law and Justice party came to power in 2015, it found a Poland most of whose assets had been sold off by previous governments to foreign companies, prompting it to launch a re-polonization campaign.

So far, Poland has bought back several banks, food-processing firms and other industrial assets. Still, to this day, most Poles do their grocery shopping at foreign-old retail chains, because Polish ones are few and far between.

Polish economy to grow 2.9% in 2021 and 3.8% in 2022 – OECD

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recently said it expected the Polish economy to shrink 3.5 percent in 2020, but then rebound and expand by 2.9 percent in 2021. In its latest Economic Survey of Poland, it said it expected Polish GDP to grow 3.8 percent in 2022. "Poland will likely exit the Covid-19 crisis with fewer

scars than many other countries thanks to the strength of its economy going into the crisis and its swift response with containment and support measures when the pandemic struck," OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said in a statement. "Yet reforms to tackle long-standing challenges are now even more essential if Poland is to get back to the pace of gains in living standards seen in recent years," he added.

Poland to phase out coal industry by 2049

After years of being attacked by the EU and foreign environmentalist groups for dragging its feet on climate change, for the first time Poland has put a timeline on ending coal-mining. Some 80 percent of Poland's electricity is still generated by coal-fired powerplants.

Following prolonged and often turbulent negotiations amid an underground miners' occupation strike, the Polish government, miners' unions and the state-owned coal firm, Polish Mining Group agreed a plan to phase out collieries by 2049. That should enable the country to meet the EU's climate targets of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Previously Warsaw had been reluctant to agree to a deadline fearing a labor unrest in the Śląsk region where collieries have long been a way of life and family tradition.

PLEASE HELP US HELP OUR OWN COMMUNITY. JOIN THE...

Polish American Journal Foundation

The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.



Since 2014, the Polish American Journal Foundation has been providing scholarships to both undergrad and graduate students, through its Kamylla and Czeslaw Kaszuba Scholarship.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member. Membership levels start at "Friend of the PAJF" (Any amount up to \$49.99); "Individual" (\$50.00); "Family" (\$100.00); "Sustaining" (\$250.00); "Patron" (\$500.00); "Benefactor" (\$1,000.00); and "Chairman's Circle" (\$2,500.00 or more).

DONATIONS OF \$50.00 OR MORE entitle the member for a courtesy subscription to the Polish American Journal. If you wish to give this as a gift, please provide recipient's name and address on a separate piece of paper.

SINCE 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over a century of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

PRIVACY. The PAJF is the sole owner of the information provided by its members. The PAJF will not sell, share, or rent this information to others. It will be used solely for record-keeping and correspondence.

To learn more or to make a donation, write or call:

**POLISH AMERICAN
JOURNAL FOUNDATION**
P.O. BOX 198
BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026
(800) 422-1275
(716) 312-8088



Streaming Live at www.Jazz901.org

The Polka Bandstand Show
hosted by Ray Serafin and Al Meilutis
Since 1981
Saturdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
jazz 90.1
take jazz further
Rochester, NY.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Kresse, Lawyer, Advocate for Education, and Preservationist

After a brief illness, **Robert J. Kresse** passed away at his home on November 30, 2020.

Kresse was born August 8, 1927 in Buffalo, N.Y. to Kazimierz and Sophia (née Kolacki) Kresse. The sixth of seven children, he was part of a tightly knit first-generation Polish Catholic family. He grew up attending St. Mary of Sorrows Church and school. He graduated from Canisius High School in 1945, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served for a brief period, before graduating from Canisius College in 1950.

He then attended Georgetown University Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1953. Upon being accepted into the New York State Bar in 1954, Kresse joined the law firm of Hellings & Morey, of which he later became a named partner. The Hellings firm was established by the late John Lord O'Brian, the namesake for the main building at the University of Buffalo Law School. Kresse would later become one of the founding partners of Hiscock & Barclay's Buffalo office, which is now Barclay & Damon.



His law career spanned roughly 70 years, focusing on trusts and estates, commercial real estate and preservation law. He served as counsel with Barclay & Damon, until his recent retirement in June 2018.

Kresse had a great sense of humor, devoured books (many at one time), loved music, playing the piano and was a man of great faith. As a member of the Kolping Society, Serra Club, or as a member of the choir at St. Mary of Sorrows Church or Nativity of Our Lord in Orchard

Park, his Catholic faith was always a pillar in his life. So too was his belief in education, and that every child, no matter their social circumstances should be exposed to an education as early as possible. It's why he became a strong advocate for early childhood programs for the region's youth, helping to establish the first Montessori program open to inner city children at the St. Mary of Sorrows Parish on Buffalo's East Side and Buffalo's first charter school at the King Urban Life Center.

Kresse considered the opportunity that he had to serve as a trustee of The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation for over 35 years, one of the greatest honors of his career. He developed a passion for preserving the architectural history of Buffalo through his involvement in the Niagara River Greenway Commission, St. Mary of Sorrows Church, The Roycroft Inn, The Darwin Martin House, Asbury Church, the Genesee Gateway, and the Buffalo Heritage Carousel.

Donations in his memory may be made to the King Urban Life Center (www.kingurbanlifecenter.org).

Virginia Luty, "The Polish Peddler"

Virginia Luty, 87, who with her late husband Chet travelled to Polish and ethnic festivals across the United States as sellers of Polish books, kitchen accessories, clothing, and countless specialty items, passed away November 23, 2020.

Born "Baby Vanek" in Cleveland Ohio, she was adopted at age 3, by Henry and Viola Novotny of Garfield Heights, Ohio.

