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

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED • THE POLISH AMERICAN VOTE • STEFANSKI LANDSLIDE WINNER AS COACH OF THE YEAR  
A NEW LOOK FOR ALGREN FOUNTAIN • MICHAŁ SOŁTAN MAKES U.S. DEBUT • SMITTEN WITH MITTENS  
TRUMKA DISAPPOINTED WITH PIPELINE DECISION • OBSERVING PULASKI DAY VIRTUALLY • REV. RAKOCZY REFLECTS

## NEWSMARK

### Poland shrinks by 115,000 in 2020

According to preliminary data, at the end of 2020 Poland's population stood at around 38,268,000, the country's Central Statistical Agency (GUS) reported. That was a decline of approximately 115,000 below the 2019 figure. GUS ascribed the drop to the growing mortality rate of 2020 and the effects of COVID. An estimated 477,000 Poles passed away, some 67,000 more than a year earlier. Another reason for the decrease was the country's declining birth rate. The conservative government's much-vaunted Family 500+ program, providing a 500-złoty (\$124) monthly allowance for every child under 18, did trigger an initial surge in the birth rate but it soon leveled off and began declining.

### U.S. offers to lift sanctions on Nord Stream 2 pipeline - with conditions

The United States has conditionally offered to lift sanctions on the contested Nord Stream 2 pipeline from Russia to Germany under the Baltic Sea, according to a report.

The move by Washington is the first time it has proposed lifting sanctions on the gas link, which has been strongly criticized by Warsaw and Washington amid concerns that it will make the European Union more dependent on Russian gas, Germany's *Handelsblatt* newspaper reported, as cited by Poland's *energetyka24.com* website.

Washington has imposed a condition - that Berlin come up with a "package of solutions" addressing American concerns about the impact of the pipeline on security in Central Europe, according to *energetyka24.com*.

The move by the United States has caused the German federal government to "sigh with relief," but Berlin has not yet made any proposals in response, *energetyka24.com* cited *Handelsblatt* as reporting.

### 111-year-old Stanisław Kowalski, the oldest Pole to be vaccinated

When vaccinations against COVID-19 for senior citizens were under way across the country, Poland's oldest male also stepped up to get his shot. A resident of the southwestern town of Świdnica, 111-year-old Stanisław Kowalski received best wishes as well as a bouquet of flowers from doctors at the clinic. They said he had arrived on time and smiled throughout the procedure. Known for his athletic pursuits, in 2014, at the age of 104, he broke the European record for 100 meters in his age category. He has also won medals at veteran shot-put events. In 2015, he was awarded Poland's Golden Cross of Merit.

### Poland working on its own COVID-19 vaccine

Despite a more or less steady inflow of vaccines from the European Union, Poland is working on its own COVID-19 drug. Hefty government grants have been earmarked for projects at various research centers across the country.

"I believe that every such effort is vital in order to speed up inoculation and mass-produce vaccines," said Prof. Tomasz Ciach, rector of the Warsaw University of Technology.

He added: "Sadly, more such pandemics are likely."

### Webinars on World War II from Polish-U.S. team-up

The Warsaw-based Pilecki Institute and the National World War II Museum in New Orleans are launching a series of international webinars entitled "World War II: Witnesses and Memory."

The series includes debates entitled "Liberators and Liberated," "Witnessing the Outbreak," and "Memory Wars."

The first debate starts began in February on the Zoom platform and on the Pilecki Institute's social media, <https://instytutpileckiego.pl/en/instytut>.

## A Flying First



PHOTO: U.S. AIR FORCE / STAFF SGT. KAYLA WHITE

**U.S. AIR FORCE CAPTAIN SARAH KOCIUBA**, a B-2 instructor pilot, made history by becoming the first female pilot to lead a Super Bowl flyover. This was also the first time there was a trifecta flyover at a Super Bowl with the three different planes in formation.

Kociuba led the formation in her B-2 Spirit, along with a B-1B Lancer and a B-52 Stratofortress. The bombers came from three different bases in the Dakotas and Missouri.

The Cleveland native and University of Dayton graduate has flown more than 90 combat missions, and has more than 1,700 flying hours in five different aircraft.

She said she was "very excited and humbled to be chosen to lead this formation."

Kociuba said that when she was 11, her dad took her to the Rose Bowl parade when she saw the B-2 that she eventually flew for Super Bowl LV in Tampa.

She is stationed in Missouri and assigned to the historic 509th Bomb Wing.

## Biden Administration Upholds Trump-era Defense Ties

by Robert Strybel

In his first talks with NATO Chief Jens Stoltenberg, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin gave assurance that strong ties with the alliance would continue to be a top priority of U.S. defense policy.

Following his initial talks with President Biden's National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, the head of Poland's National Security Bureau Paweł Soloch came away convinced of an "across-the-board American commitment

to both bilateral military cooperation with Poland, including technical modernization of the Polish armed forces, as well as within the framework of NATO."

That impression was also shared by Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak.

Although no representative of Biden's government mentioned the name of former president Donald Trump, Washington's initial declarations appear to effectively augur the continuation of Trump-era U.S.-Polish defense and security ties.

## Nearly 2.4 million Vaccine Shots Administered in Poland

WARSAW — As of February 18, 2021, 2,384,794 COVID-19 vaccine shots have been administered in Poland. Of those, 1.6 million were first doses, while more than 770,000 people have received a second shot, said health ministry data.

The ministry also said a total 2,131 adverse reactions had been reported. Almost 4,000 doses were wasted in the rollout.

As of Feb. 18, total COVID-19 cases numbered 1,614,446, of which 41,582 were fatal.

## Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring! Equinox Traditions and Rituals of Poland

by Staś Kmieć

Plummeting temperatures, whiteout conditions and bone-chilling cold - powerful and severe, along with a groundhog that declared six more weeks. All this, as the pandemic continues to loom throughout the world. For many, it is time to shed the burden of winter and look ahead to better times. There is a new spring of hope in sight... just around the corner.

Centuries ago, during the seasonal equinox in the Slavic region, the Festival of *Święto Jare* (also known as *Jare Gody* or *Jarowita*) was a cycle celebrated for several days. The name likely comes from the deity with the earth and the rebirth of life in eternal nature, rituals were performed to ensure abundant crops and to look after the deities responsible for nature and the growing season.

Spring itself is a time of return to life not only of nature, but also of people who, after a period of winter idleness, can return to their agrarian way of life by devoting themselves to strenuous work that will ensure that they will survive the next "death" of the world and thus the life cycle will come full circle.

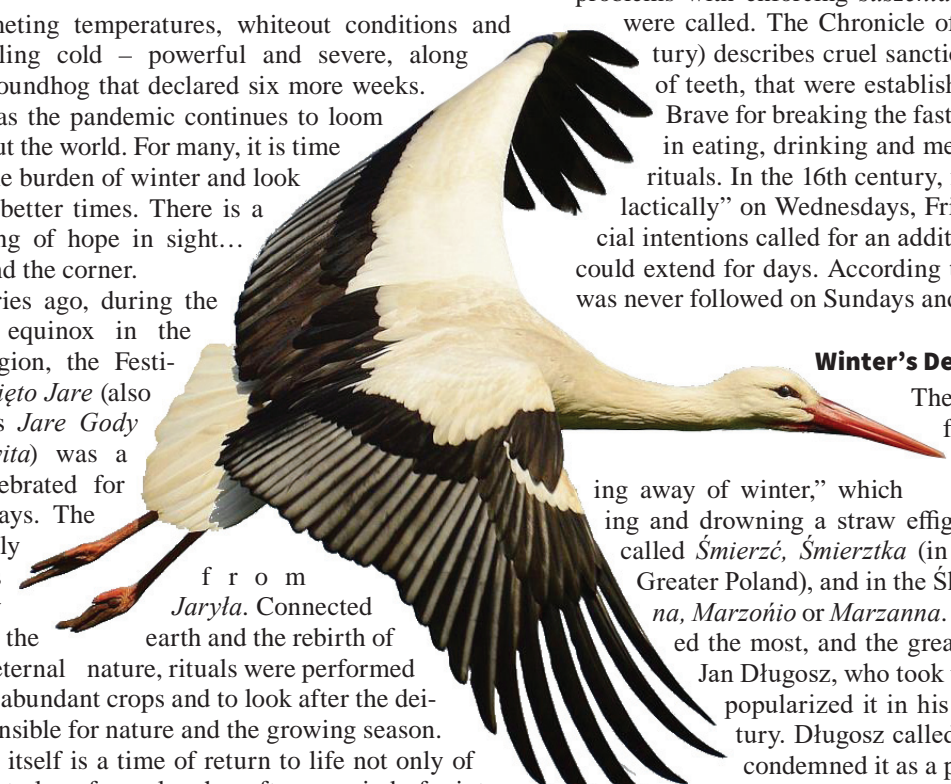
In preparation for the coming spring, the great cleanup began in which homes and farms were incensed to expel evil powers. The practice of fasting during this time is a very old

ritual. From the beginning, the Catholic Church in Poland had problems with enforcing *suszenia* (drying) as Lenten fasts were called. The Chronicle of Thietmar (9th/10th century) describes cruel sanctions, such as knocking out of teeth, that were established by King Bolesław the Brave for breaking the fast. Abstinence was required in eating, drinking and merriment during almost all rituals. In the 16th century, fasting occurred "prophylactically" on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Special intentions called for an additional sacrifice to fast, that could extend for days. According to the Christian liturgy, it was never followed on Sundays and public holidays.

### Winter's Departure

The period of pre-Christian folk customs would begin with the symbolic "chasing away of winter," which involved melting, burning and drowning a straw effigy. It was a female figure called *Śmierzc*, *Śmierztka* (in Podhale), *Śmiercicha* (in Greater Poland), and in the Śląsk region - *Mara*, *Morena*, *Marzońio* or *Marzanna*. The last name was recorded the most, and the great historian and chronicler Jan Długosz, who took the name from a folk song popularized it in his writings in the 15th century. Długosz called it an ancient custom and condemned it as a pagan practice.

*Marzanna* represents the benevolent pagan Slavic goddess and this tradition was held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. In 1420, Bishop Andrzej Łaskarz, by the power of the Poznań Synod, obliged the priests in his diocese not to allow such a practice to occur on this particular



See "Goodbye Winter," page 4



## ALMANAC

March  Marzec

*W marcu, gdy grzmot na lody spada,  
w lecie grad zapowiada.  
Ice in March accompanied by thunder  
Promises a summer with hail asunder.*

- 1 **1634. Polish King Władysław IV** beats the Russians in the Smolensk War, a two-year conflict fought between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia.
- 2 **1864.** Russian Czar Alexander II upheld reforms in Poland that gave landholders ownership of their lands.
- 3 **1996.** Death of **Cardinal John Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia, first Polish American Cardinal.
- 4 **ST. CASIMIR**
- 5 **1940.** Joseph Stalin signs an order for the **Katyń Forest Massacre**. **1813.** Birth of **Kazimierz Gzowski**, Polish engineer and bridge builder who emigrated to Canada.
- 6 **1745.** Birth, in Mazowia, Poland, of **Casimir Putaski**, American Revolutionary War hero, general, and father of the American Cavalry.
- 7 **966.** **Mieszko I**, Duke of Poland, accepts Christianity.
- 8 **1822.** Birth of **Ignacy Łukasiewicz**, Polish inventor and businessman, invented the Kerosene lamp (d. 1882).
- 9 **1852.** Birth of **Hieronim Derdowski**, Polish immigrant who played an important part in his community in Winona, Minnesota. **1497.** **Nicholas Copernicus** (1473-1543), makes first recorded astronomical observation.
- 11 **1913.** Birth in Paris of American fashion designer Paris as **Oleg Cassini Loiewski**. Raised in Italy, he came to the United States in 1936.
- 12 **ST. GREGORY**  
*Na świętego Grzegorza,  
idzie zima do morza.  
On St. Gregory,  
the winter goes down to the sea.*
- 13 **1202.** Death of **Mieszko III the Old**.
- 14 **1882.** Birth of mathematician **Wacław Sierpinski**.
- 15 **1869.** Birth of , politician and scientist **Stanisław Wojciechowski**.
- 16 **1964.** Birth of **Gore Verbinski**, American film director and writer.
- 17 **ST. PATRICK**  
1956. Death of **Irene Joliet-Curie**, Polish-French scientist, daughter of Pierre and Madame Curie, and Nobel Prize in Chemistry recipient.
- 18 **1921.** Signing of the **Peace of Riga** concludes the Polish-Soviet War.
- 19 **ST. JOSEPH**  
*Gdy na święty Józef bociek  
przybędzie, to już śnieg nie będzie.  
If storks arrive on St Joseph, the  
snows shall melt.*
- 20 **1673.** Death of **Fr. Augustyn Kordecki** (b. 1603), led the defense of Częstochowa against Swedish invaders.
- 21 **1822.** Death of **Józef Wybicki**, author of the Polish National Anthem.
- 22 **1659.** The Warsaw parliament issues metal currency, shillings, for Lithuania and Poland.
- 23 **1891.** Death of **Fr. Leopold Moczogemba** in Detroit.
- 24 **National Day for the Remembrance of Poles Rescuing Jews under Nazi German Occupation.**
- 25 **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**
- 27 **1981.** **Solidarity** stages a warning strike, in which at least 12 million Poles walk off their jobs for four hours.
- 28 **PALM SUNDAY**
- 29 **1963.** Death of Polish writer **Pola Gojawiczyńska**.  
*Krowa co dużo ryczy,  
mało mleka daje.  
The cow that moos much  
gives little milk.*
- 30 **1892.** Birth of mathematician **Stefan Banach**
- 31 **1888.** Birth of **Mieczysław Haiman** leading historian of the Polish American community.

This paper mailed on or before **March 3**. The April 2021 edition will be mailed on or before **March 30, 2021**.

## VIEWPOINTS

## We are All Connected

With Lent upon us, it is time to set our differences aside to benefit all. We can do that by prayer, mediation, self-restraint, and forgiveness.

by Gabrielle V. Michalek

All of creation is a giant web; when even one small spot on the web is disturbed or soothed, everything within that web is affected. Similarly, as people, we are all connected to one another; anything we suffer or achieve is built upon the work of others over time.

Case in point: the vaccines developed for the SARS CoV-2 virus responsible for the current pandemic were developed in rapid time. Prior to these, the fastest vaccine ever developed was for mumps, and it took four years.

So how did we develop the COVID-19 vaccines so quickly?

It was possible because most of the research that provided the foundation for the new vaccines had been conducted over a period of ten years, long before we were aware of the SARS virus. Though most of the research that led to the development of the vaccines had nothing to do with SARS or COVID, it contributed new knowledge that could be used later on.

The people responsible for these vaccines came from different backgrounds: they worked for different universities, research labs, pharmaceutical companies, and government agencies. They worked in the United States, Germany, the U.K., Russia, China, and other countries around the world. They are of different races, religions, philosophies, genders, sexual orientations, and political beliefs.

What they have in common, however, is a passion for science, a curiosity for solving problems, and a desire to produce work that ben-

efits humanity. Their combined energy marshalled the creative forces needed to help inspire and guide the development of vaccines in record time — vaccines we need to remain healthy and survive this terrible pandemic.

Their work also illustrates how inter-connected we are in ways we don't fully understand from our singular perspective. Each of us builds upon the work of others, occasionally creating miracles in the process.

During this time, when we seem to be so divided, focusing instead on the ways we are connected to one another might serve us well and enable the miracle of peace and healing to manifest.

**THESE ARE TRYING TIMES** and I'm sure many of you are asking: how do I as one person respond to this division? What can I do to help the situation? How do I help the healing process?

The first step, I believe, is to accept that the world will not change unless we, as individuals, are willing to change. We are in a New Year. We are experiencing a pandemic. People here and around the world are deeply divided. If there ever was a time and need for transformation, this is it.

The current need for social isolation has an upside: it clears time and space for us to form a stronger relationship with our spiritual selves. For it is only after we take a careful, honest look inward that we are able to transform ourselves. Simply put: how can you know where you're going if you don't know where you are?

Transforming ourselves provides the creative forces with the building blocks to transform humanity. Much like the work the scientists did, mostly independently of one another, we must each offer our own attempts at healing to contribute our effort to the greater good.

There are so many benefits to self-betterment," work which can be done by prayer, meditation, and practicing restraint — tools given

## SPEAK UP

Dear Editor:

Your article spurred me to write to Netflix Chief Communications Officer Rachael Whetstone about her total lapse in judgement concerning her introduction of a Polish joke in Ron Howard's "Hillbilly Elegy." ("Just Between Us," PAJ, January 2021).

I am so angered by the ignorance of such presenters.

I grew up in Ohio and many of these southerners migrated to our area for work. I never heard insulting jokes about other nationalities. Men joked around but respected each other's work ethic. I just wanted you to know you inspired me to write Ms. Whetstone and told her to go back to Britain since she is ignorant of America and its values.

*Sharon McLaughlin Novak  
Columbus, Ohio*

Dear Editor:

I resent being called part of a "seditious mob." I am a 65 year old female who attended the January 6, 2021 "mostly peaceful" protest in Washington, D.C. I do not consider it "one of the darkest moments in the American history." ("Editor's

Desk," PAJ, February 2021). I considered it one the most positive moments in American history. 99.9% of the participants that day were peaceful. The other .1% of the attendees were not President Trump supporters. After a summer of domestic terrorism/rioting occurring in Oregon, Washington, Philadelphia, etc. costing over \$2 billion in damages, how can anyone compare this minor event to a seditious mob? We peacefully protested a fraudulent election.

The 2020 election was fraudulent. I was a mail in ballot vote counting observer for Montgomery County, Pa. Pennsylvania law states that each party is able to have observers when mail in ballots are being counted. We were not able to observe any vote counting. The law was broken. All Montgomery county mail in ballots should have been disqualified. This occurred throughout Pennsylvania in the heavily populated counties. If there was nothing to hide, why would the Republican Party not be able to observe?

When I think of Poland, I think of a proud country always wanting

to us by our spiritual leaders.

As Polish Americans, we are largely Christians, most of us Roman Catholic. Think of what got your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents through a harrowing trip across the Atlantic, World War I, the 1918 Pandemic, the Depression, World War II, polio epidemics, and more. It was their faith. It was reflection on where they stood on the world stage, and how they could improve their lot by calm, measured actions, versus lashing out. We've learned this from Jesus, Pope John Paul II, and the Solidarity movement.

As we heal ourselves, we are ready to take action. We must find the courage to lead by example in our own personal relationships. By demonstrating that we have the ability to forgive and show kindness, and by offering measured responses even when we're hurt or offended, we will not only continue to heal ourselves, but will activate healing within the collective.

**I'M NOT A NAIVE IDEALIST.** I know from experience that forgiveness is hard and that sometimes — even after forgiving — there can be people we should never allow back into our lives. But, in the end, we must never let go of our core principles.

