

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

ESTABLISHED 1911

JULY-AUGUST 2021 • VOL. 110, NO. 6 PBA • \$2.25

www.polamjournal.com



COACH K MAKES RETIREMENT PLANS PAGE 12

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

COHEN'S APOLOGY IS NOT ENOUGH • KOŚCIUSZKO SQUADRON EXHIBIT • POLISH SIDES FOR YOUR COOKOUT  
MAJEWSKI RUNNING FOR 5TH TERM • DR. MURZYNSKI WINS MAJOR AWARDS • ACPC TO MEET IN D.C.  
WYSZYŃSKI ON THE ROAD TO SAINTHOOD • CHRISTMAS IN JULY SALE • TIPS IN TRANSLATING RECORDS

## NEWSMARK

### Biden Considering Mark Brzezinski as ambassador in Warsaw

President Joe Biden is considering nominating diplomat Mark Brzezinski as Washington's new ambassador to Poland.



Brzezinski, who served as ambassador to Sweden during the Obama administration, is the brother of Mika Brzezinski, a host of MSNBC's "Morning Joe," and the son of Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served as national security adviser under President Jimmy Carter.

The news was first reported by Annie Karni, a White House correspondent for *The New York Times*.

The previous U.S. ambassador to Poland, Georgette Mosbacher, ended her mission after Biden's election victory over Donald Trump.

Born in 1965, Mark Brzezinski is a lawyer, political scientist, and diplomat fluent in Polish. He received a Ph.D. from Oxford University for a dissertation on constitutional reform in Poland.

In 2007, he received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit from Poland in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of Polish-American relations.

His late Polish-born father, Zbigniew Brzezinski, was the holder of the Order of White Eagle, Poland's highest state honor.

### Over 27 million COVID-19 shots administered in Poland

(POLSKIE RADIO) As of June 24, a total of 27,078,372 COVID-19 vaccine shots have been administered in Poland, officials announced.

On June 23, 323,071 vaccines were administered, with 11,645 reporting adverse reactions. Meanwhile, a total of 25,956 doses have been wasted in the rollout, according to the Polish health ministry.

Poland had injected more than 16.3 million first doses of COVID-19 vaccines, while almost 11.6 million people had been fully inoculated, health ministry data showed. The tally includes two-dose vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca as well as Johnson & Johnson's one-shot vaccine.

In late June, a fresh supply of around 2.6 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and a separate shipment of 322,000 doses of AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria jab arrived in Poland, officials told reporters. Poland also received around 122,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson's one-shot Janssen vaccine and about 285,000 doses of a coronavirus vaccine developed by U.S. drug maker Moderna, according to Michał Kuczmierowski, head of the Government Strategic Reserves Agency.

Children aged 12 to 15 have been given the green light to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in Poland as the country ramps up its inoculation campaign.

As of June 24, Poland reported 165 new infections and 35 additional death related to COVID-19, bringing the country's total number of cases during the pandemic to 2,879,192 and fatalities to 74,893.

### Polish National Home Looks to Buy Building

HARTFORD, Conn. — The board of directors of the Polish National Home announced it is continuing with negotiations regarding the purchase of the PNH building, and to once again lease back the first floor for use by the PNH Social Club.

The PNH re-opened with limited weekend hours for bar service only (and possibly limited prepared food choices) June 19, 2021, but — as is the case with many businesses — it is short-staffed. If you or someone you know is interested in working at the PNH and has restaurant experience, please contact the Home at [info@polishhomect.org](mailto:info@polishhomect.org).

Because of the pandemic, the PNH continues to face an urgent need for funds. Its board has created a fundraising page to assist in alleviating mounting taxes and other obligations, as well as to make some necessary repairs and upgrades (air conditioning, for example). It is asking members of Polonia to consider a donation in support of the PNH, sharing its fund-raising page to all your social media accounts and email contacts, and to ask your contacts to share the page to their social media accounts and email contacts. The fundraiser page is: [www.tmcfunding.com/funds/polish-national-home-relief-fund/5564/](http://www.tmcfunding.com/funds/polish-national-home-relief-fund/5564/)

The Polish National Home is located at 60 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

## Cześć! Sveiki!



PORTAL statues have been erected in the city centers of Vilnius, Lithuania and Lublin, Poland, allowing residents of each to see each other in real time.

Installed May 26, 2021 outside of the Vilnius Train Station and Lublin's Central Square, the project was created by GoVilnius, the development agency of the Lithuanian capital.

According to its organizers, the PORTAL is supposed to serve as a visual bridge and new wave community accelerator that brings people of different cultures together and encourages them to rethink the meaning of unity.

"Humanity is facing many potentially deadly challenges; be it social polarization, climate change, or economic issues. However, if we look closely, it's not a lack of brilliant scientists, activists, leaders, knowledge or technology causing these challenges. It's tribalism, a lack of empathy and a narrow perception of the world, which is often limited to our national borders," says Benediktas Gylys, president of the Benediktas Gylys Foundation and initiator of the PORTAL idea. "That's why we've decided to bring the PORTAL idea to life — it's a bridge that unifies and an invitation to rise above prejudices and disagreements that belong to the past. It's an invitation to rise above the us-and-them illusion."

The organizers plan to further connect the world using dozens of PORTALS across Europe and around the world in the near future. The website says the next PORTALS planned are in Reykjavik and London.

For more info, visit <https://portalcities.org/>.

## Marczewski's Nightbirde wows "America's Got Talent"



Jane Marczewski aka Nightbirde performs on "America's Got Talent."

by Staś Kmiec

"You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy," said Jane Marczewski following singing an original ballad during her audition for TV's "Ameri-

ca's Got Talent." The performance resonated with the judges, who were left in tears.

Ohio-native Jane Marczewski, who performs under the stage name Nightbirde, took the stage looking thin and frail. She exuded serenity and strength when she revealed she had some cancer her lungs, spine and liver. "I have a 2% chance of survival, but 2% is not 0%."

With a natural, stoic smile and heartfelt glow, she performed her composition — the moving anthem "It's Ok." In a clear, ethereal voice she displayed a genuine authenticity center stage — raw and eloquent.

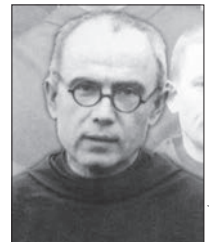
The lyrics are autobiographical — she moved to California, changed her name, but especially in the pandemic, the song lyrics: "It's OK, it's alright, we're all a little lost sometimes" really hits home for a lot more people. "2020 was quite the

see "Marczewski ...," page 4

## How a Polish Priest Came to Grace Westminster

### Memorial to St. Kolbe Stands Among the Immortals

This August 14 marks the 80th anniversary of the death of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest who gave his own life to save a fellow prisoner in the Auschwitz-Birkenau German concentration camp.



UNIVERSAL HISTORY ARCHIVE/US

Kolbe was beatified as Confessor by Pope Paul VI in 1970, and canonized as Martyr by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

While most Poles and Catholics are familiar with Kolbe's sacrifice, there is a part of his legacy of which many might not be of: he is memorialized in one of the most prominent institutions in the world, Westminster Abbey.

### Britain's Valhalla

The Abbey is Britain's *de facto* national church. The building itself was a Benedictine monastic church until the monastery was dissolved in 1539. Between 1540 and 1556, the abbey had the status of a cathedral. Since 1560, the building is no longer an abbey or a cathedral, having instead the status of a Church of England "Royal Peculiar"—a church responsible directly to the sovereign.

The site of all English and British coronations since the investiture of William the Conqueror in 1066 (except Edward V and Edward VIII, who were never crowned), the Abbey is the burial site of more than 3,300 persons, usually of prominence in British history. Its mausoleum houses the remains of seventeen monarchs, eight Prime Ministers, and a wealth of national figures of military, cultural, and scientific repute, from Robert Adam to Isaac Newton. It has hosted seventeen royal weddings, from King Henry I and Matilda of Scotland in 1100, to Prince William and Catherine Middleton's nuptials in 2011. Notables whose remains can be found in the Abbey include: Edward the Confessor, Sir Isaac Newton, Elizabeth I, Charles Darwin, David Livingstone, Charles Dickens, Geoffrey Chaucer, Rudyard

see "St. Kolbe," page 4

## VIEWPOINTS

## Cohen's Apology is Not Enough

U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen has apologized for recent statements suggesting Polish complicity in the Holocaust, which evoked hefty protests from the Polish ambassador in the United States, the Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Warsaw-based Institute for National Remembrance (IPN).

In an interview for CNN, Cohen, when asked about U.S. Republican congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene's claims that "wearing a (Covid - PAP) mask is exactly the same type of abuse suffered during the genocide of millions of European Jews during World War II," answered that "it was not just Nazi Germany; it was Poland where some of these more severe, serious concentration camps were, Auschwitz and Birkenau."

As reported in Warsaw's *The First News*, Cohen's words brought sharp protests from Poland and the Polish diaspora, most notably the New York-based Kosciuszko Foundation, which accused the Congressman of slandering Poland by implying its co-responsibility for German war crimes.

In his reply to a protest letter in the matter from the Polish ambassador, Cohen apologized for his words, and assured he had spoken about the Polish-located death camps purely in a geographical context without meaning to imply Poland's involvement in the Holocaust. He stressed that he had never claimed that the Poles took part in the extermination of Jews in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. He also assured that he was fully aware of the persecution suffered by the Poles from German hands during World War II.

But not everyone is happy with Cohen's act of contrition. "As everyone expected, he is apologizing quietly after he blasted out his hateful misinformation on mainstream TV," said Stefan Komar, vice president of Polish Affairs for the Long Island division of the Polish American Congress.

Komar wants a meeting with the Polish American community and Cohen to discuss the issue. He has also requested a statement be posted on Cohen's website and Facebook page. Komar also wants Cohen to apologize on CNN.

If you still feel angry or unsatisfied about Cohen's response, call his offices at: (901) 544-4131 or (202) 225-3265, or and/or post something on his Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CongressmanSteveCohen/](https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanSteveCohen/).

### Take advantage of our Half-Price Subscription Sale

Every July, we give our subscribers a chance to introduce the PAJ to



PHOTO: SCSE

Cohen's words brought sharp protests from Poland and the Polish diaspora, which accused the Congressman of slandering Poland by implying its co-responsibility for German war crimes.

new readers with our Independence Day Sale.

For the month of July, current subscribers can purchase a gift subscription for half price (\$12.50 for print; \$11.00 for Adobe PDF).

As a subscriber, you can sign up as many new subscriptions as you wish at half the price of the regular subscription. Simply use the form on the back cover. Use a separate sheet if necessary. You may also order half-price gift subscriptions from our web site [polamjournal.com](http://polamjournal.com). Just follow the link to the subscription sale!

This is our way of saying "Thank You" to the hundreds of readers who buy gift subscriptions for friends and family. There are a few rules, however:

- Checks, money orders, or internet receipts must be dated July 2021 to receive the discount.
- Not applicable with other offers or foreign subscriptions.
- New subscriptions only! If recipient is already on our subscription list, five (5) months will be added to their account. No exceptions.

New subscribers will be notified of the gift subscription and donor's name. A subscription to the *Polish American Journal* makes a great gift any time of the year.

### Good News

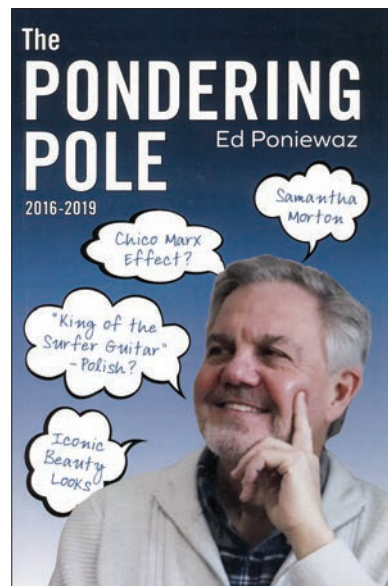
**REV. CANON PHILLIP S. MAJKA**, Catholic Chaplain at Washington, D.C.'s Dulles Airport, has produced a 28-minute DVD "For Those Who Die Alone Without a Priest."

Rev. Majka said knowledge of this rite is very important, now more than ever because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more or to contact Rev. Majka, call him at (703) 403-3723; email [Rev.Philip.Majka@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Philip.Majka@gmail.com).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Anna Kryszynski, PRCUA District 7 national director and PRCUA Polonia Folk and Dance Ensemble director, as well as to Polonia Ensemble music director Mieczyslaw Dziś for the great honor of receiving the "Gloria Artis" Medal for Merit to Culture awarded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

The ceremony was held at the Polish Consulate in Chicago on May 3rd.



**ED PONIEWAZ**, the PAJ's *Pondering Pole*, has assembled a collection of his columns from 2016 to 2019, and is offering them in a softcover book, aptly titled *The Pondering Pole*. The goal of column (which started in the PAJ in 2005) and the book is the educate readers "and give them something uplifting and positive about being Polish."

Topics covered in the new work range from John Paul II's messages of love, and Polonia's unknown economic geniuses to competitive glass blowing and ideas to add some Polishness to your life.

Of course, the book would not be complete without his signature (and ever-popular) section "Polish or Not?," in which Poniewaz has unearthed the Polish backgrounds of some of the planets top names in politics, sports, entertainment, media, and more, all with Polish blood in their veins.

To get your copy, contact Poniewaz at 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com).

### Not-So-Good News

USPS announced new price hikes will take place at the end of August. This will, once again, cost us more to mail the newspaper

"The news is bad," according to a National Newspaper Association email. The increase for periodicals (newspapers and magazines) will be 8.806 percent. The increased cost to mail those products in-county,

which is the lifeblood of community newspapers, will be 8.31 percent.

Brett Wesner, chair of National Newspaper Association and president of Wesner Publications, Cordell, Okla., said the rate announcement was grim news for newspapers that have been fielding months of complaints that subscribers are not receiving their copies on time.

"Nothing about this scenario is good," Wesner said. "These increases will require many newspapers to increase subscription prices to cover this new cost and readers will think we have lost our minds to charge more when USPS cannot get the paper to so many on time. But times are tough in our world. We have to pay these bills."

At this point, the PAJ is hoping the increase will be manageable, and one that can be offset by donations to the Press Fund and advertising.

### Wanted: Advertising Representative

We are looking for someone familiar with American Polonia to contact existing and potential advertisers. We are offering a healthy commission and will cover telephone expenses. If interested, please contact us at (800) 422-1275, or email [editor@polamjournal.com](mailto:editor@polamjournal.com).

### PAJF Scholarship

Please help us spread the word about this year's PAJF Kamylla and Czesław Kaszuba College Scholarship. In addition to the Kaszuba \$1,500.00 prize, the runner-up will receive a \$500.00 scholarship. This is the first year the Foundation has waived the application fee. See details on page 20.

### Better Late than Never

For those of you who don't believe us when we tell you all editions of the PAJ are mailed on the same day, and delivery is at the discretion of your carrier, we received a phone call from a subscriber in Philadelphia on April 23 informing us his December 2020 paper had just arrived.

On May 19, he called again, this time to let us know his January edition had just arrived.

Time zones are one thing, but month zones are something else!

### Oops

An error at the company which mails the PAJ resulted in First Class subscribers getting as many as twelve editions of the May-June paper.

We thank those who called to inform of the mistake, and thank those who shared the extra papers with family and friends.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Exhibition Shows how Poles Helped Build America

An open-air exhibition focusing on the achievements of the Polish American community and the contribution of people of Polish descent to American science, culture and the arts has opened in the southern Polish city of Katowice.

Entitled "Polish Americans/American Poles," the bilingual Polish-English exhibition tells the story of the people, places and events which have shaped the fabric of American life since the arrival

of the first Polish immigrants in the early 1600s.

Among those highlighted in the display are individuals such as NASA astronaut George Zamka, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Frank Wilczek, and basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Visitors can also learn about the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in Troy, Michigan, and examine the history of Panna Maria, the first Polish settlement in Texas.

The idea for the exhibition came from the U.S. Consul General in

the Polish city of Kraków, Patrick Slowinski, who often speaks with pride of his Polish roots.

The exhibition ran until June 17. It had earlier been shown in two other cities in southern Poland.

### Biden irks Poland by Abandoning Sanctions

U.S. President Joe Biden recently decided not to impose sanctions on the controversial Russian-owned Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

"The pipeline is almost completely finished, so to impose sanc-

tions now would, I think, be counterproductive for our European relations," Biden argued.

That unexpected change of heart surprised and irked Poland and its neighbors who for years have battled the Russo-German project, arguing that it would increase Europe's reliance on Russian energy which Moscow has at times used for political blackmail.

Poland's strong opposition to the Nordstream project had enjoyed the full backing of the previous Trump Administration.

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

*Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuation 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](mailto:info@polamjournal.com)

[www.polamjournal.com](http://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 271

NORTH BOSTON, NY 14110-0271

Editor in Chief Mark A. Kohan  
[editor@polamjournal.com](mailto:editor@polamjournal.com)

Associate Editors Benjamin Fiore, S.J., Jennifer Pijanowski, Staś Kmieć, Thomas Tarapacki, David Trawinski

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 Piatek, 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
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
1-year	\$25.00	\$40.00
2-year	\$45.00	\$77.00
<b>FOREIGN</b>		
1-year	\$35.00	\$50.00
2-year	\$55.00	\$94.00
<b>LIBRARY / NON-PROFIT</b>		
1-year	\$21.00	\$3500
2-year	\$37.00	\$67.00
<b>DIGITAL (Adobe PDF® FILE)</b>		
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](mailto: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.

## POLONIA PLACES

## St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church in Perry, N.Y.

by Gregory L. Witul

**St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church**  
75 Water St., Perry, New York  
Status: Closed

As many of our Polish ancestors headed off to America to start a new life, they weren't diving headlong into the unknown. Many had friends and family who had settled before them and could help them establish themselves. For others, they would be sailing off with their friends from their village with the promise of a job, a home, and the American dream, all courtesy of a factory in desperate need of workers. In Western New York one factory that would bring Poles by the scores would be the Perry Knitting Mills in Perry, N.Y., and while they would provide work and help with housing, the Poles would be responsible for establishing their own house of worship.

As the Poles were settled in Perry during the first decade of the 1900s, they attended the town's only Catholic Church, St. Joseph. By 1908, the Poles numbers had grown to almost 450 souls and were becoming

a well-established but under-served community of the parish. Needing a church of their own, money was raised and a petition was circulated that Joseph Nawloski, Joseph Pisarek, and John Rozanski presented to Bishop Colton to es-



establish a Polish parish in Perry. In the summer of 1910, Rev. Thomas Grochowski was sent to investigate the need for a Polish mission in Per-

ry and determined there was none. The bishop disagreed with Father Grochowski's assessment and on November 14, sent Fr. Joseph Rudzinski to Perry, establishing St. Stanislaus Kostka. On Sunday, November 20, 1910, Fr. Rudzinski celebrated the first Mass for the parish of in a rented hall on Water Street.

In his first year, Fr. Rudzinski purchased the rented hall and converted it into a tem-

ple and helped set up the Infant Jesus Day Nursery run by the Felician Sisters in 1939, the Felician Sisters began teaching religious classes and

debt and helped set up the Infant Jesus Day Nursery run by the Felician Sisters in 1939, the Felician Sisters began teaching religious classes and

at the request of a number of families, Polish language classes. Father Adalbert's successor, Fr. Michael Klukaczewski, built on Cichy's financial fortitude and maintained some parish savings while still having the funds to improve the church with a new organ and new stained glass windows.

During World War II, St. Stan's was considered one of the most active and thriving parishes in Wyoming County, but following the war, the population of Perry began to see a decline. This decline only escalated as the industries around Perry started to close, and younger residents went away for school, never to return. By the turn of the millennium the parish numbers had diminished greatly.