Luty attended and graduated from Marymount High School. She was married for 60 years to Chester Luty, who had predeceased her in 2016.

Late in life, Luty had searched for her birthmother and discovered that she was the daughter of Ms. Victoria Vanek of Springfield, Ohio. In her search, she also discovered that she had a brother (James Watrous). Luty was able to spend valuable time with Watrous, and had located a sibling that she always hoped for. Luty always thought of her husband's family as her immediate family and loved all of her husband's nieces and nephews as her own.

She was involved in community, and wrote many articles for the Hinckley Reporter. Luty was past president of the Hinckley Elementary PTA and past founding member of Our Lady of Grace Church. She was a current member of St. Stanislaus Church and a member of the Union of Poles.

Luty business success was that of the development of her company



called "The Polish Peddler." Her business model was to emphasize and to highlight the qualities of Polish culture. For her work, she was recognized as the "Polish Woman of the Year" by Ohio Congressman Mary Rose Oakar in Washington, D.C. "The Polish Peddler" was spotlighted by "Del Folks" on Cleveland television, something she was very proud of.

Luty's thirst for Polish culture enticed her to participate in an exchange program at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland, in 1980.

The family asks that monetary donations in Virginia's be earmarked for the Giving Tree Program at St. Stanislaus Church (make check payable to St. Stanislaus Church), 3649 East 65th St., Cleveland, OH 44105.

State Trooper Jennifer Czarnecki, dies from illness tied to work at ground zero after 9/11

Trooper **Jennifer M. Czarnecki**, 47, was part of the search-and-recovery effort after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks at the World Trade Center. She died from an illness that stemmed from her time working at ground zero, said Kevin P. Bruen, acting superintendent of the New York State Troopers.

Czarnecki joined the State Police in October 2000. The progress of her illness forced her to retire on Nov. 3, State Police said.

She is among a number of police officers and troopers from around New York who have died from illnesses connected to exposure to the smoldering wreckage at ground zero.



State Police members from the Capital Region, including Trooper

Michael J. Anson of Colonie, Sgt. Charles R. Salaway of Saratoga County and former State Police Superintendent Wayne Bennett, died from cancer related to their work at ground zero.

During her career, Czarnecki was assigned to Troop D in Central New York and Troop A in Western New York. She worked in Troop A since 2003.

She is survived by her husband Brian M. Czarnecki; mother, Rosemarie (nee Tokarski) Garbo; brother John H. Garbo, Jr.; mother-in-law MaryAnn (nee Golombek) Czarnecki; and many other loving family members and dear friends.

Richard Callahan, Spoke Polish Like A Pro

Richard "Dick" Callahan, 96, born in Chicago on Aug. 2, 1924, passed away on Nov. 8, 2020. The son the late Edward and Anna Callahan, he grew up in Chicago's West Town area. What made Callahan special was that he learned the Polish language from the nuns at St. Stephen Grammar School, and from his Polish American mother. This would serve the Army well during his service in Europe during World War II. Even though his Army unit had soldiers with last names ending in "ski," when a Polish translator was often needed, the shout out was for "Callahan!"

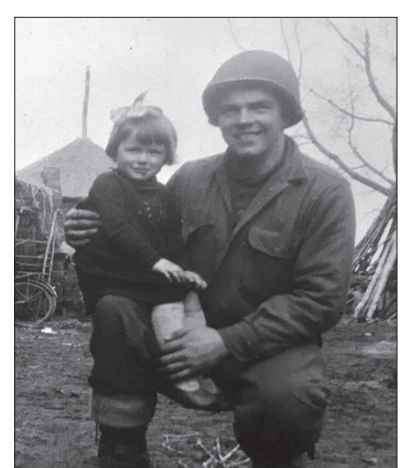
One time, Callahan and another GI were stringing phone wire in war-torn Netherlands when Callahan looked up a pathway to see five Germans approaching. He and the other GI hid, but when the German soldiers got within a few feet, Callahan popped out, brandishing his weapon. He realized that one of the German soldiers was spouting off in Polish on how to overpower the Americans and said in Polish something equivalent to: "I'll blow your head off." Then, the German soldiers surrendered.

At one point, Callahan was lodged in a barn near Maastricht,

Netherlands. When word came to him that his father Edward had died in Chicago, the woman who owned the farm welcomed him into the family home. There, he was charmed by the family's little girl, Toni, who, having lost her doll, was also in mourning. Knowing that food supplies among the Dutch was critical and that they were eating tulip bulbs to survive, Callahan loaded up his Jeep with U.S. Army food supplies and delivered them to the hungry family. While his unit started to move to another location, he noticed a clean doll in the rubble, so he swiped a bike from another soldier in the Signal Corps and rode back eight miles to give Toni that doll. The child was overwhelmed with joy. When the Callahan family returned to Maastricht in 1983, some forty years later, the farm family still remembered him and his kindness. The family welcomed him and his sons again in 1995.

Callahan endured severe frostbite on his feet during the Battle of the Bulge, saying he never wanted to be cold again. He also fought in the Ruhr Pocket battle.

Callahan used to say he spent 30 years at the Cook County Jail, because from 1960 to 1990, he worked



Richard and Dutch girl Toni

there as a plumber. During the massive blizzard of 1967, he couldn't get home, so he spent nearly a week at the jail eating mashed potatoes. He never had problems with the inmates, because they respected a man who walked around with a 24-inch wrench and knew how to fix overflowing toilets.

Callahan is survived by three children, Richard Jr., Margie, and Patrick, along with his sister, Lola, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was married for 71 years until his wife, Marjorie, died in 2019. (G.B.C.)