So, as we wonder how to respond to what's happening in our country and in the world today, we can begin by looking inward to heal ourselves through meditation, prayer, and mastery of restraint. We should make a commitment to forgiveness and practice it to achieve inner peace. And we should rest assured that our thoughts and actions will have an effect on the wider collective because we are all co-creators of our lives.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Gabrielle V. Michalek has been a faculty member in the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries for the past 36 years. She is currently enrolled in the ministerial program at the Journey Within Spiritualist Church.*

to be free from tyrannical oppressors. Obviously the PAJ does not agree.

America is at a crossroads. The globalists are taking over. Free speech is being eroded by continued lies and propaganda spread by the big tech giants, main stream [sic] media and even the PAJ.

*Jane Sochacki  
Skippack, Pennsylvania*

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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)

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## Election 2020: The Polish American Vote

by David J. Jackson

My grandfather, Leon Lazowski, personified the Polish American Democrat of generations past. Born in 1914 as the son of immigrant parents, he worked in a foundry for General Motors in Saginaw, Michigan for 44 years. His first presidential vote would most likely have been in 1936, FDR's first re-election. He tried hard to pass down his commitment to the values of the New Deal Democratic Party, but his grandchildren are complicated when it comes to politics.

I came of age politically in the early 1980s. Ronald Reagan was consolidating the realignment that Richard Nixon had started but left unfinished as he resigned in disgrace over the Watergate scandal. Southern white voters were moving toward the Republican Party.

Polish American voters were on the move too. They were moving to the suburbs and leaving behind the old Polish urban enclaves. They were moving up the ladder of economic success and professional status as well. Many of them were moving away from the Democratic Party too.

**WHERE IS THE POLISH AMERICAN VOTE NOW?** Is there still even such a thing as a distinct Polish American vote, or do Polish Americans vote the same as other white voters once other factors are controlled for?

Scholars are pretty certain of some basic facts about the history of the Polish American vote. During the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Polish Americans began strongly backing the Democratic Party because that party cared about the working class

and successfully managed U.S. involvement in World War II. But anger over Yalta may have persuaded many of them to back Eisenhower. Support for the Catholic John F. Kennedy and then his former vice president Lyndon B. Johnson returned the Polish American vote to the Democratic side.

The culture wars that began in the 1960s, coupled with Ronald Reagan's social conservatism and anticommunism in the 1980s, along with the economic and cultural integration of Polish Americans into white suburbia, challenged the connection between Polish Americans and the Democratic Party. As Polish Americans came closer to achieving educational and economic parity, many began voting like other Americans to such an extent that Bill Clinton's pollster Dick Morris claimed, "Neither I nor the president ever believed there is such a thing as a Polish vote. There is a white vote, a black vote, a Jewish vote, and a Hispanic vote."

However, there are those who believe that Polish American voters in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin were key to the Republican victory in 2016, including allegedly Donald Trump himself.

In 2020 there were at least two attempts by Republicans to sway voters away from Joe Biden based on appeals to their Polish American identity. Republicans pounced on what Biden said during an interview with the *New York Times*: "We stopped showing up at the Polish American club." The intent of Biden's remarks was to criticize Democrats for ignoring their ethnic, working class base, and the attempt to make it a scandal never caught on.

Another attempt to discredit Joe

Biden along ethnic lines occurred based on claims the candidate made during an October 2020 town hall. He said, "You see what's happened in everything from Belarus to Poland to Hungary, and the rise of totalitarian regimes in the world..." Biden's linking the current Polish government with Belarus could legitimately be seen by Polish Americans as insulting to their ancestral homeland. It did not, however, generate a large groundswell of opposition to Biden along ethnic lines.

Recently I used on-line software Qualtrics to conduct a survey of a non-random sample of Polish Americans. Respondents were recruited through social media groups. I asked these respondents who they voted for in the 2020 presidential election, their preferred political party, and some demographic questions. The results give us a clearer picture of how some Polish Americans voted in 2020.

This project resulted in a sample of 224 Polish American respondents who were willing to reveal their 2020 presidential vote choice, of whom 55.6% are female. More than a quarter (28.6%) are between 60 and 69 years old, while more than another quarter are between 50 and 59 (27.2%). Only 15.6% are younger than 40. They are almost exclusively white (98.2%). The plurality (41.5%) live in a large city. More than a third (40.2%) report a household income of \$100,000 or more. Just over 38% consider themselves to be Democrats, while 31.1% consider themselves independent, and 27.9% consider themselves to be Republicans. Another 2.7% identified as supporters of other political parties.

In terms of presidential preference, 54% of Polish Americans in

this sample voted for Biden, while 42.4% voted for Trump. Another 3.6% voted for some other candidate. These results are just about the reverse from what CNN exit polls show for white voters overall: 58% for Trump and 41% for Biden.

However, among Democrats in the sample, 90.6% voted for Biden, while among Republicans, 91.9% voted for Trump. This is substantially similar to white voters in CNN exit polls, which showed 95% of white Republicans voting for Trump, and 93% of white Democrats voting for Biden.

There is much more analysis to be done with this data, which I plan to share when the work is finished. But this first cut suggests that Polish Americans voted about the same as other white Americans once their party preferences are controlled for. This and the inability of Republicans to raise much of a fuss about Joe Biden's missteps with regard to Polish and Polish American issues suggests the direct influence of Polish American ethnicity on white Americans' presidential vote preferences may be limited. However, more than a quarter of respondents said that being Polish American influenced their partisan and ideological preferences. A closer analysis of how these voters are influenced

by their "Polish-ness" should be especially interesting.

My grandfather remained a committed New Deal Democrat until the day he died in 1997. Defying stereotypes, however, even some of his brothers consistently voted Republican. Some of his grand kids are Democrats are some are not. It's complicated, just like the Polish American vote overall. As always, more study is required.

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David J. Jackson is professor of political science at Bowling Green State University. His research interests include U.S. political behavior and the interactive relationship between politics and culture, with a current focus on the Polish American community. He is the author of *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Pop Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization*. He has published articles in such journals as *Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Polish American Studies*, *American Review of Canadian Studies*, and the *International Journal of Press/Politics*.

In 2007-2008 he was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Łódź. His book *Classrooms and Barrooms: An American in Poland*, was published in 2008.

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## Detroit's Transfiguration School to be Transformed into Affordable Housing

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Detroit's **Transfiguration School** soon will have a slightly different look. The city's Housing and Revitalization Department announced a \$7.2 million project that will renovate this historic school building for a new life as affordable housing. Because the school was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2019, the developers must preserve its historic details.

The transformed building will feature 19 affordable housing units; the classrooms will be converted into 17 one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units for renters who are at or below 60% of the area's median income. The project is expected to be completed sometime in 2021.

The re-named Transfiguration Apartments at the corner of Syracuse and Simon Streets was the result of the City of Detroit issuing a request on the behalf of the Archdiocese of Detroit for proposals that would put the shuttered school to good use. The selected developers, Detroit-based Ethos Development Partners and Cinnare Solutions,



School building. Photo: Dan Austin

hope that this project will serve as a model for adapting and reusing vacant schools and turning them into neighborhood assets.

Transfiguration Parish was founded in 1925 by its first pastor, Rev. Simon Kilar. His mission was to serve the large Polish-speaking community in the Detroit/Hamtramck area. The Archdiocese had already established St. Augustine as the area's parish, but the parish leaders were not familiar with the Polish language and Polish customs. However, Father Kilar defied the Archdiocese, didn't ask for approval, and went on to establish

Transfiguration.

By 1929, he staffed the grammar school with teachers of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Over 700 students were enrolled in its first year. Even though the school and parish remained strong for many years, the school closed in 2005. Then, in 2006, Transfiguration church merged with Our Lady Help of Christians. Then, as was predictable, these parishes combined with St. Ladislaus and St. Louis the King to form the single Saint John Paul II parish, where they continue to celebrate Polish Masses.



## Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!

continued from cover

Sunday, called *Biała Niedziela* or *Laetare*. He further warned there would be a superstitious custom of bringing out a person called death and drowning it.

To the people, this figure was the image and symbol of winter, as well as diseases, death, and all the evil that tormented people and animals during a difficult winter period. Thus, the essence of the rite was not only to destroy winter, but also to magically evoke spring and to change the seasons as quickly as possible. For centuries, the rite known as *Laeta* was practiced primarily in southern and western Poland (Wielkopolska, Śląsk, Podhale), and in the western part of the Kraków region, near Żywiec.

The puppet-mannequin was made of a properly formed pile of straw and rags, sometimes clothed in white linen (perhaps an analogy to the white death shroud) or as in Śląsk, a figure fixed on a high stick, dressed in the wedding attire of a bridesmaid: white blouse, corset, skirt with apron, maiden's wreath with ribbons, and wearing braids. Sometimes, the form was grotesque where she resembled an old, disheveled woman with a headscarf over her head, but more often she was depicted as a maiden.

*Marzanna* was carried by a solemn entourage of young women accompanied by girls carrying juniper branches. They would travel from house to house, farmyard to farmyard, so that she would take away all evil and misfortune from them. There was a hierarchy of visits and the rounds began with the parish presbytery, followed by the homes of the *soltys* elder, teacher, and most important farmer. At every house they lowered the puppet in a bow and sang.

In a procession, she was paraded through the village, and dipped into every puddle along the way – ordered to “drink” the death out of the water.

When all the houses had been covered, the older youth joined the crowd and took the puppet to the place of execution, outside the village boundaries. They threw her to the ground, tore her clothes off, ripped them apart, set them on fire and threw them and the effigy into the water of a stream, pond, lake or river, and then quickly, without looking back departed the scene. It was prohibited to touch her eyes, as *Marzanna's* withering hand of



In pre-Christian Poland, *Marzanna* was the image and symbol of winter, as well as diseases, death, and all the evil that tormented people and animals during a difficult winter period. Thus, the essence of the rite was not only to destroy winter by setting her ablaze and then drowning her, but also to magically evoke spring and to change the seasons as quickly as possible. That ritual is still practiced today, with less, if hardly any emphasis on purification by fire.

death could take hold, or to even look at them – fearing exposure to a terminal illness. Even the damaged remnants could take revenge, cause harm, and kill. Which is the reason they were disposed of.

It was necessary to return to the village as soon as possible. Sometimes the participants organized peculiar races, as it was said that whoever reached the village last would die first. It was important not to fall during the run, because it would bode sickness.

This was accompanied by numerous sound additions: playing instruments, singing, stomping, crackling of whips, the rattling of rattles, among others. Noise is an element that interrupts the period of silent winter death, and thus triggers the fertility of nature. The first spring lightning perfectly serves to interrupt this “deadly” silence.

From the descriptions in the *Universal Chronicle* of Marcin Bielski in 1551, it appears that the execution was serious. As the centuries went on, the rite became more fun.

In order to hasten the expected arrival of spring and sunny days, huge fires were lit on the hills – the warm glow of which was to attract the spring. Homes were ventilated and cleaned, fresh clothes were washed and prepared. Every corner was incensed with herbs. In the evening, villagers sat down to a festive feast, during which the tables could not be complete without beautifully decorated *Kolacz* wheel cakes and most important – painted eggs to bring energy and joy to live

in the home, and to ensure fertility and prosperity throughout the new growing year. The eggs were dyed red because this color was supposed to protect against evil powers. The remnants of the feast were buried in orchards and in the fields, they were returned to the ground to win her favor and ensure abundant crops.

The “melting” of the effigy had a deeper, complex symbolism than is usually believed. It was conceived as the transformation of winter *Marzanna* into a spring *Dziewanna*, and in a deeper sense the eternal cycle of dying and rebirth.

It is combined with the role of water – not only cleansing, but also sanitizing, thus being a symbol of life overcoming death. The custom of the burning is less frequent, but it should be noted that fire, like water, has the power to purify and destroy all evil.

The male form of *Marzaniok*, appears sporadically in Śląsk. In this custom, boys make and show the puppet around the village. Unlike the female counterpart, which is dressed with great care, *Marzaniok* is dressed haphazardly in any male garment.

In some places, there are so-called *szarpaczki*, or staged fights in which whole villages would take part. At times *Marzanna* reconciled couples who were divergent. When the repentant bachelor came to the window of the offended virgin, she had to give him vodka and accept an apology.

This old, archaic rite has sur-

vived for centuries and with variation continues to our times. During the interwar period, the custom spread among schoolchildren all over Poland and became primarily a children's game, organized to welcome spring. For a long time, the game featured old rituals and songs, but today its former magical meaning has been forgotten.

### The Rite of Summoning Spring

*“Dej Pón Bóg dobry dzień,  
pod wasze okienko,  
przyszliśmy powitać was  
miła gaździnko.  
Goiczek zielony,  
pięknie przystrojony...”*

— song from the Śląsk region

*Gaik Zielony*, *Gaiczek* (regional dialect - *Goiczek*) is the “welcoming of spring festival.” Unmarried maidens carried a festively decorated evergreen or coniferous branches attached to a pole through the village (*chodzenie z gaikiem*) to usher in the change of season and a rebirth. More festivities followed as young men would join in.

It is also known by other names in various regions: *maik*, *moik*, *mojka*, *moj*, *nowe latko*, *laticzko*, *latorośl*, *latorosie*, *latoroško*, and *turzyce*.

Often, the ceremony began directly after the *Marzanna* “death” and either returned to the village center directly or traveled house-to-house, picking up a parade of enthusiasts and culminating in the town's square. Treats of cakes, coins and eggs or *pisanki* from the men are received by the maidens along the way.

This is similar to the traditions

of *Kolędniczy* (carolers), *Gody*, and the pre-Lenten *Zapusty* masquerade revelers – traditionally male events. It was an annual custom in the villages of Śląsk, Wielkopolska, as well as in Podhale and areas adjacent to Spisz and the Pieniny Mountains.

The green conifer is richly decorated with ribbons, artificial flowers, corrugated paper suns and fans and other ornaments, especially colorfully painted eggshells. The latter has a magical meaning because eggs contain reproductive power. At the end of the celebration, the stick was often burned. In Lower Śląsk in the 19th century, it was mounted over the door of a stable or planted in manure, which was to protect the cattle against witches.

continued on next page



**A gaik.** A green conifer is richly decorated with ribbons, artificial flowers, corrugated paper suns and fans, and other ornaments, especially colorfully painted eggshells, which symbolize the reproductive powers of Spring.

### Bustowe Łapy (Bocianie Łapy)

Regional “Stork paws” can be prepared two ways – by baking and by frying. Luba Sakowicz from Michałów in the Podlasie region learned to make them from her mother in a technique that is like *Racuszki* pancakes. The recipe was passed down and is over 100 years old.

Their uniqueness lies in the shape and ingredients, especially this one: there are no eggs in the dough. Instead, grated carrot is added, which gives a beautiful color, moisture and sweetness.

The shape resembles a stork's paws. The pancakes were made with five or three fingers.

Luba said that the cakes should be darker on one side, just like the stork's feet are “dirty” when it walks in the meadow.

**Make a leaven:** pour 3/4 cup warm water into a bowl, add yeast (3 oz fresh or 5 teaspoons dry) and 1 tablespoon of sugar. Mix thoroughly. Cover it with a cloth and let it rest in a warm place for 30 minutes – 1 hour, then:

- **Add** 1 large carrot – grated on a fine mesh (as for potato pancakes) and 3 cups wheat flour.
- **Knead** about 10 minutes. The dough should be soft, flexible and not sticky to your hands.
- **Cover** the bowl with a cloth and set aside in a warm place for 30 minutes - 1 hour.
- When the dough increases in volume, tear off “small apple-sized pieces” with a spoon and put them on a floured board and knead. Try not to sprinkle any more flour - if the dough sticks, brush with oil. Form the balls

into triangles.

- **Sprinkle** the tabletop with flour, arrange the triangles and with a knife cut one of the sides in 2 or 3 places and form the toes.



- **Fry** the “paws” in deep fat or rapeseed oil (*olej rzepakowy*) until golden.
- **Turn** them over, remembering

that on the one side they should be more browned.

- **Optional:** sprinkle with powdered sugar or serve with preserves – remembering that the dough itself should not be sweetened, so that it does not burn during frying.

In southeastern Poland and in the Kurpie region, ritual yeast buns in the paw shape were baked and were quite common until the end of the 19th century. Walentyna Marciniowicz of Krasna Wieś makes a yeast dough, using:

- 4 cups wheat flour, 1/2 package fresh yeast, 1/4 teaspoon of salt, 4 egg yolks, 2 cups milk and 4 tablespoons butter (tip: the more butter added, the crispier the pastry).
- **Pour** the flour into a large bowl, place the yeast in a recess in the

center and pour warm milk over it. Wait for the yeast to dissolve.

- **Mix** the yolks with the sugar and add them in.
- **Add** softened or melted butter.
- **Knead** the dough until it starts to stand out from the bowl.
- **Cover** with a cloth and set aside in a warm place to rise.
- **Roll** dough into small balls and form into “paws.” Put them onto a greased baking sheet.
- **Brush** with 2 beaten eggs and set aside for 15 minutes.
- **Brush** again with the remaining egg mixture and place in an oven preheated to 350 degrees F for about 15-20 minutes, until golden.
- **Serve** with a topping of powdered sugar, jam, or an icing of powdered sugar, lemon juice and cherry syrup.



## Equinox Traditions and Rituals of Poland

continued from previous page

An interesting form similar to a *Gaik* can still be found in Istebna, in the Silesian Beskids. In the last two weeks of Lent, boys with a birch tree decorated with tissue paper flowers and with one or two bells, walk from house to house. When they enter the house, they shake the birch tree, ring the bells and sing a song that calls for teaching and pious education to children. The boys are rewarded with eggs or money and go to the next house to sing.

Historian Jan Długosz noted the sources of tradition in the destruction of pagan idols, which was allegedly ordered by Mieszko I after being baptized. Due to pagan connotations, these rites were suppressed by the Church. Despite the opposition, in some regions of Poland, the *Gaik* rite was repeated at Easter or Pentecost (Zielone Świątki).

### Gregoły / Gregorianki

*Na świętego Grzegorza  
idzie zima do morza.*

*Grzeje więcej, lody płaczą,  
rzeki warczą, brzegi znaczą.*

*On Saint Gregory Day,  
winter goes to the sea.*

*It heats more, the ice is crying,  
the rivers are growling,  
the banks are marked.*

Saint Gregory is celebrated in Poland on the day of his death – March 12. He was a reformer, an excellent administrator, and “founder” of the medieval papacy, which exercised both secular and spiritual power. He lived at the turn of the 6th and 7th centuries, was Bishop of Rome and from 590 Pope Gregory I. Św. Grzegorz is the patron of teachers, students and musicians.

the date of March 12 was an important event in parish elementary schools. It was then that the school year began, and the most talented boys began learning to read and write, as well as religion and devotional songs. At that time, teachers (priest-baccalaureates), accompanied by cantors who taught vocal music and organists, went around the houses and reminded both children and parents about the school year that was about to start.