In the early 2000s, St. Stanislaus Kostka was joined with St. Joseph's in Bliss, Assumption in Portageville, St. Mary's in Silver Springs, and St. Joseph's in Perry creating St. Isidore's parish. As a result of the merger, St. Stanislaus was one of the locations the new parish decided to close. On August 31, 2008 the last Mass was held at the church and in July 2012, the parish campus was sold.

porary church and rectory. He also began scouting out a location for his parish that would be easy for all the Poles to attend. It took a year to se-

debt and helped set up the Infant Jesus Day Nursery run by the Felician Sisters in 1939, the Felician Sisters began teaching religious classes and

## ALMANAC

## July Lipiec

- 1 **1847.** Founding of **Parisville**, first Polish settlement in Michigan.
1926. Opening of the **Ben Franklin Bridge** (then known as Delaware River Bridge) built by Ralph Modjeski.
- 2 **MATKA BOSKA JAGODNA**  
*Blessed Virgin of the Berries.* The first fruits and wild berries are ripened by this day.
- 3 **1619.** Account of strike by **Polish settlers** in Jamestown, Virg. entered into records of the Virginia Company. The Poles, pitch, tar and glassmakers, held the win strike for equal rights. It is considered to be the first labor strike in the New World.
1844. Birth of **Rev. John Pitass** first pastor of St. Stanislaus parish, the Mother Church of Buffalo Polonia.
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)**  
1931. Statue of **Woodrow Wilson** unveiled in Poland in appreciation for his efforts on Poland's behalf.
- 5 **1945.** Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.
- 6 **1922.** Death of **BLESSED MARIA TERESIA LEDOCHOWSKA** (b. April 29 1863), Roman Catholic nun and African missionary.
- 7 **1572.** Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.
- 8 **1925.** Birth of **Dr. Alina Szczesniak**, who emigrated to the United States and became the world's leading authority on food texture. She was a food scientist and researcher for General Foods Corporation for 34 years.
1824. Birth of **Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer.
- 9 **1989.** President **George Bush** begins two-day visit Poland meeting with Lech Walesa and other Solidarity leaders.
1823. Birth of Polish portrait painter **Henryk Rodakowski**.
- 10 **1835.** Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.
- 11 **1943.** Peak of **massacres of Poles** in Volhynia, part of an ethnic cleansing operation carried out in Nazi German-occupied Poland by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army.
1938. Death of **Mother Coletta Hilbert**, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.
- 13 **2000.** Death of **Jan Karski**, for-

- mer Polish diplomat who in 1942 tried to warn Great Britain and the United States of Nazi atrocities in occupied Poland.
- 14 **1904.** Birth of writer **Isaac Bashevis Singer** in Radzymin, Poland.
- 15 **1894.** Birth of **Tadeusz Sendzimir**, engineer and inventor with 120 patents in mining and metalwork.
1410. Polish victory over the **Teutonic Knights at Grunwald**.
1871. Birth of famed Polish explorer and geographer **Henry Arctowski**.
- 16 **SAINT KUNEGUNDA BLESSED CZESLAW**  
1873. **Jan Matejko** establishes a school of fine arts in Krakow.
- 17 **SAINT JADWIGA D'ANJOU** (d. 1399)  
1629. Birth of Poland's warrior king, **Jan Sobieski**.
- 18 **1915.** Birth of polka radio pioneer **Eddie Gronet**.
- 19 **1980.** Lt. Col. **Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 **SAINT MARGARET OF ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA**, one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers  
*Święta Małgorzata zapowiada środek lata.*  
*St. Margaret's Day - half the year away.*
- 21 **1901.** Dedication of **St. Josaphat Basilica**, Milwaukee, Wisc.  
1942. Nazis began their transport of Jews from the **Warsaw Ghetto** to the German death camp at Treblinka.
- 23 **1942.** Nazis open a 2nd Treblinka Camp, as the evacuation of the Warsaw ghetto began.
- 25 **ST. JACOB THE GREATER**  
Patron of laborers. By Polish custom, half of all eggs laid today are given to the poor.  
*Jaki Jakób do południa taka zima aż do Grudnia*  
*As Jacob does in the morning, so does the winter in December*
- 26 **ST. ANN**  
*Od Świętej Hanki, zimne wieczory i ranki.*  
*From St. Ann's, cool evenings and morn.*
1400. Restoration of **Jagiellonian University**.
- 28 **1812.** Birth of prolific Polish novelist **Józef Ignacy Krasinski**.  
1915. Roman Catholic Diocese surrenders possession of **Holy Mother of the Rosary** to the Polish National Catholic Church, Buffalo.
- 29 **ST. MARTHA**

*Okolo świętej Marty płac za żniwo, dawaj kwarty.*

*Święta Marta wodzi głód do czarta.*  
*Around St. Martha, pay for the harvest, give me quarters.*  
*Saint Marta brings famine to the devil.*

- 30 **1966.** United States Postal Service issues stamp in honor of **Poland's millennium**.
1619. At meeting of legislative assembly at the **Jamestown, Virginia** settlement, Poles are granted a political voice after withholding services as pitch, tar and glassmakers. Their action is considered the first strike in the United States.
- 31 **1928.** **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.

## August Sierpień

- 1 **1944.** The **Warsaw Rising** (powstanie warszawskie) beings, a major World War II operation by the Polish resistance Home Army (Armia Krajowa) to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany.
1943. **Eleven Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth** murdered by Nazis in Nowogrodek.
- 2 **1945.** **Potsdam Conference** (July 17-August 2, 1945) concludes, last of the World War II meetings held by the "Big Three" heads of state: American President Harry S. Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (and his successor, Clement Attlee) and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin.
- 3 **1901.** Birth of **Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński**, Primate of Poland from 1948-1981, a staunch defender of faith during Poland's year's under Communist control.  
1747. Founding of the **first public library in Europe** in Warsaw.
1924. Death of **Józef Konrad Korzeniowski (Joseph Conrad)**, 66, British and Polish author.
- 4 **ST. DOMINIC**  
*Gdy ciepło na Dominika, ostra zima nas dotyka.*  
*St. Dominic warm, fierce winter storms.*
1306. **King Wenceslas III** of Poland and Bohemia murdered.

- 5 **1942.** **Janusz Korczak** and the children he cared for were taken by the Nazis from an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto. He chose to stay with the children in his care as they went together into the gas chambers at Treblinka.
- 6 **TRANSFIGURATION**  
1955. As a senator, **John F. Kennedy** visits Poland and makes a pilgrimage to Częstochowa.
1935. **Danzig**, Germany (today's Gdańsk) 60% of voters agreed to Nazism (NSDAP).
- 8 **1915.** Birth of **Fr. Cornelian Dende, O.F.M. Conv.** famed director of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*.
- 9 **1942.** Death in Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz of **St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)**.
- 10 **1582.** Russia ended its 25-year war with Poland. Russia and Poland concluded the **Peace of Jam-Zapolski**, under which Russia lost access to the Baltic and surrendered Livonia and Estonia to Poland.
1880. Founding of the **Polish National Alliance**.
- 11 **1882.** Birth of **Władysław Anders**, General of the Polish Army during World War II.
- 12 **1866.** Birth of **Gabriel Sovulewski**, who helped develop Yosemite National Park, where he is buried.
- 13 **1838.** Birth of **Fr. Dominic Kolasinski**, who builder of Polish churches in Detroit.  
*Kto rano wstaje, temu Pan Bóg daje.*  
*Who wakes up early, Lord God provides him.*
- 14 **1941.** Death in Auschwitz of **St. Maximilian Kolbe**.
- 15 **ASSUMPTION**  
*... also known as Matki Boskiej Zielnej, Feast of the Lady of the Herbs.*  
*This day is marked in Poland by a massive pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa.*
- 16 **2002.** **Pope John Paul II** returned to Poland for a 3-day visit.  
1941. Largest crowd (135,132) to attend a U.S. boxing march, watched **Tony (Zalewski) Zale** knock out Billy Prior.
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH**  
**Sw. Jacek**, priest, 1257. He is the patron saint of pierogi, and the phrase, "Świety Jacek z pieroga-

- mi!" ("St. Hyacinth and his pierogi!") is an expression of surprise, is equivalent to the American "good grief!" or "holy smokes!"
- 18 **1655.** Signing of the **Union of Kdainiai**, which put Lithuania under Swedish protection, the purpose of which was to end Lithuania's union with Poland.
- 19 **1506.** Death of Alexander Jagiellon.
- 20 **1940.** Polish pilots fight in the **Battle of Britain**.
- 21 **1907.** Birth of **Henry Archacki** († Aug. 13, 1988), notable Polish graphic artist, journalist, researcher, and historian.
1939. Birth of **Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski**, Boston Red Sox hitting star.
- 23 **1939.** Signing of the **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** in Moscow, officially the Treaty of Non-aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 24 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW**  
*Na Bartłomieja apostoła bocian do drogi dzieci woła on St Bartholomew's storks prepare for a journey*
- 25 **1905.** Birth of **St. Maria Faustyna Kowalska** of the Blessed Sacrament, OLM in Głogowiec, Poland († 5 October 1938), Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic.
1919. Birth of **Matt Louis Urban** (d. 1995), in Buffalo, N.Y., the most decorated combat soldier of World War II.
- 26 **OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA**
- 27 **1939.** Nazi Germany demands **Danzig** and Polish corridor.  
1764. **Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski** named King of Poland.
- 28 **1596.** **Christopher Pawłowski** leads expedition to India.
- 29 **1655.** Swedish king **Karel X Gustaf** occupied Warsaw.
- 30 **1481.** Two Latvian monarchs were executed for conspiracy to murder **Polish King Kazimierz IV**.
- 31 **1980.** Trade union Solidarity founded in Gdańsk, Poland.

This paper mailed on or before **June 29**. The September 2021 edition will be mailed on or before **August 30**.

## REMINDER

**JULY AND AUGUST EDITIONS COMBINED.** This month, subscribers are receiving a combined July and August edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the July and August editions. Deadline for the September 2021 edition is August 6.

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY



**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](mailto:childshart@aol.com) • website: [PolishChildrensHeartline.org](http://PolishChildrensHeartline.org)

## St. Kolbe: When war broke out, Kolbe sent his brothers away, and was soon interred

continued from cover

Kipling, Laurence Olivier, and Stephen Hawking.

Following World War I, an unidentified British soldier killed in action was interred at Westminster. His is the only grave forbidden to be walked on. There are thousands of graves and memorials in Westminster Abbey. It has been called "Britain's Valhalla."

### Kolbe's History

Kolbe was born on January 8, 1894 in Zdunska Wola. His parents were devout and nationalistic. At the age of eighteen he went to Rome to study philosophy and theology. In October 1917 he and six other students formed a new body, Militia Immaculatae, which promoted devotion to the Virgin Mary, which worked to secure converts and to perform good works.

Kolbe returned to Poland to lecture at the Franciscan seminary at Krakow. In October 1927 Prince Jan Drucki-Lubecki gave to the movement a plot of land near Warsaw to develop their work: this became Niepokalanow, the city of the Immaculatae. Here the community flourished, publishing prolifically, and soon its influence spread across Poland. Its journal was not uncontroversial. A number of issues contained antisemitic articles, but they were not written by Kolbe himself,

and he was known to censure the other editors for such work.

In 1930 Kolbe travelled with four of his brothers to Japan, to Nagasaki. There they bought a second plot of land, formerly a cemetery for untouchables. They built a house there and published another journal, provoking curiosity and interest in the city.

Six years later Kolbe returned again to Poland. By now, Niepokalanow was producing nine journals with huge print runs. Kolbe viewed it not as a business, but as "a modern workshop of the improvement of man."

When war broke out, he sent his brothers away, but remained there himself. He was soon interned. He resisted pressure to apply for release, but was for a time free. He was detained again and sent to Auschwitz.

At the camp, Kolbe — prisoner 16770 — was known discreetly to give his own food to other prisoners, even as his own health crumbled, to hear confessions and, in the face of stern prohibitions, to celebrate Mass.

In late July 1941, a prisoner in his own block escaped. In reprisal, SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl Fritzsche ordered ten other prisoners die by starvation. One of the men was a Franciszek Gajowniczek, who had just met Kolbe that May.

Gajowniczek was a professional soldier, a Polish army sergeant, who

took part in the defense of Wieluń as well as Warsaw in September 1939 during the 1939 invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany. After the defeat of the Modlin Fortress, Gajowniczek was captured by the Gestapo in Zakopane while crossing the border into Slovakia and sentenced to forced labor in Tarnów. He arrived at Auschwitz on October 8, 1940. He was a Roman Catholic, was married, and had two sons.

When Kolbe heard Gajowniczek cry out in agony over the fate of his family, he offered himself instead (for which he was later canonized). The switch was permitted. The starvation was agonizing and lasted two weeks. After all his cellmates died, Kolbe was put to death on eve of the Assumption of Mary, August 14, 1941 with an injection of carbolic acid. Kolbe was still fully conscious when he was injected. The cell where he died is now a shrine.

On October 25, 1944, Gajowniczek was sent from Auschwitz to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He was liberated there by the Allies, after spending five years, five months, and nine days in camps in total. He reunited with his wife, Helena, half-a-year later in Rawa Mazowiecka. Though she survived the war, his sons were killed in a Soviet bombardment of Nazi-occupied Poland in 1945 before his release.

Gajowniczek made it his mission to tell the world of Kolbe's sacrifice. In 1971 he was a guest of Pope Paul VI in the Vatican when Maximilian Kolbe was beatified for his martyrdom. In 1972, Time magazine



St. Maximilian Kolbe statue carved by Andrew Tanser.

reported that over 150,000 people made a pilgrimage to Auschwitz to honor the anniversary of Maximilian's beatification. One of the first to speak was Gajowniczek, who said "I want to express my thanks for the gift of life." He was in the Vatican once again in 1982

as a guest of Pope John Paul II for Kolbe's canonization. In 1994, Gajowniczek visited St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church of Houston, Texas, where he told his translator that "so long as he ... has breath in his lungs, he would consider it his duty to tell people about the heroic act of love by Maximilian Kolbe."

Gajowniczek died in 1995 at the age of 93.

### Forever in Stone

In the 1990s, Abbey officials decided to fill ten vacant statue niches on the façade above the Abbey's Great West Door. The niches had been empty since the Middle Ages. It was decided to use the spaces to honor 20th Century Christian martyrs, who had been oppressed or persecuted for their faith. The new Richemont limestone statues were unveiled in 1998 at a service attended by HM Queen Elizabeth II.

In addition to Kolbe, others memorialized include: civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. and St. Oscar Romero, Archbishop in El Salvador, both of whom were assassinated; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, killed by the Nazis in 1945; Wang Zhiming, a pastor killed during the Chinese Cultural Revolution; and Manche Masemola, Janani Luwum, Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, Esther John, and Lucian Tapiedi.

On January 13, 2019, a service was held in the Abbey to mark the 125th anniversary of Kolbe's birth.

Sources:

- Westminster-abbey.org
- Wikipedia
- PAJ archives

## 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 Press fund: Arthur Bak, Cleveland; Cheryl E. Zysk Becker, Farmington, Conn.; John Cieniawski, Posen, Ill.; Lillian Holly, Seymour, Conn.; H.J. Kazmierczak, Chicago; Matthew F. Lewandowski, San Jose, Calif.; Paul Lukasiewicz, New Haven, Conn.; Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka, Annandale, Virg.; Fred Masters, Hamtramck, Mich.; Rev. James Meszaros, Bayside, N.Y.; Jim Ochal, Long Beach, Wash.; Cindy O'Connor, Wilmington, Del.; Matthew Ogorzalek, Glenwood, Md.; Joseph J. Pelchar, Marion Heights, Pa.; Edward J. Podgurski, Huron, Ohio; Janice Rolnik, Bryn Mawr, Pa.; Jean Szyndler, Mattapoisett, Mass.; Raymond Szyperski, Laurel, Md.; Walter Wojnar, South Grafton, Mass.; and three Friends 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.

## Marczewski: "... you're not afraid of anything."

continued from cover

year ... our lifestyle and our whole world was turned upside-down," she said. "I wasn't the only one to feel lost and disconnected. It was a song I wrote for myself, and it turned out so many other people needed it too."

Her performance was so quietly compelling that when she finished and shyly backed away from the microphone, there was a long pause — before Simon Cowell (the show's creator and notoriously formidable judge) stammered out "wow," followed by the entire theater erupting in a standing ovation.

On New Year's Eve 2019, Marczewski was diagnosed with terminal cancer after "innumerable tumors" were found and she was told she had three to six months to live. In July 2020, she went into remission, but the cancer soon returned. She also had encountered a lost pregnancy and a divorce.

"When you come that close to the end of your life, you realize what's important and don't care about impressing people." But impress she did — earning Cowell's "Golden Buzzer," thus advancing her straight to this season's semifinals.

With golden confetti covering the stage, the overjoyed and overwhelmed Marczewski dropped to her knees, crying happy tears. "It was like that moment was the

only moment that ever existed in the universe. I'm completely blown away, speechless," she said while reflecting on her audition. "It's going to take me a long time to even comprehend what happened. It's so amazing!"

Marczewski said. "With all I've been through, when you come so close to death, it kind of changes your perspective and you're not afraid of anything. You connect with what life is really about — loving and being loved, seeing and being seen, and enjoying every single day for what it is."

Marczewski has used her faith to get through her battles. "I am God's downstairs neighbor, banging with a broomstick. I show up at his door everyday — sometimes with apologies, questions and requests; other times with songs."

As for the latest health update on the singer, the day after the audition aired (which was taped far in advance), she isn't "in the clear" yet. "Physically, I'm doing really well," *Nightbirde* explained. "I just finished up some treatments and the doctors are anticipating that it's going to take care of everything that was left over. We won't be able to test for a few more months. But I'm expecting good news, I really am."

Why the stage name *Nightbirde*? Marczewski revealed, she had a recurring dream three nights in a row — birds were singing outside her bedroom window in the dark. The

first two times were dreams, the third time was real.

"It struck me as profound — a tree full of birds were singing as if it was morning but there was no sign of the light yet," she noted. "I wanted to embody that — being somebody who could sing through a dark time, because I was so full of hope and assurance that there would be a morning."

"America's Got Talent" airs every Tuesday night on NBC.

### Unknown "dinosaur" Discovered in Poland

A team of paleontologists from the Polish Academy of Sciences discovered a new species of dinosaur in southwest Poland. The aetosaur, whose name means "eagle-lizard" in Greek, was a prehistoric reptile resembling today's crocodiles. The specimen was found among fossils from about 210 million years ago unearthed at an archeological dig in the village of Kocury in Opole voivodeship.

The scientists managed to find the jawbone and fragments of the protective armor of the aetosaur, which was named *Kocurypelta silvestris* (Kocury-armored forest dweller).

The aetosaur "looked like a cross between a crocodile, an armadillo, and a wild boar," said Łukasz Czempinski, one of the scientists.

## RELIGION

# U.S. Bishops at Odds over Communion for Unfaithful Politicians

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

At the June meeting of the U.S. Bishops' Conference, Los Angeles Archbishop Gomez, president of the conference, proposed that the bishops work on a document on "Eucharistic Coherence," a teaching on the sanctity of the Eucharist and the necessity of the faithful to be spiritually prepared to receive it.

The context for this document is the confusion caused in the U.S. Church when politicians — who promote abortion and other policies contrary to Church teaching — and even publicly differ with Catholic Church teaching — are allowed to receive Holy Communion.

Some 67 U.S. cardinals, archbishops and bishops signed a letter to Archbishop Gomez, asking him to remove the item from the bishops' meeting agenda until all the bishops are able to meet face-to-face in discussion on the matter. They cite a suggestion from the Vatican that such a "serene discussion" take place before any document is proposed for a vote.

Proponents of the document see this as a delaying tactic by prelates who either do not agree with church teaching on these matters, who prefer to maintain their relationships with dissenting Catholic politicians, and/or fear losing public funds for various Catholic agencies involved in immigrant and other social works.

Among the signers of the letter are **Blase Cardinal Cupich** of Chicago, **Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski** of St. Louis, and **Bishops Joseph Bambera** of Scranton, **Mark Bartchak** of Altoona-Johnstown, **Joseph Kopacz** of Jackson, **Louis Tylka** of Peoria, **Thomas Zinkula** of Davenport, **Patrick Zurek** of Amarillo and **Auxiliary Bishops Mark Bartosic** of Chicago, **Jeffrey Grob** of Chicago, **Gary Janak** of San Antonio, and **Andrew Wypych** of Chicago. Among those backing the document's preparation are **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** of Springfield.

The proposal on the agenda is not the document itself but its preparation according to the "action item": Does the body of bishops approve the request of the Committee on Doctrine to proceed with the drafting of a formal statement on



**St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski** asked that enough time be allotted so that any bishop who wished to speak about a document on Eucharistic Coherence be given the chance to do so, according to *National Catholic Reporter*. In response, Kansas Archbishop Joseph Naumann, one of the architects of the "no communion for Joe Biden" push, questioned Rozanski's motives, suggesting it was a "delaying tactic."

The USCCB's doctrine committee will draft a statement on the meaning of Communion in the life of the church that will be submitted for consideration at a future meeting, probably an in-person gathering in November.

the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church?"

**Cardinal Cupich** recently criticized Denver's **Archbishop Samuel Aquila's** article on Eucharistic Coherence, and he also spoke against the USCCB's president Gomez's statement, saying that President Biden wants "to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender."

## Abuse Charges against Polish Bishops

President of the Polish Bishop's Conference since 2002 and vice-president of the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe, Poznan's Archbishop **Stanisław Gądecki** has been cleared by the Vatican investigative body of charges that he was negligent in dealing with two abusive priests in his diocese.

Five other Polish bishops, how-

ever, faced with similar charges, were removed from office, prohibited from living in their former diocese, prohibited from serving in the role of bishop or attending public meetings.

In a 2019 report from the Polish bishops' conference, 382 clergy had abused 614 victims between 1990 and 2018.

## World War II Chapel Restored, Rededicated

Created in the 1970s and recently restored, the World War II Memorial Chapel in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga, N.Y. was rededicated on Memorial Day, May 31. Polish American artist **Józef Sławinski** created the wayside chapel reminiscent of those found throughout Poland. Time, weather, and neglect has deteriorated it but now it has been brought back to life through the restoration work of **Henry Swiatek** of Swiatek Studios.