Patrick Coyle, Navy Veteran, Polish Polka Fan

Patrick Coyle, 78, of West Seneca, N.Y. was one of polka music's biggest fans. He passed December 5, 2020.

He grew up in Buffalo's Babcock Street neighborhood and enlisted in the U.S. Navy following graduation from high school.

After being discharged, Coyle worked at automotive windshield wiper maker Trico, eventually becoming a department manager after earning his B.S. at SUNY Buffalo. Shortly after Trico's closing in 2002, he was hired by Robinson Knife, which at the time was still located in Springville, N.Y. He retired in 2007.

Coyle was a fan of all ethnic music. Both avid dancers, he and his wife, the former Patricia Stachu-

ra, took polka lessons in the early 1980s at the then-Polish Community of Buffalo. This opened a new world for the Coyles, who could be found on the dance floor of the top area bands of the day. He delved into the music headfirst and became an expert on Buffalo- and Chicago-style bands. Coyle was intrigued by the history of the music and loved first-hand accounts from local and national polka musicians.

A devoted collector, his polka library of LPs, CDs, and digital recordings numbered in the thousands.

He was also a member of the Babcock Street Boys Club Alumni.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, nephews, nieces, and many friends.

Jurek-Park Slope Funeral Home, Inc.



- Newly Decorated Chapel Facilities
- Our 24-Hour Personal Services Are Available In All Communities
- At-Home Arrangements
- Insurance Claims Handled
- Social Security & Veteran's Benefits Promptly Expedited
- Monument Inscriptions Ascertained

728 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY • (718) 768-4192

DORIS V. AMEN, LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR

EVERGREEN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

131 NASSAU AVE., BROOKLYN, NY 11222
(718) 383-8600

Leslie P. Rago Gigante, Director

COMPLETELY AIR-CONDITIONED
AERATION FLOWER CONTROL SERVICES
AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES

THE PONDERING POLE

1. d4 d5 2. c4

by Ed Poniewaz

These three moves constitute what is known in chess as the Queen's Gambit.

Like many other things in life, there was a time when I got somewhat interested in chess. Not seriously interested because I was not: 1. Super consumed with it like I was with baseball and football; and 2. I did not take the time to *learn* about it. If you want to be good at something, learn everything about it and then practice. Checkmate on the Pondering Pole for chess.

There is a mini-series on Netflix called *The Queen's Gambit* but more on that later. My interest in Polish chess Grandmasters came independent of the series but I was pleasantly surprised by both. You can find a list of all chess Grandmasters by nation in Wikipedia and the Russians are number one in this category. You will recognize some of the greatest names of course: Gary Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, and Boris Spassky who was a world champion and battled American Bobby Fischer in some epic matches. But the Poles have held their own over the years. I counted about fifty since they started recognizing this achievement.



Marcin Dorocinski plays the Russian Grandmaster Vasily Borgov in *The Queen's Gambit*.

ad agency, this one is about chess. The other thing both shows have in common is the main character of *Gambit*, Beth Harmon (played by Anya Taylor-Joy) favors (in my opinion) the looks of the character Joan Holloway, played by Christina Hendricks. The face mainly. Judge for yourself.

For our purposes though, the revelation for me is the Polish born actor, **Marcin Dorocinski**, who plays the Russian Grandmaster

and his family's roots are in Poland. He is "a Polish-born French and American mathematician and polymath with broad interests in the practical sciences...and is recognized for his contribution to the field of fractal geometry, which included coining the word 'fractal...'"

He came from Jewish family that emigrated from Warsaw to France in 1936. He has a master's degree in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology, a PhD in mathematics (another Polish mathematician) from the University of Paris, had a 35-year career working at IBM, and has taught at Harvard University.

He is known for discovering the Mandelbrot Set in 1980. Benoit Mandelbrot, quite a man with Polish connections.

Second or more request

Still need an answer or confirmation on the following "Polish or not" persons.

- **Kasper Kubica**, COO and co-founder of the company Carpe;
- **Anna Pniowsky**, actress, co-star 2019 film *Light of My Life*;
- **Danielle Demski**, Miss Teen and Miss USA pageant contestant;
- **Robert Kadlec**, physician, and Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- **Lucianne Walkowicz**, American astronomer;
- **Walter and Ray Cichon**, Jersey Shore rockers that were "like gods" and influenced the young Bruce Springsteen;
- **Lemanski Hall**, coach of the Clemson Tigers — why "Lemanski?";
- **Jennifer Kupcho**, Augusta National Women's Amateur Champion;
- **Bob Huggins**, coach of the West Virginia University men's basketball program
- **Charlie Kirk**, social and political commentator, founder, and leader of *Turning Point USA*

New year, new adventures, and hopefully both will be COVID-free. Stay safe. *Dziekuje bardzo* to Mark Kohan for the tip on Marcin Dorocinski.

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



Monika Socko (née Bobrowska), who married to Grandmaster Bartosz Socko, has garnered the title Polish women's chess champion eight times. Her last victory was in 2017.

Of the current top twenty players in the world, at number 16, is a Pole, **Jan-Krzysztof Duda**. Another notable Grandmaster from the past and one that ties in well with *The Queen's Gambit* series is a Polish woman, **Monika Socko**. Socko (née Bobrowska) is married to Grandmaster **Bartosz Socko** and was born March 24, 1978. She has garnered the title Polish women's chess champion eight times. Her last victory was in 2017.