At the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries, this custom evolved into a fun game and was taken over by parish school students. A dozen or so boys dressed as priests, bishops and organists, as well as their adult guardians, walked around the surrounding houses. In return for visits, they received the usual small sums of money or food such as eggs, dried fruit and sometimes even sausage or cake. After returning, a great party was organized for students and teachers, where the collected food was served, and games and attractions were organized. Sometimes, as a joke, they hung garlands of strung *obwarzanki* pretzels around their necks or around the waist.

Originally, *Gregoły* were celebrated from March 12 to 20, but for economic reasons, this time was extended to the winter period from New Year until March 12. In the past, the forthcoming spring was also announced by St. Gregory's Day.

### Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Święto Zwiastowania Najświętszej Marii Panny* on March 25 was a holy day that was always associated with the beginning of spring. For a long period, up to the

Middle Ages, this feast, also known as the *Incarnation of God*, was at the beginning of the liturgical calendar, thus it began the church year and was one of the most important church holidays.

Introduced in the Eastern Church in the 5th century, The Feast of the Annunciation spread in the West during the times of St. Gregory. It was originally a Christian version of the celebration of the beginning of spring, falling on March 20 or 21. Since the 8th century, it is commonly celebrated on March 25, referring to the date of

Christmas.

In tradition and Polish folk religious beliefs, the Mother of God, whose motherhood was proclaimed by an angel from heaven and under whose heart she gave birth to a new life, was venerated as the patron and creator of all awakening life in spring. It was believed that she awakened the earth and opened it to receive a new seed.

There were various folk names in which Mary was called: *Matka Boską Roztworną* (The Divine

Mother of God) – opening the earth to receive grain, *Zagrzewną* – warming the earth to sprout seeds, or *Strumienną* (streaming) – touching ice, enlivening rivers and streams, awakening life-giving waters.

There is a clear reference to the pagan Slavic deity *Mokosz* – the great earth mother of Eastern Poland. She is a wanderer, weaver and spinner – like the Greek *Athena* and Baltic *Lauma*, she is associated with female crafts. A goddess of fertility and protector of women and children, she was worshiped especially during the harvest season.

*“Na Zwiastowanie, kiedy  
mgła w zaranie,*

*Choć słońko jasno wschodzi,  
Znak niechybny powodzi.*

*On the Annunciation, if the fog is  
in the dawn, though the sun rises  
brightly, there is a sign of a flood*

*Jaki dzień Zwiastowania,  
taki sam Wielkiejnocy.*

*As on the Annunciation,  
the same for Easter.*

*Na Zwiastowanie jaskółki  
się ukazują, Ludziom  
wiosnę zwiastują.*

*On the Annunciation the  
swallows appear, they announce  
spring to the people)*

*Na Zwiastowanie -  
przybywaj bocianie!*

*On the Annunciation -  
come the storks!*

### The Stork brings Babies and Spring

According to folk tales, it is the stork that gathers the remains of winter snow on its wings, so its arrival is undoubtedly evidence of spring's renewal in nature. *Bociana sprowadzić* (bringing the stork) meant delivering happiness on your home.

In Poland, the White Stork is a synonym of happiness, prosperity and fertility. Cherished for generations, it always finds a friendly place to settle. One of the world's largest populations of the White Stork nests here. They spend about five months, arriving at the turn of March and April, and departing at the end of August.

From the earliest times, the stork was respected as an especially useful bird – cleansing fields and meadows of worms, amphibians and reptiles. According to a fairy tale application widely known in Poland: children are born thanks to a stork that delivers them, and most often throws them to their parents through the chimney.

In the past, the inhabitants of Podlasie, Kurpie and the north-eastern part of Mazowsze, *busłowe łapy* (stork paws) were made to welcome the storks. These are not actual stork feet, but yeast rolls in the shape of its paws. In regional dialect, “busioł,” “busol” or “busioł,” means stork, hence the name.

These rolls were made for the feast of the Annunciation, as storks should return from warm lands no later than that day. People believed that by putting rolls into their nest, they would lure the stork to nest on their property.

When the stork appeared and circled over the farmyard, the household members would run out of the house and lifting their pastries high, they shouted: “Busioł, busioł, tut busłowa łapka, tut twoja chatka!” (Stork, stork, there is a paw pastry, here is your home) – thus inviting the stork to stay or return. It



Some scholars believe that the cult of Marzanna survived Christianization by evolving into a devotion of the Virgin Mary, which is very prominent in Poland to this day. There is an archcathedral in Gniezno and a very old church in the Saint Cross voivodeship both named after the Mother Mary of Herbs. Both of them are believed to stand on original spots of Marzanna cult.

was believed that immediately after the Annunciation and the appearance of the storks, the snow would melt, there would be warmth, and truly drowsy weather that would allow even small and frail children to play in front of the house and in the meadow.

Not only were storks' paws put into stork nests, but also larks or miniatures of agricultural tools made of dough: plows, harrows, scythes and other farm equipment, which was to ensure the success of all field work and an abundance of crops. There are places where this custom has survived to this day.

The greeting of spring and the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary were closely related, and the old folk adage said: “Storks come to the Annunciation.

### Celebrating Today

It was not until the 20th century that the date of the Festival of *Święto Jare* was fixed. Today, it is celebrated in Poland on March 21 by registered religious associations of native believers.

Currently, games called *Marzanna* take place in various regions of Poland, even where the rite was originally unknown. They are usually arranged on March 21, the first day of calendar spring. In many places there are parades of children

and young people with hand-made puppets and even competitions for the best designs. The events are organized every year by regional museums and cultural centers.

As a spring game, it often becomes a trip to the forest or to the water, combined with burning a fire, baking potatoes and sausages, and telling each other stories. Sometimes, children carry their bad school grades on cardboard sheets and discard them in the water. With imagination and inventiveness, old traditions have been intertwined with modern customs.

The carrying of the *Gaik* has passed into the hands of younger girls and this custom is celebrated primarily in the southwestern Śląsk region.

I was fortunate to have learned the *Gaiczek* rituals, customs, songs and dances from the Lublin-Powisłe region with Kazimiera Walczakowa (“Mamcia”) and the Śląsk region with Janina Marcinkowa. When

### Weather Proverbs — Przysłowia pogodowe

*Ile mgieł w marcu, tyle  
deszczów w czerwcu.*

*Co marzec wypieczę, to  
kwiecień wysieczę.*  
*How many mists in March,  
that many rains in June; when  
March bakes, April will dry.*

*Na świętego Kazimierza,  
Wyjdzie skowronek spod perza.*

*On Saint Casimir (March  
4), the lark will emerge from  
under the couch grass.*

*Na świętego Józwa,  
przez pole bruzda.*

*Gdy bocian na święty Józef  
przyleci, to na skrzydłach  
resztki śniegu przynosi.*

*On Saint Joseph (March 19),  
a furrow across the field (a  
long trench for planting);  
when the stork flies to Saint  
Joseph, it brings the re-  
mains of snow on its wings.*

*Gdzie bocian, tam pokój.  
Kiedy bocian przyleci możecie  
wyjść na dwór dzieci.*

*Where the stork is, there is  
peace; when the stork arrives,  
children can go outside.*

taking down my artificial Christmas *choinka* upstate back in 2017, I decided to use just the treetop and stand and redecorate it with paper fans, flowers, ribbons, and eggshells to start my own welcoming-of-spring tradition.

*Witaj Wiosno – Happy Spring!*



*Gregoły* (also known as *Gregorianki*, *Gregorki* or *Grególki*), was a typical school habit. The origins of this tradition can be traced back to the 15th-century Alsace, from where this custom came to Poland. It became popular in the Lasowiaczy territory in the Rzeszów region in the 16th century. It was almost completely lost by the 1820s, apart from Żołyńia (Łańcut), where it was practiced even until the end of the 19th century.

Already in the 15th century,

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.*

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## RELIGION

# Bishops Oppose “Heartbeat Bill” in Tennessee

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Tennessee bishops, **Bishop Richard Stika** of the Knoxville Diocese among them, opposed Tennessee’s bill, signed by the governor, to ban abortions after the heartbeat of the baby in the womb is detected at 6-9 weeks. Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union and other pro-abortion groups filed a lawsuit against the bill in federal court. A federal judge ruled against the bill 45 minutes after it was signed by the governor and issued a restraining order against its implementation while the case is being argued in the courts.

The bishops’ opposition was on the pragmatic grounds that foreseen litigation in court, which turned out to be the case, would both delay implementation of the ban and would eat up tax-payer financial resources and might even deliver a defeat to the pro-life position.

## New National Cemetery in Corfu, N.Y. Blessed

**Fr. Dan Serbicki** joined fellow priest **Fr. Jim Bastian** and **Bishop Joseph Coffey** along, with clergy from several Protestant denominations, an Orthodox priest, Jewish rabbi, and a native American spiritual leader in blessing the new military cemetery in Corfu, which is in Genesee County. The new cemetery joins the other 150 National Cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico and allows easier access to a military cemetery for the 96,000 veterans in the Buffalo area than the 100-mile trip to the cemetery in Bath, N.Y.

## Priest Removed after Allegations of Abuse Cover-up

**Fr. Michael Suhy** was relieved of his pastorate at Our Lady of God Counsel Parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit because, according to diocesan officials, he became “over-



Fr. Suhy: victim of an alleged archdiocese cover-up.

whelmed with the responsibilities, burdens, and challenges of administering a large and complex parish.” **Fr. Suhy**, who contends he did not feel overwhelmed at all but rather attributes his removal to the fact that he brought allegations of sexual harassment and grooming of a young man by a prominent employee of the archdiocese and accused the archdiocese of a “cover-up” of a favored employee. The parents of the harassed young man brought the situation to the attention of both **Fr. Suhy** and the archdiocesan officials, but without a satisfactory response from the archdiocese.

**Fr. Suhy** has hired a civil lawyer to defend him against the “unjust” action by the archdiocese.

## Churches Fined for Holding Services

New Mexico’s governor **Michelle Lujan Grisham** fined two Protestant churches for holding services in violation of social-distancing requirements. **Trepp Stelnicki**, the state’s communications director, declared “We all wish this pandemic were over, but it’s not, and no pro-virus pastor may deem it so ... these illegal and selfish gatherings will directly contribute to more suf-

fering and illness in our state.” The fined pastors explained, “It’s tragic that what we do for thousands of shut-ins, those in despair, and kinds who go without meals gets no state notice, but fixation on one service can net us large fines ... The state should ... recognize what the U.S. Supreme Court has recently said about Churches because we must continue to do what we are called to.”

The Court called restrictions on worship in New Jersey, Colorado, New York, California, and other state unconstitutional violations of the First Amendment which prohibits the government from treating religious exercises worse than comparable secular activities.”

## Public Masses Scheduled to Resume

**Bishop Richard Stika** of the Knoxville, Tenn. Diocese, foresees reopening the parishes and mission churches in the diocese by May 30-31, following the recently issued state guidelines. Likewise **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** of the diocese of Springfield, Ill., looks for public Masses to be celebrated in his dioceses by the weekend of June 6-7 with attendance limited to 25% capacity of the church. This follows new guidelines from the state government.

## Eight Ordained to Priesthood in Springfield Diocese

**Fr. Piotr Kosk** and **Fr. Pawel Luczak** joined six others who were ordained for the RC Diocese of Springfield, Ill. In June. Both Polish priests are natives of Warszawa, Poland. This was the greatest number of priests ordained at one time for several years in the diocese.

## Catholic School for IT Training Slated to Open

**Patrick Romzek**, whose son **Andrew** has Down’s syndrome, has

set his sights on opening a Catholic School, **St. Andrew’s Academy**, to train students with disabilities for a career in the Information Technology industry.

Shocked at the high level of unemployment among people with disabilities, who have a labor participation rate of only 20.6% versus 69% for the general population, he began collaborating with contacts in the IT industry along with the archdiocese’s disability ministry and the Catholic Disability Foundation to establish **St. Andrew’s Academy** for remote/in-person hybrid program for Catholics and non-Catholics. He hopes to establish a 20-week program for 15-25 students covering IT technical skills, workplace etiquette and professionalism and spiritual companionship.

At this stage, **Romzek** is still gauging and gathering interest in diocesan parishes. The Knights of Columbus have also shown interest in the program, which has the backing of the diocese’s Office of Catholic Schools. The tuition-free school will be geared mainly toward young adults and would offer training and certification along with a faith and spiritual development program.

## Church Transformed to Deal with Homelessness

The former **Immaculate Conception Church** in Hartford, Conn., has been turned into an emergency shelter for the homeless and a center for staff that deal with the problems of the homeless. **ImmaCare** is the name of the agency and it includes **Casa de Francisco**, a permanent supportive apartment complex nearby.

“The homeless are placed on one unified list and housed based on vulnerability,” explains **Teresa Wierbicki** **ImmaCare’s** director of strategic development. The homeless can stay at the renovated church for a short period while more per-

manent housing is found for them along with medical care, treatment programs and job searches.

## A Relic of St. John Paul II Finds a Home in Buffalo

**Fr. Peter Napierkowski**, newly named pastor of **Assumption Church** in Buffalo, N.Y., received a letter from **Cardinal Dziwisz** accompanying the relic of **St. John Paul II** recalling **Cardinal Wojtyła’s** visit to the church in 1969 with the hope that “the ‘presence’ of the Holy Pope in the sign of his relic will bring fruitfulness and contribute to the deepening of faith.”

## Masks Donated for Masses and Meals

The **St. Bronislava Council** of the **Knights of Columbus** in Plover, Wisc. purchased 5,000 masks for several area food pantries and two local parishes, **St. Bronislava** in Plover and **St. Maximilian Kolbe** in Almond.

## Happy Anniversary to....

Felician sisters in Connecticut celebrating: 25 years - **Sr. Mary-ann Agnes Mueller**, 50 years - **Sr. Christina Marie Stankiewicz**, 60 years - **Sr. Frances Marion Bonczar**, **Sr. Janice Marie Gaudette**, **Sr. Joan Marie Szwierzb.** And in Illinois: 50 years - **Sr. Mary Gerylyn Mroczkowski** and 60 years - **Sr. Mary Andrew Budinski**, **Sr. Mary Anita Bienia**, **Sr. Patricia AnnMarie Sylvester**. In Michigan: 60 years - **Sr. Berardine Gazda**, **CSJ**. In Pennsylvania: 25 years - **Sr. Trina Marie Ulrich**, **CSFN**; 70 years - **Sr. Celeste Hupert**, **CSFN**, **Sr. Annette Allen**, **CSFN**; 60 years - **Sr. Sandra Sharon**, **CSFN**.

## REFLECTIONS

## A Glance Backward, a Look Forward

by Rev. Walter Rakoczy

As I begin my 44th year of priesthood, and just before the end of the Polish Christmas Season, I pause to reflect upon where it all began for me – as for many a soul – one’s *alma mater*. For me, the Lake Orchard Lake.

I was blessed to arrive at OL in the fall of 1969. This period of time I often refer to as the end of the school’s Silver Age. Each year there was a Polish Year – celebrating the different traditions from different parts of Poland and Polonia. We prayed in Polish, English, and yes, Latin (the New Latin Mass). It was a place where everyone knew your name – and pronounced it correctly! We came from Michigan, Illi-

nois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ohio. Quite a few from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, New England, a few from Poland and other parts of Europe, and the occasional Canadian. Some of the “best” of us were “half-breeds” – half Polish and half another nationality. The minority, who were 100% not Polish, proved that Polish names can be pronounced correctly. Some of us new arrivals had a hard time understanding the boys from the Boston area – until they spoke Polish.

We were quite a crew. *Parvused Potens* – small but mighty! All three schools totaled less than 500 students. The local Polonia, especially in Detroit and Hamtramck were very good to us. Visits to the local Polish parishes were always a

great experience. Of course, it almost always involved Polish food. On Fat Tuesday, *Thusty Czwartek*, we feasted on the biggest, best paczki this side of Warsaw.

The night before Christmas, a group of about 10 collegians went *po koleadowanie*, complete with *szopka*, star, and sometimes a *turoń*. After caroling the faculty apartments, we went across the street to Our Lady of Refuge Convent, where the sisters invited us in for cookies (and wine).

We were anything but provincial or backwater. **Cardinal Wojtyła** visited in 1969, and again in 1976, as did other bishops and cardinals (not just Polish or Polish American) from other parts of the world.

Alas, OL is not what it once was. That is life. Everything changes – or gets changed. I look at my diocese. Forty years ago, we had almost 20 parishes, more than half the clergy was Polish or Slavic, including our Slovak bishop. As we like to say, we educate our kids so well they go to college and don’t come back. Our ethnic parishes are mostly gone. The Polish Carmelites and Salvatorians are still with us.

When I returned to Michigan City to pastor **St. Mary Church**, the oldest parish in the county, it

seemed there were more Polish names there than at **St. Stanislaus**. I also had the small Lebanese parish as a mission. It soon became apparent most of the “Lebanese” had Polish names. Proportionately, until it closed a few years ago, it was the most “Polish” parish in town.

This is not the town I came to 43 years ago. The populations of both cities and parishes are down. Much less Polish is spoken. Polish Mass is gone, as well as Polish confessions. But all is not lost; one need not speak Polish to be a Polish American. Assimilation, for better or worse, is part of the American way. We must strive to ensure that the best of Polish and Pol Am culture gets assimilated. All too often we get left out. We hope to resume the Michigan City Polish Heritage Festival in September. Our Polish American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana is mostly online for now. The Polish Peasant Restaurant is doing well.

Perhaps things are not so bleak. We need to get the younger generations involved – I know it sounds like a cliché. But wouldn’t it be great if someone could figure how to do that.

Perhaps if we show and tell, they will come ...

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## 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 SAINT PEREGRINE.** O great St. Peregrine, you have been called “The Mighty,” “The Wonder-Worker,” because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fibre of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favoured with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you. Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen. B.T.G.



## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

## Polish Triangle's Algren Fountain Has New Look

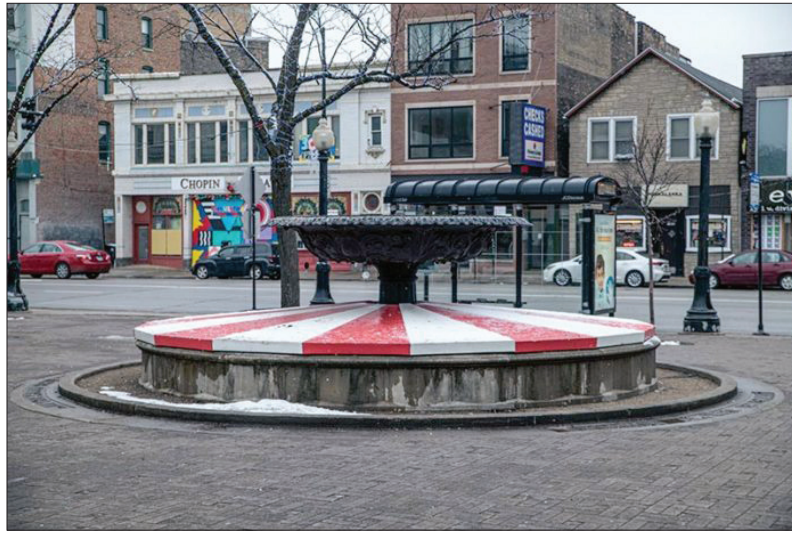
by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Thanks to the efforts of Lela and Zygmunt Dyrkacz of the Chicago's famed Chopin Theatre, the Nelson Algren Fountain across the street from the Theatre has taken on a new look. Situated on the Polish Triangle at the junction of Division Street, Milwaukee Avenue, and Ashland Avenue, the condition of the fountain's cover became depressing to look at and detracted from the fountain's prominence. Through the efforts of several individuals, the fountain now glows with red and white colors, appropriate for the Polish Triangle.