Two white eagles flank Christ the King with the inscription below them "they rest in eternal sleep dreaming of their homeland." Pauline **Fr. Michal Czyżewski**, pastor of St. Stanislaus B.M. church presided over the dedication. The image is done in Sławinski's customary sgraffito-style, which creates the image from layers of colored cement scraped away to reveal the desired color and form. Other examples of Sławinski's distinctive work can be found throughout Western New York in churches and public buildings.

## Senior Apartments Slated for Former Felician Academy

Seniors earning less than 60% of the area median income will be eligible to rent one of the 67 apartments under construction in a wing of the former Villa Maria Academy in Cheektowaga, N.Y. Catholic Charities will make the referrals for the apartments and services for the seniors (55+) will include physical and behavioral health services, money management education, independent living skills training, and transportation. A number of homeless seniors will live in 21 of the units allocated as "supportive housing" within the six-story building. The residence will be named Angela's House, to honor **Angela**

**Truszkowska**, the foundress of the Felician Sisters in Poland.

## Restored Family Vine Chapel

**Świątek Studios** recently restored the Family Vine Chapel, with its original **Rzeźnik** stenciling, in St. Casimir's church in Buffalo, N.Y. The chapel was the first shrine to the domestic church in the world, according to **Fr. Czesław Krysa**, rector of the church, and the vine represents the Universal Church, the global vine.

## Sisters Build New Sacred Heart Home

Built in 1926, the original Sacred Heart Home in Hyattsville, Md., has long served the elderly with nursing care, spiritual care, and other services. The building, however, is proving too costly to maintain, so the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are constructing a new facility. Sharing property with a convent and priests' residence, the home is "grandfathered," thus protected from newer nursing home licensing requirements. In the reconstruction the priests' residence will be razed, as will the old convent, since the home's new chapel will be on that site. The home is on only one level with common areas and four residential wings. Residents will have access to the enclosed courtyard, thus protecting Alzheimer patients from wandering off.

**Sr. Mary Imiolek**, a registered nurse, praises the homelike feel to the new building, with 44 residents, down from 100 in the former facility. The smaller number allows for more attention to the frail and elderly residents, noted **Sr. Vacha Kludziak**, administrator of the home for the last 20 years. The sisters do not wear a habit. "It is part of our hidden life, we want to transform our environment from the inside, like the Holy Family in Nazareth," explained Sr. Mary.

The sisters' order, founded in Poland in 1878, serve as sacristans to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and run a nursing home in Baltimore and a hospice in Cleveland. Sacred Heart Home was ranked as one of the best places in Maryland for long-term care for the

elderly. Other sisters at the home are **Sr. Maria Piecyk**, **Sr. Denise Podlaska**, **Sr. Hanna Szymaniak**, **Sr. Lucyna Chabera**, **Sr. Anna Kedziora**, **Sr. Anna Maria Kargul**, and **Sr. Marta Lipinska**.

The sisters are seeking donations to help them pay for this \$20 million project. Sr. Mary said, "We are relying on God's grace and the Holy Spirit ... because our energy is spent with our residents." For further information on the project contact Ray Alcaraz at (301) 277-6500 ext. 110.

## Violence against Pro-Lifers

**Rep. Jacki Walorski** (R-IN) was praying peacefully with another person outside Whole Woman's Health of South Bend, Ind., when a car raced toward them and almost ran them over but stopped abruptly a few feet from them. Video showed the car crossing a bike lane toward the shoulder of the road where Walorski was standing.

Media and pro-abortion groups make every effort to decry the violence from pro-lifers, but the reality is that violence against them from pro-abortionists has been on the rise in recent years, with people being thrown to the ground, punched, kicked, and even threatened with guns.

"I stand with my fellow pro-life Hoosiers who work to defend the most vulnerable among us, the unborn, said Walorski. "They will not be silenced or intimidated by threats or acts of violence from radical activists. As Americans, we can debate and disagree on fundamental issues, but it is absolutely unacceptable to endanger the lives of others."

## Apprehension over Parish Closings

Newly-appointed **Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski** of St. Louis has begun a process of assessing the viability of parishes in the archdiocese leaving many with the dread that parish closures will follow the process.

In Cleveland, Buffalo, and 39 other dioceses in the United States and Canada, similar assessments of the spiritual health of parishes are being collected and evaluated to determine the allocation of resources for pastoral planning. Many suspect however, that these assessments will be used to decide which parishes will be closed or merged.

Meanwhile, **Bishop Zubik** in Pittsburgh has already embarked on a program of grouping parishes and evaluating numbers of parishioners against spiritual ministry demands.

## 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 TO ST. CLARE.** Ask St. Clare for three favors, one business and two impossible. Pray nine Hail Marys once a day for nine days with a lighted candle. Pray if you believe it or not. Publish. "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus Be Praised, Adored and Glorified Today and Every Day." Request will be granted no matter how impossible it seems. Publication must be promised. J.K.

## Black Madonna Heritage Art Discovery Contest

by Rev. Dr. Czesław M. Krysa, Rector Church of St. Casimir Buffalo, N.Y.

Kathy Saciłowski, a Buffalo, N.Y. art teacher, was inspired by her visit to St. Casimir's, from its murals, and architecture, to the Polish hymns in English, and reverent Masses. Most fascinating to her was the church's devotion to Czesłochowa's Black Madonna.

Saciłowski was not raised in a Polish Catholic household, yet was drawn to the Madonna. Noting how Fatima is not just for Portuguese, Our Lady of Lourdes is not exclusively French, and Medjugorje not just for Croatians, she felt Czesłochowa's Black Madonna story should be known outside the Polish community.

"We need to do something," Saciłowski said.

And she did.



Saciłowski

The result: a contest with cash prizes.

Saciłowski created three sets of three drawings, categorized by age groups: children, 3-10; youth, 11-17; and adults, 18 and older. Each category contains a synopsis, and three heritage questions.

Prizes are \$500 (adult); \$300 (youth), and \$200 (children). Organizers are working on an on-line "People's Choice" competition, for which contest winners will receive \$100 gift certificates.

The contest welcomes anyone who, following the footsteps of St. John Paul, wants to enter personally into God's inner life to experience supernatural, divine care, and powerful, harm-free, security from violence and hate.

The images and questions may be downloaded and printed at [stcasimirbuffalo.com](http://stcasimirbuffalo.com), or via snail-mail at Heritage Art Discovery, Church of St. Casimir, 160 Cable St, Buffalo, NY 14206. Deadline for submissions must be August 12, 2021.

All entries will be on display at "Our Lady's Street Faire," Sat., Aug. 14, 2021, at St. Casimir's Church.

For more information, email [stcasimirbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:stcasimirbuffalo@gmail.com).

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

Renew your subscription online:  
[www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

# A Guiding Hand

## Years-long Search for the Stranger Who Reached Out to Her

By Zocia Pawlowski Barr

The Autumn of 1951 found our family of five disembarking the USS *General Leroy Eltinge*, a World War II troop transport ship repurposed to bring refugees to America. We had been living in various displaced persons camps in Europe for six years.

I will never forget setting foot on land with Lady Liberty in the background, nor the sights and sounds of thousands of people shouting in different languages as we all jockeyed for position in line for immigration processing.

After the war, my mother was very ill, and my father was severely traumatized. They had been captured by the Nazis, selected for hard labor, and barely survived. I was born into those circumstances.

Later, both my brothers were born in displaced persons camps. It was rare to see or hear children in those camps, especially so soon after the war; many had not survived the conflict, and life in the camps could be very hard.

My brothers and I were sought after by people whose own children did not make it; we were played with, cooed over, cuddled, kissed, and sometimes cried over before being sent back to our parents at the end of the day.

My parents spoke rarely of their experiences, which were too painful to talk about. But many years later, Mother talked of the soldier in a picture she saved. It shows me holding his hand, both of us squinting into the sun, at the resettlement camp in Coburg, Germany. It was taken in



While in a displaced person camp in the 1940s, Zocia and her family were cared for by a troop member, whose name they never knew.

ment camp in Coburg, Germany. It was taken in

1946 or 1947.

This soldier, my Mother told me, took us under his wing and helped our family to navigate the complicated and confusing resettlement process. At the same time, he gave us emotional and material support, offering certain little comforts as best he could until we left for our voyage to our adoptive country.

I have long wished to find out the identity of this wonderful man who, like so many men and women in the military — some of whom sacrificed their lives — gave us another chance at life. He was an important part of our journey as we sought sanctuary and a new home in the United States.

Perhaps the soldier retained a copy of this picture, and there is someone wondering about the little girl with him.

I would love for him to know that I have been searching for him these many years to thank him. At the very least, I want his family to know of his kindness to us, and what a comfort he was at a time when we needed it.

This soldier and I have a special bond, and much to catch up on. I would be delighted to hear from him.



Reprinted with the author's permission from "Reminisce," November 2020.



Contact Zocia Barr at 7 Westover Ct., Columbus, GA 31909; (706) 330-1001; dadatbat@gmail.com.

# Majewski

## Running for 5th Term



Hamtramck's Mayor Majewski

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Karen Majewski has announced that she will run for her fifth term as mayor of Hamtramck, a position she has held since 2006.

Prior to her mayoral position, she worked as a project manager at the University of Michigan, and as an associate professor of Polish and Eastern European Studies at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Mich. She served as curator of the Polish & Rare Books collection at Orchard Lake Schools. Majewski is a member of the board of directors of the Dekaban Foundation, the former executive director of the Polish American Historical Association, and a current board member.

Dr. Majewski, a graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School, was an English major at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., where she also received her master's degree. She went on to receive her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in American Culture with a focus on the study of immigration and ethnicity.

Majewski's award-winning book, *Traitors & True Poles: Narrating a Polish-American Identity, 1880-1939*, was published in 2003 and she continues to publish and lecture frequently.

She is a former professional Hungarian folk dancer and helps organize the week-long Csipke Hungarian Dance & Music Camp every year.

Not only is Majewski the city's mayor, she is also the owner of Hamtramck's Tekla Vintage, a "second hand" store that features vintage clothing, and a wonderful plethora of antique housewares. Her collections recognize the beauty of what has been discarded by others. Majewski feels that each item in her store has ethnic and historic significance.

## 17th Century Skeleton Identified

WARSAW — The mystery of a human skeleton with a bird skull in its mouth discovered fifty years ago in southeast Poland has been partially answered.

Through genetic research and detailed analysis, it has been identified as that of a 12-year-old Scandinavian child from the 17th century.

The skeleton was rediscovered after Dr. Małgorzata Kot, a member of the University of Warsaw's Archaeology Department, found it while rummaging through old artifacts. Genetic research discovered the child was not Polish. Research uncovered the child had been traveling with an army of invaders who occupied the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the 1655 Swedish Deluge.

Some confusion remains, however, as radiocarbon dating has revealed that the child's death occurred sometime between 1750 and 1850 A.D.

The bird skull was that of the chaffinch bird, which breeds in much of Europe, across the Palearctic to Siberia and in northwestern Africa. Researchers are still studying the question of why the bird's skull was found in the child's mouth. Funeral rituals in Scandinavia from the period are currently being researched.

Dr. Kot said according to Finnish archaeologists, birds symbolized the soul's journey after death. But burials with bird heads are not known from Northeast Scandinavia. She also questions why the child was buried in a cave, and not cemetery in a nearby village.

For her mayoral primary this August 2021, she is facing three opponents. In the election of 2017, Majewski won in a city heavily populated by strong Bangladeshi and Yemeni communities, and the current Hamtramck City Council is composed of a Muslim majority.

## PAJ Columnist Matt Stefanski Authors New Book for the Polish Embassy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The years 2020-2021 mark the 40th anniversary of the emergence of Solidarity, the first free and independent trade union behind the Iron Curtain. It was a movement that galvanized millions, hastened the collapse of Communism in Europe, and inspired countless supporters around the globe, including here in the United States.

To commemorate the anniversary of that movement which changed the course of history, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. published a book entitled *40x40: In Solidarity with Poland. Americans Who Strengthened Polish-American Ties*. Written and researched by frequent PAJ contributor Matthew Stefanski, and edited and introduced by Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, the book honors 38 distinguished Americans and two organizations who, through their actions and advocacy, championed Poland-U.S. solidarity.

"I hope that by reading this book you will be inspired, as I was, to look at the human dimension of our transatlantic ties. For beneath the official protocols are the peo-



*40x40: In Solidarity with Poland. Americans Who Strengthened Polish-American Ties.*

ple. It is the people who form the most important component in our relations. It is the people who made history, and it is the people, today, in Warsaw, Washington, D.C., and throughout our two countries, who continue to facilitate our ties, build bridges, and bring us together" wrote Ambassador Wilczek.

*40x40: In Solidarity with Poland* chronicles the lives of statesmen, diplomats, elected officials, community leaders and policy makers who made significant contributions to strengthening ties

between Poland and the United States. From well-known figures such as Woodrow Wilson and Ronald Reagan, to union activists such as Tom Kahn and presidential advisor Edward Mandell House, the publication features a selection of individuals who, through their unwavering dedication, became true and everlasting friends of Poland.

The book is accessible for all online: [https://issuu.com/msz.gov.pl/docs/40x40\\_in\\_solidarity\\_with\\_poland](https://issuu.com/msz.gov.pl/docs/40x40_in_solidarity_with_poland).

## THE TWINS OF NARVIK (PARTS 1 & 2)

THE NEW HISTORICAL NOVELS BY DAVID TRAWINSKI

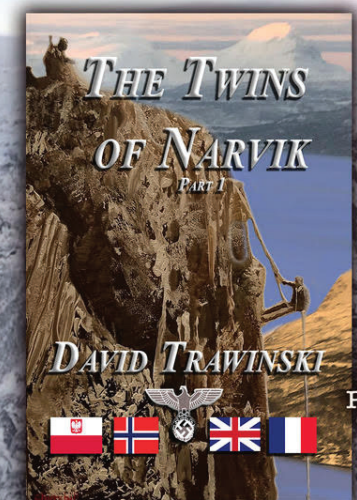
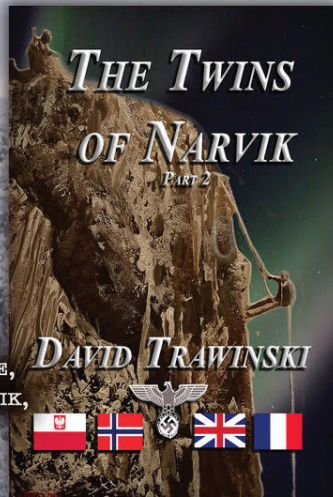
AUTHOR OF "THE CHOPIN TRILOGY" & "THE LIFE OF MAREK ZACZEK"

DIANE STERLING IS BACK

AS SHE INVESTIGATES

A SAGA ACROSS GENERATIONS OF THREE INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES WHO BECOME FOREVER LINKED IN THE WWII BATTLES IN ARCTIC NORWAY

FEATURING POLISH WWII CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL BREAKING OF THE ENIGMA CODE, POLISH HIGHLAND BRIGADE DEPLOYED TO NARVIK, AND THE 303 KOŚCIUSZKO SQUADRON DUELING THE NAZI LUFTWAFFE DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN.



AVAILABLE SOON ONLINE AT DAVIDTRAWINSKI.COM, AMAZON AND BARNES & NOBLE AND OTHER INTERNET RETAILERS

**CNS INDUSTRIES** 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](http://www.cnsindustriesinc.com)

## Vision of PASO Music Academy Becomes a Reality

by Geraldine Coleman Balut

CHICAGO — In the fall of 2019, the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra (PASO) negotiated purchase of the First Congregational Church, also known as the Holy Mountain Evangelical Church, located at 5400 N. Lawler Ave. in the tree-lined residential neighborhood of Chicago's Forest Glen area on the northwest side.

The purchase of the soon-to-be converted church was made possible through a \$1M bank loan. The 1956 building spanning over 10,510 sq. ft. needs a major overhaul of its electrical, cooling and heating systems, and plumbing. In addition, windows need to be replaced, partition walls need to be built, and an elevator needs to be installed.

This building will provide students and teachers an excellent learning environment. They will enjoy thoroughly modernized classrooms, a large rehearsal room for school choirs, chamber ensembles,

and orchestras, along with a recording studio and a library. There will be a much-needed concert hall that will seat 130 patrons.

The PASO presently has been renting space at the Eagles Athletic Club building on Chicago's northwest side. Classes originally had 80 students, but more space was needed to accommodate 200 students and those on a waiting list. First the new building became a necessity and now it has become a reality.

Thanks to grants, the generosity of donors, and financial support from parents, PASO managed to collect most of the funds needed for the renovations and remodeling. However, with the increasing cost of building materials, an additional \$180,000 is needed, so that the building can be ready for students by August 2021.

To help, on May 14-15, Pol-



The former First Congregational Church is the new home of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra Music Academy.

ski Radio, 92.7 FM, held a radiothon to support PASO's GoFundMe, Inc. It raised \$65,857 and led to donations of equipment and services.

Furthermore, owners of various businesses contributed to the renovations. Mario Machnicki, owner of Restoration to Marion, Inc., gave special discounts on restoration needs; Tomasz Startek, owner of Star-Tech Glass, Inc., will replace all windows with modern soundproof windows at a special price. During the radiothon, Startek stated that he will install a new school entrance and the front wall of the building's hall. Marcin Kondek, owner of ENCORE Gallery, will undertake the finishing of bathrooms and floor surfaces in selected rooms throughout the school. Adam Kamieniak of AND Agency Marketing brought an unusual gift to the studio — a virucidal air filter

from Integrated Viral Protection Company that removes 99.99% of all viruses from the rooms. The modern filter system will be built into the school's ventilation circuit. Even the school's drinking water will be donated to the school by Karol Dołęga, owner of ProEcoLife. Furniture worth \$3,000 will be provided by Anna and Marek Kowalczyk, owners of IDEA Furniture. Kitchen furniture to be purchased at a special price, will be made by Piotr and Katarzyna Gawron, owners of Ikon Interiors Defined, Inc. Another company, which asked to remain anonymous, will make wardrobe shelving and other shelves for the library.

The PASO Music Academy is a not-for-profit organization schooling aspiring student musicians in Chicago since 2000, and is the only music school in the metro-Chicago offering music education to children of Polish descent. The school's mission is also to promote and develop Polish culture.

### SCHOLASTICS

## Dr. Murzynski Wins Major Awards

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Dr. Carey Jane Murzynski is this year's recipient of the Dr. Frederick W. Brock Memorial Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance Vision Training. She also won the Abram A. Hubal, O.D. Student Service Award, sponsored by the New York State Optometric Association.

The Buffalo, N.Y. native received her Doctor of Optometry from SUNY College of Optometry in New York City. She received a B.S. in biology from SUNY Geneseo, where she also minored in human development.

Murzynski credits her experience as a competitive gymnast and track runner as the formula for her success in study. "Growing up, I spent most of my weekends at meets. Not only did this help me feel comfortable 'on the stage' during clinical assessments throughout optometry school but instilled in me the discipline and drive to achieve academically."

During undergraduate education, Murzynski developed an interest in human development and the inner workings of the brain, including how various sensory input is processed in different regions to ultimately signal motor output, "whether it be a back handspring or making eye movements while reading." After shadowing a vari-



Murzynski

ety of optometrists, including those who specialize in vision therapy, she found a career that not only encompasses her interests but also improves the lives of others.

She plans to begin her career in private practice in Buffalo, N.Y. Her parents are Terrance, owner of Clabeaux Optical in Buffalo, N.Y., and Karen Murzynski, an elementary school teacher.

Briana Krawczyk of Niagara Falls graduated from University at Buffalo School of Law on April 30 ... Siblings Zach and Olivia Piatkowski both graduated their nursing programs with an AAS in nursing: Zach from St. Elizabeth's

College of Nursing in Utica, N.Y., and Olivia from SUNY Morrisville. Both will be taking their NCLEX exam to become Registered Nurses and then continuing on for their bachelor's degrees while working.

Zach started at St. Elizabeth Hospital June 1, and Olivia started



Zach and Olivia Piatkowski

at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, June 21. Their brother Lucas, a high school senior, is looking at engineering colleges for this fall.

They are the children of Al and Donna Piatkowski of Canastota, N.Y.

The American Institute of Polish Culture is accepting applications for the 29th season of the Harriet Irsay Scholarship Award. This year's award is \$1,500. Deadline for submission is July 24, 2021. The AIPC will be accepting and reviewing submissions received prior to July 24, 2021.

Go to the AIPC website [www.ampoloinstitute.org](http://www.ampoloinstitute.org), click on the "Scholarship" tab, and review the indicated requirements. You can also learn about Irsay and her commitment to the Institute and to her Polish heritage. Her beautiful gift has benefited 350 dynamic and worthy students to date.

The AIPC is also excited to further promote the newly established Lennox Family Excellence Award. For the upcoming academic year, it will grant a \$1,500 scholarship to one full-time university student pursuing a degree specifically in education (i.e., teachers, administrators, and policy makers); in turn, supporting future educators who will effect meaningful and long-lasting changes in American schools upon commencing their career. The remainder of the requirements are also on the AIPC website.

Contact: [assistant@ampoloinstitute.com](mailto:assistant@ampoloinstitute.com), or [info@ampoloinstitute.com](mailto:info@ampoloinstitute.com).