She also won the gold medal at the Women's European Team Chess Championship in 2005, and a couple silvers in the same tournament years later, and in 2013, she scored a bronze medal. In 2002 she won the bronze in the Women's Chess Olympiad. Among her peers, Monika Socko has excelled in chess, is worthy of the title Grandmaster, and is an example to all young women and especially young Polish woman.

As mentioned, if you like binge-watch TV then you might want to try *The Queen's Gambit*, now showing on Netflix. Did you like the series *Mad Men*? *Queen's Gambit* is very much like that only it is about mad women. Lots of drinking, drugs, and incessant smoking, but instead of the show revolving around an

Vasily Borgov. While he does not have a lot of lines and does not get that much screen time, his steely-eyed focus and good looks make him stand out. You can find out more about Dorocinski in *Wikipedia* and there is short feature article online about him from *The First News* published from Poland.

The 47-year-old was born in Milanówek, near Warsaw, is a dog lover, and aspired to playing pro football until he blew out his knee. Needing a real job, Marcin enrolled in the Aleksander Zelwerowicz State Theatre Academy. That was in 1993 and 27 years later Dorocinski is still working in television, film, and theatre. While acting hasn't provided a blockbuster hit, it has sustained him and his family and he has a net worth of \$2 million (Celebritynetworth.com). His television and film resume are listed in *Wikipedia* and I have already made a note to see him in the movie *Spies of Warsaw*.

I hope *The Queen's Gambit* leads to more and better work for this talented and handsome guy. Good luck Marcin!!

Polish or not?

Benoit B. Mandelbrot is a prominent figure in human history

LANGUAGE

Polish Greetings, Sayings, and Curses

by Robert Strybel

If you were raised in America in a Polonian (or once-Polonian) community, usually in an older section of town, you probably don't know much or any Polish anymore. Statistically, 90 percent of today's Polish Americans are in that category. But often in the back of their brain are vague glimmers of words and phrases they once heard, something their Polish-born grandparents would say. They include greetings, sayings and curses. Here are some of the more common examples:

Our Polish-born ancestors also brought along various sayings and proverbs which usually have only rough English equivalents. **Gość w dom, Bóg w dom** (When a guest enters the house, God enters the house) refers to the Poles' high-powered hospitality. The same sen-



Dziękuję (Thank you), **Proszę** (Please, your welcome or here you are – when handing someone something), **Przepraszam** (Excuse me), **Dzień dobry** (Good morning), **Dobry wieczór** (Good evening), **Dobranoc** (Good night) and **Do widzenia** (Good-bye).

Others include **Jak się masz?** (How are you?), **Daj mi buzi** (Give me a kiss) and **Smacznego** (Bon appétit or enjoy your meal – said when treating someone to food).

Witamy! (Welcome – when greeting guests), and a handy wish was **Wszystkiego najlepszego** (All the best). It can end a letter (now an email as well). It also serves as Happy Birthday in: **Wszystkiego najlepszego z okazji urodzin** and Happy Anniversary: **Wszystkiego najlepszego z okazji rocznicy ślubu**. Easter greetings include **Wesołego Alleluja!** and **Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!**

Hard work was extolled by **Bez pracy nie ma kołaczy** (Without work there are no cakes), and haste is the devil's doing was expressed by **Co nagle, to po diable. Wszędzie dobrze, ale w domu najlepiej** is the equivalent of There is no place like home. **Co kraj to obyczaj** = every country has its own ways.

But beyond the traditional sayings, occasionally **Dziadek** might blurt out **Psia krew** when he hit his thumb with a hammer, and **Babcia** would invariably chime in **Nie przy dzieciach!** (Not in front of the kids!) Many PolAm kids couldn't figure out what's so bad about dog's blood.

Other expletives of the day included **Cholera** (cholera) and its milder form – **Choroba** (disease). There are many other colorful ones that can found on the internet.

Other expletives of the day included **Cholera** (cholera) and its milder form – **Choroba** (disease). There are many other colorful ones that can found on the internet.

Other expletives of the day included **Cholera** (cholera) and its milder form – **Choroba** (disease). There are many other colorful ones that can found on the internet.



10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

on Falcon Radio at

bgrso.net

Host: David Jackson

Archive: <https://www.mix-cloud.com/david-j-jackson/>

Polkas! Free Catalog

•CDs •DVDs Contact us today!

PolkaConnection.com

Your connection to polka music from around the world. Call (515) 664-8405

Remember to tune into to

LI'L JOHN'S POLKA SHOW

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

WXJX Radio 910 AM / 98.7 FM

PA Talk Radio

Streaming live at www.987jack.fm

Request line: (724) 532-1453

CD Sales: (724) 834-7871

e-mail: johndalevanko@aol.com**Polish New Castle Radio**

Streaming Polka Joy Across the World On The Fastest-Growing Polka Network

www.PolishNewCastleRadio.com

ROCKIN' POLKAS
with
MIKE & GEORGE PASIERB
WXRL
1300 AM / 95.5 FM
LANCASTER-BUFFALO
EVERY SATURDAY
2:00-4:00 p.m.



Polka Music
on your
computer
24 Hours a
Day plus many
LIVE and
pre-recorded
shows!

DANCE TIME

Despite the Pandemic, Musicians, Fans, and Organizations Shine

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Like many, I was not heartbroken to say goodbye to 2020 and thrilled to say “hello” to a year filled with the hope of joy, peace, love, and good health.

I am certain that, by this point, each of you has known someone in your life directly affected by the COVID pandemic. This past year transformed our mindset from social gatherings to social distancing; it left us all yearning for connections both physical and emotional.