Lela and Zygmunt hired Steve Pantazis, a Chicago architect, to create an appropriate design for the fountain's new winter cover. Also, with in-kind donations from Home Depot and Lowe's, and with the assistance of Elyse Estes, a well-known Chicago theatrical carpenter with a reputation for creating attractive theater scenes, the new cover became a reality. With Brian Hopkins, 2nd Ward Alderman, and the City of Chicago's approval, the new cover was installed before Christmas 2020. Reflective and electronic devices were also installed to keep the large numbers of pigeons off the fountain and its surroundings to reduce damage and pollution at the Triangle area.

In addition, the new facade of the Chopin Theatre adds color to the area. If one looks closely, the composition of the colorful mural reveals the word "VOTE." Mark McKenzie from Chicago's Humboldt Park area is the visual artist who created this larger-than-life mural. Lela, Zygmunt, and Mark assured everyone that the mural has nothing to do with any specific election but is a universal message and will remain on the front of the Chopin Theatre for years to come.

The Chopin Theatre, which celebrated its 30th anniversary under the ownership of Lela and Zygmunt, like many cultural organizations, is struggling financially during this pandemic. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation, it is in dire need



Nelson Algren Fountain.

of funding. You can help by sending a donation through: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/chopin-theatre-humble-request-for-30th-anniversary>.

Further information is available at the Chopin Theatre website: [www.chopintheatre.com](http://www.chopintheatre.com).

**Guerin's Valuable Music and Books Saved**

Guerin High School's last graduation took place on May 28, 2020. The River Grove, Illinois, school permanently closed on June 30, 2020 because of financial issues and declining enrollment. Almost one year later the school's administration made the decision to demolish the building. In its place, a community of houses and apartments will be built on the former campus. But there was a lingering concern about the thousands of books and items of sheet music that would most likely end up as trash. Luckily, along came members of the Polish community. Once Barbara Bilszt, director of the Academy of Music of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra (PaSO), heard about the possible demolition, she sought to retrieve the valuable sheet music collection, much of it no longer available. After examining the collection, she found American and European classical music, jazz arrangements, folk music, and orchestral arrangements. She indicated that the sheet

music would be priceless for any music school. She then asked Tomasz Startek, a Polish American businessman, philanthropist, and

good-will gesture.

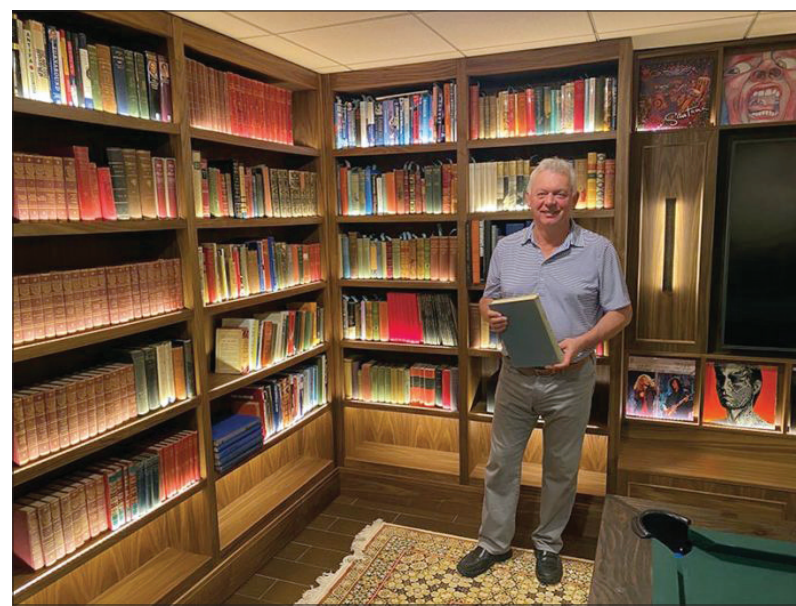
However, there was still the issue of the thousands of books. Tomasz, who also considers himself a "book

terested only in the library shelves, and it appeared that no one was really interested in the books. Ironically, the shelves sold for \$2,000 and the huge collection of books sold for only \$300! The books were packed into approximately 500 boxes then stored in Startek's company warehouse. They would eventually be unpacked and arranged by categories.

Startek shared that he is truly a book lover and has been an avid reader since elementary school. In his own home, he has about 4,000 books some over 100 years old. He even has a collection of 700 books about the Olympics in several languages.

Looking back, it was in 1961 that the Sisters of Providence accepted an invitation from Albert Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago, to build and operate a high school for girls for the far northwest area of Chicago and River Grove. The Archdiocese of Chicago offered to give them approximately 8.5 acres of land at the River Grove, location and to give the nuns \$1 million toward the construction of a comprehensive girls' high school. However, in 2004, with declining enrollment, Guerin merged with the nearby all-male Holy Cross High School to become co-educational.

Now they are both gone, but their music and books have been rescued.



Tomasz Startek

patron of the arts to become involved. Startek offered to purchase the sheet music collection and then donate it back to PaSO.

On January 12, at an online auction, Startek bought the sheet music collection for less than \$1,000, and the two tons of it was saved. Bilszt has announced that 1,100 sets of sheet music would be donated to the State Music School Frederic Chopin, in Nowy Targ, Poland, as a

freak," knew that the books would also be put up for auction. The library was filled with over 10,000 books on art, architecture, politics, biographies, history, you name the subject, and the books were there - even some controversial books. Some were over 70 years old and were all going up for auction. He didn't want this treasure to be wasted. So he bid on the books and won. Many auction participants were in-

## AMERICAN POLONIA

**Trumka Disappointed with Biden's Pipeline Decision**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said he was disappointed in President Biden's decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office, a move that the union says will cost 1,000 existing jobs and 10,000 projected construction jobs.

In an interview with Axios' Jonathan Swan, Trumka said that the Laborers' International Union of North America was right to condemn Biden for signing an executive order to rescind the Keystone XL pipeline permit.

"I wish he hadn't done that on the first day," Trumka said.

"It did and will cost us jobs in the process," he added. "I wish he had paired that more carefully with the thing that he did second by saying here's where we're creating jobs."

He said that he believes Biden realized he made a mistake in not simultaneously announcing plans for job creation saying, "the next time the subject came up it was done the right way."

He said politicians should be cognizant that Americans don't want to move across the country for a new job out of the blue and gave credit to Biden for proposing alternatives.

"We can do mine reclamation, we can fix leaks and we can fix seeps and create hundreds of thousands of jobs in doing all of that stuff," he said.

Trumka said that while he doesn't know if Biden will shut down other pipelines that if he does, "he'll pair it with job creation that will be greater than the number of jobs lost."

He called Biden a "man of his word" and said he believes the Democrat's promises to "create jobs, good union jobs, and be the best union president we've ever had."

— Yahoo News

**New Officers at Berks County Pol-Am Board**

READING, Pa. — On Sun., Jan. 17, 2021, the Polish-American Heritage Association of Berks County

installed officers to fill the positions of vice president and treasurer of the organization for 2021-2022.

Sandra Lubas Hummel will continue to serve as vice president and chair of the Scholarship Committee. Dr. Edward B. Michalik, who recently retired as director of the Berks County Office of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Area Agency on Aging, will serve as treasurer.

The next meeting of PAHABC will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2021, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, 201 Washington St., Reading.

— Mary Ann Zerkowski

**Pulaski Day to be Observed Virtually**

CHICAGO — Celebrate Pulaski Day virtually with the Polish Museum of America (PMA) on Monday, March 1, 2021. Top officials from national, state, county, and city governments and leaders of Polonian organizations and institutions will observe the State of Illinois annual recognition of the Polish American

community by honoring the Casimir Pulaski.

The program will feature performances by Mirosława Sojka-Topór, Bartłomiej Ciężobka, Polonia Polish Folk Song & Dance Ensemble, and Tatra Mountains Cultural Foundation Ensemble, along with filmed presentations, and conclude with the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Stanislaw Batowski's painting of Pulaski at Savannah.

The program begins promptly at 10 a.m. and will be streamed live on the PMA web site: [www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org](http://www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org)

In 1977, Illinois made Casimir Pulaski Day an official state holiday. Join friends and supporters of the PMA as your representatives in government celebrate the commitment of Polish Americans to liberty and justice for all in the United States of America.

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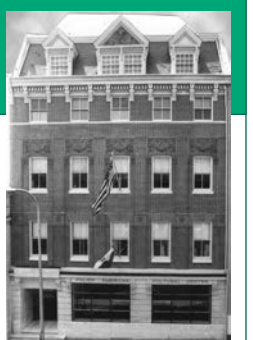
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## MINNESOTA VOICE

# Michał Sołtan makes U.S. debut for Minnesota Bal Fundraiser

by Mark Dillon

Blending a Frank Sinatra-style with Polish jazz, Warsaw singer/songwriter Michał Sołtan has recorded his first ever U.S. performance for a Minnesota Polish American group hosting a virtual Bal Karnawalowy fund-raiser on Feb. 13.

In response to a fan e-mail, Sołtan recorded a version of his *Origami Blues* Polish hit song from his album *MaloGranie* and other songs for the Ja Bardzo Kocham Bal for the Minnesota Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM).

The virtual evening event, inspired by the success of 2020 virtual versions of Polish Christmas



Michał Sołtan, his fiancée Magdalena Jankowska and the band Soul Town Leaders at a Christmas concert in 2019.

nation Quartet. He has presented original compositions at jazz festivals in China, Germany, Denmark and Poland, and has played about 200 concerts globally.

**A COUPLE IN ARTISTIC HARMONY.** “Jazz is like a river,” Sołtan explains. Interviewed, guitar in hand, via video meeting at his apartment studio ahead of the Minnesota Bal, Sołtan says time, music and events flow together to form art, life and career.

Warsaw, and COVID restrictions meant doing only seven concerts last year instead of a planned 40 to 50, as well as not being able to feel of the energy and enthusiasm of a live audience.

These days in Poland, Sołtan and his artist fiancée Magdalena Jankowska are awaiting the birth of their son, whom they have already named Thaddeus. He’s due to arrive April 26.

“He’s already 1.5 kilos (3.3 pounds). Maybe he’ll come early,” Sołtan says.

Michał and Magda first met at a jazz jam session at a Warsaw club and draw inspiration from each other’s work. He typically practices while she paints nearby, and their artistic chemistry is such that Magda paints on stage when Michał performs live. In fact, Sołtan’s album name *MaloGranie* is a Polish wordplay on the blending of artistic synergy of music and painting.

“Feb. 17 is our seventh anniversary,” he adds. “Magdalena is my muse.” The couple also have a yellow Labrador retriever, Bruno.

Sołtan’s music is available mainly via his website [www.michalsoltan.com](http://www.michalsoltan.com). Magda is a graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Among her projects are outdoor building murals, including “Mewy Origami” in Sopot and “Harbor Boy” in Gdańsk.

The Sopot mural features a flock of seagulls made as origami fig-

ures flying across a clear blue sky – hence the inspiration for Sołtan’s song *Origami Blues*.

“It took about a month for her to finish (November 2018). It was very cold. My job every day was to bring the bag with food,” Michał said.

Sołtan self-describes his style as a fusion of jazz, pop, rock and funk. To an American ear and eye, *Origami Blues* reminds one of Paul McCartney’s *Ebony and Ivory*, given its lyrical chorus of “Czarna-Biała” and a video with images of black and white ceramic tile, floors, piano keyboards and street markings. The video’s release has gotten 1.3 million Facebook views.

Sołtan is currently working remotely on new singles with Christopher Li’nard Jackson, a bass player in New York while developing a publishing house Sołtan Art Group. Sołtan says he is eager to include a Minnesota stop on a future U.S. tour, saying that a live NBA game is on the top of his to-do list.

“I really love basketball,” he noted.

**A JOLTING TATRA TRAUMA.** Sołtan’s career began as few drops of work that compounded over time and led to bigger and deeper opportunities. Initially, he was one of a group of three jazz artists playing at the Nowy Swiat club in Warsaw for 50 zloty for a three-hour stint.

“Five weeks later we got asked to do a wedding for 200 zloty for an hour and then at the wedding we got asked to provide entertainment for an Intel corporate event (a product rollout) at 500 zloty,” Michał said.

A young Michał Sołtan’s Sinatra-like musical style was influenced by U.S. musicians such as Dante Luciani, lecturer at the Frost School of Music at University of Miami, who played trombone with Frank Sinatra. Luciani and Sołtan met at jam sessions at a club in Warsaw.

Performers and actors tell each other to “break a leg” as a wish of good luck. In Sołtan’s case, he actually did, after falling into a ditch while camping as a nine year-old in Slovakia in the Tatra Mountains. An implanted metal plate below his knee cap grew infected soon after surgery, and Sołtan said his family had to push Polish doctors when he

got back home to quickly get the operation redone or risk gangrene.

It was in the hospital recovering where Sołtan first developed his interest in music as he watched artists and actors give performances for



**Heart of Polonia.** The design for PACIM’s Ja Bardzo Kocham Bal was inspired by a member’s family’s Goral Highlander trousers.

convalescing and orphan children. Now Sołtan feels it is his turn to give back. He has been giving benefit concerts in partnership with Rotary International at Polish orphanages, including the Dom Dzieczka homes that Minnesota’s PACIM has supported through with its Walicki endowment fund.

**KULTURA RESTITUTA.** PACIM’s Bal had historically been a formal dinner held for many years at the upscale St. Paul Hotel in downtown St. Paul but was then moved in 2018 to the Crowne Plaza hotel in Minneapolis, with mixed reviews. This year’s virtual event is a casual, fun family-affair that PACIM leaders hope will bring together multiple generations and an audience well beyond the Twin Cities.

“We need to reach out to new people, a younger generation, while still celebrating our heritage,” says Iwona Srienc, a PACIM board member who chairs the 135-member group’s newly formed Contemporary Culture Committee and manages its virtual Polish language classes.

In addition to jazz, PACIM’s musical repertoire for the Feb. 13 Bal evening also included:

- A performance of the Polonia Restituta Polonaise, first performed in Chicago, a work of composer, Jaroslaw Golembowski, president of the Chicago Chopin Society
- A custom recording from the Winona, Minn. Children’s Choir
- Videos of polka and dance groups in New York and Washington, D.C.

Prior to COVID, PACIM had succeeded in bringing top Polish authors for its Literary Speakers program, including a 2018 book tour visit by Olga Tokarczyk and a 2017 appearance by Philip Springer. The Literary team also a scheduled visit by the authors of Polish nautical memoir *Marsz Marsz Batory* for March 2020, but that event was torpedoed by the coronavirus-related travel lockdown.

Prizes offered for auction for PACIM’s fund-raiser included an Acura TL, airline tickets, a painting by Polish impressionist artist Antoni Beltowski, a private flight touring scenic Minnesota, a life size Marzanna the Witch, and Polish pottery.



Sołtan’s new album *MaloGranie* was inspired by love.

holiday traditions in Washington, Pittsburgh and Chicago, aimed to raise at least \$10,000 to replace revenues lost due to COVID-related cancellations of food-based fundraising activities such as Minnesota’s Festival of Nations.

The May Festival, cancelled again for 2021, had historically been PACIM’s largest event revenue source. PACIM’s Bal Karnawalowy has returned after a two-year absence that began when the event was dropped amid a heavy snowstorm in February 2019.

The PACIM gig is “a dream come true” Sołtan says. Although he has never visited the United States, Sołtan has in the past year garnered more than 33,000 social media followers, including several thousand Americans, helped with a series of courtyard balcony concerts from his Warsaw apartment amid COVID lockdowns.

Sołtan, 35, is a graduate of the Jazz Department of the Fryderyk Chopin State Music School in Warsaw and leader of the Imagi-



**A muse at the beach.** Sołtan’s fiancée Magdalena Jankowska is an accomplished artist who paints on stage while Michał performs. She has created outdoor building murals in Sopot and Gdańsk.

Art runs deep in the Sołtan family. Sołtan’s grandfather, Aleksander Sołtan, competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics painting competition and later became a lecturer and director of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (1937-39 and 1947-49). After World War II, Alexander headed the graphics journal *Knowledze* (1947-49) and was editor of *Poligrafika*. Art competitions were part of the Olympics until 1948.

Sołtan’s last live concert was in September at Bardzo Bardzo in

Sopot, Poland. “Magdalena is my muse.” The couple also have a yellow Labrador retriever, Bruno.

Sołtan’s music is available mainly via his website [www.michalsoltan.com](http://www.michalsoltan.com). Magda is a graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Among her projects are outdoor building murals, including “Mewy Origami” in Sopot and “Harbor Boy” in Gdańsk.

The Sopot mural features a flock of seagulls made as origami fig-

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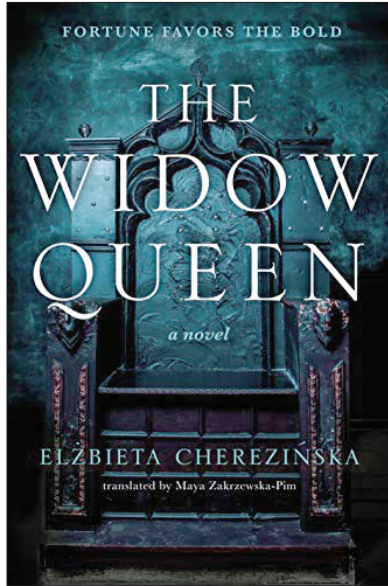
BOOKS IN BRIEF

MUSIC

# A Visit to a Changing 10th Century Poland

reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

**THE WIDOW QUEEN: A NOVEL**  
By Elżbieta Cherezińska  
Translated by Maya Zakrzewska-Pim  
Tom Doherty Associates 2021, 512 pp.



In this sprawling historical saga, Elżbieta Cherezińska gives life to a historical figure whose name was never officially recorded, the daughter of Mieszko I, who became the Father of Poland with his conversion to Roman Catholicism in 966 AD. As a result of copious research, the author skillfully reconstructs what it could have been like to live during that time.