## Centaurus Foundation boasts Europe's largest horse shelter

WROCLAW — Poland's horse population has dropped from 329,000 in 2002 to an estimated 180,000 at present. Trucks and tractors have largely replaced the draft horses of yesteryear, and racing thoroughbreds also become useless if they break a leg, or simply get old and decrepit.

The non-profit Centaurus Foundation, headquartered in Wrocław in southwest Poland, has made it its mission to save as many such equines as possible by arranging adoptions with horse-lovers who will let the animals live out their days in relative peace and comfort.

So far the donor-financed foundation has saved 1,100 horses from the butcher's knife and cleaver.

Those it could not help were sent to horse meat-loving countries, such as Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland.

Poles have an aversion to horse meat, and many view the *koń* (horse) as a noble beast that played an important part in their nation's heritage.

"Everything must go its own way. One has to plow in order to sow, one has to sow in order to harvest, and what is disturbing has to be weeded out, like a bad weed."

— Novelist and 1924 Nobel laureate W.S. Reymont



## Polonus Polish Philatelic Society

- Join the world's largest English language stamp society dedicated to Polish philately
- Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) ; Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society
- Award winning full color, illustrated bulletin, published quarterly in print and digital
- User friendly web site with links to history, articles, research and resources
- The Philatelic Society offers translation services, annual exhibition and more...

For membership and information, visit: [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org)

## Five Genealogists from Poland among Speakers at this Year's PGSA Digital Conference

CHICAGO — This year's annual conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America will be online, September 17-19. Each day will have two, one-hour lectures, plus Q&A.

"With the conference fully online this year, we gained the opportunity to choose from a wider group of speakers and open new topics to the attendees," commented PGSA president, Robert M. Pine.

The PGSA has selected five speakers from Poland and one from the United States. The speakers include professional Polish genealogists and museum curators. The lecture topics include some new subjects not covered by other Polish genealogical conferences. The genealogy subjects are: "Brick Wall... Were My Polish Ancestors Ever Protestant?", "Holendry... Was Your 3rd-Great-Grandparent Dutch or German?", "Truths and Myths behind Polish-Jewish Ancestry" and "Locating Pre-Partition (17th-18th century) Record Sources." The conference selections also include two cultural lectures: "History & Meaning of Regional Polish Costumes" and "the Basics of Polish Heraldry."

### Wider Reach

The PGSA has been utilizing online meetings for about five years in connection with their quarterly member meetings. It holds four member meetings a year in the Chicago area, and each includes a presentation from an invited speaker. Prior to the pandemic, members could attend the meeting in person or join the meeting online. With this experience, moving to 100% online due to the pandemic was no problem. As Pine explained, "While we miss meeting in person, webinar technology enables us to continue providing value to our membership, and others, no matter their location in the world. With our established world-wide presence, we expect even more participation at the conference than the numbers who attended in person in Chicago."

While online allows more people to attend, some of the usual conference events will not happen, such as the very popular Polish lunch. PGSA president Pine is one of those who will miss the lunch. "I love the lunch; first, for the Polish food. But it also gives attendees time to network and socialize with each other and with the speakers."

Another conference event will be a little different. The raffle will still occur, but now as a drawing with each registrant receiving a raffle chance; plus, a special drawing among the first fifty registrants. The hard-to-mail gift baskets are replaced with \$20 discount coupons for the PGSA store. The Polish American Foundation of Connecticut is donating a gift certificate for Polish Language lessons at their Polish Language School for Adults which is now held via ZOOM. The *Polish American Journal* is offering free subscriptions.



The conference is open to members at \$25 and nonmembers at \$40 for the three days. You need to register by September 12, 2021 to attend. To register, visit the PGSA's website, [www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org) and click on the CONFERENCE box.

## ACPC to hold Live Convention in D.C. this September

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Council for Polish Culture will hold its 72nd convention from September 22 to 24, hosted by its affiliate, the Polish American Arts Association (PAAA).

The venue will be the Arts Club of Washington, housed in the historic mansion of U.S. President James Monroe, who lived there from 1811 to 1817 and held his first inaugural ball in its salons.

This will be the first in-person ACPC convention since early September 2019, when the group met at the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw, Poland before the coronavirus pandemic prevented in-person gatherings.

At this year's event will be a live recital at the Arts Club by the

winner of the Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Vocal Competition. Last year, the two winners of the 2020 competition were presented in virtual concerts.

Another convention feature will be an Awards Banquet, during which several individuals will be recognized.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE

2021 CONVENTION WASHINGTON, DC

Celebrating Polish Culture in the Nation's Capital



significant contributions to the organization and to Polish culture. Winners are announced at that time.

The ACPC is an umbrella organization for some 30 affiliated Polish cultural clubs and, and supporting organizations, as well as individual

members, whose common interest is the promotion of Polish culture, heritage and history, and intercultural understanding throughout the United States, from New England to the Midwest to Texas.

The three-story, 1805 Art Club home was Monroe's official residence while the White House was being repaired after being burned by the British during the War of 1812. In 1916, the house became "a gathering spot for artists and arts lovers."

Since 2014, PAAA has held most of its meetings and events in the club's galleries and drawing rooms. The PAAA previously hosted ACPC conventions in the Washington-Baltimore area in 1967, 1972, 1984, 1992 and 2013.

A PAAA-led annual event returning on Saturday, June 26 after a one-year hiatus is the Wianki Festival, a summer solstice celebration on the National Mall near the Lincoln Memorial. Organizers say it



ACPC will hold its 2021 convention here at the former home of James Monroe in Washington, six blocks from the White House.

It provides an opportunity to "enjoy the warm Polish atmosphere and admire the richness of what Polish culture and traditions have to offer."

## Małachowska-Pasek and Thomas win translation prize

NEW YORK — The Polish Book Institute, Polish Cultural Institute London, and Polish Cultural Institute New York announce the 2021 "Found in Translation" award goes to Ewa Małachowska-Pasek and Megan Thomas for *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* by Tadeusz Dołęga-Mostowicz published by Northwestern University Press (2020).

2020 abounded in some remarkable Polish books published in English. Both talented new and renowned translators made their way both to the long- and short-list. The jury chose to recognize Małachowska-Pasek and Thomas's translation for its excellent render-

ing for the English-speaking world of the universality of Dołęga-Mostowicz's novel about which Dr. Stanley Bill of University of Cambridge says "Very few books or characters become proverbial. But *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* is a byword in Polish culture for the accidental rise of an opportunistic swindler to the heights of society and politics. This entertaining novel from interwar Poland remains instructive beyond its context today."

"I am impressed by the skill and creativity with which this team of translators [Ewa Małachowska-Pasek and Megan Thomas] has managed to produce such vibrant, varied and distinctive English per-

formances of both the narrative voice and the multiple conversational exchanges in *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma*," said Madeline G. Levine, one of the jurors. "It is also a great service to bring this entertaining, clever, and still relevant novel to an Anglophone readership."

First published in Polish in 1932, *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* was Dołęga-Mostowicz's breakout novel. Dyzma is an unemployed clerk who crashes a swanky party, where he makes an offhand crass remark that sets him on a new course. Soon high society — from government ministers to drug-fueled aristocrats — wants a piece of him. As

Dyzma's status grows, his vulgarity is interpreted as authenticity and strength. He is unable to comprehend complicated political matters, but his cryptic responses are celebrated as wise introspection. His willingness to do anything to hold on to power—flip-flopping on political positions, inventing xenophobic plots, even having enemies assaulted—only leads to greater success.

Małachowska-Pasek is a Ladislav Matejka Collegiate Lecturer in Polish and Czech Studies at the University of Michigan.

Thomas is, with Ewa Małachowska-Pasek, the translator of Zofia Nalkowska's *Romance of Teresa Hennert*.

## Emphasis on Youth and Anniversaries at PSAA Concert

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Singers Alliance of America District IX hosted its first live event in over a year with a benefit concert of young artists on Sunday, May 16, 2021. The concert was a belated celebration of Pope St. John Paul's Centenary which occurred on May 18, 2020.

Unable to provide a live musical presentation last year, the artists agreed to complete what they planned for 2020. Added cause for celebration was the event's host: St. Michael's Church in downtown Buffalo, which was celebrating its 170th anniversary of service in the Diocese of Buffalo. The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College provided funding for the event, and the generous donations of patrons and attendees provided sufficient funds for future scholarships to be provided by the Leokadja Dombroska/Polish Singers Alliance Scholarship Fund.

Featured artists included two high school students, Gemma Barberio, soprano, and Nathan Oehler, trumpet, as well as Jena Abati, soprano, Maria Chomicka, pianist and director and founder of the Cantate Omnes Choir, and veteran performer Ivan Docenko.

Oehler began the program with the traditional "Hejnal," which is played each hour from the tower of Kosciol Mariacki, St. Mary's Basilica, in Krakow, something St. John Paul heard regularly in his time as archbishop. A quartet of singers from the Cantate Omnes Choir — Chelsea Brodka, Klara Chomicka, John Podvezko, and Dominic But-



Gemma Barberio and Jena Abati.

tino, directed and accompanied by Maria Chomicka — followed with "O Glorious Saint Michael" (in celebration of the parish's anniversary), and a collection of songs associated with Saint John Paul II.

Chomicka followed with piano music by Chopin and Oginski to celebrate the culture that shaped this saint.

Next on the program was the trumpet of Oehler, who was accompanied by Ivan Docenko. Featured was "Be Not Afraid," the theme of John Paul's papacy, and two movements of a concerto by Johann Hummel, whose music and piano technique influenced Chopin.

After intermission, veteran pianist Ivan Docenko played an etude by Karol Szymanowski, a composer who, like John Paul, was inspired by the music of the Goral culture of

the mountains of Poland. Next, two sopranos (both half-Polish) Jena Abati, and her 16-year-old student Gemma Barberio, wowed the audience with their angelic voices. Abati sang Mozart's "Alleluia" and works by Handel and Dvorak, as well as the beloved Polish hymn "Serdeczna Matko." Barberio joined her in

Schubert's "Ave Maria." The blend of the voices was outstanding. Barberio provided music from Strauss and Puccini. Her stage presence belied her youth, and the quality of her singing is a fine tribute to Abati's Music Academy of WNY, which is located in Lancaster, and is dedicated to providing quality music instruction to students. Finally, the Cantate Omnes Choir led those gathered in singing "Amazing Grace," in a tribute to the Pope's promotion of the Divine Mercy.

St. Michael's Church and the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture will be teaming up again for another benefit concert to be held on Sunday, June 20, 2021, featuring pianist Igor Lipinski who is well-known in Western New York, having performed here numerous times, including two performances with the Buffalo Philharmonic. That concert, which features music teamed with art works, will benefit the Janta Fund of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, and is also partially funded by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College.



## 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





# Cardinal Wyszyński on the Road to Sainthood

*Primate of the Millennium – The Uncrowned King of Poland*

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Poles were still in shock following the assassination attempt on their beloved Pontiff John Paul II, when another tragedy struck. The Polish nation lost “The uncrowned King of Poland,” as Primate Stefan Wyszyński was known. The inscription “Niekoronowany Król Polski” was seen on his funeral wreath in tribute to a heroic religious leader who had shepherded his flock through the then 38-year-long communist ordeal.

Having won the right to strike, for the past nine months the increasingly feisty, 10-million-strong pro-Catholic Solidarity movement had challenged one communist dogma after another and exposed the regime’s lies, corruption and anti-Polish crimes. Now the regime sought to regain at least a shred of credibility by trying to prove it was an empathetic part of the Polish nation, not an alien force brought to Poland on Soviet bayonets. On the

day of the Wyszyński funeral, even the Communist Party daily Trybuna Ludu respectfully referred to him as “the Primate of the Millennium.”

**BORN IN 1901** in the village of Zuzela into a deeply religious and patriotic family, little Stefcio (Stevie) lost his mother at the age of nine. Answering a call to the priesthood, Stefan was ordained in 1924. He went on to earn a PhD in Canon Law at the Catholic University of Lublin. He did parish work, lectured, headed the Włocławek Diocese’s charity department, edited a clergy periodical and sat on the the Episcopal Court.

Hunted by the Gestapo during the Nazi occupation, on his bishop’s advice Father Wyszyński lay low and frequently changed his address. He engaged only in clandestine activities. He worked with the Catholic home for the blind in Laski near Warsaw and was the chaplain of an anti-German partisan group. Shortly after World War II ended, Pope Pius XII appointed him the Bishop of Lublin. When Polish Primate Cardinal August Hlond died in 1948, Bishop Wyszyński was appointed his successor. He



Cardinal Wyszyński will be beatified in Warsaw on September 12.

would soon be facing his life’s most daunting challenge – the Stalinist regime’s attempt to destroy the Church he and most Poles believed in, respected and loved.

Unable to communicate with the Vatican, in 1950 the Primate took the bold risk of proposing an agreement with the government. The Church agreed to support the legality of ex-German lands ceded to Poland by the Big Three Allies and to call on the Vatican to appoint Polish bishops there. Priests should call on the faithful to sup-

port the Polish state, work to rebuild the war-torn country, condemn the anti-communist underground and West German “revanchist” politicians and bishops hoping to reclaim their territorial losses.

In exchange, the regime pledged to uphold the Church’s right to organize processions and pilgrimages as well as religious instruction in schools. The Catholic University of Lublin would continue to function, chaplains would be able to serve in hospitals, prisons and the armed forces and seminarians would get draft deferments. A Church Fund would be set up to compensate for property confiscated by the state.

**THE REGIME KEPT BREAKING** its promises until in 1953 the Episcopate issued its historic “Non possumus” protest to the authorities. In a nutshell, it said: “We cannot accept this state of affairs.” As a result, many priests were jailed and tortured, Catholic institutions were taken over and Primate Wyszyński was arrested and kept under guard in successive disused monasteries. He was not released until 1956, when the new communist leader Władysław Gomułka introduced what was called “socialism with a

human face” and needed the support of staunchly Catholic Poland.

**OVER THE NEXT QUARTER-CENTURY**, Church-state run-ins occurred over the Polish bishop’s “we forgive and ask for forgiveness” letter to their German counterparts as well as the regime’s refusal to grant church building permits. The Church protested against atheistic indoctrination of seminarians in the Polish army. A dispute even raged over whether 1966 marked Poland’s Christian Millennium or a Thousand Years of Polish Statehood. The election of a Polish Pope in 1978 surprised and shocked the regime which initially did not realize that it would spell the death knell for communist rule not only in Poland.

**SERVANT OF GOD** Stefan Wyszyński is due to be beatified in Warsaw on September 12, 2021. A medically inexplicable cure attributed to his intercession served as the basis of the canonical process. Beatification is the penultimate stage leading to Catholic sainthood. The Wyszyński beatification had originally been scheduled for 2020 but was postponed over pandemic concerns.

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL BOOKSTORE

# Christmas in July Sale

**Save 33% on our line of custom Christmas Cards if ordered by July 31**  
 Individual cards regular price: 75¢ each, **now only 50¢ each**  
 10-pack regular price: \$6.00, **now only \$4.00**  
 50 or more regular price 50¢ each, **now only 37¢ each**

Full-color! Vertical cards – 4¼ x 5½ • Horizontal cards – 5½ x 4¼ • Inside greetings in Polish and English Description of custom in each card • Envelopes included



**▲ Card 451 Carolers with Szopka**  
 “Do szopy, hej pasterze ...  
 “To the stable, hey shepherds, to the stable ...



**◀ Card 452 Christmas Eve First Star**  
 Niech zawsze nad waszym domem świeci złota gwiazda!  
 May a gold star always shine over your home.



**◀ Card 453 – Holy Family**  
 “Maryja Panna, Maryja Panna Dzieciątka piastuje ...  
 “The Virgin Mary, the Virgin Mary, nurses the Child ...



**▶ Card 454 Christmas Wafer**  
 Na szczęście na zdrowie z Wigilią!  
 Health and good fortune this Vigil!



**▲ Card 455 – Polish Mountaineer Group**  
 Na szczęście, na zdrowie, na to Boże Narodzynie ...  
 Good fortune and health to you this Christmas ...



**▶ Card 456 – Three Kings**  
 Trzej Królowie podążali za Gwiazdą Syna Bożego ...  
 The three Wise Men followed the star of God’s Son ...

## ORDER FORM

ITEM/TITLE	PRICE	QNTY.	TOTAL

CHECK or M.O. ENCLOSED  
 CHARGE TO MY:  AMEX  DISC  MC  VISA  
 CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CSC CODE \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SUBTOTAL (all boxes) ▶</b>			
<b>NY residents - add sales tax ▶</b>			
<b>S&amp;H (See charts at left) ▶</b>			
<b>TOTAL TO SUBMIT TO PAJ ▶</b>			

SHIPPING	STANDARD	PRIORITY	FOREIGN
1-10 Cards	\$4.00	\$8.95	\$17.95
11-20 Cards	\$5.00	\$9.95	\$19.95
21 or more Cards	\$6.00	\$10.95	\$21.95

Depending on USPS Zone, Standard Shipping items will be shipped either Media or Ground mail.

## BOOK REVIEW

## A Hallowed Bond that Changed the World

**THE DIVINE PLAN:  
JOHN PAUL II, RONALD REAGAN,  
AND THE DRAMATIC END OF THE COLD WAR**  
by Paul Kengor and Robert Orlando  
Intercollegiate Studies Institute Publishing  
288 pp.

Reviewed by David Trawinski

In the late days of 1978, two men sat in a darkened den outside Los Angeles, intrigued as they watched a televised report of Cardinal Karol Józef Wojtyła of Poland having just been elected as Pope John Paul II. The two Californians were Ronald Wilson Reagan and his closest political advisor, Richard V. Allen. Reagan had not at that point declared his candidacy for the 1980 presidential election, but both men certainly knew he would run. When John Paul II returned to Poland in 1979 to massive crowds, Reagan reportedly remarked that the Polish Pope would be the key to ending communism.

The authors of this non-fiction historical review lay forth that both men believed themselves to be leaders carrying out God's Divine Plan. It is easy to see God's Will in these two men. Saint Pope John Paul II was the first non-Italian Pope elected in over 450 years. And Reagan soundly defeated Jimmy Carter in a landslide, with Reagan taking 489 electors to Carter's 49.

Then, in only a few more months, both men would become closely stitched in destiny. Reagan was attacked and severely wounded by the deranged would-be assassin John Hinckley, Jr. on March 30th, 1981. Less than six weeks later, on May 13, 1981, Mehmet Ali Ağca shot the Pope multiple times as he processed in a motorcade through St. Peter's Square.

Both men came perilously close to dying from their wounds, and to many it was miraculous that they both survived. The Pope attributed The Virgin Mary's hand in deflecting the bullet away from his artery, as the attack was on the very same day



The Divine Plan.

This book goes well beyond just the rehashing of historical facts. There are remarkable similarities in the two men's childhoods, including the early loss of parents and their avid interests in acting. Yet this book goes deeper than even all this through its interviews with some dozen or so of the men closest to the Pontiff and the President.

The reader might be surprised to learn just how religious President Reagan was in his Protestant beliefs, but also how closely aligned he became to the Catholic Pope. They met only four times in person, but throughout Reagan's administration a network of correspondences and couriers to the Vatican flourished. President Reagan saw Poland — "The Martyred Country" as he referred to it — as the key to ending Communism. He saw Pope John Paul II as an emissary of God produced from behind the lines of the Warsaw Pact itself.

**I RECOMMEND THIS BOOK** very highly. Despite opening with the twin assassination attempts, it takes a little while to get started, but like a juggernaut it picks up momentum and comes to a crescendo of a closing. It is written in a non-denominational narrative, but that in no way detracts from its message: that both President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II believed themselves to be acting out God's Divine Plan to end Communism, which — at its core — is atheism. It was only expected that the "Love of God" would triumph over it, but not so rapidly. After all, the crowds greeting the Pope in 1979 chanted repeatedly, "We want God!"

and hour that The Virgin Mother first appeared to the three children of Fatima on May 13, 1917. President Reagan saw his recovery as God sparing his life so he could play his role in what he openly referred to as the DP:

## The Light and Dark Works of Polish Writers

**THE MYSTERY OF TIME  
AND OTHER POEMS**  
by Anna Maria Mickiewicz  
2019, 34 pp.

**THE LONG DARK WALK**  
by John Olszewski  
2019, 199 pp.

This month we contrast two works by writers of Polish heritage, representing divergent ends of the spectrum from light to dark.

*The Mysteries of Time and other poems* by Anna Maria Mickiewicz can readily be defined as wispy. It is a breezy collection of twenty poems that share a unique, unstructured perspective, bound by neither rhyme nor heaviness of subject. They range from 5 to 20 lines, and the book's 34 pages can be easily read in an hour. The pensive time one might spend on interpreting the poems could of course be considerably longer.

My favorite of the collection, "Chopin in Manchester," dealt with one of the composer's last public appearances. His statue is set on the main boulevard there, which I was lucky enough to visit years ago.