Three quarters of the year were spent wearing a mask, devoting more time at home, and stressing over a variety of issues. Our polka family has long been a group of individuals programmed to remain close, dancing, hugging, laughing, singing, and crowded closely in front of our favorite bands. It is hard to conceive how drastically our lives have changed, but a new year brings us the opportunity to put that hopelessness behind and focus on optimism for a better 2021.

Regardless of how dismal the pandemic seemed, there were definitely many cheerful, bright moments in the polka world thanks to so many dedicated polka musicians, fans, and organizations. I will not forget mid-March when the cancellations began and the future of our summer polka calendar was in question. Western New York’s favorite celebration Dyngus Day was shuttered and the hearts of every polka fan sank until we got the news that **Robin Pegg** and **Gerri Chadwick** were putting together a virtual celebration via Facebook.



Robin Pegg and Gerri Chadwick, co-hosts of *Polkas After Dark/Before Dark*.



Mark & Cherie Trzepacz, co-hosts of the Polka Jammer's *TGIFriday*.

positive feedback from it.”

This event allowed so many of us to connect when we just didn't think it was possible. After being such a success Barb Haselow president of USPA turned to Robin and Gerri when news came of the USPA convention being cancelled over Memorial Day weekend. The USPA Memorial Day Weekend 2020 Home Edition was born and was held over a four-day period. The couple entertained all of the listeners nonstop with 700 in virtual attendance for the entire weekend and 2.7k views online. The amount of work, organization, equipment and dedication that Robin and Gerri put into these events opened up the idea for a weekly virtual event. The cou-



Mollie B and Ted from their Polka Tuesday studio

musician each week. The weekly event is available by visiting www.ourbroadcastline.com — it's guaranteed you will be well entertained with witty conversation and phenomenal polka music.

IT USED TO BE WEEKLY Saturday night or Sunday afternoon dances for us, but during COVID, our polka night became Tuesday when **Mollie B and Ted Lange** host “Polka Tuesday” keeping our live polka music fix each and every week. With special guests, many dedications, and their joyous Christmas show, it is an evening that we look forward to each and every week.

The happiness and cheer seem to tear down the wall of the computer screen and give you the sense they are performing entirely for you. Those Tuesday nights have brought many smiles and much dancing to our home over the last several months. I am certain that Molly and Ted look forward to that in-person fan connection once they can safely return to the road, but for fans at home, we are grateful to every bit of commitment that you continue to generously share with us.

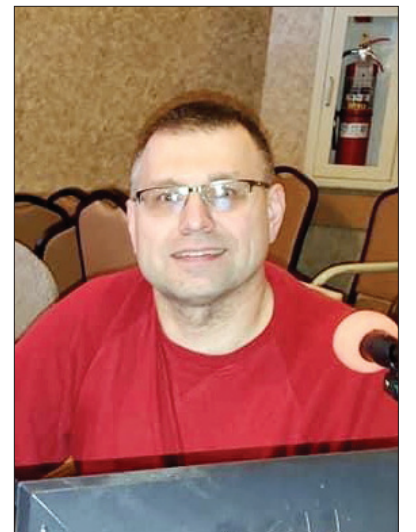
We cannot forget the long standing dedication of the **Polka Jammer Network** that has also given new meaning to entertaining the polka audience. During the summer and fall months of 2020, Ricky and I spent countless hours listening to “The Jammer.” We had always been listeners when we were in the car or spending some time at home, but during the months without live pol-

ka music, Jammer was our lifeline. The IJs have succeeded in filling that void by showcasing new music, digging up treasured old music, and discovering wonderful live recordings that instantly bring listeners to the memory of the event. Polka Jammer also served as the gatekeeper for events, keeping listeners informed with any cancellations and giving polka fans information on the few dances that were actually held during the year.

IPA and Polka Fireworks both did a fantastic job hosting virtual festivals online. Considering this virtual phenomenon was relatively unfamiliar until late, it is incredible that these organizers were able to assemble such unique opportunities for polka fans to feel connected to one another. Seven Springs Polka Fireworks showcased live footage from previous festivals with some truly classic performances. These unearthed videos cultivated many memories, laughs, and phone calls reminiscing about the previous events.

The International Polka Association hit it out of the park with

their three-day festival featuring live music, polka news, interviews, polka game shows, Hall of Fame Award winner interviews, and so much more. I cannot even begin to imagine the amount of planning, work, and logistics that went into the well thought-out weekend. To add to the excitement and in anticipation, The International Polka Association debuted its IPA Hall of Fame Interview Series on Decem-



Todd Zaganiacz — Polka Jammer president, and host of its *Polka Nite Cap Show*, *That '70s Show*, and *Totally '80s*.

ber 8th with John Gora. The IPA embarked on a project last year to capture video interviews of as many IPA Hall of Fame Inductees as possible; the goal being to document the priceless stories and memories that the inductees have, as well as their one of kind personalities, which can be shared and viewed for years to come. Every Tuesday, a new interview will be debuted via their page on Facebook, or you can view all of the interviews on their YouTube page!

Another bright light during the quiet months of 2020 was the opportunity to pull out some old albums, live recordings, and revisit some of the music that we had not

continued on next page



IPA Virtual Festival — some of the organizers and participants.

According to Robin, “The thought of not being together during the pandemic has just been devastating. Not being able to be with family and friends, we decided to do something about it. Yep, that's when we got the ‘harebrained’ idea to go ‘Live’ on Facebook Easter Sunday and Dyngus Day Weekend 2020, just to play some music and show a few pictures. We actually had a blast and received a lot of

ple has continually entertained their faithful polka listeners since then hosting “Polkas After Dark” every Saturday night from 10:00 p.m. till midnight and “Polkas Before Dark” on Sunday afternoons from 5:00-7:00 p.m. EST.