Tenth century Europe was an era on the cusp of enormous change. Christianity was sweeping from country to country leading many to turn their backs on their pagan heritage. Usually, this change was dictated by the ruler, as was in the case of Mieszko, who converted when he married his Bohemian bride. It is in this transforming world that Mieszko's daughter, Świętosława, comes of age. She not only must grapple with the fluctuating beliefs of Europe, but the lack of choices she has in her own life. Mieszko tells Świętosława in no uncertain terms

that she is destined to only be the wife of a ruler and mother of a ruler.

The following excerpt is a conversation between Mieszko and his daughter after he takes Świętosława and her brother Bolesław to visit the burial mounds of their ancestors:

“We leave facing forward,” he said. “Don’t turn back. I brought you here so that you could meet your ancestors, but not to reminisce. Some things should remain in the past.”

When they found themselves by the fires again, the squad

members brought them their horses. Świętosława stroked her mare’s neck.

‘You’re quiet.’ Mieszko stood behind her. ‘You didn’t say a word under the oak.’

‘Where are their wives’ mounds?’ she asked. ‘My grandmothers, great-grandmothers... where are they?’

‘There,’ he nodded toward the place they’d just come from. ‘They went to the pyre with their husbands.’

‘I see.’ Her voice was hard as flint.”

Not confined to medieval Poland, this richly detailed saga, takes us on a journey through Scandinavia, Russia, and England. *The Widow Queen* is perfect for those who enjoy complex historical fiction.

◆◆◆  
*Elżbieta Cherezińska is an award-winning author of 14 novels. Originally titled Harda and published in 2016, this is her first novel to be translated to English. Among her other works, is a four-volume story which takes place in the tenth and eleventh centuries in Scandinavia. Originally from Pila, Poland, she currently lives in Kolobrzeg, Poland with her husband.*

LAPSUS CALAMI

The sharp eye of PAJ subscriber Carol Gobel caught a clipped and missing paragraph in last month’s Pondering Pole article, “The Amazing Father Dzierozynski.”

Below are the complete and missing paragraphs:

Father Dzierozynski also “in-

structed the St. Louis Jesuits to only sell their slaves with his permission and then only ‘to humane and Christian masters’ who would purchase them for their own use.” We can analyze why these religious people would own slaves, what was their rationale, and whether this

simply was just another strange chapter in the life of the church. On balance though, the life, career, and accomplishments of Francis Dzierozynski are admirable. Maybe even amazing.

Father Dzierozynski was born January 3, 1779 in Orsha, at that time part of the Russian Empire. In 1806 he joined the Society of Jesus religious order and furthered his studies and taught in Polotsk and Mogliev in Russia and in Bologna, Italy. In 1820 he was sent as a missionary to America and in 1823 “he was appointed the superior of the Maryland Mission, with jurisdiction over all the Jesuits in the United States.”

# Lewandowski Redefines Musical Boundaries

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Matt Lewandowski announces the official release of “Take Me Back,” a new full-length classic country recording by Matt Lewandowski and the Alliance.

Engineered by Lewandowski, “Take Me Back” was recorded at MAX Studio in Buffalo, New York; Slack Key Studio, and Nashville Traxx, both in Nashville, Tennessee; and Back Roads Studio in Bad Axe, Michigan.

Produced by Lewandowski, the recording brings out the classic country vibe, paying homage to the country greats such as Buck Owens, Johnny Cash, Faron

Young, Joe and Rose Maphis and Ray Price. This 12-song journey through time, spanning eight decades, includes everything from Honky-Tonk two-step and Texas swing, to rockabilly, and includes five originals and seven classic covers.

Joining Lewandowski on this outing are many Nashville artists



**MATT LEWANDOWSKI.** Latest project opens ethnic music and lyrics to a wider audience.



including: Randy Kohrs (harmony vocals); Brent Mason (electric and

acoustic guitars); Joe Spivey (fiddle and guest vocal); Jeff Taylor (accordion); Ryan Joseph (violin); Corey Hensley (harmony vocals); Rusty Danmeyer (steel guitar). Additional artists include Indiana’s Ken Bartkowiak (guest vocal), along with Darrell Weltin (piano), and Lenny Longuski (guest vocal), both from Michigan.

Music enthusiasts can purchase “Take Me Back” online at [www.mattlewmusic.com](http://www.mattlewmusic.com), or by emailing Matt Lewandowski at [info@mattlewmusic.com](mailto:info@mattlewmusic.com).

Digital downloads are available via Amazon or iTunes.

# Piast Institute Awarded Grant

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. —The Piast Institute announced it has been awarded a 2020 Drug Free Community Grant (DFC) for the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC). The Coalition joined 94 others that received an additional five years of DFC Grant

funding. The DFC Grant is for a total of \$625,000 spread equally over a five-year period. The Institute must provide a 100 percent match for the award to the HDFCC.

The purpose of the grant is to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, public and private non-profit agencies; as well as federal, state, local, and tribal governments to support efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. This funding will allow HDFCC to help place more young people on the path toward success and enable them to live healthier and safer lives.”

For more information, contact Piast Institute at (313) 733-4535 or email: [info@piastinstitute.org](mailto:info@piastinstitute.org).

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## GENEALOGY

## Step Two: Finding your Ancestral Home on a Map

by Stephen M. Szabados

We need to know where officials (probably priests) created the Polish records for our ancestors before finding the documents. To do so, we must sort through the confusion caused by the documents mentioning town or country names. Understanding Polish border changes associated with the Polish Partitions and the changes after World War I will help complete this step. Use history books, encyclopedias, and town/county websites to do this. Our goal is to identify what the borders were at the time of the documents and then apply this information to modern maps. Knowing the areas associated with the border changes will help you narrow your search for their birthplace.

An example of this: a 1910 census might show that your Polish grandfather was born in Russia, while the 1920 census record lists that he was born in Poland. The 1900 and 1910 U.S. Census records for Polish immigrants listed their country of birth as Germany, Russia, or Austria. Using the country listed on the census records as a clue, we can eliminate about two-thirds of the Polish countryside from our search.

Gazetteers are an essential tool to help pinpoint the location of your ancestor's birthplace. A gazetteer is a dictionary of place names, and we should use it in conjunction with a separate map. They are an important reference for information about places and place names, describing towns, villages, churches and states, rivers and mountains, populations, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places that existed when the gazetteer was published and often their former names. The gazetteers usually list the place names in alphabetical order, similar to a dictionary.

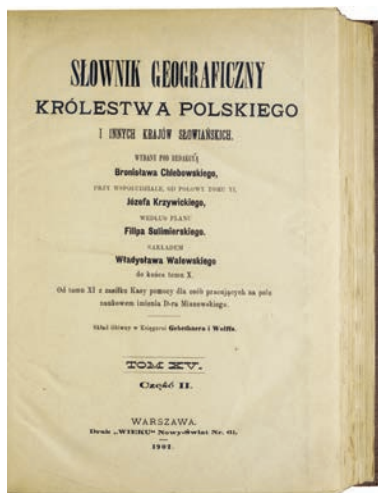
### Useful Gazetteers

The *JewishGen Gazetteer* (formerly called ShtetlSeeker Town Search) is the first gazetteer tool that I recommend to use in your search. It is online and found at ([www.jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp](http://www.jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp)). It uses a Soundex system that will give close-sounding

town names in its results. I use this site for possible locations and then use other sources to eliminate a location from the list or confirm that a location may be the birthplace. The proof is always finding the birth and marriage records for your ancestors.

It contains one million localities' names in 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. For each locality, the search results for each location will display:

- The place-name(s), with the native name
- Links to maps using GPS coordinates
- The country in which the locality is located today
- Distance and direction from a reference point.



The *Słownik Geograficzny* is another popular Polish gazetteer. It is the commonly used gazetteer for Polish towns. The *Słownik Geograficzny* is a Polish language gazetteer that was published from 1880 to 1902. It is an excellent gazetteer for locating places in the areas of Poland, both present and past. *Słownik Geograficzny* has over 15 thousand entries about regions, cities, and towns of Eastern Europe. Localities are listed alphabetically and follow the normal Polish alphabetical order. It is a series of 16 volumes, 14 alphabetical, and two additional volumes with supplemental material. Entries usually give the following information:

- Description of the locality
- District (pow., powiat), Community or Township (gm., gmina), Parish (par.)

- Population figures, agricultural data, number of houses, distance from other localities, and additional information is given.

*Słownik Geograficzny* is an extremely valuable gazetteer because it indicates the Parish for most of the villages. It is available in printed form in libraries with specialized Polish collections. It is also available on films 9209957 through 9209971 at the Family History Library. I use the CD that I purchased from The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA.org). However, the most convenient resource are two websites:

The Digital Library of Małopolska. (<http://mbc.malopolska.pl/dlibra/publication?id=113&from=plannedpubssearch&dirids=1&tab=3>)

You can also view the gazetteer online at a new website at [http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Słownik\\_geograficzny/](http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Słownik_geograficzny/)

### Other Gazetteers that I find useful in Polish Research are:

**Index of German-Polish and Polish-German Names of the localities in Poland & Russia**, by Anna Sluszkiewicz at <http://www.atnotes.com/>. It is an index of German & Polish town names for Poznan, East Prussia, West Prussia, Pomerania, and Silesia.

**Kartenmeister**, another online gazetteer for Polish-German towns is at [www.kartenmeister.com](http://www.kartenmeister.com). This database contains 88813 locations for towns east of the Oder and Neisse rivers. The website also has a selection of older maps for the areas that its databases cover.

I also use **Wikipedia** as a quick reference in finding villages. After finding one of my town names there, I use the GPS address on their page to quickly find the location on a map. I look for other town names from my list and ensure the location shown is in the correct area.

Another tool to use is the county websites that may include some of the town names you have found. Most counties (Gminas) in Poland have websites. The county generally uses its websites as a communication tool for current county business and news. However, most counties also have pages that give

a short account of their history, and most have galleries of vintage pictures. All are very useful in determining which county was the birthplace of your ancestor. There may be facts in the histories or photographs that match information from other documents or oral history that can narrow your search. These websites will appear in Polish, but your web browser will allow you to have the page translated.

Remember that the maps you will be using will show modern names, and the names may have different endings from the ones you found in your document searches. Again, look for clusters of names that may have spelling variations that are close to each other. The process outlined above is not 100

percent accurate but is a good process to use. You are looking for an area on a map that shows as many place names from your list as possible. This is probably the area where your ancestor was born. One of the smaller villages is where they were born, and a nearby larger town is the location for the parish church where the births, marriages, and deaths were recorded. Look for the records using the name of the town that has the parish church. The only way to verify that you have found the correct location is to find your ancestors' records.

Remember to have fun!

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POLISH CHEF

# Święcone: Polish Easter Brunch

by Robert Strybel

Here are some Old Country favorites that have graced święconka tables for generations.

**HARD-BOILING EGGS (gotowanie jaj na twardo):** First of all, place the fresh eggs in a large pot or bowl of cold water. For eating, use only those which lie on their side – those are the freshest! Those that stand up but still touch bottom are OK, but any that float are less than fresh. Place a dozen of the freshest eggs in a pot of cold water and bring to rolling boil. reduce heat slightly, cover and cook 2 min. Switch of heat and let stand covered until cooled to room temp.

**SHARING BLESSED EGGS (dzielenie się jajkiem):** After grace has been said, but before the Easter meal begins, all present share wedges of blessed hard-cooked eggs. Either the host goes around with a plate of quartered eggs which each guest impales on a fork or the plate is passed from guest to guest. All wait with their fork-impaled egg wedge in hand until everybody has been served, and then amid mutual wishes of “Wesołego Alleluja” and “Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych” everybody consumes their egg at the same time.

**HOME-MADE WHITE BARSZCZ SOUR (domowy zakwas do białego barszczu):** In crock or glass jar combine 1 c rye flour or 1 c rolled oats or 1 part of each, add several rye-bread crusts or 1 slice rye bread

and 1 - 3 buds slivered garlic and drench with 4 c pre-boiled luke-warm water. Cover mouth of container with cheese cloth fastened with rubber-band and let stand in warm (75°- 80°F) place 3 - 5 days, or until liquid becomes pleasantly

**EASTER SALAD (salatka wielkanocna):** Combine: 3-4 c cold, cooked potatoes diced, 3-4 chopped hard-cooked eggs, 2 peeled, cored, diced tart apples, 2 diced brined cucumbers (ogórki kiszzone), bunch of green onions chopped, several diced radishes, and a small or medium can of drained peas and carrots. Toss gently to combine, salt & pepper to taste and lace with sauce (for just over 1 c) made by mixing ½ c dairy sour cream, ½ c mayo, heaping t or T brown mustard and/or prepared horseradish (depending on sharpness desired). Decorate top with additional sauce and several sliced hard-cooked eggs and garnish with finely chopped parsley.

**GREEN PEA SALAD (salatka z zielonego groszku):** Drain well 4 c canned peas or use cooked frozen peas. Gently toss with 2-3 chopped green onions, 6 chopped radishes and 2-3 chopped dill pickles. Lace with just enough mayo to lightly coat ingredients.

**CHIVE-STUFFED EGGS (jaj ze szczypiorkowym nadzieniem):** Shell 6, cold, hard-cooked eggs, cut in half lengthwise, gently scoop out yolks and set whites aside. Mash yolks, add 3 T room-temp butter, 3 T finely chopped chives, 1/4 t mild



PHOTO: ZALADAM.PL

**TRADITIONAL WHITE EASTER BARSZCZ (biały barszcz wielkanocny):** Cook 1 lbs. of fresh (raw) kielbasa, 1 quartered onion and 1 bay leaf and cook covered in 4-5 c water at a gentle rolling boiling 45 min. Leave in pot until cooled to room temp. Remove sausage and refrigerate until needed. Strain liquid and refrigerate overnight. Next day remove and discard congealed fat. Heat sausage stock to boiling, adding water if needed to have 4 c. Add 2 c home-made barszcz sour (recipe in column on left) or store-bought żur liquid, simmer several min and remove from heat. Fork-blend 1 heaping T flour with 1 c sour cream until smooth and stir into it 1 c hot soup a T at a time, whisking until smooth. Slowly stir into soup pot and simmer briefly. As 1-2 buds crushed garlic, 1 heaping T prepared horseradish, 1 T marjoram and salt & pepper to taste if required. In soup bowls place sliced hard-cooked eggs, the sliced cooked kielbasa and (optional) some cubed farmer cheese, and ladle the hot soup over them.

paprika and mix into a uniform filling. Salt & pepper to taste and use mixture to fill egg-white halves.

**PREPARED HORSERADISH (chrzan tarty z octem):** This is the basic condiment of the Polish Easter table. Imported Polish and domestic bottled, prepared horseradish is widely available. Plain grated horseradish not containing milk or cream is preferable to the creamed variety which contains preservatives.

**EASTER SAUCE (sos do święconego):** Fork-blend 1/2 c dairy

sour cream with 1/2 c mayonnaise, add 1 - 2 chopped hard-cooked eggs and 1/2 - 3/4 c mixed finely chopped additions: dill pickle, chives or green onions, pickled mushroom and radishes. Stir in 1 heaping t to 1 T prepared horseradish and season to taste with salt, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar. An excellent zinger-upper for hard-cooked eggs and cold meats.

**RED PICKLED EGGS (jaja marynowane na czerwono):** Combine 1 c white vinegar with juice of enough canned pickled beets to get 4 c liquid. Bring to boil, simmer

briefly and set aside to cool. When cooled to room temp, pour over shelled hard-cooked eggs to cover. Use a lid or plate to keep the eggs submerged. Refrigerate overnight or longer.

**EASY BEET & HORSERADISH RELISH (łatwa ćwikła z chrzanem):** Dice the pickled beets from the red pickled-egg recipe (above) and stir in about 1 heaping t or T prepared horseradish per c diced beets. Toss gently and refrigerate overnight in closed container before using. This is the classic Polish Easter condiment to accompany ham, sausage, roasts and hard-cooked eggs.

**COLD-MEAT PLATTER (półmisek zimnych mięs):** On oval or rectangular serving platters arrange an assortment of sliced cold meats: rounds of cooked white (fresh) and smoked kielbasa, sliced ham, Canadian bacon (połędwica), kabanosy (thin dry sausage), sliced pork roast, Krakowska sausage, kaszanka (kiszka is also good cold!), boiled beef tongue, head cheese (salceson), etc. Decorate platter with red pickled eggs, radish roses, dill-pickle spears and sprigs of curly parsley.

**BOILED FRESH KIEŁBASA (biała kielbasa gotowana):** Make pin or needle pricks at intervals in 3 lbs fresh kielbasa. Place in pot of cold water which should cover it by at least 1". Add 1 bay leaf and 1 large quartered onion and cook on low to a gentle boil. Simmer on low covered 45 min from the time boiling starts. Let stand in hot liquid another 10 min before serving. Pork must be fully cooked so make sure it is no longer pink inside.

**BAKED POLISH HAM (polska szynka pieczona):** Remove a Krakus ham from its tin and transfer to baking pan together with the gelatin included in tin. Drench ham with 1 c Polish mead (miód pitny = honey wine), sprinkle with a little marjoram, cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake 1 hr at 375°. The ham is already fully cooked so all you need to do is heat it through.

Next month: Desserts for your Easter table.




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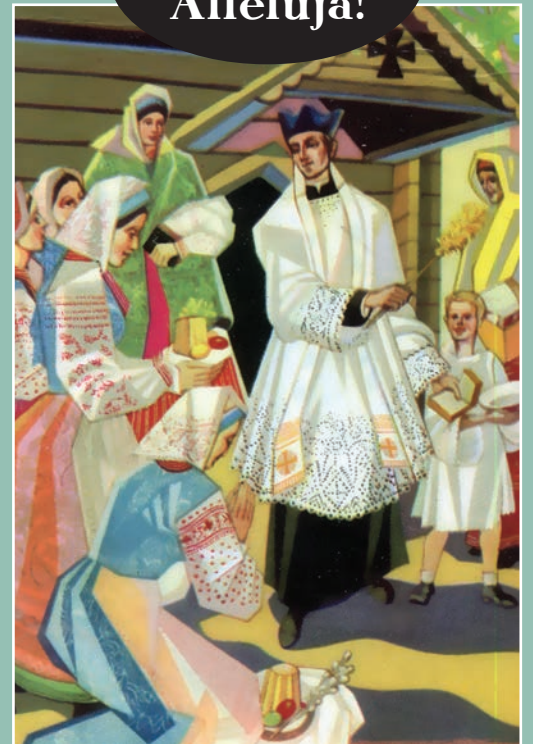
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## POLONIA PLACES

## Saint Stanislaus Church in Posen, Illinois

by Gregory L. Witul

**St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr**  
14414 McKinley Avenue Posen, Illinois  
Status: Open

If you drive around the United States you can find a number of places whose names sound Polish, but actually aren't. California once had the town of Warsaw, just north of Mendota, but no Poles had lived there. In New York, another Warsaw can be found, but its name is the product of early settlers naming towns after the great cities of Europe, like Amsterdam, Paris, and Rome. But if you head to the center of the country, just south of the Chicago, you will find another place that wasn't Polish to begin with, but eventually became the epitome of Polonia, the Village of Posen, and in the heart of the settlement, Saint Stanislaus Church.