"He did not like the smog  
He did not like the damp  
English weather  
Or overcrowded Manchester

Standing by the lake in Prestwich  
I can feel his longing  
Far away from home

Music dripping like rain from  
his thin rapid fingers  
In the Gentlemen's Concert Hall

Today  
His statue is silent in Manchester  
A frail figure  
Is it longing for music  
or for the homeland?"

On the other end of the spectrum is a very ominous tome by Polish American author John Olszewski. *The Long Dark Walk*, My personal journey with the world's worst killers features his 697 letters correspondence with 116 murderers currently behind bars or hitherto executed for their crimes. The Prologue begins, "If you are reading this, it is safe to assume the act of murder or murderers fascinate you." If this does not describe your interests, then you may find this book troubling or even downright disturbing.

Olszewski neatly details the killers with which he has shared letters, including color images of their elaborately decorated prison envelopes. The art on some is actually quite beautiful, while others are rather sinister in nature.

The author quickly jumps from one case to another, in an obligatory outlining of the facts. The book highlights his research, which mostly consists of percentages of this population of 116 subjects broken down by various categories.

There is a brief section on causal conditions and background factors, but it would not stand up to the scrutiny of modern statistical research.

Nonetheless, Olszewski's book contains much information on an oft-avoided subject, and offers a daunting perspective on the minds of killers.

— David Trawinski

## SECOND LOOKS

## An Eyewitness Account in Poland at Democracy's Crossroads

**THE DIARY OF COUNTESS  
ANNA MARIA BEREZOWSKA:  
A TRUE STORY**  
by Anna Maria Berezowska  
Edited by John A.

*Stelnicki and Iris Hart*  
342 pp.; English, 2020  
5 x 0.86 x 8 inches  
ISBN-10: 1735286621  
ISBN-13: 978-1735286624

Reviewed by  
Barbara Betlejewska

Would you like to peek inside a teenager's diary? Most of us would find that irresistible. Then consider how much more irresistible this one is, written by an orphaned teenage girl in 1791, in the midst of the Second and Third Partitions of Poland, one of the more tumultuous periods in Polish history.

It's incredible that this girl and her diary survived fires, blizzards, abandonment, rape, pillaging, war, an arranged marriage, vengeful relatives, tumultuous love, childbirth, and multiple narrow escapes from death, with the diary often hidden underneath Anna Maria Berezowska's voluminous skirts. Perhaps Anna was fated to live when many others did not, so that she could share her story with us, a goal that motivated her while living through chaos. And now, 220 years later, she gets her wish!

Her great-great-great-great grandson, John Stelnicki, in whose possession the diary finally found a safe haven, has helped her fulfill it with the help of her great-great grandchildren translating it into

English, and with the help of his friend Iris Hart, turning a haphazard teenage diary into publishable form.

Iris' fascination with this diary prompted her to devote over 15 years to it. Thanks to her editorial skills, Anna's tender feelings, acute observations, and unbelievable experiences can now be shared with the world. This was the young countess's expressed wish.

The result is an amazing, eyewitness account of life from 1791-1794 in Poland by a gifted young writer at a time when most were illiterate and could not pass down their experiences. Anna herself could not resist peeking inside her own ravishingly beautiful cousin Zofia's diary. She even secretly copied down several sexually explicit segments from Zofia's life as a courtesan, a way to earn a living when women were barred from legitimate professions. This rare glimpse of the intimate lives and thoughts of two young women from the past is something not to be missed.

Considering she was just a teenager, Countess Anna had an extraordinary command of language. Her diary is filled with pithy characterizations of Poles from all walks of life, peasants to nobility. Ink and plume with which to write were often unavailable. Quite often, she could not even understand what those around her were saying, because everyone spoke the Polish dialect of their small area, often incomprehensible to those living even a short distance away. Most never traveled much farther from where

they were born, as she mentioned when writing of a Polish tribe that rescued her from certain death from attack in winter. They were dressed in furs and even carried bows and arrows and spears as weapons! Shortly thereafter, in contrast, she describes a stately manor house with a beautiful solarium decked out with potted plants for her winter visit. Some things never change, though, like the filthy toilets she found while traveling!

Although Anna was a countess and part of the nobility, it was obvious from her diary that extremes, both the few with excess wealth and the many in abject poverty, bring only unhappiness. Her descriptions of the decadence and depravity that accompanied the purposeless idleness of the nobility, including her cousin Zofia, gave me a vastly renewed appreciation for the Constitution of the 3rd of May, 1791. Although Anna was not particularly interested in politics, unlike cousin Zofia, her diary records many of the actual events surrounding this time. Constitution Day is a national holiday in Poland and deserves that lofty status. The Constitutions of the United States (1789) and Poland (1791) emerged almost simultaneously. The U.S. Constitution was able to abolish the nobility and give birth to a large middle class since America was surrounded by oceans and geographically isolated from the great powers of the day. The United States could "get away" with instituting a representative republic. Poland, although geographically surrounded by great powers,

was amazingly able to institute a monarchic republic which limited the nobility and granted more freedom to the peasants, who made up 80% of the population.

Why is this important today? Because Poland's constitution was the second in the world, the second domino to fall on the way to more equality and freedom for most of us. Nearly all countries on the planet today have adopted similar forms of government.

Because of these two Constitutions, and all the other subsequent ones, my family joined the middle class and left the grinding poverty of our peasant ancestors behind. I am equally indebted to the immortal words penned by Thomas Jefferson, "all men are created equal," and thusly, all women, too. The cat was out of the bag! Because of these events, I can get an education, learn a profession, support myself, own property, open a business, travel, and "pursue my version of happiness," unlike the Amish women who live near me whose lives are extremely constrained. I can even play my piano, in contrast to those in Afghanistan today, where music is illegal. Sadly, Anna could not do many of these things ... Much progress has been made, but more remains to be done.

Nonetheless, Poland (and Anna) paid an extremely heavy price for a piece of paper, that Constitution of the 3rd of May. The nobility of Europe, particularly Germany, Austria, and Russia, and including cousin Zofia, were aghast at

the thought of the loss of their elite status emanating from Poland. That precipitated the Second and Third Partitions of Poland in 1793 and 1795, wiping Poland off the world map for 123 years until 1918.

Reading Anna's diary, one realizes how constricted Anna's life was. She lived in a gilded cage with the threat of being evicted at any moment, facing a short, brutish life of "selling a few moments of pleasure to any soldier to purchase bread ... and then dying of some loathsome disease of adultery," (p.276) as her cousin Zofia put it.

Anna barely lived through it all, including her horrifying eyewitness account of being engulfed in the middle of the Battle of Praga, Nov. 4, 1794, along with Zofia.

There was much trauma in Anna's life, but also much hope. She was in love with Count Jan Stelnicki, who gave up his title and became "Citizen" Stelnicki after the 3rd of May, but their relationship was disjointed and filled with misunderstandings. Order this amazing literary masterpiece and you'll be able to find out how it all turns out!

The recipient of the Independent Publishers 2021 bronze medal in the category of European history, *The Diary of Countess Anna Maria Berezowska* is available from Amazon and other sellers for \$11.99. Visit the website at [www.countessanna-diary.com](http://www.countessanna-diary.com). A novelized version of Anna's diary was published under the title *Push not the River*, which was fittingly re-translated back into Polish with the same title, *Nie Ponaglaj Rzeki*.

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY



# THE GENEALOGY ASSISTANT

Tim Firkowski - Professional Genealogist

TheGenealogyAssistant.com  
(603) 748-0577



## GENEALOGY

## Tips in Translating Polish Records

by Stephen M. Szabados

Do not be afraid of Polish records!

The Polish records we find will be in Polish, Latin, or sometimes German. Additionally, records created in the Russian Partition after 1868 will be in Russian using the Cyrillic alphabet. However, you do not have to worry. I have found that you can research Polish records without being fluent in these languages. I have become proficient in recognizing keywords so I can identify which records belong to my family. Once I have found my family records, I use genealogical word lists to translate as much as possible. Using this method, I can confirm it is the correct person and identify information to add to my family history.

**FOUR FACTORS AFFECT** the difficulty in understanding Polish records: format, language, handwriting, and alphabet. All can be solved. Be patient, keep trying. The process will become easier after each attempt.

I have found Polish records in two formats: narrative or columnar. Napoleon introduced the narrative format in 1808 during his short-lived control of Poland, and officials in the Russian Partition continued to use it after his defeat. The Catholic clergy were responsible for all civil registration from 1808 until 1825. In 1826, Jews, Evangelicals, Greek Orthodox, and other sects were allowed to maintain separate civil registers for their congregations. The clergy created the narrative records in Polish until a failed Polish uprising caused the Russian Tsar to tighten his control and required Russian on all records beginning

in 1868. Despite this requirement, some priests recorded the names using both the Russian spelling and Polish spelling. The Polish names are in parenthesis.

The narrative format lists the various facts of the events in a specific order. We will find the essential facts in the same place on each type of document. For a birth record, the order of information is parish name, date, father's name, names of two witnesses, name of the mother, name of the child, names of the godparents, and then the priest's name. Knowing the order of information gave me confidence that I could find the documents for my family without being fluent in the language.

However, the handwritten documents are still challenging to translate because many words are hard to decipher due to the irregular formation of the letters. Judith Frazin's book *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-language Civil-Registration Documents* makes this task easier because it lists many Polish phases in the order they will appear in the narrative document. Knowing where the phrase should be in the record helps decipher the hard-to-read writing.

Clergy in the Prussian and Austrian Partitions used the columnar format to create the records. They recorded most documents using Latin, but I have found some in Polish and German. This format can usually be translated using glossaries of genealogical terms because the column headings are printed and readable. Remember to identify the language used.

**WHEN WE SEE INDEXES** in the registers, finding our ancestors in the Polish registers is simplified.

The officials compiled indexes yearly and usually placed them immediately after the records. The indexes typically include the names sorted by the first letter of the surname and the date entered. They also list a record number and sometimes a page number. However, be careful when using indexes. The indexes may have errors with some names misspelled or missing. Also, some years will not be indexed.

Most errors in reading genealogical records are due to misreading the letters of German Script. The formation of the handwritten letters is very different from the writing we use today. An example is the formation of the letters f, h, j, s, and t in German script. They look very similar except for the location of the loop or no loop. I have tried to become familiar with the variances in German Script, but I still keep a chart nearby to decipher the letters correctly.

**UNDERSTANDING THE POLISH ALPHABET** is another critical factor. The Polish alphabet has 32 letters, which include nine letters formed from letters with diacritical marks. Polish letters with diacritics are treated as fully independent letters in alphabetical ordering and usually follow their non-diacritical counterparts. Recognizing the letters with diacritics will help us find terms in the glossaries and names in the indexes.

For Russian records, I translate my surnames to Russian. I use an online translator to convert my Pol-

ish names to their Russian spelling in the Cyrillic alphabet. This step allows me to see how the name looks in the Cyrillic alphabet and lets me know where the name will be in the index. This method allows me to find my family records using the indexes.

### ą ć ę ł ó ń ś ź ż

The Polish alphabet has 32 letters, which include nine letters formed from letters with diacritical marks, shown above.

Earlier I referred to glossaries of genealogical terms, and their most convenient source is the "wiki" pages at Familysearch.org. The lists are essential because they include words commonly seen in genealogical records and are not usually included in modern translation dictionaries. They will show the terms in the native language (Polish, Latin, Russian, or German) and in alphabetical order with the English definition to the right of the word. Numbers, months, and days of the week are listed in separate sections before the general list of terms.

**BELOW IS A LIST OF BOOKS** that have useful glossaries. Their lists may also contain more words than in the Wiki word lists. I have found the books at some libraries, and they are available for purchase online from Amazon and some Polish genealogical societies:

- *Going Home: A Guide to*

*Polish American Family History Research* by Jonathan Shea

- *In Their Words – Polish* by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman
- *In Their Words – Latin* by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman
- *In Their Words – Russian* by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman
- *In Their Words – German* by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman
- *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-language Civil-Registration Documents* by Judith Frazin

The above books and words list are great tools, but I have found some records too complicated for my simple methods. For these records, I have hired a professional translator to unlock the details. I am careful to use translators who are familiar with interpreting old Script and the old terms. Someone who translates modern languages may have difficulty translating our genealogical records. This concept is especially true for Russian records because Stalin changed the Cyrillic alphabet in the 1950s. I have successfully found genealogical translators from the list on the Polish Genealogy Society of America (www.PGSA.org) website.

This may seem like a challenging journey, but it will probably be a lifelong passion. Remember to have fun.

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 TERPIŁAK • (301) 654-8678 • WWW.BETHESDAJEWELER.COM

Plan now your 2022 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](http://www.pattours.com)  
e-mail: [info@pattours.com](mailto:info@pattours.com)

*We are the foremost authority on travel to Poland!*

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of AMERICA**

**2021 Webinar Conference**  
**September 17, 18, 19**

**REGISTRATION**  
Members: \$25  
Non-Members: \$40

Register: <https://pgsa.org/> and click on the *Conference* tile.  
(Registration includes a 3-month subscription to the Polish-American Journal)

**FEATURING**  
6 Informative Lectures - 2 one-hour sessions each day  
Sessions begin at 11:00 am central time  
with  
4 Polish Genealogists  
1 American Researcher/Heraldist  
Curators of the Polish Ethnographic Museum, Kraków

**LECTURES INCLUDE:**  
Brick Wall... Were My Polish Ancestors Ever Protestant?  
"Holendry"... Was Your 3rd-Great-Grandparent Dutch or German?  
Locating Pre-Partition (17th-18th century) Record Sources  
Truths and Myths behind Polish-Jewish Ancestry  
History & Meaning of Regional Polish Costumes  
Basics of Polish Heraldry

**RAFFLE PRIZES**  
A special drawing for the first 50 registrants!  
All attendees are entered to win:  
Discount coupons from the PGSA Store  
Polish language lessons from the Polish-American Foundation of Connecticut  
Four drawings for genealogy books by Stephen Szabados  
Drawings for 6 one-year subscriptions to the Polish-American Journal

## SPORTS

# Coach Krzyzewski To Enter Final Season

by Tom Tarapacki

It's the end of an era. Possibly the most accomplished and most visible Polish American in the country announced plans to step out of the spotlight next year.

**Mike Krzyzewski**, who will turn 75 on February 13, announced that he will retire after this season. He's college basketball's all-time winningest coach, with more than the 1,170 coaching victories at this point, 12 Final Fours, five national titles at Duke and three gold medals won while coaching the U.S. men's basketball team at the Olympics.

Despite his extraordinary accomplishments and manifest Polish pride, I sometimes hear from readers who don't like his self-deprecating style of humor. To understand that, it's important to look at his background.

Krzyzewski was born in Chicago on February 13, 1947. His parents, Bill and Emily (Pituch), were children of Polish immigrants. For a time his father used the surname "Kross" to escape discrimination. A star in the Chicago Catholic Basketball League, Mike reluctantly followed his parents' advice and went to the US Military Academy, where he played for and briefly coached under the legendary Bobby Knight.

While he grew up in a tight-knit Polish community, where he played in the schoolyards with friends like Moe Mlynski and Ed Stanislawski, it certainly wasn't the same when he got to West Point. Anyone familiar with locker room humor can well imagine the type of jokes, insults and kidding he encountered because of his heritage. Even his 1969 West Point yearbook bio wrote in jest that his name was "pronounced Kriz-il-lon-ski or some other variation."

I've found that when Polish Americans would encounter insults or prejudice, they would react in different ways. Some would get very angry and assert their Polish pride. Others would try to hide their heritage and try to "fit in." Still others, like Coach K, would use humor to deflect the jokes and point out the absurdity of them.

If you've ever been in a locker room with a bunch of jocks, you'll often find yourself being taunted for a variety of reasons. In jock culture, you can find yourself the target of taunts for a variety of reason, es-



Krzyzewski: announces end of an era.

pecially if you show a sensitivity to those taunts. An angry response will likely result in even more taunts.

I know that Krzyzewski encountered taunts, especially when he left Chicago. He once told the story of the time he called his mother after a practice at West Point. He was upset, and explained that Coach Knight had called him a "dumb Polack." His mother responded, "Well, at least he's still talking to you." I think I know where Coach K got his sense of humor.

When he went to Durham, North Carolina to take the Duke job in 1980, he immediately demonstrated his self-deprecating sense of humor. He started out by spelling his last name. "First of all, it's K-R-Z-Y-Z-E-W-S-K-I," he smiled. "If you think that's bad, it was a lot worse before I changed it." At another time he joked that he was thinking about changing his name — to Joe Krzyzewski.

Krzyzewski spent his first few seasons patiently correcting the pronunciation of his surname and making humorous references to his ethnic background, playing a kind of verbal rope-a-dope with those who would try to insult him.

Sometimes Krzyzewski would himself tell a Polish joke. As he explained: "First, I wanted everybody to know I was Polish. Second, in making a joke about my nationality, I never heard another Polish joke throughout. I identified it for what it was — a joke. Third, if we're so callous that we can't make fun of ourselves, then our race is in pretty sad shape."

Besides, hearing a Polish joke from Krzyzewski, possibly the greatest coach in the history of

sports, certainly drives home the point of just how absurd Polish jokes are.

On the serious side, Krzyzewski always spoke with great reverence about his family and his Polish heritage. Despite a hectic schedule, he frequently lent his support to Polish American causes, such as the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame (he was inducted in 1991) and the Polish Constitution Day Parade in Chicago (he served as Grand Marshall in 2015).

You don't have to like Krzyzewski's sense of humor. I think that it's certainly fair game to criticize Krzyzewski's approach; however, keep in mind that there are many Polish Americans who excel in sports or other fields who never acknowledge their ancestry, and there are those who even try to hide it. Mike Krzyzewski is Polish and proud, and everyone in Polonia should celebrate that.



Gronowski is a name to remember.

**GRONOWSKI NOT GRONKOWSKI.** He may be the best college football quarterback you've never heard of. His name is **Mark Gronowski**. No, not Gronkowski, Gronowski without the "k." As a true freshman, on May 16 he led South Dakota State all the way to the FCS championship game, but left the game early with a leg injury.

A lot of pretty good players have emerged from FCS schools, including such NFL QBs like Joe Flacco, Jimmy Garoppolo and Carson Wentz. In fact, North Dakota State QB Trey Lance was the third overall pick in the 2021 NFL draft. Gronowski could be another.

Mark, a 6-3, 200-lb. freshman from the Chicago suburb of Naperville, IL, starred at Neuqua Valley HS, where he was a star QB and ex-

celled in both basketball and baseball. Still, Mark was passed over by all seven of his state's Division One college programs, receiving a scholarship offer from one division two school, and another from South Dakota State.

Mark beat out two veteran QBs to start on opening day for the Jackrabbits. He led the team to a 5-1 season record, and passed for 1584 yards and 15 TDs, and ran for 577 yards and 7 TDs. He was also named the Missouri Valley's Offensive Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Newcomer of the Year.

Gronowski led South Dakota State into the FCS Championship game, winning three playoff games, and scoring more than 30 points in each one. However, a serious leg injury on the first offensive series forced him out, and his Jackrabbits eventually lost to Sam Houston State, 23-21.

**RECORD BREAKER.** Robert Lewandowski scored 41 goals in 29 Bundesliga League games this season, breaking the record for most goals scored in a season despite missing time due to an injury. It was a record that belonged to Gerd Muller since 1972. Breaking that record had long been considered impossible, but Lewandowski pulled it off. Afterwards, the New York Times called him "the most complete, most ruthless, most polished striker of his generation."

He also won the annual European Golden Shoe as the continent's top scorer. Finishing a distant second was Barcelona's Lionel Messi with 30 goals.

Muller still holds the career scoring mark, having tallied 365 goals during his playing days in the Bundesliga. Lewandowski is currently second on the list with 277 goals and needs to score 88 goals to equal Muller's total; based on his current production rate he could very well do so in three seasons.

**PROUD MOMENT.** Five years after last playing in the majors, **Scott Kazmir** made an impressive return to the big leagues.

The 37-year-old lefty received a surprising call-up from the Giants and a day later he was starting. Kaz pitched well in a 6-3 loss to the Dodgers, allowing just one earned run over four innings.

A first-round pick of the New York Mets in 2002, the Houston native reached three All-Star Games during a 13-year career that saw him play for seven teams. He was released in spring training by the Braves in 2017, and didn't play the next two years. Last summer, he re-

turned for Eastern Reyes del Tigre of the Constellation Energy League in Sugar Land, Texas, and signed a minor league deal with the Giants in February.

**NOT BAD.** For the first time since 2012, **Sam Mikulak** competed in all six events at the U.S. men's gymnastics championships and didn't go home the all-around winner. Brody Malone finished first, and Sam came in third.

The only time Sam didn't win since 2012 was in 2017, when he was injured and competed only two events. The 29-year-old former University of Michigan gymnast has been a consistent all-around medal threat, though he never made the podium in that event at an Olympics or world championships. He has battled injuries throughout his career, missing significant time with left Achilles injuries in 2015 and 2017.



OSU softball rises under Gajewski's leadership.

**SPECTACULAR SEASON.** Under head coach **Kenny Gajewski**, the Oklahoma State softball program has emerged as one of the sport's elite programs. Since taking over in June 2015 he's led the Cowgirls to the NCAA Tournament four times.