The Sunday broadcast now showcases “Your Favorite Musician of All Times” which highlights an interview with a different polka



LOSS TO COMMUNITY. Ron Urbanczyk, leader of Buffalo's New Direction band, succumb to the coronavirus following a lengthy battle. Next month's PAJ will cover his many accomplishments, including his induction into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, and the World Concertina Congress.

Pijanowski: Polka Marches On



Chardon Polka Band — Mitch Lawrence, Jake Kouwe, Mike Franklin, and Bob Young.

continued from previous page

listened to in quite some time. I took time each week to pick a different band and listen to all of the recordings and was fascinated in how many changed in sound, technique, and song choice. Some of the bands whose collection of recordings I chose were: The Knews, Polka Country Musicians, The Dynatoners, Energy, Polka Town Sound, and Polka Family.

I also took the opportunity to listen to some bands that I typically don't get a chance to hear, most notably, the Christmas release from **Chardon Polka Band**. The magnetic personality Cleveland style band is not one that I have had the opportunity to see live in person but I was pleasantly surprised upon listening to *A Very Polka Christmas*. It instantly brought a liveliness to my spirit and a smile to my face, and I thought, 'isn't this exactly what polka music is supposed to do?'

While not the traditional type of music we are used to hearing, their zany, high-energy love for polka music is obvious. My immediate response was that they reminded me of Brave Combo, a band which I have thoroughly enjoyed since being introduced to polka a few decades ago. While difficult to name just one, their rendition of "Away in a Manger" was definitely my favorite cut. Beginning as a beautiful waltz, the band kicks it into high gear with the refreshing sound of a banjo in the background adding celebratory spirit to a cherished Christmas favorite. "Kielbasa for Christmas" and "Andrew the Mail-

man" had me cracking up at the lyrics and resounded in my mind for weeks after listening to the album.

The Chardon Polka Band has fared well during quarantine working on material not only for this Christmas CD but their new release *Oh No! Not Again!* Both albums were recorded at famed Peppermint Studio with Gary Rhamy, so the quality of the recordings is unquestionably exquisite. The vocals are crystal clear with some very nice harmonies and Jake Kouwe's strong accordion is present on each cut. The album features 15 songs with a cameo introduction mid-album starring Gary Rhamy on the song "Just Another Polka." The song also welcomes Brave Combo leader/founder Carl Finch to add his unique style to this Frank Yankovic favorite. *Oh No! Not Again!* offers some traditional polkas with Chardon's energetic flair as well as some mainstream 1990s rock tunes turned polka. Their interpretation of the 1995 hit "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and Semisonic's "Closing Time" had me joining in on vocals immediately while listening in my car.

While maybe not for the polka traditionalist, this group of unlikely punk style musicians adds an immense amount of energy, heart, and a lively beat to the polka world. I cannot wait to see their personalities come alive on stage when I can finally get a chance to see them live during one of their summer picnic gigs or during their Oktoberfest circuit. You can check out the band by visiting their website www.charдонpolkaband.com.

JANUARY POLKA BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and on the web at www.987jack.fm. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

NAME	BORN	DIED	KNOWN FOR	CITY, STATE
1 Billy Gula	1963		Musician / Vocalist	Illinois
1 Steve Ostage	1922		Bandleader	Wisconsin
1 Joe Walega	1936	6/15/16	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
3 Li'l Teddy Pasterniak	1953		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Wisconsin
4 Gary Coddington	1952		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pennsylvania
6 Bill Kovatch	1944		Polka D.J.	Pennsylvania
7 Lou Kryger	1929	1/28/14	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Kryger Bros.)	Pennsylvania
7 Steve Kaminski			Musician / Vocalist	New Jersey
7 Mark Wasilewski	1953		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
8 Laura Bruzdinski Mateja			Vocalist IPA Tribute Band	Chicago
9 Bob Bobin	1950	1/14/98	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Chicago
10 Brian Chenkus	1966		Musician (Bass) / Vocalist	Massachusetts
11 Walt Wagner			Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Delaware
11 Joanne Deardorf			Former DJ & Promoter	Pennsylvania
11 Stan Galant	1947		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Altoona
11 Dr. Amil Langford	1952		Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
11 Frank Liszka	1953		Bandleader (TBC) Vocalist (The Boys)	Ohio
11 Marko Polka			Polka D.J. WQTW Radio	Latrobe
12 Richie Dombrowski			Musician / Vocalist (PCM)	Connecticut
12 Paul Brozek	1963		Musician / Vocalist	Massachusetts
13 John Banashak Sr.	1913	5/18/63	Musician (Bass) / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
13 Dave Cole	1960		Promoter	New Castle
14 Eddie Siwicki	1923	2015	Bandleader / Musician	Massachusetts
14 Stan Raiczuk	1964		Musician -Drummer	New Jersey
15 Bob Koziel	1952		Polka D.J. WMCE	Erie
15 John Jaworski	1947		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
16 Zosia Piotrowski			Vocalist	Michigan
17 Dee Dee Ogrodny			Musician / Vocalist (Versa-J's)	Pennsylvania
17 Al Piatkowski	1959		Musician / Vocalist	New York
18 Nick Nidoh	1956		Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
21 Jim Bogdon	1939		Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
23 Mitch Kupiec	1936		Polka D.J.	Massachusetts
23 Bob Siwicki	1949		Musician	Massachusetts
23 John Linda	1953		Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
24 Matt Wasilewski	1935	11/17/17	Bandleader / Musician / DJ / IJ	Pennsylvania
25 Wally Maduzia	1942		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
26 Tony Krupski	1942	7/2/18	Bandleader/Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo
28 Bill Shibilski			Polka D.J. / IJ (Promoter)	New York
28 R. J. Bogdon			Musician (Drums)	Pennsylvania
30 Del Sinchak	1935		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Youngstown
31 Ray Lucotch, Jr.	1955		Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pennsylvania