The first pioneers to the area that would become Posen were of Dutch and German extraction. As middle America became more industrialized and factory workers needed homes, the former central European farmers hired Polish speaking real estate agents from Chicago to sell

their subdivided land. Over the course of 1893, the northern part of the Town of Bremen transformed into the settlement of Posen. That same year a wooden church was raised by the Polish Catholics and dedicated in honor of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr. The Archdiocese of Chicago officially established the church as a parish in 1894 with Reverend Stanislaus Nawrocki of St. Mary of Perpetual Help Church in Chicago serving as its shepherd. There would be a few other priests who would oversee St. Stan's as part of their duties including Reverend Serfino Cosimi. Despite his Italian origins, Father Cosimi was proud of his flock's Polish heritage. It was through his work that the village became incorporated and officially

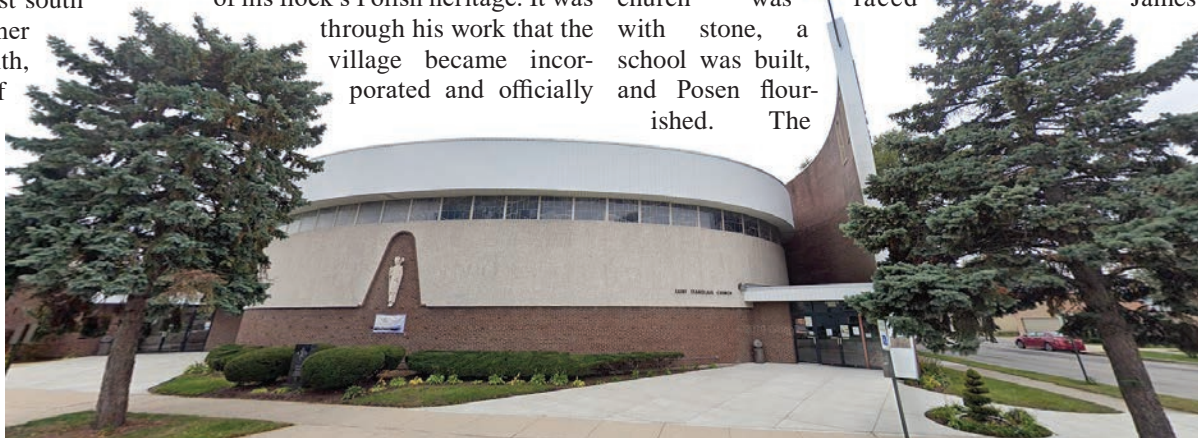
named Posen.

In June 1902, St. Stanislaus became a standalone parish with the appointment of Reverend August Koytek. The one-time assistant at St. Josaphat Church in Chicago would still receive help from Father Cosimi until the priest's death on January 10, 1906. Father Koytek helped to establish a Mission church in Blue Island for the Poles, St. Isidore Church, before being sent to organize Assumption Church in the West Pullman area of Chicago.

In time, the church expanded and the wooden church was replaced with stone, a school was built, and Posen flourished. The

post-war years of the 1950s were the dawn of a golden age for St. Stanislaus that culminated with the construction of a new and modern church building. On July 9, 1967, the entire village turned out as Monsignor Francis Lesniak, representing John Cardinal Codey, broke ground for the new structure. The circular style church incorporated a number of liturgical changes authorized by the Second Vatican Council. The congregational facing altar, lack of communion rail, impressionistic statues and stained glass, gave the building a distinct midcentury modern aesthetic at the time of its dedication. According to architect James R. Cronin, "the modernistic structure was designed in such a way that the outside wall sweeps around the church, rising to a belltower."

Today, St. Stanislaus is truly a modern Catholic church, where the Ghana-born Father Pius Kokose makes sure to recognize the Feast of St. John Cantius, while offering the Mass in English and Spanish. By appealing to so many different parishioners St. Stanislaus has been able to thrive where so many other Polish churches have closed.



## Smialowski: The Man Behind the Mittens Photograph

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over the course of Inauguration Day, Brendan Smialowski photographed the security forces stationed around Washington, the arrival of national leaders and the moment Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States.

He also took a photo of Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., sitting cross-legged on a folding chair, bundled in a heavy coat and knit mittens, appearing unamused.

Smialowski, a staff photographer for Agence France-Presse, has been covering Washington since 2003. He has captured historical moments and traveled with presidents and other senior officials. He has won accolades from Pictures of the Year International, World Press Photo and other professional photography organizations. But his photo of Sanders received one of the higher forms of recognition available on



Brendan Smialowski, a decorated Washington, D.C. photographer working for Agence France-Presse, outside the White House on Jan. 25, 2021. He said he had been purposefully keeping an eye on Sen. Bernie Sanders before taking the "mittens" photo that went viral.

and the other eye on the crowd.

His camera was bouncing between Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Josh Hawley of Missouri when he noticed Sanders with his naked eye, he said.

"I just remember thinking, I need to go back to Sen. Sanders," he said. "It was just how he was holding himself, and how he was positioning on the chair. I moved over and just kind of in the moment decided it was worth taking the picture."

He was surprised the image was sharp, he said, because it was taken from a distance with a slower shutter speed and a long lens.

Asked why this particular photo had made such an impression, Smialowski said he wasn't sure, but Sanders' young, internet-savvy fan base most likely played a role.

"Sanders is a well-defined politician; he has a well-defined image,"

## Walesa Nominates Navalny for Peace Prize

GDANSK — Polish freedom icon Lech Walesa nominated Alexei Navalny for a Nobel Peace Prize, lauding the jailed Russian opposition figure for his courage in working to reveal corruption and defend political pluralism.

Walesa himself won the award in 1983 for his leadership of the Solidarity labor movement that brought a peaceful end to communism in Poland, where he later became the first post-war democratically elected president.

Walesa's secretary Marek Kaczmar said the 77-year-old had nominated Navalny in a letter sent to the Nobel Committee on Feb. 4.

The move came just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic was sentenced to nearly three years in prison, leading his supporters to take to the streets of Moscow in protest.

Navalny received the jail term for violating the terms of a 2014 suspended sentence on embezzlement charges he claims were a pretext to silence him.

In an interview with AFP, Walesa called Navalny a "hero" and said if he could speak to him, he would tell the 44-year-old to follow his communist-era example and fight the system.

"I felt that it wasn't the people who were to blame, but the system which allows for bad behavior on the part of leaders. And that's something you can see in Russia," Walesa said.

Walesa said Navalny was fighting against totalitarianism on behalf of democratic ideals, basic human rights and freedom and the rule of law, according to excerpts from the letter quoted by the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily.



Just a few of the memes created from Smialowski's photograph of Sanders (left): Under the Sorting Hat from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, and (right), replacing the Muppet character Statler, next to his heckling buddy Waldorf.

the internet: It was memed.

The image of Sanders spread like wildfire across the internet, as social media users found new locations for him and his mittens. He sat on a bench with Forrest Gump, rode public transportation in New York City and Chicago, was a guest at the Last Supper and perched atop a metal beam alongside 11 Depression-era ironworkers. He even made it to the moon.

Smialowski has covered several inaugurations, but Biden's was different by "nearly every metric," he said in an interview with the *New*

*York Times*. There was increased security, a limited and socially distanced audience and a National Mall filled with flags instead of people.

He was positioned with a direct view of both the section where the senators were seated and the stage where the ceremony would take place. Guests began trickling in. Sanders arrived around 11:30 a.m., a large envelope tucked under his arm.

"It's like a 'Where's Waldo' moment," Smialowski said. He kept one eye locked into his viewfinder, watching for key political figures,

he said. "It was a good moment, and I think the fact that it's a good moment helps it, but really what carries it is who Sen. Sanders is."

The downside of this particular photo going viral?

It's not the "prettiest work I've ever made," Smialowski said. "I wish other work got this type of attention, and I wish journalism got this type of attention. But that's not reality. And it's not my place to tell people, you know, how to consume what we do."

— Adapted from The New York Times

## LEGAL NOTICE

Buffalo United Charter School  
325 Manhattan Ave, Buffalo, NY 14214-1809  
716-835-9862 PHONE • 716-408-9575 FAX

## OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Buffalo United Charter School is now participating in Enroll Buffalo Charters. Open enrollment for the 2021-2022 academic school year is done in one enrollment window.

## ENROLLMENT WINDOW

	Begins	Ends
Round	December 1st, 2020	April 1st, 2021

Applications received after the enrollment window is closed will be accepted on a first-come, first serve basis for any remaining open seats.

Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be completed by visiting [www.buffalounitedcharterschool.org](http://www.buffalounitedcharterschool.org) or <https://enrollbuffalocharters.org/>. For questions, please contact the Buffalo United Charter School Office at 716-835-9862

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Buffalo United Charter School admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.



## SPORTS

## Stefanski Landslide Winner as Coach of the Year

by Tom Tarapacki

**Kevin Stefanski**, in his first season as Cleveland Browns head coach, won the 2020 AP NFL Coach of the Year award. With 25 votes, Stefanski took half of the ballots cast and far outdistanced runner-up Sean McDermott of Buffalo, who received seven votes.

In a year in which all NFL teams dealt with adversity due to COVID-19, Stefanski overcame a tough situation for any rookie coach. The 38-year-old was the first coach to lead the Browns to the playoffs since 2002 and first to win a playoff game since 1994.

Stefanski came to Cleveland from Minnesota, where he served as offensive coordinator. He was succeeded in that position by former Super Bowl winning head coach Gary Kubiak. Kubiak retired after one season, and the Vikings recently named his 33-year-old son, Klint, as his successor.



Cleveland Browns coach Kevin Stefanski.

recalled. “So ahead of the celebration my dad, Krzysztof, had a little chat with the priest. This was in my hometown, Leszno, a tiny village 40 minutes west of Warsaw, so my dad knew everybody there. He said, ‘Listen, father, maybe we could start this thing off half an hour earlier? And perhaps cut off the last 10 minutes? You see, my son’s got a game...’”

The priest thought about it for a moment and then said, “Eh, sure, why not? We know how much he loves football. We’ll be quick.”

As soon as the ceremony ended Robert and his dad ran to the car and drove to the game — which, of course, he won.

“I think that story sums up my childhood,” said Robert. “It also

the uncertainty and the misery but got back into shape and worked on his confidence. “Four years later, I was being bombarded with offers to leave Polish football,” he pointed out.

“When I look back at everything that has happened in my life — when this movie plays in my mind, I realize how lucky I was. You never win titles alone. I could not have performed the way I have without help from those close to me.” He credits his mother, who was there at his lowest point, teammates, friends, even “the priest who let me leave my Communion early.”

#### OPEN UP ABOUT PROBLEMS.

There’s also his wife, Anna. “We met at university while I was playing for Znicz Pruszków. She studied nutrition and physical education. When I was about 26, we began to look at how to use her knowledge to improve my diet and my mental approach to the game. We spoke about every problem. Again I realized something that I wish they would teach all young footballers: Whenever you open up about your problems instead of burying them inside, they instantly became easier to solve. That was a big, big step up in my development as a footballer — and as a human being.”

Of course, Lewandowski also credits his father. “He never lived to see me become a professional footballer, although I’d like to think that he is now watching all of my games from a higher place — from the best seat in the house. He was the one who put the ball at my feet, and who never let me forget why I played football. Not for trophies. Not for money. Not for glory. No. We play because we love it.”

Again, this is excerpted from a much longer article, and I urge you to go to the website and read it in its entirety.

#### It’s really nice to be Polish

**Hubert Hurkacz** defeated **Sebastian Korda** in the final of the Delray Beach Open, 6-3, 6-3, for his second career ATP Tour title. The 6-foot-5 Hurkacz’s only other title was in 2019 at Winston-Salem, where he became the second Polish tour-level champion in the Open era.

Although the match took place in a small town in South Florida, Hurkacz felt right at home. A small but vocal contingent of Polish fans made its presence known despite the damp conditions and limited attendance due to COVID-19 protocols.

“It’s amazing that I can represent Poland and also that the Polish people are coming and supporting us playing,” Hurkacz said. “Whether that’s [here in Delray Beach] or in Sydney, Australia for the ATP Cup. So it’s really nice to be Polish.”

After the match, Hurkacz also recognized fellow Pole **Iga Swiatek** as “a huge inspiration” after the 19-year-old ended their country’s long wait for a Grand Slam singles champion last year.

“What she did at the French Open was unbelievable and a huge inspiration,” he said. “It’s amazing what she has done, winning a Grand Slam not being seeded and playing the way she played. So that’s really inspiring for all of Poland what she did achieve.”



Konroyd. Former Blackhawk now a broadcaster.

#### Konroyd Talks Hockey

If you’re a Blackhawks fan in Chicago, you’re very familiar with **Steve Konroyd**. The former NHL defenseman is now a broadcaster in the Windy City, currently the co-host of intermission and post-game segments on WGN-TV and NBC Sports Chicago broadcasts of Chicago Blackhawks’ games.

However, you may not know about his Polish roots. Both of Steve’s parents were immigrants; his mom came from England and his dad came from Poland. He anglicized his name to Konroyd from Koniarski.

Konroyd was born in Scarborough, Ontario. After playing Junior A hockey with the Oshawa Generals, the 6’ 1” defenseman was drafted in the second round of the 1980 NHL draft by the Calgary Flames. He played for Calgary, the Islanders, Chicago, Hartford, Detroit, and Ottawa before retiring after 14 years in the NHL. Konroyd was considered a puck-moving stay-at-home defenseman with very good skating skills

Konroyd then got hired to do radio for the Winnipeg Jets, who were moving to Phoenix. He was the first radio color commentator for the Phoenix Coyotes, now the Arizona Coyotes. In 1996 he got a TV job with San Jose, and then the Columbus Blue Jackets. For the last dozen or so years he’s been the pre-and post-game analyst on Chicago Blackhawks broadcasts on Comcast SportsNet and WGN-TV. He also does the color commentating on about 20 Blackhawks games each year, filling in for another Polish American, **Ed Olczyk**.

#### Basketball Update



**Justin Jaworski** - Even though his junior season was ended by a knee injury, Lafayette senior guard Justin Jaworski opened this season with

a career-high 37 points to earn GEICO Player of the Week honors. The Schwenksville, Pa. native has been consistently among the NCAA DI Scoring Leaders this year. He has averaged more than 21 points throughout the season, and is also among the country’s top 3-point shooters.

Last year Jaworski was the Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year and selected to the Academic All-Patriot League Team and the All-Patriot League Second Team. The 6’ 3” guard became three-time Patriot League Academic Honor Roll selection after leading team with a perfect 4.0 GPA in the spring semester. Despite the injury

that caused him to miss the final seven games, he finished in the top five in the Patriot League in scoring (17.1 ppg), free-throw percentage (86.7%) and threes per game (2.6).

**Nate Laszewski** - The 6’ 10” junior forward has stepped up

in a big way for Notre Dame this season, leading the team in scoring and rebounding. Against Virginia he scored 28 points, a career high, and making 8-of-11 field goals.

Last season Laszewski was named the “Mr. Clutch” Award Winner for the Notre Dame basketball team after hitting multiple clutch shots at the end of wins over Toledo and North Carolina. His dad, Jay, starred at Wisconsin.

**Quinn Slazinski** - The highly recruited 6’ 8” sophomore forward has assumed a bigger role for Louisville after not playing much his freshman season.

His family moved from Michigan to Houston when Quinn was in the sixth grade. He was a first team all-district selection as a sophomore at Westbury Christian School in Houston in helping his team win the Texas 5A championship for the 21st time in 26 years, scoring 23 points in the title game.

Slazinski has always been scrutinized, especially in high school when he was rated the No. 1 player in his class in Houston. People even showed up to his tournaments to cheer against him, which led his mother to make t-shirts. They read, “I HATE QUINN SLAZINSKI,” a play on the old Christian Laetner slogan, coined when the former Duke superstar fed off national criticism. Quinn’s father, Mike, was a standout athlete at Grand Valley State.

#### NFL Notes

**Rob Gronkowski** won his fourth Super Bowl ring ... **Stefan Wisniewski** again started at right guard for the Chiefs in the Super Bowl ... Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker **T.J. Watt** finished a close second to Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald for the AP Defensive Player of the Year award ... KC’s **Travis Kelce** finished with 10 catches for 133 yards in Super Bowl LV.

#### And Finally ...

**Valerie Pawlak** of Dunkirk, N.Y., a member of the Buffalo Bills Hall of Fame of Class 2000, penned a thank you letter to the Buffalo Bills, which was printed in her hometown *Dunkirk Observer*. She noted that while the Bills pray before and after each game, they should be on the field to honor the American Flag when the national anthem is played.

“Look, Green Bay and Buffalo Bills were both losers,” wrote Pawlak. “They did not come out to recognize the flag.”

Pawlak also wants to Bills to return their training camp to Fredonia State College.

#### Kids from Poland are not supposed to be the best in the world

You may have heard of **Robert Lewandowski**. He’s a 32-year-old striker from Poland who plays for the Bundesliga club Bayern Munich and captains the Poland national team. In



Lewandowski: simply the best.

December he was named The Best FIFA Men’s Player 2020, the first Polish player to ever win the award.

There’s an excellent piece by Lewandowski called “The Movie” at [www.theplayertribune.com](http://www.theplayertribune.com) that talks about how he got to be one of the greatest soccer players in the world.

Looking back Lewandowski says, “I knew I’d had a great year with Bayern Munich,” he wrote. “I knew I might win the award. Perhaps I even deserved it. But in Poland, we have this inferiority complex. We’ve never had anyone named the world’s best player. When you are a kid, you have no superstars to follow. The scouts always say things like, ‘He’s pretty skilled ... for a Polish kid.’ So we have this feeling that no one is ever good enough — that none of us is ever going to make it to the top.”

Lewandowski goes on to point out that “kids from Poland are not supposed to be the best in the world. It’s just not supposed to happen.” He not only couldn’t believe it when he received the honor, but “my life really began to flash in front of my eyes.” His mind went back to his early days, thinking of all the people who helped him along the way. “It was like a movie.”

**HIS FIRST COMMUNION.** Lewandowski talked about his first Communion, and what a special day it is for Catholics. “The trouble was, I had a game three hours after the Mass, and it was really far away,” he

sums up my dad.” Lewandowski began playing at age 5, and because there were no teams for that age in Leszno he had to play with kids who were two years older. “It was tough, because I was very shy and skinny, and two years is a big deal at that age. For many years I also played for a team in Warsaw, and I had to travel one hour each way to get to training,” he recalled. “Some other parents thought he was crazy. They really did.”

**TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.** There were always people who thought Lewandowski was too small and skinny to make it in the sport, but “my parents always encouraged me to think for myself, to ignore what other people were saying. They would always tell me this one thing, and it took me years to understand what they meant. They would say, ‘Robert ... trust your instincts.’ It’s a good lesson for a striker, or for anyone really.”

His father died when he was 16, and at that time he was playing for Legia Warsaw II, the reserve team of one of the biggest clubs in Poland. About a year later, in 2006, the team suddenly dropped him.

Consoled by his mother, he caught on with a smaller club, Znicz Pruszków. “I was in such a bad state that I couldn’t even run properly. One of my legs would lag behind the other, as if I had a block of cement around my ankle. It looked comical, you know?”

He said he learned a lot from



## ACADEMIA

## Winners of First Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition



(l. to r.): Maya Tomczyk (3rd Prize), Ala Grabarczyk (1st Prize), and Sabina Urbanska (2nd Prize).

HARTFORD, Conn. — The **Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.** (PCCGH) announced the top three winners of its First Annual Anna-Mae Maglaty Literary Competition: 1st Prize: Ala Grabarczyk, 2nd Prize: Sabina Urbanska, and 3rd Prize: Maya Tomczyk. All recipients are students at the Hartford Polish Saturday School. Nine essays, written in the Polish language, were submitted on the topic of “Why I am Proud to Say I am Polish.” Cash awards were presented on December 19, 2020 by PCCGH president, Lilia Kieltyka, who “has long had the goal of promoting the involvement of Polish youth in Club activities.” A copy of the winning essay, in Polish along with an English translation, can be viewed on the PCCGH website: [www.polishculturalclub.org](http://www.polishculturalclub.org). The Club sincerely thanks the Hartford Polish Saturday School for helping inaugurate this event, particularly in light of the COVID challenges that their teaching staff had to face.

The competition is named in memory of long-time Club member, Anna-Mae Maglaty, a devoted and beloved educator from West Hartford who believed in the power of the written word as well as in the abilities of the children she taught. As an affiliate, PCCGH acknowledges and thanks the national American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) which matched a portion of the top prize through its Wachtel Literary Award program. The mission of the PCCGH, established in 1976, is to share and promote Polish heritage and culture with members of Greater Hartford’s Polonia and the general community through the staging of programs and events and in the award of annual scholarships.

According to its president, Anna

Smerdel-Ramoya, the Hartford Polish Saturday School is the oldest Polish language school in the state of Connecticut, having served the Greater Hartford area for over 83 years. It is a member of the Polish Supplementary School Council of America and uses a curriculum based on the “Teaching Program for Polish Schools in the USA” as prepared by the Educational Commission of the Polish American Congress. The school is in session from September to May and offers small class sizes for children ages four and up which helps to provide a family-like, stress-free atmosphere in which to learn the Polish language, as well as the geography, history, culture, and traditions of Poland.

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

### Virtual Chopin Book Talk Open to the Public

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The **Polish American Arts Association** is pleased to announce that it will hold a virtual book talk with Annik LaFarge, author of “Chasing Chopin: A Musical Journey Across Three Centuries, Four Countries, and a Half-Dozen Revolutions.”

Described by the *New York Times* as a “charming and loving new book” which blends “biography, cultural commentary and personal reflection” the work centers itself on Chopin’s iconic *Funeral March*, the third movement of his piano *Sonata No. 2*.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend this free event. Donations to the PAAA’s scholarship fund are encouraged.

More information can be found by visiting [www.paaa.us](http://www.paaa.us).

## World’s oldest active pianist turns 110

KRAKÓW — Wanda Szajowska, widely regarded as the world’s oldest still active pianist, recently turned 110. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, her birthday celebration was rather low-key. Rather than visit in person with flowers, gifts and birthday wishes, her admirers gathered outside her Kraków home where she treated them to a concert. They responded by serenading her with ‘Dwieście lat’ (May you live 200 years). Polish President Andrzej Duda conferred upon Profes-

sor Szajowska the Centennial of Poland’s Rebirth Medal.

A native of the formerly Polish city of Lwów, her family was forced to leave after the USSR permanently annexed the eastern half of pre-war Poland. They moved to Kraków, where Wanda studied at the Jagiellonian University and became a music professor. A neighbor lady, who lives on the same floor of her condo, says every morning she enjoys hearing Szajowska’s beautiful piano recital.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

## Polish American Council of Texas Essay Contest

The Polish American Council of Texas is offering four \$1,000 scholarships to any Grade 12 students enrolled in a Texas high school.

The essay topic is “A Polish Texan’s Story.”

The essay must focus on one person currently living in Texas, who is either Polish or of Polish descent. It must include the story of their (or their ancestor’s) immigration to Texas from Poland; biographical information; milestones; involvement in Polish-interest activities; organizations; and Polish cultural efforts.

Extra consideration will be given to students who volunteer a minimum of two hours with a Polish-interest or multi-cultural organization or event.

Additional requirements can be found on PACT’s web site, <https://pactx.org/>, or by writing to: Polish American Council of Texas, P.O. Box 1357, La Vernia, TX 78121.

Deadline for submission is April 6, 2021.

**THE POLISH AMERICAN ARTS ASSOCIATION** of Washington, D.C. invites current full-time college students to apply for its 2021 scholarship grant. Students must be either from, or studying in, Virginia, Maryland, or Washington, D.C. Scholarship grants of up to \$3,000

will be distributed. There is no fee to apply, and applications are due by April 30, 2021. More information can be found by visiting [www.paaa.us/scholarship](http://www.paaa.us/scholarship).

**THE POLISH-AMERICAN BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BERKS COUNTY, PA.** will award \$16,000 in scholarships to Berks County high school graduates of Polish descent during the spring of 2021.

Scholarship application forms and guidelines are available in the office of the guidance counselor in all Berks County high schools and they also can be downloaded from the PABEBC website at [www.pabeberks.org](http://www.pabeberks.org).

Application forms are due April 10, 2021, to the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Sandra Lubas Hummel, 115 Watercress Drive, Birdsboro, PA 19508-9715. Questions about the scholarship program can be directed to Ms. Hummel at (610) 207-7065 or email [sahummel@ptd.net](mailto:sahummel@ptd.net).

**THE POLISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION** of Berks County will again partner with PABEBC and award a \$1,000 scholarship to a Berks County high school senior of Polish American descent. For this scholarship, students are

asked to submit a project on Polish history, culture and/or traditions. Application forms and guidelines for this scholarship are also available in all Berks County high school guidance offices and by contacting the PAHABC scholarship chairperson Sandra Lubas Hummel at [sahummel@ptd.net](mailto:sahummel@ptd.net) or call (610) 207-7065. The deadline for receipt of the project and all accompanying documents is March 7, 2021.

**THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** is accepting applications for the Richard Gorecki Scholarship for year 2021. To be eligible the applicant must be a citizen of the United States of America, and of Polish ancestry. Applicant must be a full-time student enrolled as a sophomore, junior, senior or post-graduate in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program at a college or university, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0. Applicant must be a member of their local Polish American Congress Division or if none in their area, then a member thru the National PAC.

Applications and more information can be obtained at [www.pacfc.org](http://www.pacfc.org), emailing to [pacfc@pacfc.org](mailto:pacfc@pacfc.org), or by phone at (773) 763-9942. Deadline to apply is April 15, 2021.

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

## Polish American Journal Foundation

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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## OBITUARIES

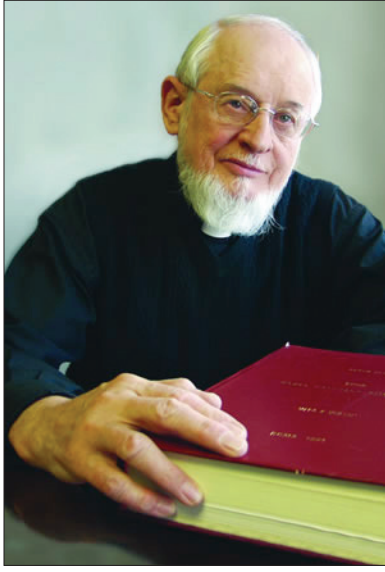
## Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Witness to First Miracle of St. Faustina

STOCKBRIDGE, Mass. — Fr. Kazimir Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior of the Marian Fathers announced the death of Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC on Feb. 11, 2021.

It was under Fr. Seraphim's leadership that the diary of St. Faustina Kowalska was translated from her four original Polish notebooks into most major world languages and organized into its present form.

Fr. Seraphim was a familiar face to EWTN viewers from his appearances on instructive and inspirational programs dealing with The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion, as revealed to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.

He was Rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and Director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, both located in Stockbridge. For more than 20 years he was Vice-Postulator for North America for the Canonization Cause of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, the "Secretary" and "Apostle" of Jesus (The Di-



vine Mercy) and "...God's gift to our time" (Pope John Paul II, canonization homily). He was a witness to the first miracle attributed to Saint M. Faustina's intercession that opened the way for her Beatification in 1993, as well as the coordinator of the efforts that served to verify that miracle and a second

one which made possible the adding of the Religious Sister to the list of Saints on April 30th 2000.

A native of Adams, Massachusetts, more than 55 years a professed religious and 50 years a priest, Fr. Seraphim is a member of the St. Stanislaus Kostka Province of the Congregation of Marians of The Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. With licentiate degrees from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (The Angelicum) and the Pontifical Institute of Eastern Church Studies (The Orientale) in Rome, he lectured for several semesters in the Department of Theology at the Catholic University of America and served in seminary and formation positions for the Marians.

Fr. Seraphim also held various administrative roles in his St. Stanislaus Kostka Province and in the Congregation's Generalate in Rome, as well as pastoral roles in Eastern Rite parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut.

He served as a core-member of the Bethany House of Intercession for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, a spiritual renewal movement for Catholic clergy in the 1970s, serving priests from all over the world. During the 1980s, after the Holy See lifted the ban on Sister Faustina's writings and forms of Divine Mercy devotions, Fr. Seraphim was called from Bethany House to head the Divine Mercy Department at the Marian Helpers headquarters in Stockbridge. In that position, he wrote series of articles for the *Marian Helpers* magazine, and supervised the production of various books, pamphlets, and audio-visual materials dealing with The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion and Sister Faustina's writings.

Fr. Seraphim served as theological advisor for the award-winning video docu-drama *Divine Mercy—No Escape* and for the devotional video *Sister Faustina: The Promise of Mercy*. He also played a significant role in the production and nar-

ration of a video released in 1992, *Sister Faustina: The Apostle of Divine Mercy*. Then, from November 1991 to October 1995, he served as director of the Association of Marian Helpers under the honorary title "Father Joseph." In this capacity, he supervised the scripting and production of another video, *Time for Mercy* — released in 1994 by the Marians in conjunction with Marian Communications Ltd., which won a First Place Gold Camera Award in international competition for outstanding creativity in the production of Audio Visual Communications.

In October 1995, Fr. Seraphim was assigned to full time promotion of The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion, participating in Divine Mercy retreats, conferences, and symposia.

With the late Fr. Ladislaus Pelczynski, MIC, Fr. Seraphim was one of the original founders of the internationally renowned shrine on Eden Hill.

## Cecylia Roznowska, Founder of Polonia Ensemble

Cecylia Celina Roznowska, 92, born in Poland on November 22, 1928, passed away in Chicago on January 10, 2021. Pani Roznowska spent years as a choreographer, ethnographer, and teacher of Polish dance and song.

In 1954, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Cultural Education in Gdansk, Poland and, in 1956, she was awarded a master's degree in choreographic studies from the University of Warsaw. It was also in 1954 that she founded the "Warmia" Folk Dance Ensemble; she served as its artistic director and choreographer for 30 years.

She visited the United States in 1981 as a consultant of Polish folk groups, and in 1984 she made the decision to leave Poland and her choreographic career. That same year, she decided not only to make Chicago her permanent home but, because of her love of the Polish culture and dance, she created the Northwest Center of Traditional Polish Dancers, which later would come to be called the Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble in Chicago.

She made sure that Polish heritage, music, and culture were taught bilingually. Under her direction, the Polonia Ensemble grew in popularity within the Chicago area and beyond. The dancers could be seen performing at libraries, public parks, community centers, Chicago's Navy Pier, the annual May 3rd Polish Constitution Day parades, and at many Polish and Polish American social events.

Her Polonia Ensemble travelled throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, South America, and Taiwan. Under her leadership, the



Ensemble won awards and recognition at numerous folk festivals around the world. In 1998 the Ensemble performed for Pope John Paul II in Italy and, again in 2000, in Israel.

Roznowska received many awards from the Polish government for her significant contributions in keeping alive and spreading traditional Polish folk art all over the world. She received the Gold and Silver Medals of Merit from the Polish Ministry of Culture and the Gloria Artis Gold Medal. She was also recognized by many Chicago and State of Illinois officials. In 2007, Roznowska was honored by being selected to be the Grand Marshall of the Chicago's 115th May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade.

She leaves behind a daughter, Anna Krysinska, loving grandchildren, Jaclyn and Jonathan, who will continue to follow in her footsteps as artistic directors and choreographers for the Polonia Ensemble, and a great grandson, Lucas.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Delphine "Dolly" Huneycutt, Former President of Polish Women's Alliance of America

born on June 19, 1938, passed away on January 23, 2021.

A resident of East Chicago, Indiana for over 76 years, Huneycutt was an active member of the city's community and St. Stanislaus Parish. She took great pride in her Polish heritage as president of St. Stanislaus's PTO, a member of St. Cecilia Choir, president of St. Stan's Rosary Sodality, and Group 132 of the Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA). For many years she was the coordinator of the parish's annual picnic. She also coordinated the annual "Polska Wigilia" at the Carmelite Monastery in Munster, Indiana. For over 30 years, she

was a secretary for the Graver and Union Tank Car Company.

From 2011-2015, Huneycutt was president of the national PWAA and president of the PWAA's Charitable and Educational Fund through 2020. She enjoyed traveling through the United States meeting with PWAA members. Additionally, she was the former first vice president of the Polish American Congress and a board member of The Polish Museum of America.

Huneycutt is survived by a daughter Dessie Kammer, a son John Huneycutt, and three grandchildren.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Teresa Zabinska-Zawadzki, daughter of Warsaw Zoo directors who saved Jews

WARSAW (AP) — The daughter of former Warsaw Zoo directors Jan and Antonina Zabinski, who saved hundreds of Jews from the Holocaust by hiding them at the zoo and whose story was told in the Hollywood movie *The Zookeeper's Wife*, has died at the age of 77. No cause of death was given.

"She always talked with pride about her parents and their heroism," the zoo said.

It said that after having lived in Denmark, she returned to Warsaw some years ago.

Zabinska-Zawadzki was born at the zoo in 1944, under Nazi German occupation of Poland during the Second World War. For years

during the war her parents saved some 300 Jews by hiding them at their villa on the zoo grounds, or in empty animal enclosures. Zabinska-Zawadzki's brother Ryszard, who was 12 years older than her, brought food to the people in hiding and was featured in the movie. He died in 2019.

Israel's Yad Vashem Institute has recognized the Zabinskis as Righteous Among the Nations for having risked the family's lives in order to save Jewish lives.

In 2017, Zabinska-Zawadzki attended Warsaw's gala screening of *The Zookeeper's Wife*, a movie starring Jessica Chastain, about her parents' heroism.

The movie was based on a 2007 U.S. bestseller book by the same title, written by American author Diane Ackerman, that revealed the story to the world.



Delphine "Dolly" Huneycutt, 82,



— Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Robert Biniszkiewicz, Community Leader

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Robert "Bob" Biniszkiewicz — a local entrepreneur, founder of the Walden Insurance Agency, civic leader, community choral singer, self-taught intellectual, aspiring pilot, and arts enthusiast — died of natural causes Feb. 2, 2021 at the age of 90.

In 1974, Biniszkiewicz was named an *Am Pol Eagle* "Citizen of the Year" for "his outstanding leadership in gathering community support for a proposed human services center to serve the Polish American community." Now known as the St. Vincent Health Center, it still stands at 1500 Broadway and serves the Broadway-Fillmore community today.

"Though he was not raised speaking Polish at home, he learned it as a second language and identified strongly with Polish community," said his son, Robert F. Biniszkiewicz.

Biniszkiewicz was a member of the Polish Union of America, Professional Businessmen of America, Chopin Singing Society, Independent Insurance Agents, and the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, Inc.

Private services and military honors were held, followed by entombment in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date.

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## PHILATELICS

## Stamp Collecting is more than a hobby, it is educational and relaxing

by Barbara Szydłowski

More than just a way to pass the time, philately or stamp collecting can be a learning and culturally enriching experience. Consider the United States Postage stamps that have been issued honoring Poles and their achievements.



January 16, 1931 marks the date the first stamp honoring a Pole was issued by the United States Postal Service (USPS). A two-cent stamp, it commemorated the 150th anniversary of the death of Casimir Pulaski at the Battle of Savannah during the American War of Independence. As a cavalry general he won distinction in many campaigns earning him the title "Father of the American Cavalry."

In 1933, a five-cent stamp commemorative was issued to honor General Thaddeus Kosciuszko who fought for freedom with the American Revolutionary Army. He distinguished himself winning a victory at Saratoga and designing and building West Point.



Starting in 1943 and extending over a 15-month period, the USPS issued a series of 13 commemorative stamps of five-cent denomination as a tribute to the 13 nations overrun, occupied, and annexed by Axis Powers during or shortly before

the Second World War.

The Champion of Liberty Series was introduced in 1957 during the Eisenhower administration. The seventh addition to this series was in 1960 when a four-cent commemorative stamp was issued honoring Ignacy Paderewski who fought for freedom in his country.



Another Pole was not honored until 1973 when Nicolaus Copernicus was featured on an eight-cent postage stamp. His theory that the sun, not the earth was the central position of the solar system replaced a theory that had been accepted for several hundred years.

The year 1966 marked the 50th anniversary of Poland's Millennium, and the United States issued a five-cent commemorative stamp with the traditional White Eagle and Red Shield. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing issued over 100,000 commemorative stamps for this historical event. The stamp was designed by Edmund D. Lewandowski and the Polonus Society spearheaded a drive to have this stamp issued.



For more information about Stamps on Poland visit <https://www.polonus.org/>.

### THE PONDERING POLE

## An Admiration for the Ziolkowskis

by Ed Poniewaz

I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Crazy Horse Memorial, sculpted by Korczak Ziolkowski, and located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This family and cultural project, depicting the "Oglala Lakota warrior, Crazy Horse, riding a horse and pointing to his tribal land," is as big as the mountain it sits on. One day I will see it in person.

There is another Ziolkowski that has made a major mark in an important and special way not as a sculptor but as a writer. Dr. Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm, the niece of Korczak Ziolkowski, has written over 30 books in both Polish and English, and has received numerous awards including most recently the Gold Cross of Merit, Turzanski Foundation Literary Award, Witness to History/Swiadek Historii Award, and in 2020, Outstanding Pole Abroad Award.