This season no. 5 OSU finished the year 48-12 with a conference record of 15-3. The Cowgirls finished second in the Big 12 regular season title race behind No. 1 Oklahoma. OSU recorded its first win over OU in over a decade.

Oklahoma State lost to Florida State, 4-2, in a College World Series elimination game that challenged both teams. The nightcap of a doubleheader was delayed due to rain; the first pitch came Saturday at 11:50 PM, and ended at 2:18 a.m. Sunday morning

Before coaching Gajewski, a California native, played baseball for the 1994 Oklahoma baseball team, that won the national championship.

## PHILATELICS

### Beware of Counterfeits

by Barbara Szydłowski

The Polonus Polish Philatelic Society of Illinois keeps an eye out for counterfeit stamps. As a collector, I have come across counterfeit or misidentified stamps on eBay. One example is Port Gdansk overprinted stamps of 1925-1938.

A source to verify stamps is Bieniecki Polish Philatelic LLC. It is the largest selection of authenticated Polish Philatelic material in North America. A member of the Polonus Society, it is the trusted source for discriminating collectors of Polish stamps and postal history. Bieniecki, which has specialized in Poland philatelics since 1946, has long-term associations with the top Polish stamp experts and dealers in Poland.

For additional information [www.biistamp.com](http://www.biistamp.com).

The Polonus Polish Philatelic Society is non-profit, tax exempt 501 (c)(3)00 organization incorporated in the state of Illinois in 1939. The Society was organized primarily for educational purposes, with the objective of promoting philately through the dissemination of

information in the English language. You can become a member of this Philatelic society by visiting [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org).

**MY PICKS.** In 2014 Poland issued some unique stamps in the month of September. I am referring to a panel of four stamps portraying a spherically shaped Earth with a collage of urban and forested landscape, showing electric transmission lines and alternative energy sources including hydroelectric (water), geothermal, wind and solar.

Other favorites of mine are the Meteorological Phenomena stamps, a panel of four stamps showing the aurora borealis, the Sun's halo, a volcanic eruption, and a white frost.



### 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**



## HAPPENINGS CHICAGO STYLE

## Polish American Authors Discuss Polish Chicago

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On May 3, even though there were few events celebrating Polish Constitution Day, the Chicago Public Library (CPL) hosted a one-hour virtual panel discussion entitled “Chicagoski: Writers on Polish Chicago.” The panel was made up of prominent authors: **Stuart Dybek**, **Dominic Pacyga**, **John Guzłowski**, and **Tom Dyja**. The discussion was moderated by **Daniel Pogorzelski**, vice president of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society and editor of *ForgottenChicago.com*. The discussion covered a variety of topics, such as: What does it mean to be Polish in Chicago? Have the writers visited Poland? Where were they on the day Pope John Paul II visited Chicago?

Each author represented a different neighborhood of Chicago. Pacyga is from the South Side’s Back of the Yards; Dybek is from the Pilsen neighborhood; Guzłowski is from Humboldt Park and Logan Square; Dyja is from the Belmont-Cragin area on Chicago’s Northwest Side. Each had their own experiences and approached their Polish origins in different ways, some through their family roots, some through their adult experiences, some through the stories they heard.

Guzłowski, who writes for the *Dziennik Zwiazkowy*, identified his Polishness through the tragic events of his parents, who, during their youth, spent several years in Nazi concentration camps. In 1951, when he and his family first arrived in the United States, they lived in a rural area outside of Buffalo, New York. They were soon convinced to move to Chicago, because of its “Polishness” — its neighborhoods, churches, and stores. Everywhere you could go in Chicago, Polish was spoken.

Pacyga chronicled his life as living close to the famous Chicago Stockyards. He even worked there for a couple years as a security guard and a livestock handler. He stated, “I worked my way through college” at the stockyards. But for him, the “Back of the Yards” was an ethnically diverse area where several Eastern and Central European languages were spoken, Polish, Czech, Lithuanian, Slovak, and German. Living in that neighborhood helped him understand differing ethnic backgrounds. But he jokingly said the most Polish area for him was his “Babcia’s kitchen.”

Dybek grew up in Pilsen, the South Side area where his immigrant family had settled. He laughingly mentioned that, in that area, beer appeared to be on the minds of many. Air-conditioners did not exist when he was growing up, so during warm summer nights, adults sat on their front porches or steps with a cold beer in hand and told stories that lingered in Stuart’s mind. He recalled that the neighborhood had



FOUR AUTHORS. (starting top left, clockwise): Pacyga, Dybek, Dyja, and Guzłowski.

many churches and taverns. He disclosed that he had an emotional attachment to his writing and it began with the family.

Dyja grew up in the Belmont-Cragin neighborhood. Any interest in Polish history was not present in his family. Everything he learned about his ancestors he discovered himself.

Guzłowski didn’t want to write about the lives of his parents, but instead wanted to write science fiction. However, the lack of family history and history, in general, were the incentives for Dyja to write more personal narrative. Pacyga, on the other hand, stated that he always thought of himself as Polish and wanted to write special or unexpected stories about Poles and Polish Americans. All the writers agreed that it’s not each of them, who choose the stories, but it’s the stories that choose them.

Tom Dyja has not yet travelled to Poland, but it is on his “Bucket List.” Dominick has been to Poland 15 times; John has been there few times; Stuart a couple of times.

At the end of this panel discussion, Pogorzelski mentioned that sometime in October 2021, during Polish American Heritage Month, he will prepare a “Chicagoska” panel discussion with Polish American women authors.

This broadcast event was made possible by **Jennifer Lizak**, coordinator of special projects, cultural and civic engagements at CPL. It was presented in honor of Polish Constitution Day and was co-sponsored by the CPL’s Polish Heritage Committee. Additional sponsors included the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, the Alliance of Polish Clubs, the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, and the Polish American Congress- Illinois Division.

#### May 3rd Constitution Day Celebrations In Chicago

Despite the cancellation of most of Chicago’s Polish Constitution Day festivities due to the COVID pandemic, numerous Polish and Polish American individuals and organizations made sure that the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day would not be forgotten.

On the morning of May 2, many members and friends of the Polish community gathered at the Tadeusz Kościuszko Monument on Chicago’s

Solidarity Drive to begin the celebrations honoring Poland’s Flag Day and the 230th anniversary of the adoption of Poland’s 1791 Constitution. The ceremony began with the singing of the Polish National Anthem, “*Mazurek Dąbrowskiego*,” followed by the Lithuanian National Anthem “*Tautiška giesmė*,” and the “*Star-Spangled Banner*.” The “*Mazurka of May 3*,” (“Hello, Bright Dawn of May”) was played by the 144th U.S. Army Military Orchestra. The celebration was also honored by the presence of members of the Illinois National Guard.

In a proclamation written by Chicago’s Mayor Lori Lightfoot, May 3 was designated as the Constitution Day of the Polish-Lithuanian State. She encouraged all Chicagoans to join in the celebration.

**Raja Krishnamoorthi**, U.S. congressman of the Illinois 8th District, and **Frank Spula**, president of the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance (PNA), spoke about Poles and their

**Środoń**, coordinator of PNA activities, prepared and organized this event.

The following day, May 3, Chicago’s downtown Daley Plaza was the site of the raising of the Polish, Lithuanian, and American flags to mark the importance of the celebration of the May 3rd Constitution Day in Chicago. The ceremony featured the singing of the Polish and American National Anthems by baritone **Michał Sadowski**; soprano **Nida Grigalaviciute** sang the Lithuanian National Anthem.

Even the traditional Polish Constitution Day Parade was not forgotten. Though the parade could not be held, **Jan Kopeć**, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs and chair of the May 3rd Committee, made sure that a parade theme, a grand marshal, a Friend of Polonia, and a parade queen were selected.

This year’s theme was “Do Not Be Afraid,” as popularized by St. Pope John Paul II. Jesse White, Illinois secretary of state, was select-

at Chicago. From an early age, she has been active in Polish Scouting and is an adjutant instructor for the “Young Forest” hiking team. During her tenure as the 2021 Parade Queen, she will perform all duties of the queen at various events.

#### PAA Appoints New Executive Director



Kinga Kosmala

In March 2021, the Polish American Association (PAA) based in Chicago was pleased to announce that its new executive director would be Kinga Kosmala. She has been a prominent academic in the Chicago area and well-known in the Polish community. She worked for 16 years as a lecturer and an Associate Professor of Instruction in Polish at Northwestern University, where she taught courses in Polish language, film, and culture. She also worked as a lecturer at the University of Chicago as a Mellon Collaborative Partner in the Less Commonly Taught Languages Partnership Project. Kinga is proficient in English, Polish, Russian, and German.

Kinga holds a master’s degree in Botanical Genetics from the University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Poland, and a Ph.D. in Polish Studies from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago.

Her special research interests are many, but especially focus on “Poland in Chicago,” a mapping of Chicago’s Polish character. The project is aimed at identifying and mapping the history and contemporary nature of Chicago’s metropolitan area of Polonia.

She has recently published “Lady Jane in Warsaw: Communism Brought Down by Rock’n’Roll” and “Ida and Mother Joan of the Angels: God-like Camera and Women in Habits,” for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.



Kosciuszko monument gathering.



(l. to r.): Kopeć, Piechota, Lebensztein, White, Giba, Danilowska, and Reboyras.

significance in helping to establish Polish America. Also, **Malgorzata Bąk-Guzik**, consul general of the Republic of Poland, and **Mantvydas Bekešius**, consul general of Lithuania, thanked representatives of the Polish community, the Lithuanian community, and the Illinois National Guard in joining others to celebrate this event. There were also representatives from Chicago’s Belarusian and Ukrainian communities. It was a delight for those present to hear **Ariel Reboyras**, alderman of Chicago’s 30th Ward and a Polish favorite, give his enthusiastic best wishes in Polish. The ceremony ended with the singing of *Rota*, a Polish patriotic song, and *God Bless America*. **Maria**

as the 2021 Friend of Polonia. **Tadeusz Gubala**, a World War II veteran and member of the Polish Army Veterans in America, was the “collective” grand marshal of the parade, representing all Polish Army World War II veterans. The 2021 parade queen was **Paulina Kosińska**. Her court consisted of **Monica Lebensztein**, first runner-Up; **Gabrielle Piechota** and **Katarzyna Giba** were both second runners-Up; and **Agnieszka Danilowska** was the parade’s Miss Publicity.

Parade Queen Paulina Kosińska was born in Poland, graduated from Lane Technical High School, and presently is a third-year business major at the University of Illinois

**Listen to the  
POLISH  
AMERICAN  
RADIO  
PROGRAM**



Hosted by Andy  
“Andrzej” Gołbiowski

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

Za darmo, boli gardło.  
For free, the throat hurts.

## MINNESOTA VOICE

## A century of memories survives fire at Minneapolis' Sacred Heart of Jesus

by Mark Dillon

In August 1944, as Poles were struggling for freedom in the Warsaw Uprising, a leading bishop from the Polish National Catholic Church spoke at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Minneapolis about conditions in the Nazi concentration camp that he had been rescued from a year before with the help of the Swiss Red Cross.

Thirty years earlier, as the guns of August 1914 rolled across the Carpathian hills and Masovian plains, one the first Minnesota fund-raising efforts to help the victims of war in partitioned Poland was organized at Sacred Heart of Jesus. Then pastor Fr. Francis Kloz brought together 700 people to raise money for the Red Cross as Poles fighting for Austria-Hungary attempted to hold back Russian invaders near Sanok and Lvov.

Current pastor Fr. John Kutek faces a different battle these days in the historically Polish neighborhood of Northeast Minneapolis. His flock of 50 active parishioners is struggling to rebuild after a suspected arson fire heavily damaged



**REV. JOHN KUTEK** of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Minneapolis, shows how the auditorium of Pulaski Hall has been converted into a temporary sanctuary in the wake of a fire that heavily damaged the PNCC church on April 19.

"We are His hands," Fr. Kutek says.

**Fund raising continues**

As of early June, a GoFundMe on-line fund-raiser to help rebuild the church had garnered \$26,570 from 331 separate donors toward a \$50,000 goal. Link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-sacred-heart-rebuild-our-church>. Addi-

hope," Rog said.

While no official announcement had been made as of early June, forensic arson investigators suspect the fire may have deliberately set based on signs of a building break-in. The rafters, roof and much of the bell tower of the 1914 wood frame structure were consumed quickly by the blaze. An entirely new structure now has to be designed and erected.



**A CAMPUS STILL OPEN.** A blue canopy welcomes Mass attendees at the entrance of Pulaski Hall auditorium at Sacred Heart of Jesus parish, Minneapolis. To the right is the fire-scorched ruins of the church building. The parish rectory is the middle.

the church on April 19, the remains of which will have to be torn down to meet municipal safety codes.

"We were able to recover a bit more than we originally expected, but the majority of the contents within the church were ruined beyond saving" says Michael Kutek, Fr. John's son. (Since 1921, the PNCC has followed Eastern Rite and Orthodox Catholic Church rules that permit and encourage married priests).

At the church's Pulaski Hall auditorium across the street, Sunday Mass is celebrated with the marble altar that survived the fire. It is set at the foot of a stage where plays have historically been acted, dancers have performed, Polish buffet dinners served and community meetings held. Two prints of Gen. Casimir Pulaski hang on the wall in the background.

To the left of the altar, a life-size crucifix with missing arms destroyed in the fire is lit by the mid-day sunlight.

tional contributions have also included a \$1,000 donation from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM).

"Many families whose ancestors helped build this church still are active today. This small church has always held its doors open for anyone and everyone, regardless of faith. My father has been the residing pastor here for over 25 years," said Michael Kutek.

Another family that has been long-time parishioners are the Rogs. Paul Rog is the son of Czeslaw Rog, founder and long-time editor of the *PolAm* newsletter, and a community activist who helped many first-generation Polish Americans get settled in Minnesota and assist families in Poland during the 1970s and 1980s during martial law and before the downfall of communism. Paul says the outpouring of community generosity and words of support is greatly appreciated as the parish copes with a huge, sudden loss.

"It is been a big help that gives us

**Tough times**

This spring has been an exceptionally tough period for Minnesota Polonia. In addition to the fire, the largest Polish grocery and deli store in the Twin Cities, Sikora's, announced plans to close (final day June 9). Rural Roman Catholic Polish parish St. Mary of Czestochowa in Delano was facing possible merger or closure. Rev. Spencer Howe, the widely admired pastor of Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis, one of the largest Polish parishes in Minnesota, took an unexpected leave of absence, and an unexpected leadership change took place at the Polish Cultural Institute and Museum in Winona.

A few positive signs are on the horizon amid the lifting of coronavirus public gathering restrictions at the end of May. Sacred Heart is still planning to host its annual parish Polish Festival in July and PACIM is planning to host a new member-focused outdoor Family Picnic and Kielbasa Roast at Vadnais Heights Regional Park on Saturday, August 14.

A PNCC church like Sacred Heart of Jesus led by a priest with long-standing ties to the community may have more flexibility to survive and rebuild with a small congregation than a larger Roman Catholic parish, which is subject to diocesan controls.

While the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis's Finance Council has set a policy guideline that a parish should operate with 1,000 families to qualify for a rotating term limit, renewable for six more years at the sole discretion of the Archbishop.

The PNCC has 26,000 members in five dioceses in the United States and Canada. The five dioceses are: Buffalo-Pittsburgh, Central,

Eastern, Western and Canada. Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of two Polish National Catholic Churches in Minnesota. The other is St. Josephat in Duluth —Í also served by Fr. Kutek. In nearby Western Wisconsin, there is also St. Mary's PNCC church in the historically Polish town of Lublin near Eau Claire,

**A fighter for freedom and truth**

The Sacred Heart fire coincides with the 75th year since PNCC Bishop Joseph Padewski, the Tittmngen, Germany concentration camp inmate who spoke at the church in 1944, returned to Poland in 1946 to provide pastoral care to the Polish clergy.

Around that time, Tomasz Kołakowski, one of Padewski's fellow priests of the PNCC in Poland, managed to evade the communist

authorities and escape to the United States. There, he was instrumental in helping expose the 1940 Katyn massacre to the American public.

In Poland, Padewski was then betrayed by clergy within the PNCC anxious to gain favor with the communists, and arrested in 1951. Seventy years ago, on May 10 that year, in Mokotów Prison in Warsaw, Padewski was tortured to death by communist officers of the Ministry of Public Security of Poland (MBP).

Sacred Heart's long history is one of not just serving the Polish community, but also bringing together groups for dialogue in ways that might seem difficult to imagine today given the violent environment of Minneapolis since mid-2020.

In September 1914, just a month after the start of World War I, Fr. Kloz organized a large gathering



**DAMAGED, NOT DISCOURAGED.** Long-time Sacred Heart of Jesus parishioner Paul Rog looks to the crucifix rescued from the church fire. Christ's arms were lost in the blaze.

and Red Cross benefit at the Catholic Order of Foresters Hall that included an exhibit of "scene after scene of recent pictures showing actual battle in its most horrible aspects," according to the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*. The paper reported at the time that German, Serbian, French, and Russian-Americans were among those sitting together in an overflow yet polite, respectful audience of dozen nationalities.

Across the United States, demographic change and external events continue to impact both the Roman and PNCC churches. Michael Kutek notes that Sacred Heart's collective community memory still endures. "Even though this is a very tough moment in our story, your kindness will never be forgotten. As long as we have each other, we will continue stand together and united," he says in gratitude on the GoFundMe donation site.

## INDIANA

**Motorcycles Blessed**

Lukasz Wrobel of the Chicago-based Sokół Riders Motorcycle Association and his brother, Damian Statek, await the Blessing of the Motorcycles outside the Salvatorian Fathers Monastery at the 12th Annual Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage, held May 2 at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana.

The motorcycles were blessed by Father Superior Mikolaj Markiewicz, SDS.

The event is organized by Stowarzyszenie Rajd Katynski Pamiec i Tozsamosc USA (Katyn Riders Society) of Chicago and is held every spring and fall at the shrine.

To learn more about the Sokół Riders, visit <https://www.facebook.com/sokolriders/>.

For information on the OLC Shrine in Merrillville, visit <http://salwatorianie.us/home/>.



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

140 Hepburn Road, 12L  
Clifton, NJ 07012

(973) 207-6024

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The Illinois State Historical Society has awarded **Ann Hetzel Gunkel's** *Poles in Illinois* the Superior Achievement Award for a Scholarly Book in its Best of Illinois History 2021 Awards Ceremony.

Gunkel is Associate Professor of Cultural Studies and Humanities in the Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences at Columbia College Chicago.

The award is a recognition of superior achievement for an original scholarly work of one or more volumes that adds to the knowledge of state and local history and serves as a model for the profession and reaches a greater public.

Coming from a Polish American family in Chicago, Gunkel started with a personal understanding of various immigrant cohorts in Polonia (Polish American society). Gunkel studied Polish language and culture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and has taught as a Visiting Fulbright Professor at the Jagiellonian's Institute for American Studies and Polish Diaspora. Today, in addition to Philosophy and Cultural Studies, Gunkel works in the field of Polish American Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Gunkel was inspired to write *Poles in Illinois* after many years of involvement with the Polish American Historical Association as both a board Member and editorial board member of the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

## MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The **Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton** celebrated Polish Constitution Day Mon., May 3, 2021 with a Holy Mass of remembrance celebrated by Rev. Adam Czarnecki at St. Valentine's Church, Northampton.

The 3rd of May, 1791 is celebrated as a most important national holiday in Poland because it marks the declaration of one of the first National Constitutions designed to supplant the long-standing anarchy of the ruling classes with a more democratic constitutional monarchy. This was a progressive document for its time and served as a model for many countries in the nineteenth century wave of democratic reform that swept throughout Europe.

## MICHIGAN

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The **Piast Institute** announced several events in celebration of Polish Constitution Day.

One event was an online seminar on the history of Poland, particularly the symbolism and impact of the Constitution on Poland. It was held on May 3rd on Zoom.

The Institute also offered a presentation on the Polish Constitution to Polish Language teachers and the Polish scouts on the weekend of May 1-2.

Piast also sponsored a "Polish Constitution" contest to students in grades 6-12. The contest was open to all Polish Language Schools and Polish Scouts, and all student interested in exploring Polish culture.

## MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Dolina Polish Folk Dancers** normally works at the Gasthof Oktoberfest to earn money for its organization's expenses, but the German-themed bar and restaurant, a popular spot

for Oktoberfest for decades — temporarily closed since last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic — is closed for good. Those wishing to support Dolina can do so by visiting its on-line store, <https://store.dolina.org/>, which offers a variety of Polish items.

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Polonia to come alive in August with two Assumption Weekend events. First, a picnic at a suburban regional park north of the Twin Cities and the reopening of operations of the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum in Winona will mark the first major live events for Minnesota's Polish American community since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Beginning at noon on Sunday, August 14, the **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota** will host its first ever PACIM Family Picnic and Kielbasa Roast at Vadnais Heights Regional Park, a recreational area of lakes and trails eight miles north of St. Paul.

The next day, 110 miles to the south, beginning at 1:00 p.m., the **Winona Museum** will reopen its doors for the first time in more than a year with a light *hors d'oeuvres* reception and the sound of Kashubian concertina music and the voices of the Kashubian Community Voices choir.