DID YOU KNOW? Donations to the PAJF are tax-deductible. We ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. The PAJF is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for scholarships, supporting Polish American organizations, and the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by visiting polanjournal.com and click on the PAJF button.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL POLKA MONTH

Celebrate with the release of RBO's new CD



The Music of RBO
FEATURING VOCALIST
Eddie Biegaj

20 songs with some brand new arrangements of old favorites and some brand new compositions

The CD will be available in mid-January.

Order from www.jimmykpolkas.com



Includes:

- Polka in New England
- Mr. Boss Polka
- Grandma Grumps Polka
- The Happy Wanderer Polka
- Echo Polka
- Dancers' Oberek
- Clarinet Polka
- In My Garden Polka
- Suffield Village Polka
- Stefania's Waltz
- Squeeze Box Magic Polka
- Hosa Dyna Polka
- Let's Hear That Bass Polka
- The Rooster Lady Polka
- Brookside Oberek
- Gray Horse Polka
- Scolding Mother Polka
- When You Wish Upon A Star
- Mr. Retiree Polka
- Brewmeister Jim Polka / Party Song

For more information, contact:

The Rich Bobinski Orchestra
June Sherry Ingram, 352 Packer Road, Mystic CT 06355-1124
860.910.5447 / www.richbobinski.com

24/7 Polka Heaven.com

OVER 40 SHOWS WEEKLY
IF YOU'RE NOT LOGGED ON
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO POLKA

www.247PolkaHeaven.com

DRIVETIME POLKAS

with "RONNIE D"

WESTERN NEW YORK'S ONLY SEVEN-DAY-A-WEEK POLKA SHOW

MONDAY-SATURDAY 5:00-7:00 p.m.

WXRL 1300AM / 95.5 FM

SUNDAYS 8:00-11:00 a.m.

WECK 100.5 FM

WECK 102.9 FM

WECK 1230AM

www.weckbuffalo.com

www.drivetimepolkas.com

"Drive Time Polkas" features a wide variety of polka music, traffic reports, and information on polka dances and other social events in Western New York.

FOR INFORMATION or ADVERTISING RATES, CALL (716) 683-4357

PHILATELY

Consider Joining the Polonus Philatelic Society

by Barbara Szydłowski

Our lives have changed with the pandemic, but not our interests.

One of my hobbies is collecting Polish postage stamps. I can recall my grandparents receiving mail from relatives in Poland. I fell in love with that country's unique stamps.

Many countries issue stamps as a source of revenue and include those designed to commemorate a person, animals, flowers, or historic event.

Being a collector since 1970, my collection consists of mint Poland stamps and some First Day Covers. I am a member of the Polonus Polish Philatelic Society, the oldest and largest society in the United States dedicated to the study and promotion of Polish philately. The Society was founded in February 1939 by Chester Mikucki. It grew from a local Chicago club into one of the largest and most active specialized philatelic societies in the world, with membership not only in the

United States but international as well. It is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501 (c)(3) organization, incorporated in 1939 in the state of Illinois.

One of the first documented uses of the word "Polonus" (Latin for "Pole") can be traced to the astronomer Copernicus, who registered at the University of Padua, Italy as Kopernik, his Polish birth name. Under nationality, he wrote "Polonus."

Throughout its history, Polonus has been active in promoting all facets of Polish philately. The society was instrumental in promoting the issuance of several United States commemorative stamps including "Paderewski, Champion of Liberty," "Poland" (Overrun Countries), "Millennium," and "Copernicus."

To learn more about Polonus, or to become a member, visit polonus.org. Membership includes

The Polonus Bulletin, a quarterly publication with articles written by some of its most influential members.



Former St. John Kanty Church Memorialized by Eagle Scout

by Richard Poremski

CRACOW, Virginia — October 24, 2020, became a warm, sun-filled morning in a small rural community in the Tidewater region of Virginia as the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of St. John of Kanty Polish Catholic Church was observed by the twelve Polish families' gathering of descendants. Their ancestors formed a small enclave that once was known as Cracow, New Kent County.

The church no longer stands, having burned to the ground when lightning struck the steeple on July 10, 1935. After the fire, only the cement porch and steps remained, and over time nature reclaimed the site. The church's relic and its small cemetery along Polish Town Road became the project Kody Kopacki focused on to become an Eagle Scout. After planning his project, he received approval from the cem-



PHOTOS: TOM HOLLOWAK

RUINS OF CHURCH PRESERVED. Eagle Scout Kody Kopacki stands on the remaining concrete steps that led to the entrance of the former St. John of Kanty Polish Catholic Church. The white metal cross in the background, constructed by Kody, is adorned with shards of stained glass recovered from the church ruins, and symbolizes the church itself.



HISTORICAL PLAQUE ERECTED. A sizable historical plaque, erected by Scout Troop 360, illustrates the 1920 church and its founder, the Rev. Ceslaus J. Jakubowski, pastor, and also includes a history of the church and its Polonia connection.

Boy Scout Troop 360. He also received monetary donations from friends, family, and the Father Jakubowski Knights of Columbus.