You can read more about her life and achievements in Wikipedia and she is also featured in the Winter 2020 issue of *Polish Heritage* published by the American Council for Polish Culture. Start reading her books while we wait to hear about the next "monumental" Ziolkowski to emerge.

**POLISH OR NOT?** The spouses and partners of American celebrities keep coming. **Jane Hajduk** is an American actress and the wife

of Tim Allen, the star of television sitcoms *Home Improvement* and *Last Man Standing* and of numerous popular movies including *For Richer or Poorer* and *Crazy on the Outside*. Jane has 17 credits in television and film herself including the movie *Zoom* in 2006 and *Ultimate Spider-Man* in 2005.

According to [ethnicelebs.com](http://ethnicelebs.com), Jane was born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1966 and is 75% Polish. "Her paternal grandparents were born in Poland and were listed as Polish speakers on the 1930 U.S. Census." Her maternal grandmother Helen is the daughter of Felix Feroz and Eleanore Gabryszewski, both born in Poland.

Since climate change initiatives are such a big part of the new Biden administration, I checked *Wikipedia* to see if there is a famous Polish climate scientist or even any at all. Under the search "List of Climate Scientists," there are none that are tied to the country of Poland (Nigeria, Wales, and Armenia are represented) and only one I noticed had a Polish name. That one belongs to **Micha Tomkiewicz**. He has an interesting and perhaps unbelievable story.

Marcelli Robert "Micha" Tomkiewicz was born May 25, 1939 in Warsaw, Poland. At one point during the early part of World War II, he and his family were moved to the Warsaw Ghetto and then were transferred to the Bergen-Belsen

## Memphis Belle (1990)

*Memphis Belle*  
Action, War, Drama  
Distributor: Warner Brothers  
Director: Michael Caton-Jones  
Screenplay Writer: Monte Merrick  
Featuring: Matthew Modine,  
Billy Zane (as Valentine  
"Val" Kozłowski)

by Joseph W. Zurawski

*Memphis Belle* is a fictional account of the 1943 documentary, *Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress*, which tells the story of the 25th and last mission of an American B-17 bomber based in England during World War II.

The flight crew included six men along with four officers. All were in their teens or early twenties. They are awaiting repairs to the *Memphis Belle*, the evening before their final mission to Germany to bomb an aircraft manufacturing plant. During that flight there are numerous tense and action-packed scenes. Mission accomplished, they return to base.

Although there were no Polish Americans aboard the actual final flight of the *Memphis Belle*, Lt. Valentine "Val" Kozłowski is featured in this account as the bombardier and medic. Always referred to as "Val," there are no references to his Polish heritage or name. The only crew member with an ethnic identity is Danny "Danny Boy" Daly; however, one suspects that is done to fit the musical score rather than to contrast ethnic backgrounds of characters.

Val is a very positive influence on the crew. When asked by a crew member, well before the mission is launched, "Are you scared?," he re-

sponds, "No. I'm Val." The evening before the flight, there is a party at the base honoring the *Memphis Belle* crew. A crew member gets



drunk and is still drinking when he runs into Val. Val suggest he clear his stomach. Since the lad would not stick his finger down his throat, Val uses his own finger with the result of a quick and large deposit on Val's shirt and tie. During this ordeal, Val convinces the crew member, "Everyone's counting on you."

The *Memphis Belle* takes off on its last mission. After a close call, a crew member gives Val what appears to be a cyanide capsule. Val refuses the capsule and assures him, "You're not going to die."

When they are two minutes away from the target, the pilot tells Val, "The plane is all yours." The target is obscured and Val can't see the factory. The pilot, in spite of pleas and objection from crew members, decides to circle and try

again. This time, after invoking, "O, Lord, come on" Val drops the bomb on target and gets a thumbs up from the crew.

The celebration is short-lived. Danny is seriously wounded. When Val is called on to assist, he blurts out, "I only had two weeks in medical school. I don't know anything." Nevertheless, Val is able to calm Danny and administer some medical aid. After the pilot agrees with Val to parachute Danny into enemy territory as his only chance to get the medical attention he needs, that plan is aborted and Danny remains in the arms of Val until they not-so-safely land back in England.

One has to question why was a main character with a Polish name inserted in this film? Perhaps tardy admission of the contributions of the Polish to the Allied victory? After the film ended, before the credits rolled, there was a statement on the screen: "This film is dedicated to all the brave men, whatever their nationality, who flew and fought is history's greatest airborne confrontation."

Joseph W. Zurawski is author of *Poland: The Captive Satellite: A Study in National Psychology: Polish American History and Culture: A Classified Bibliography; Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes; six regional histories (Niles, Illinois, Door County, Sister Bay, Keweenaw County, Liberty Grove, Saukville) and Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding. He has also developed educational materials for several publishers on the Polish American experience and taught Polish American history and culture at Wright College and Triton College.*

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DANCE TIME

# Energy Reunion Put on Hold – Temporarily

by Jennifer Pijanowski

The winter weather is tolerable to polka fans as long as we know polka festival season is just around the corner.

Unfortunately, the first polka festival of 2021 has been wiped off the calendar for this year. **Wheeling Polka Fest** was scheduled for March 26-28th at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, W. Virginia, but had to be cancelled this year due to state protocols on crowd limitations and live music.

One of the highlights of this weekend event was the return of Energy after a 25-year hiatus. About twenty years ago, when I was still relatively new to the polka world, a gentleman at Fiedor's Grove gave me a CD of Energy. I attended many dances at Fiedor's back then and the friendly folks were always giving me recordings of different bands that they thought I would really enjoy. The CD was *Get Energized* and I played it over and over again for the better part of the year.

Unfortunately at that time, Energy had already disbanded and I was never afforded the opportunity to see them live. Over the years, I have listened to all of their CDs and they remain one of my all-time favorite bands. My husband and I even requested that our wedding band, Touch of Brass, learn "Hey! What Do you Think" for our first song. Clearly you can imagine my excitement when I found out that this band would be reuniting and performing in 2021. I know a multitude of polka fans share the same enthusiasm to witness this stand-out band perform their memorable songs on stage once again.

The original band was started by Randy and Bernie Koslosky, who had been long performing in the Western Pennsylvania area. Their



Musicians from Energy after a recent rehearsal (Bernie Koslosky, Ed Kaczmarczyk, Joe Baranowski, Randy Koslosky, Richie Kois, and Chris Bogdon).



Energy's Joe Baranowski in the pool performing.

previous band's trumpet player Mike Mara, and aspiring musicians Eddie Kaczmarczyk on drums and Chris Bogdon on concertina and accordion joined this creative ensemble. The band decided to completely go in the direction of original polka music working with

songs that Randy had been writing. The guys started rehearsing and prepping their unique high-energy style for their very first recording. Joe Baranowski joined this innovative young polka group on bass and fiddle adding to their unmistakable sound. Richie Kois came on board

in the mid '90s when Mara left the group.

The band performed for many years at festivals across the United States, gaining notoriety for initiating creative interactions and "Energizing" their audience. Energy released three recordings: *Get Energized*, *Pure Energy*, and *Shine a Little Light*. *Pure Energy* received the International Polka Association award for the favorite album in 1993.

The band also achieved popularity outside of traditional polka music when the release of a song written for the Pittsburgh Penguins

decided to rekindle Energy. The group started rehearsing and preparing for the re-launch of Energy in 2021 with festivals and venues eager to book their long awaited return. Energy's 2021 lineup will consist of six musicians who have all previously played in the band. The musicians are Bernie Koslosky (trumpet, saxophone, and clarinet), Randy Koslosky (accordion and bass), Chris Bogdon (concertina, accordion, and bass), Eddie Kaczmarczyk (drums), Joe Baranowski (bass, fiddle, saxophone, and clarinet), and Richie Kois (trumpet and clarinet).



Members of the original Energy band.

ice hockey team, "It's A Great Day for Hockey," was played over the PA system at Penguins games and featured on many Pittsburgh radio stations. The band was even featured in the ESPN highlight film for the 1992 Stanley Cup finals, and in the Penguins' documentary series *Pittsburgh is Home*. Though the band stopped performing in 1996, fans have been begging them to reunite since that time.

To polka lovers surprise in 2020 and after nearly two and a half decades of ongoing discussions about reuniting, band members finally

You can keep up to date on their upcoming events and news by visiting their website: <https://www.theenergyband.com>.

Fans can also listen to all of their recordings via their website at no cost until March 31, 2021. It is a great opportunity to get reacquainted with this one-of-a-kind polka band.

Plans were made to perform at this year's Holy Toledo Polka Days on April 16, but that festival, unfortunately, was also cancelled.

## Holy Toledo Polka Days Latest Covid Cancellation

TOLEDO, Ohio — The 2021 Holy Toledo Polka Days Festival is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the State of Ohio Mass Gatherings Ban, which is currently in effect and will be for the foreseeable future.

The Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel

has automatically cancelled all room reservations for April 15-17, 2021. All advance ticket purchases will be automatically fully refunded through EventBrite.

"I am very disappointed to be cancelling for a second consecutive year, however, we will be

back and better than ever in 2022," said Joe Zaleski, promoter of Holy Toledo Polka Days.

He said next year's event is schedule for April 7-9 at the same location. Fans can learn more from the Holy Toledo web site at <https://holytoledopolkadays.com/>.



SCENES FROM 2019. Among the guests and celebrities who will now have to look forward to Holy Toledo Polka Days return in 2022 are (left photo, l. to r.): Dave Bezdziecki, Mike Riel, and Mike Gryczko, and (photo, right) Nick and Frank Liszka.

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2	Todd Zaganiacz		Polka DJ / Polka Jammer IJ	Massachusetts
3	Fred Hudry	1942 8-31-13	Bandleader / Musician / IPA Officer	Chicago
3	John Richnafsky	1952	Polka DJ WMBS	Uniontown, Pa.
3	Hank Guzevich	1963	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
4	Lucy Floccic		Polka DJ	Massachusetts
5	Dick Pillar	1940	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ / Promoter	Connecticut
6	Rick Rzeszutko	1958	IPA President / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
6	Al Pala	1945	Musician / Arranger (Pala Brothers)	Indiana
6	Jerry Tokarz	1952 2-3-20	Drummer / Pala Br. Lush, Versatones	Indiana
8	Christopher Piotrowski		Pan Franek-Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
8	Big Daddy Lackowski	1937	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
9	Nick Kanyan	1949	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Indiana, Pa.
9	Eddie Siwiec		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Michigan
10	Stephanie Pietrzak		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
10	Ray Kolodziej	1955	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pennsylvania
11	Chester Pala	1943	Musician (Trumpet) Pala Brothers	Chicago
11	Fr. Dennis Bogusz	1950	Polka DJ	Pennsylvania
11	Steve (Simms) Seremet	1954	Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
12	Tommy Wanderlich	1966	Musician / Vocalist	Arizona
13	Gene Mendalski	1933 4-19-15	Bandleader / Musician	New Jersey
14	Casey Kliszak	1939	Musician (Concertina)	Buffalo, N.Y.
15	Joni Zychowski Minehart		Polka IJ (Polka Jammer)	Pennsylvania
17	Larry Walk	1942	Polka DJ / Promoter IPA	Youngstown OH.
17	Patrick Henry Cukierka	1963	Polka DJ / Promoter	Chicago
17	Jeff Mleczko		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
18	Jeff Dyl		Polka DJ	Massachusetts
19	Stas Ogrodny	1954 8-7-06	Musician / Vocalist (Versa Js)	Pennsylvania
19	Emily Bizon	2003	Vocalist	Massachusetts
20	Jim Kaminski	1954	Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
21	Ted Tomczak	1945	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Indiana
22	Ted Lang	1976	Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
24	Mark Kohan	1960	Musician / Vocalist / Bandleader	Buffalo, N.Y.
26	Steve Fenus	1946	Musician / Vocalist Trel-Tones	Pennsylvania
27	Stas Bulanda	1954 1-6-2010	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Chicago
28	Lynn Marie Rink		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Tennessee
29	Danny Mack Mackewicz	1943 2019	Musician / Arranger	Florida
29	Bobby Shutty	1952	Musician (Carousels)	Pennsylvania
30	Rick Pijanowski	1959	Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
31	Judy Stringhill		Musician / Vocalist/ Promoter	Pennsylvania
31	John Krzancic	1929 4-25-2009	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Polka DJ	Hermitage, Pa.

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This SPATULA is a heavy-duty stainless steel hamburger flipper, a grilling utensil with a laser-cut image of the national emblem of Poland—the Polish White Eagle! It also features a bottle opener at the top of the handle and the Polish word "Smaczne" in the center (the Polish equivalent to Bon Appetit, "enjoy your meal"). Size: 18.5" x 4.0" x 1.0"  
#SP300 - \$29.95



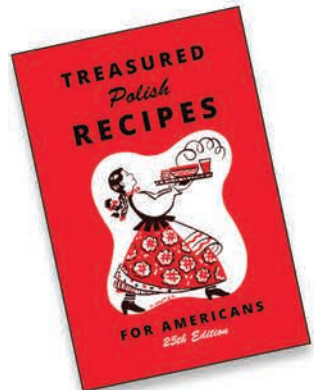
**Na Zdrowie 8 oz Flask and Shot Glasses Gift Set**  
Four shot glasses and a flask, all individually wrapped in dark brown leather. The flask comes adorned with a metal plate featuring a Polish eagle and "Na Zdrowie / Cheers". Includes a funnel for easy pouring when filling the flask. Nicely packaged in a gift box.  
#437212 - \$39.95



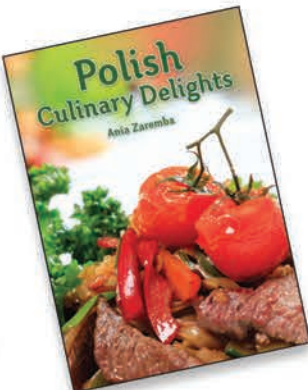
**Witamy (Welcome) Doormat**  
A very durable doormat made of natural fibers in a light beige color that has a flexible non-skid bottom layer. 15.75" x 23.6".  
#435015 - \$39.95



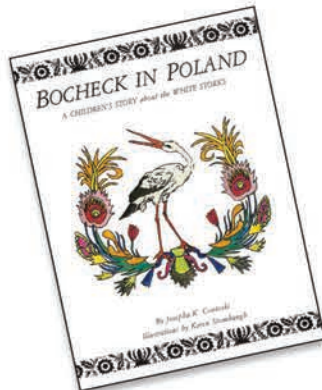
**Pressed Amber Bracelet**  
Made of amber chunks and amber dust, melted down and then combined with plastic. These stretchy bracelets are one-size-fits-most.  
#AMB061 - \$29.95



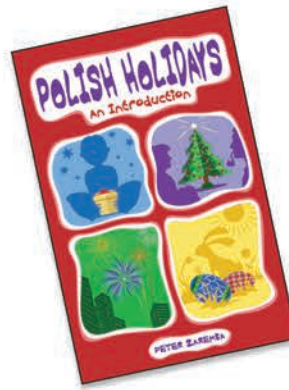
**Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans, 25th Edition**  
The Original Polish Cookbook for Americans! Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski. Illustrated by Stanley Legun. 475 Recipes. Hard Cover. 5.5" x 8.7", 172 pages. English Version.  
#BK2364 - Hard Cover - \$24.95  
#BK3015 - Soft Cover - \$19.95



**Polish Culinary Delights**  
Over 175 traditional and unique Polish recipes inside, including those created by author Ania Zaremba and her family. Contains full color photographs and an easy to use index. Soft Cover. 6.5" x 9.25", 224 pages. English  
#BK2572 - \$19.95



**Bocheck in Poland: A Children's Story about the White Storks**  
A delightful story about storks and some interesting customs they encountered in travels throughout Poland. Hard Cover. 8.85" x 11.4", 54 pgs. English Version  
#BK2363 - \$19.95



**Polish Holidays: An Introduction**  
This handy introductory guide provides information about the traditions, recipes, and songs from your favorite Polish Holidays. Soft Cover. 5.5" x 8.5", 28 pgs. English Language Version  
#BK2573 - \$14.95

**Easter & Religious Gifts**

**Small Painted Wooden Eggs, Set of 3**  
Handcrafted and hand-painted wooden Easter eggs from Poland; a unique selection for any collection. Egg colors and styles vary. Measures: approx. 1.25" Tall x 0.8" in Diameter  
Set of 3 Egg  
#250406 - \$12.95



**Easter Butter Molds**

A traditional and functional way to bring festivity to your table on Easter, and other holidays. After being sold out for a long time, we finally have them back in limited quantities. Order yours today!

More styles available online!  
A. Easter Chick - #KOR103 - \$39.95  
B. Oselka (Flower) - #KOR109 - \$29.95  
C. Small Lamb - #KOR114 - \$29.95



More Butter Mold Styles Available Online!



**Pressed Amber Egg**  
This chicken-sized egg is made of amber chunks and amber dust, melted down and then combined with plastic. A beautiful decoration for your Holiday setup. 2.25" high x 1.75" in diameter.  
#AMB045 - \$29.95



**Our Lady of Grace Hand Painted Resin Statue**  
Each detailed sculpture is lovingly hand painted to depict the Virgin Mary with the devotion she deserves. 7.75" Tall.  
#435178 - \$19.95



**Polish Language Pocket Prayer Book**  
Great pocket sized prayer book in Polish with large print, making it easy to read. This is a thoughtful gift for a family member, or friend. Hardcover book, Measures: 3" x 4.5" x 1", 308 pages, index, Polish Language Version  
#BK2292 - \$19.95



**Droga Krzyzowa - The Way of the Cross on CD**  
16 songs featuring the Choir of The University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, and the Moniuszko Concert Orchestra of The Polish Army. 58 minutes.  
#AB003 - \$19.95



**White Eagle Cross Necklaces - \$24.95 Each**  
Silver plated necklace of a black cross pendant with a Polish Eagle overlay; loop chain included. Pendant measures: 0.75" L x 1.18" H Chain measures: 24.0"  
#850390 - Black  
#850391 - Red & White

Also Available as Lapel Pins  
#850401 - Black - \$14.95  
#850402 - Red & White - \$14.95

Order Online at ProudlyPolish.com or Call with Code: PAJSTORE for 10% Off your Entire Order!

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				Merchandise Subtotal	Ground Service
				Up to \$20.00	\$8.95
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				\$35.01 - \$65.00	\$10.95
				\$65.01 - \$84.99	\$13.95
				\$85 - \$125.00	\$15.95
				\$125.01 - \$200.00	\$19.95
				\$200.01 - \$400.00	\$23.95
				\$400.01 - \$600.00	\$28.95
				\$600.01 and over	6.5% of TOTAL
Method of Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK or MO enclosed			Merchandise Subtotal (US)		
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			Total to Submit to PAJ		

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