The leadership of both the 150-member PACIM group and the much larger museum are hoping to attract family-oriented crowds, and multiple generations of folks of Polish heritage. PACIM is offering is \$15 a person luncheon plate that includes *grillowa kielbasa* and *pierogi* from Chicago, *kapusta*, Polish pickles and desserts.

Details as far as specific entertainment groups were still being ironed out as of early June. In Winona, the Kashubian community is seeking to rekindle parts of the Kashubian Centennial celebration that were cancelled last year because of COVID-related restrictions on public gatherings.

Around the state, interest in church-based events, small community festivals and take-out events has grown as the virus has abated, even as the Twin Cities Polish Festival in urban Minneapolis remains shut down for a second year. The post-COVID reality appears to be an emphasis on quality rather than quantity in event management, high standards of cleanliness and safety, and new ways of recruiting, training and appreciating volunteers.

## NEW YORK

BUFFALO — Mayor Byron Brown hosted a Polish flag raising ceremony in Niagara Square, May 2, 2021, making him the first mayor outside of Poland to formally recognize Polonia Day.

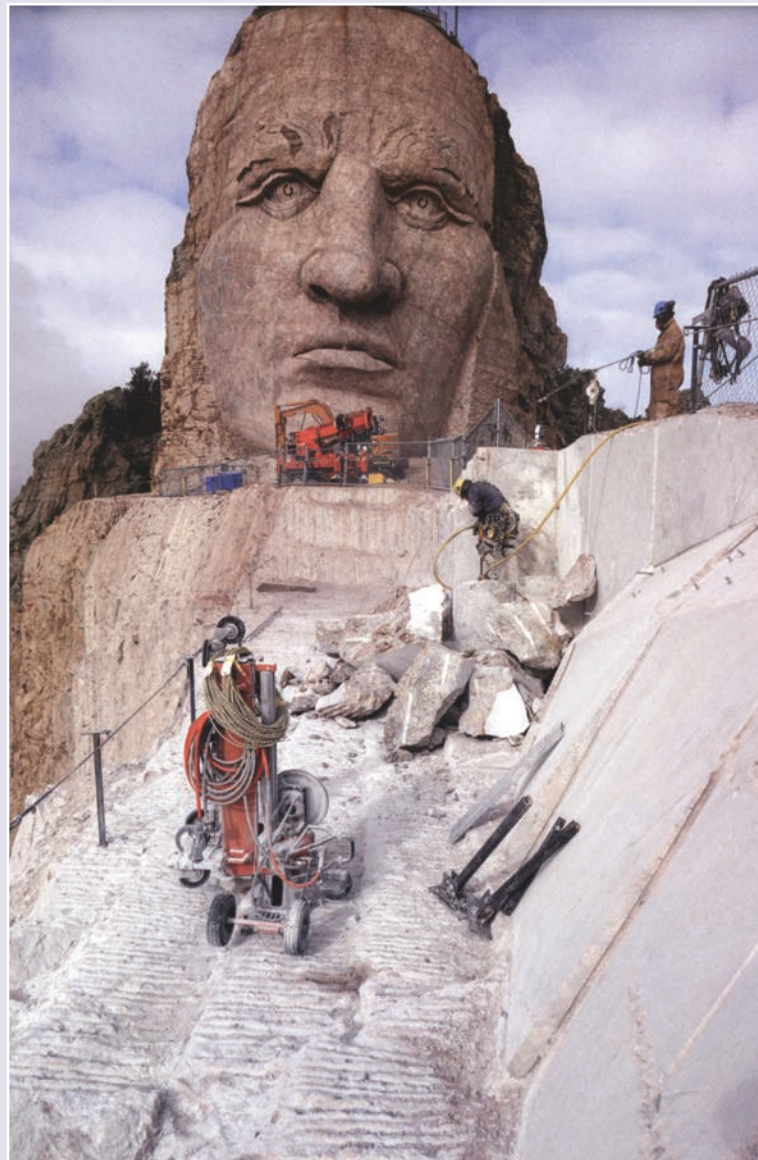
Members of the **General Pulaski Association** say the holiday started about two decades ago to celebrate more than 20 million people of Polish ancestry around the world.

Western New York has more Polish descendants per capita than any area outside of Poland.

The event also marked Polish Flag Day, which saw Niagara Falls flooded in white and red lights.

CHEEKTOWAGA — The **Polish American Arts Festival** held annually at Town Park has been cancelled in the interest of public health amidst the COVID pandemic. Polish American Congress, WNY Division President James L.

## Crazy Horse Progress



Mountain carvers work within inches of the finished grade on Crazy Horse's left index finger, drilling granite fragments into smaller pieces to make them more manageable for removal.

There has been a great deal of progress on both sides of Crazy Horse's arm and left hand.

"Working hand-in-hand with the mountain and Korczak's models is becoming ever-closer to the carvers, said carving director Monique Ziolkowski. "It takes more measuring, and more preciseness — it's back-and-forth."

Crazy Horse Memorial is the world's largest mountain carving in progress. Work began on May 3, 1947 when Korczak Ziolkowski returned to the Black Hills to create a monument of Crazy Horse at the invitation of Oglala Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear.

Ziolkowski, a noted New England sculptor, first came to the Black Hills in 1939 to help Gutzon Borglum on Mount Rushmore. That year, Ziolkowski also won first prize for his Carrara marble portrait, "Paderewski, Study of an Immortal," at the New York World's Fair.

To learn more, visit [crazyhorsememorial.org](http://crazyhorsememorial.org), or call (605) 673-4681.

Ławicki II said there was "really no alternative that could be deemed safe and fiscally sound for all parties involved," and said the PAC was exploring options for some sort of cultural event in either late Summer or early Fall."

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The **Polish American Civic Affairs Committee of Western New York**, a political action committee that seeks to recruit, elect and retain elected officials of Polish American descent, is pleased to announce a new distinction.

This distinction is "Polonia Advocacy Ambassador" and will be awarded to elected officials who are non-Polish Americans, but advance the cause of Western New York Polonia in the communities they serve.

Specific criteria for consideration have been established and candidates will be asked to present their qualifications for this distinction. Once awarded, candidates may utilize the "Polonia Advocacy Ambassador" distinction in campaign promotion and literature.

"It's important to recognize those individuals who are aligned to the core values of the Polish American community," said chair James L. Ławicki II, who also serves as president of the Western New York

Division of the Polish American Congress

This was supported by the board of the Polish American Civic Affairs Committee of Western New York at a recent board meeting with Democrat President Jeffrey Swiatek and Republican President Brian D. Rusk.

## OHIO

CLEVELAND — A staple in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood closed its doors for good.

**Seven Roses Polish Deli** had been around for nearly 17 years; it closed January 30, 2021.

Owner Sophie Tyl retired and said the business is having a tough time dealing with increasing crime and the coronavirus pandemic.

The business was not good and people were afraid of coming because of the neighborhood, said Tyl. "And the coronavirus is a little bit hard sometimes," she said.

The news was bittersweet for longtime customers who love Tyl's traditional Polish dishes, like potato pancakes and chicken soup.

"I was very sad. I hated to see it go. But I know it's time for her, she wants to be able to relax," Diane Ponikvar said.

"We're all feeling bad that she's

retiring, but she deserves it, she deserves it to relax and not to worry about anything," Jadwiga Kalinowski said.

— from report in News 5 Cleveland

## PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — An honest-to-goodness traditional Polish beer garden was inaugurated on June 5, 2021 at the **Associated Polish Home of Philadelphia/Polish Home/Dom Polski**. Over 300 very eager partygoers showed for the grand opening event, which included Polish, European local and domestic beers, a full Polish kitchen, children's entertainment, and appropriate music was spun by celebrity DJ Joe. Also in attendance were representatives from many local and regional Polonia organizations.

The germination of the beer garden began last summer to give APHP members and guests a safe socializing venue in keeping with official COVID-19 mandates. Then it was APHP president Andrew Wisniewski idea to create and expand the very popular al fresco venue. The infrastructure was designed and built from the ground up and out from the main building to produce an authentic beer garden ubiquitous to Poland in all respects.

Originally founded as the Polish Library Association of Philadelphia in 1900, the Associated Polish Home has served as the heart of Polish culture, arts, and society in the Philadelphia area.

The newly-planted "Ogródek Piwny" will be open on weekends in spring, summer and fall. For information, call (215) 624-9954; email [polishhome@gmail.com](mailto:polishhome@gmail.com), or visit [www.polishhome.com](http://www.polishhome.com).

— Richard P. Poremski

## VIRGINIA

JAMESTOWN — Polish and Polam history buffs were among the hundreds of re-enactors who converged here for a "**Military Through the Ages**" event, Polish Television reported. The Polish re-enactment included displays of historic uniforms and weaponry from the 1939 September Campaign, the Home Army (AK) resistance, the Battle of Britain, Monte Cassino, the Warsaw Uprising and other Polish World War II milestones largely unknown to average Americans. But participating re-enactors and visitors were devotees fascinated by the Polish input and eagerly examined the uniforms, banners and firearms used by the Polish military. Centuries earlier, it was Polish artisans who would become the Virginia Colony's economic mainstay, who first landed there in 1608.

To learn more about this annual event, visit [www.historyisfun.org/](http://www.historyisfun.org/).

## 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](mailto:andywbuffalo@yahoo.com)

## Permanent Kościuszko Squadron Exhibit Under Construction at New England Air Museum

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — An exhibit honoring the heroic Kościuszko Squadron pilots who distinguished themselves in both World Wars is under construction at the New England Air Museum (NEAM) in partnership with the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in New Britain.

The permanent exhibit will trace the history of the squadron from its creation in late 1919 by a group of American volunteers to repay Tadeusz Kościuszko, the renowned Polish military engineer and leader who helped fight during the American Revolution.

“During World War II, Squadron 303 further distinguished itself during the Battle of Britain by downing a record number of Nazi planes, earning itself deserved respect as Defenders of Freedom, the theme of the exhibit,” said Dr. M.B. Biskupski, holder of the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies at CCSU.

The exhibit will have uniforms, numerous fighter plane models, aircraft nose art, a pilot’s journal, and even a Merlin engine that powered the squadron’s Spitfires. Donors continue to offer more artifacts.

A touchscreen kiosk will offer visitors detailed profiles of the Kościuszko Squadron pilots and their planes. Educational programs and speakers will bring the exhibit to life for school and college students throughout the year. The goal is to engage students and connect



The exhibit, part of which shown here, will trace the history of the squadron from its creation in late 1919 by a group of American volunteers to repay Tadeusz Kościuszko,

them to Polish history.

Exhibit design and construction is led by an organizing committee of CCSU and NEAM leaders supported by a 12-member international honorary council of government officials and Polish organizations.

“NEAM attracts between 40,000 and 45,000 visitors annually. The Kościuszko Squadron exhibit will be a welcome addition to the museum’s holdings and a reminder of Polish patriotism and heroism,” said Ron Katz, museum director of advancement and external relations.

The exhibit’s May 2 donor cultivation event hosted nearly 100 invitees and included Connecticut’s lieutenant governor and speakers

from CCSU, the Polish Consulate and the Polish Embassy.

Donations may be made payable to the CCSU Foundation, PO Box 612, New Britain, CT 06050 and marked: “For the Kościuszko Squadron.” Or click this link to the exhibit’s CCSU Foundation online giving page <https://ccsu.networkforgood.com/causes/17039-the-kosciuszko-squadron>.

For more donation information and to submit artifacts, contact CCSU’s Renata Vickrey at (860) 832-2085 or [vickrey@ccsu.edu](mailto:vickrey@ccsu.edu), or NEAM’s Ron Katz at (860) 623-3305 or [rkatz@neam.org](mailto:rkatz@neam.org).

## THE POLISH CHEF

### Polish Sides for Your Cookout

by Robert Strybel

**TOMATO SALAD (salatka z pomidorów):** Wash and slice 2-3 firm tomatoes and arrange on large serving dish in a single layer. Chop 1 med onion fine. Salt & pepper tomatoes and sprinkle with a little lemon juice. Sprinkle a little chopped onion at center of each tomato slice. Variation: Slice, arrange and season tomato slices as above. Slice 2 small onions wafer thin and arrange on top of tomato slices. Sprinkle salad with chopped chives or green onions. Note: This salad is very good dressed with vinaigrette. It can also be dressed with liquefied sour cream, but it should be added just prior to serving – otherwise the salad will become “soupy.”

**GREEN ONION & EGG SALAD (surówka ze szczypioru z jajkiem):** Trim the whiskers or tough stem base from 3-4 bunches fresh green onions. Rinse in plenty of cold water, shake dry and slice green tops and white bottoms at 1/4” intervals. Place in salad bowl, salt and pepper, add a sprinkle of sugar (optional) and top with chopped hard-cooked eggs (allow 1-2 eggs per bunch green onions). Toss and lace with enough sour cream to just coat ingredients.

**LETTUCE POLISH STYLE (zielona salata po polsku):** For a genuine Polish-style salad, select Boston or bib lettuce (rather than iceberg,

leaf, romaine or other varieties). Twist off and discard the core that holds the leaves together. Separate the leaves and wash well, dry and place in shallow serving dish. If the leaves are quite long, tear each into 2 or 3 pieces. To dress 2 small to medium heads lettuce, fork-blend 2/3-3/4 c sour cream with juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1/4 t salt and 1/2-1 t sugar and pour over lettuce.

*Variations:* 1) after dressing the lettuce decorate the top with 2 sliced hard-cooked eggs; 2) scatter 4-8 thinly sliced radishes over the lettuce before or after dressing with sour-cream sauce; 3) scatter 4-5 chopped green onions over the lettuce before or after dressing with sour-cream sauce;

**CAULIFLOWER POLONAISE (kalfior po polsku):** Remove any green leaves from base of cauliflower and trim off core. Place cauliflower cored-side-down in a pot tall enough so the cauliflower is at least 3” from the top rim. Add cold water coming up 1/3 of the way up the cauliflower and 1 t salt, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook covered at a gentle rolling boiling about 20-30 min or until fork-tender. Meanwhile, in saucepan heat 3-4 T butter until it bubbles, stir in 2-3 T bread crumbs and simmer, stirring frequently, until it is nicely browned. Remove cooked cauliflower from pot, drain well, place on serving platter and spoon the browned bread-crumbs topping over it.

## PONDERING POLE

### King of the Burin

by Ed Poniewaz

Unlike many, I still use the Post Office for occasional shipping and utilize snail mail often. I actually walk in to buy stamps from the clerk behind the counter and enjoy seeing what new special editions are being offered. I’m old fashioned in that way I guess.

Talking about postage stamps, the Stamp Engravers Blogspot makes this claim: “If there is one name synonymous with the art of stamp engraving, it must be that of **Czesław Słania**.” Pronounced chesh’wahv swa’nee-ah, and according to *Wikipedia*, he was born in the town of Czeladz near Katowice, Poland, October 22, 1921. A prolific stamp engraver, he designed over 1,000 stamps throughout his career.

Słania began his life’s work as a young boy impressing his classmates with his talent for drawing and subsequently used that ability during World War II to forge “identity cards and other documents for the Polish underground forces.” When the war ended, he attended the Krakow Academy of Fine Arts specializing in “graphic techniques such as etching and copper engraving.” That training and experience heightened his interest in engraving and jumpstarted his professional career working at the Polish Government Printing Works in 1950.

In 1956, because of the threat of increased oppression by the Soviet government, he moved to Sweden. There, he found employment at the Swedish postal service where he honed his skills, tried new methods and techniques, and produced some

of his best work.

As his fame and notoriety grew, so did requests by other national postal services for his service including Poland when the political climate began to thaw in the 1980s and 90s. The United States, Denmark, China, Great Britain, and the city-state of Monaco also commissioned him for stamp issues. Perhaps it was inevitable that Słania’s “engraving of the old library building on a Faröe Islands stamp...was pronounced the most beautiful stamp in the world.”

The superlatives on Czesław Słania specifically point to his greatness as a stamp engraver but the examples of his work I have seen makes me want to lump him with all the great Polish artists and perhaps with all great artists. You can see many of his works on the Stamp Engraver Blogspot. Another possible source for research on Czesław Słania and Polish philately in general can be found on the Polonus Polish Philatelic Society website [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org).

#### Recommended? Really?

I received a letter from Irena Szewiola of the Polish Community Service Center of Van Nuys, Calif., regarding the continued inclusion of Art Spiegelman’s graphic novel *Maus, A Survivor’s Tale* (Pantheon Books, 1991) on the California Department of Education “Recommended Literature List” for grades



Dovima, nee Dorothy Virginia Margaret Juba.

9-12.

Szewiola has challenged *Maus* as appropriate to be on the list and I support that challenge as well.

As *Maus* depicts Poles as pigs who were aligned to the occupying Germans, it not only spreads misinformation, but taints a negative precept of Poles and Poland under Nazi control. There are better books that could be used to teach students about the Holocaust of World War II. Among Szewiola’s suggestions *Children of Terror* by Inge Auerbacher and Bozena Urbanowicz Gilbride (iUniverse, Incorporated, 2009).

If you agree on the Szewiola alternative to *Maus* or have other suggestions yourself, contact the California Department of Education,

1430 H Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814. Check out the recommended reading list in your own state for any inappropriate Polish entries. In your correspondence or contact, remember to be gentle, direct, and informed.

#### Polish or not?

*Time Magazine* puts out special edition issues periodically and one that I was given is *100 Photographs, The Most Influential Images of All Time*. Entries that make the final version of this kind of project are debatable of course but this one has many that would certainly be in my 100 as well. The cover shows the picture of the New York flat capped ironworkers eating their lunch while sitting on a beam from what looks like the 200th story of a skyscraper. That is one of my favorites and two of the other iconic shots have a Polish or maybe a Polish connection.

*Dovima With Elephants* “is one of the most famous fashion photographs of all time,” and the subject of this picture by Richard Avedon, Dovima, “was one of the world’s most famous models” in 1955. According to *Wikipedia*, she was born, **Dorothy Virginia Margaret Juba**, December 11, 1927, in Queens, New York. Her father was “Stanley Juba, a Polish-American policeman...”

The Betty Grable World War II pinup of the actress’s backward glance over her right shoulder, in a bathing suit, and highlighting

her “million-dollar legs,” was shot by 20th Century Fox photographer **Frank Powolny**. The history I have read has him born in Austria to Czech parents Frank and Maria Powolny. The name Powolny means slow in Polish and while that is one connection to Polish, I am thinking there are others. Frank Powolny, Polish or not?

If you watched the Hollywood Academy Awards this year, then you might have noticed the nominee for Art Director for the motion picture, *Promising Young Woman*, was **Elizabeth “Liz” Kloczkowski**. *Promising* was also nominated for picture of the year. That’s huge. Another movie I thought was exceptionally good from 2018, also linked to the art direction of Liz Kloczkowski was *Under the Silver Lake*. Visit her website [www.lizkloczkowski.com](http://www.lizkloczkowski.com) and you will see a very productive woman in several difference areas of art with loads of talent. The name is Polish, but Elizabeth “Liz” Kloczkowski, originally from Massachusetts, Polish or not?

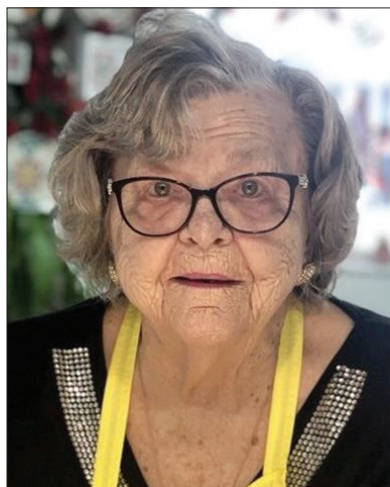
Happy Independence Day to all! *Dziękuję bardzo* to Irena Szewiola for the kind words and the strong Polish spirit. DB as well to my daughter Alina (graduate USC Film School) for the alert on Liz Kloczkowski’s nomination.

If you have a thought about this month’s topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 3765 Autumn View Drive, Arnold, MO 63010; email [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com). If you send email, reference the PAJ or the Pondering Pole in the subject line.



IN MEMORIAM

## Julia Chesley, Businesswoman and Humanitarian



Catholic Women, and International Affairs Chairman for the Archdiocese of Miami Catholic Women's Club, through which her husband and her visited Haiti on missions to deliver bicycles, food, and clothing. Every fall she would deliver backpacks filled with supplies to St. Lawrence School, and every holiday season she would collect and donate toys for children with cancer. Chesley was also a founding member and president of the St. Thomas University's Women's Auxiliary. She was honored in 1995 with the Founder's Award at St. Lawrence for her many years of service.

Julia Chesley (nee Oldziej), 96, of Aventura, Fla., passed away on May 23, 2021 in Pompano Beach.

She served as a USO Hostess during World War II, an Air Raid Warden for the American Red Cross, and sold war bonds at rallies in Lynn, Mass. She was also a businesswoman, owning Julia's Card Shop, where customers would line up around the block at the holidays for her unique cards and collectibles. Julia and her husband moved to North Miami Beach in 1949 and were the owners of The Shores Spic 'n' Span Laundry for 46 years.