In addition to creating the path, he constructed a cross with shards of the stained-glass window, which was the church's front door.

The dedication ceremony took place at 10:00 a.m., the exact hour of the original dedication 100 years before. It was presided over by Rev. Oscar Paraiso, who blessed the church remnants and the grounds of the cemetery. A letter from Gary Silvia, chairman/ OLSB cemetery committee, was read by Robert Ryalls, OLSB business manager. He also read a letter sent to Father Paraiso by the Bishop of Richmond.

The special guest speaker, Thomas Hollowak, gave a brief history of the church. Two of the guests in attendance were Henry Franzyszen — the only descendant still living on his family's farm — and Butch's brother. Both gave brief comments, and thanked Kody for the remarkable achievement of his project.

The ceremony concluded with a final blessing by Father Paraiso and an impromptu book signing. Holly McGowan provided individually wrapped cupcakes and bottles of water for those in attendance.

Note: This is a follow-up article about the historic St. John Kanty Church that first appeared in the September 2019 issue of the *Polish American Journal*.

FINE ESTATE, MODERN, AND CLOSE-OUT JEWELRY
BUYERS OF GOLD, SILVER, AND DIAMONDS
EXPERT JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR
DISCOUNT BRAND-NAME WATCHES

Bethesda Jewelers

7315 WISCONSIN AVE. • BETHESDA CROSSING
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814
MON.-FRI. 1:00-8:00 P.M., SAT. BY APPOINTMENT
TOM TERPILAK • (301) 654-8678 • WWW.BETHESDAJEWELER.COM

PAJ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW SUBSCRIBER Fill out form. If gift subscription , please fill out address of recipient.	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL Please include address label from paper	<input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE Enter new address below. Please include address label from paper if possible.
--	--	---

KEEP OUR POLISH HERITAGE ALIVE!
SUBSCRIBE TO THE PAJ TODAY!

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 YEAR—\$25.00 10 issues	<input type="checkbox"/> PAYMENT ENCLOSED
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 YEARS—\$45.00 20 issues	<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE BILL ME Your subscription will not begin until your check clears.

FOREIGN and CANADIAN RATES:
See prices printed on page 2. For library, institution, and bulk rates, please call 1 (800) 422-1275

CHARGE TO MY: **VISA** **AMEX**
 MASTERCARD **DISCOVER**

CARD NO. _____

EXP. DATE _____ CS CODE _____

NAME _____

NO. STREET _____ APT. NO. _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

DIGITAL EDITION. To receive the PAJ as an Adobe PDF file, please initial here _____. Print your e-mail address below. This replaces your print edition.

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MOVING? Please note the Post Office will NOT FORWARD SECOND-CLASS MAIL. If you move, you must notify our office.

THREE EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!

MAIL TO: PAJ SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 198, BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026-0198

CALL: 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088
M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. EST

ON LINE: www.polamjournal.com
SECURE SERVER (Amex, Disc., MC, Visa, and PayPal)

etry committee at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament at West Point, Virginia, that administers the cemetery.

Kody, along with other Troop 360 scouts and their supporting parents, undertook the work of removing some of the trees and overgrowth and reinforcing the cement steps. They also created a circular path between the former church and cemetery, placing a historical marker that included a photograph of the church's pastor, Rev. Ceslaus

Jakubowski, and a brief history.

Kody drew up the suggestions of the late caretaker Roger "Butch" Staskiel, who died in January, and Karol Franzyszen, who had shared his research on the community with Thomas Hollowak. The latter published a history of the enclave, *From Cracow to Polish Town: The History of a Polish Enclave in the Weir Creek Ministerial District, New Kent County, Virginia* [History Press, 2020].

Working within COVID-19 restrictions, he was assisted by his

When is Pączki Day? February 11th in Poland, February 16th in Polonia

by Robert Strybel

The question posed above may seem pretty straightforward, but the answer you get will depend on whom you happen to ask. In Poland it is known as *Thusty Czwartek* (Fat Tuesday), is celebrated a week before Ash Wednesday and this year's falls on February 11. Across Polonia it is Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) or most commonly *Pączki Day* which will be on February 16.

The term, "Pączki Day" nor anything like it (*Dzień Pączka*, *Święto Pączka*) is not used in Poland. Fat Tuesday is observed but referred to as *Ostatki* (the final fling of merriment before Lent). It is also called *Sledzik* (little herring), because before the day is out pickled herring is served to mark the start of the Lenten fast. And, since fish like to swim (*ryby lubią pływać*), there should be plenty of vodka to wash it down.

Why the difference? Probably because when the first Polish immigrants began arriving in the 1850s,

the Mardi Gras notion was already well established in the United States. New England was close to French Canada, and the cultural influence of the huge Louisiana territory continued making its imprint on American folkways long after the United States purchased it from France in 1803.

Thusty Czwartek is also celebrated in America in places (including Chicago and localities in New Jersey and Connecticut) having significant Polish-born populations. But, whatever the case, one thing is unchanged: those celebrations precede Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

Once the pandemic goes way (hopefully as soon as possible!), Polonia can resume the once very popular pączki-themed events such as the *Bal Pączkowy* (Pączki Ball) and *Zabawa Pączkowa* (Pączki Party). In fact, rather than making *Thusty Czwartek* and Shrove Tuesday an either-or alternative, it might be worth combining Polish Fat Thursday with Polonia's *Pączki Day* (Fat Tuesday) into one, super-long six-day, mega-Pączki Weekend. This pandemic year, such an option is also possible except it would probably have to be limited to pick-ups and take-outs starting February 11.