Chesley was a successful travel agent for many years, and organized many cruises and trips to Eastern Europe, which she personally conducted. She was a member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association and won the International PATA Award for Community Service.

She and her husband were founding members of St. Lawrence Catholic Church, where she chaired the annual church carnival. She was also president of the Council of

Proud of her Polish heritage, she and her husband were longtime members of the Polish American Club of Miami. She was a member of the 1977 Human Relations Commission for the City of North Miami Beach. Chesley was a valued member of the Quality-of-Life program at the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center and participated in many fundraisers. She collected toiletries for homeless shelters, suits for Women in Distress, and led an award-winning chapter of the Miami Rescue Mission. In 2008, she was recognized with the Alliance for Aging's Geneva Miller "Meeting the Challenge" award.

She is survived by a daughter; grandson; granddaughter; great-grandchildren; and brother, author and historian Dr. Richard Lukas, Ph.D. Donations in her memory may be made to St. Lawrence Catholic School, 2200 NE 191 St., North Miami Beach, FL, 33180), Mystic Force Foundation, or Miami Rescue Mission.

## Exile Laid to Rest in Northampton Remembered



(l. to r.) Michael Lipski, John Skibiski, Fred Zimnoch, Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Rafal Kruszewski, Danuta Czarnecki, Theresa Gibowicz, Robert Gibowicz, Christine Newman, Linda Golash

by Fred Zimnoch

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Members of the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton gathered on April 24, 2021 for a memorial service at Bridge Street Cemetery to commemorate August Malczewski vel Jakobowski who died 184 years ago this month. Father Adam Czarnecki of St. Valentine Polish National Church conducted a prayer service. A new Polish flag was planted at the grave.

August was a young Polish nobleman who was exiled from Poland with a group of Revolutionaries who participated in the failed uprising of November 1830 that hoped to free Poland from under the yoke of Russia. While in this country, he wrote a history of Poland called "The Remembrances of a Polish

Exile." Then in Northampton, he taught French at Miss Dwight's Seminary for Young Ladies. After one year, he became grievously ill and died. At the time he was about 21 years old. His students provided for his burial and the gravestone shown above.

John Skibiski read a short history of August's family in Poland, his father was a noted poet Antoni Malczewski, and his great grandmother Wilhelmina Maria Frederica of Rochlitz was the niece of King Augustus II, the Strong of Saxony and Poland.

Fred Zimnoch read his obituary from the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. The obituary noted that "He was amiable and affectionate in his disposition and much beloved by all who knew him. He was remarkable for the uprightness of his conversa-



August Malczewski vel Jakobowski gravestone detail.

tion. During his residence here, he has not been known to indulge in any trivial remark."

**24/7 PolkaHeaven.com**  
 OVER 40 SHOWS WEEKLY  
 IF YOU'RE NOT LOGGED ON  
 YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO POLKA  
[www.247PolkaHeaven.com](http://www.247PolkaHeaven.com)

**Polish New Castle Radio**  
 Streaming Polka Joy  
 Across the World  
 On The Fastest-Growing Polka Network  
[www.PolishNewCastleRadio.com](http://www.PolishNewCastleRadio.com)

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](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

If you are interested in Polish customs, traditions, and food, you will love the words and works of long-time PAJ contributor Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab. Her most recent book is about Polish women during World War II.  
 You can learn more about Sophie by visiting her blog, <http://www.sophieknab.com/>.

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

**SUNDAY MORNING POLKA SHOW**  
 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/>

*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

Streaming Live at [www.Jazz901.org](http://www.Jazz901.org)  
  
**The Polka Bandstand Show**  
 hosted by Ray Serafin and Al Meilutis  
 Since 1981  
 Saturdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
**jazz90.1**  
 take jazz further  
 Rochester, NY.



## DANCE TIME

## As Festivals Returns, Things start to Feel “Normal”

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Dare I say that here in the United States life is starting to appear somewhat “normal”? It is hard to believe that, after a year filled with constant cancellations, mask wearing, social distancing, and zoom calling our treasured polka pals, we are slowing starting to get together.

I was lucky enough to attend several dances in Western Pennsylvania over the past few months and getting back to live polka music felt so exhilarating. When I saw that Chris Bogdon was advertising the return of **Energy** in April, I knew that I would definitely attend as long as state COVID guidelines allowed this dance to happen. I was unsure what to expect as I entered the doors of Kinloch Fire Hall for Energy but that quickly faded away as I saw so many friends and familiar faces that I had truly missed over the past year.

The ambience of this venue could not have been better suited for a welcome back to polka music. The added excitement of the seeing Energy after a 25-year hiatus is a tough experience to top! A wonderful mix of polka lovers packed into the cozy venue instantly transported me back to dances that I attended 20 years ago.

As the band took the stage, it was obvious that these talented musicians had not missed a beat providing their namesake energy to crowd immediately. The talents of band members Randy Koslosky, Bernie Koslosky, Chris Bogdon, RJ Bogdon, Joe Baranowski, and Richie Kois enthralled this sold-out crowd. Joe Baranowski did not disappoint as he made his way around the venue playing fiddle on the bar, laying on the bar, and later donned roller blades skillfully skating his way all over the dance floor while never missing a beat.

Sledzie, props, Eddie B masks, and a night of nonstop surprises kept the crowd there until the last note of music was played. Thank you so very much to Chris Bogdon for the amazing chance to enjoy what will always be one of my favorite polka memories of all time.

**JUST A MONTH LATER** we made another trip to Kinloch Fire Hall to celebrate Chris’ birthday with music by **DynaBrass**. Once again, a sold-out crowd piled into this venue to listen to the band. It was recently announced that DynaBrass was awarded 2020 International Polka Association’s Polka Music Awards for Polish Style Song of the Year “The Girls Just Wanna Dance” and Polish Style Album of the Year 20/20 *Polkas*. These accolades are well deserved, and their fan base showed up in droves for their first live performance of 2021. Playing Erie, Pa. on Saturday and Kinloch on Sunday, this band gave attendees a stellar performance.

This group is not only musically talented but is filled with some of the friendliest, most down-to-earth musicians in the business. On breaks, band members took the time to chat with the fans attending, making everyone feel so welcome. It was thrilling to hear songs from the 20/20 *Polkas* live after listening to them nonstop on CD as well as from all of the airplay they’ve gotten via polka DJs. Once again, it was sensational to be back at Kinloch which bestows a welcome spirit the moment you enter its doors. If you get a chance to attend a dance there, do not miss out on the opportunity. You will definitely be reminded of the reason we all love this music so very much. Congratulations to Chris Bogdon who is successfully bringing polka music back to New Kensington, Pa.

**ANOTHER HIGHLY-DESERVED** achievement was announced by the International Polka Association this year as **Michael Costa** will be welcomed as a new member of the Polka Music Hall of Fame at the IPA convention in September. The Beat’s CD release party for *The Reason* welcomed hundreds of polka lovers to Edinburg, Pa. at a beautiful pavilion located in the countryside. The diversity and repertoire of this band is unmatched, and you are entertained each time you see them — regardless of how often you do. The talent and hard work of each member is apparent as every rhythm is precise, pitches are



DynaBrass provided music for Chris Bogdon’s birthday celebration at Kinloch Fire Hall.

perfectly in tune, and their melodies are sensational. The new CD, which was highly anticipated, did not disappoint — The Beat know how to mix it up with some standards, reworked genres, and a fulfilled expectation to bring something new to their faithful following. The beautiful day allowed us all to celebrate the incredible talents of The Beat as well as get the chance to catch up with many friends. The Beat has a bustling performance schedule over the summer so make it a priority to catch them as many times as possible. You can check out their schedule or find out how to get your hands on their new recording “The Reason” by emailing Thebeatcosta@gmail.com.

**AS WE OPTIMISTICALLY** enter the summer polka season, **Pulaski Polka Days** will host its 42nd annual festival July 15-18, 2021. Thousands of polka fans will descend on Pulaski, Wisconsin to participate in the four-day event. Kickoff begins at 4:00 on Thursday with admission to the grounds for only \$2.00. For the price of a cup of coffee, you get admission to three entertainment areas boasting six bands. Featuring music by New Generation, Aaron Socha & Livewire, Maroszek Brothers, Chad Przybylski/Polka Rhythms, Polka Dynamics, and Nutymes Thursday night promises

a vigorous glimpse into the fun in store for this weekend.

Not only does this friendly town host some of the nation’s greatest polka bands during Polka Days, but they invite visitors into their rural community located just a short drive from Green Bay.

After exploring the town and all it has to offer, you can put on your dancing shoes and head into the festival grounds. Dance instructors Duane & Robin Wilks from Omaha, Neb. will be happy to teach you to polka with music by New Generations in Tent #2 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Otherwise, you can head into any of the following three areas to hear a variety of music from 2:00 p.m.-1:15 a.m. for a price of just \$15.00. Music in Tent #1 highlights Polish Connection, The Natural Talent, DynaBrass, and The Boys. You can also make your way over to Tent #2 to hear the high energy sounds of New Generation, The Main Squeeze, Maroszek Brothers, and Polka Country Musicians. While in the KC Building, The Goodtime Dutchmen and Craig Ebel & DyVersa Co. provide nonstop music from 4:00-10:00 p.m.

After a very short night of rest, you will want to be at the grounds early to immerse yourself in more great music with dance lessons beginning at 12:00 under Tent #2 with The Beat and once again a day of

nonstop music throughout the festival premises until 1:00 a.m. Saturday’s admission is only \$15.00 and you can enjoy music from 11 bands. The bands scheduled for Saturday are Chad Przybylski/Polka Rhythms, Cynor Classics, Polka Family, and The Boys, Michael Costa & The Beat, Aaron Socha & Livewire, DynaBrass, Polka Country Musicians, Music Connection, Steve Meisner, and Mark Jirikovac.

While festivals usually play up Saturday as their most action-packed day, Pulaski saves the best for last. It will be a quick night as it is a must to attend the Pancake and Porkie Breakfast which is held on Sunday at the Pulaski Polka Grounds from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Make time to stop and enjoy breakfast before the spectacular day of fun begins.

One of the most treasured events and largest attractions of these four days is the Pulaski Day Parade. The Parade begins at 11:00 sharp. After the parade, you can head back to the festival grounds where Sunday admission is free to hear another talent filled day of polka music by Michael Costa & The Beat, Polka Family, Ryan Kautzer Band, The Natural Talent (TNT).

For more information, contact Harold Otto at (920) 660-9126 or email haroldotto@netnet.net. Updated information is also available by visiting the <https://pulaskipolka-days.com>.

**THE BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS** will be returning for its first event since February 2020 with its annual summer picnic. The event, held at Fontana’s Grove, 2299 Clinton St. in Buffalo, will feature music by Special Delivery and will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Chris Tanski at (716) 771-1076. Tickets are \$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members; it includes a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, Polish sausage, salads, as well as “help yourself” beer, and pop.

It is sure to be a great event and the kickoff to Buffalo Polka Booster’s 51st year supporting polka music in Western New York.

## New Jimmy K CD Available



DETROIT — Commemorating fifty years in polka music, Jimmy K releases a brand new release available on CD as well as digitally, appropriately titled “50 Years of Polka Music.”

Jimmy K features an all-star band on this new release, which contains fourteen songs in all, including the hot new tribute to Dan Gury & the Dyna Dukes, a 12 1/2-minute medley called “Put Up Your Dukes.”

A nice blend of English and Polish vocals decorates this recording, with songs old and new to entertain

you.

To purchase a CD, send \$14.95 (shipping included) to Jimmy K Polkas, PO Box 10, Union Lake, MI 48387, or call (866) 454-6695.

CDs, digital downloads, and USB Flash Drives are also available at [www.jimmykpolkas.com](http://www.jimmykpolkas.com)

## Polka Variety Club Announces New Venue

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polka Variety Club announced it will meet the 4th Wednesday of each month at its new location, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 South Rossler, in the Clinton-Rossler Plaza.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and music starts at 7:30, with a short meeting at 8:30, followed by music from 9:00-10:00 p.m.

Admission is \$8.00 for members; \$10.00 for new members or guests. The price includes pop and beer. Please bring your own snacks.

Potts Deli will be offering a “Polka Wednesday Food Special” on the meeting dates.

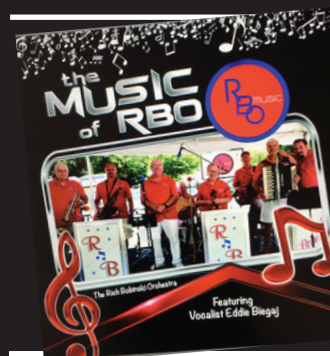
Music for the August 25 meeting will be by Phocus.

For information, visit the Polka Variety Social Club of WNY on Facebook, or email [polkavariety@gmail.com](mailto:polkavariety@gmail.com).



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

## The Rich Bobinski Orchestra (RBO)



Our latest CD “The Music of RBO featuring vocalist Eddie Biegaj” and our other CDs available from [jimmykpolkas.com](http://jimmykpolkas.com) 1 (866) 454-6695

## Upcoming Public Performances CDC guidelines will be followed

- **Wed., July 21.** 6:00–8:00 PM, Park Concert, The Gazebo on The Green at St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Avenue, Beacon Falls, CT. Free. Bring lawn chairs
- **Sat., Aug. 14.** Sashing Dinner/Dance for Miss Polonia by The General Pulaski Memorial Committee of Orange County, NY, 6:00–10:00 PM, PLAV, 16 Legion Road, Pine Island, NY
- **Sun., Sept. 5.** 2:00–6:00 PM, Polka Paul’s Annual Polka Fest, American Legion Fairmont Post 85, 870 River Street, Woonsocket, RI, Free. Bring lawn chairs
- **Sat., Sept. 19.** Time to be announced, St. Joseph Festival, Warsaw Park, 119 Pulaski Highway, Ansonia, CT, Free



For bookings or information:  
The Rich Bobinski Orchestra (RBO)  
June Sherry Ingram, 352 Packer Road  
Mystic CT 06355-1124  
Call or text (860) 910-5447  
[www.therichbobinskiorchestra.com](http://www.therichbobinskiorchestra.com)

## August 31 is Deadline for PAJF's Kamylla and Czeslaw Kaszuba Scholarship

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF) is accepting applications for its 2021-22 Kamylla and Czeslaw Kaszuba Scholarship for college students of Polish or Polish American descent. The \$1,500 scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students.

Applications will be accepted to August 31, 2021. The winner will be announced on September 30, 2021. Funds will be dispersed to the winner upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization.
- be of Polish or Polish American descent.
- be a full-time college student, currently enrolled at an accredited college/university in the United States, with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2021.
- describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.

The complete application package must be received in its entirety no later than August 31, 2021.

There is no application fee.

Factors for consideration include (in order of importance):

- a demonstrated interest and involve-



PHOTO: DETROIT FREE PRESS

Poletown, the theme of this year's scholarship essay, was razed in 1981 to provide land for the construction of a General Motors Cadillac plant. Under eminent domain, it was the most number of people ever moved in the shortest amount of time in the United States.

ment in Polish American cultural activities with future plans to advance those interests.

- academic and scholastic performance and achievements as demonstrated in application materials provided for examination.

The theme is this year's scholarship essay is the impact of razing of Detroit's Poletown neighborhood on its displaced Polish-American residents. In 1981, a portion of the neighborhood was demolished to

make way for the construction of the General Motors Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly plant. General Motors and the cities of Detroit and Hamtramck relied on eminent domain to relocate the 4,200 people who lived in the area, along with their 1,300 homes, 140 businesses, six churches, and one hospital.

The complete application package can be downloaded from Polish American Journal's web site by following the links to the Polish American Journal Foundation and the Scholarship Application.

The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2014 to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. Membership in the PAJF is open to all. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return.

For more information, or to make a donation, call, write, or email: PAJF 2021-22 Scholarship, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110-0271; email: editor@polamjournal.com; (716) 312-8088 or (800) 422-1275.

To download an application, visit: www.polamjournal.com/PAJF.html.

## A COVID-Quieted 21st Katyn Remembrance



PHOTOS: RICHARD POREMSKI

**WREATH PRESENTATION.** Chaplain Adam Muda, Captain, U.S. Army (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Karol Budniak, Assistant Defense and Air Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, are depicted presenting the official Remembrance Wreath at the National Katyn Memorial.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. — For the second year in a row, the Annual Katyn Remembrance was affected by government-mandated quarantines and/or restrictions directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF) resolved to soldier on and undertake the 21st Annual Katyn Remembrance in adherence with all mandates. Unfortunately, absent again were the ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial site and the follow-up reception and dinner at the Polish National Alliance.

One Remembrance component was maintained and allowably expanded: The 10:30 a.m. Katyn-Dedicated Mass at Holy Rosary R.C. Church. The Holy Eucharist was co-celebrated by the Rev.

Ryszard Czerniak, pastor, and Chaplain Adam Muda, captain, United States Army. There were over 100 participants in attendance.

A truncated Remembrance ceremony was conducted at the conclusion of the Mass. A statement from Poland's Ambassador Piotr Wilczek was read on his behalf by Richard Poremski, Poland's Honorary Consul in Baltimore and Maryland. Then followed an address from Lt. Col. Karol Budniak, assistant defense and air attaché, Embassy of Poland. The Polish patriotic poem "Katyn" (by Marian Hemar) was presented by sisters Sara and Kasia McDaniel, students from the Cardinal August Hlond Polish School. The obligatory Monsignor Zdzisław Peszkowski's "Katyn Prayer" was read both in Polish and English by Krystyna Osowski and Adam Rybczynski, respectively. The sounding of "Taps" by Steve Wojciechowski, PLAV, concluded the ceremonies.

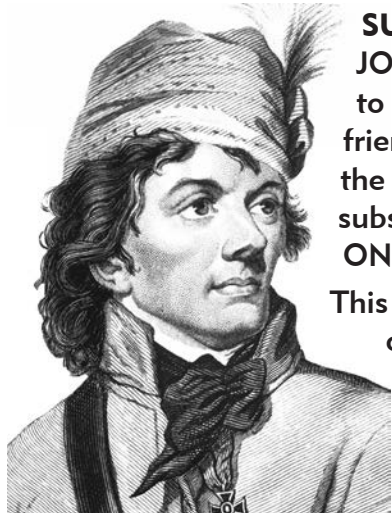
The NKMF eagerly anticipates that it will be allowed to resume its normal and full schedule next year. To view this year's Remembrance visit www.KatynBaltimore.org, or facebook.com/katynbaltimore.

There were over 100 participants in attendance.

**REMINDER: JULY AND AUGUST EDITIONS COMBINED.** This month, subscribers will receive a combined July and August edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the August edition. Deadline for the September edition is Aug. 6.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY SUBSCRIPTION SALE

HALF PRICE FOR ALL NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS IF POSTMARKED BY JULY 31, 2021

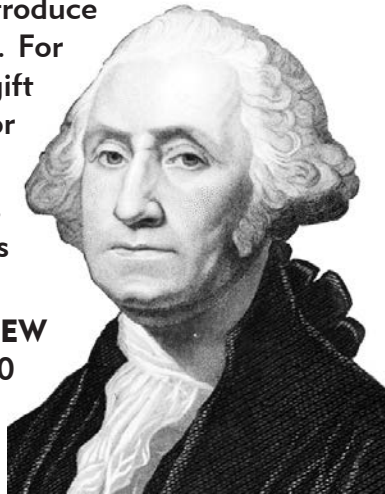


KOSCIUSZKO. "Nie czekaj! Zrób to dzisiaj!"

**SUBSCRIBERS** can introduce friends and family to the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL for only **HALF PRICE!** We are asking our readers to take advantage of this subscription sale to introduce friends and family to the Polish American Journal. For the month of July only, you can buy a one-year gift subscription—regularly \$25.00 for 10 issues — for **ONLY \$12.50!**

This is our way of saying "Thank You" to the hundreds of readers who buy gift subscriptions for friends and family.

As a subscriber, you can sign up **AS MANY NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS AS YOU WISH** for only \$12.50 per year! Simply fill out the form (use a separate sheet if necessary) and mail \$12.50 for each new subscription to our office.



WASHINGTON. "If you want to keep the PAJ going, you are going to have to help it get some new subscribers."

A subscription to the Polish American Journal makes a great gift any time of the year—graduations, birthdays, anniversaries—and is a wonderful way to reintroduce family and friends to their Polish roots.

CALL 1 (800) 422-1275, MAIL or ORDER ON-LINE BEFORE JULY 31

DONOR INFORMATION	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION 1	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION 2	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION 3	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP

### PLEASE READ!

- Checks or money orders must be dated July 2021 to receive discount.
- Not applicable with other offers or foreign subscriptions.
- New subscriptions only! If recipient is already on our subscription list, five (5) months will be added to their account. **No exceptions!**
- New subscribers will receive a card announcing gift subscription and donor's name.
- **To order via internet, visit [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com) and follow link to Subscription Sale!**

VISA, MC, DISCOVER, AMEX and PAYPAL ACCEPTED

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL  
P.O. BOX 271  
N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271