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**CZERKAWSKI LEADS
POLISH-BORN NHLERS**
PAGE 11

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

**“SMEARCAMPAIGNAGAINSTPOLAND” • ELMIRA’S KOPERNIK MONUMENT • EPIC ABOUT KOŚCIUSZKO ANNOUNCED
ST. MARY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA RESTORATION • FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR’S RECORDS • TRADITIONAL WEDDINGS
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NEWSMARK

US looks to appoint special envoy to stop Russia-Germany gas pipeline: report

The White House is in talks to appoint a special envoy to lead negotiations on halting the construction of the Nord Stream 2 undersea gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, according to a report.

Since the end of last year, pipes for the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea gas pipeline have been in storage at the German port of Mukran.

The effort comes as President Joe Biden’s administration looks for ways to stymie a nearly completed energy project that could serve as a major financial and geopolitical boon to Moscow, the Politico news service reported.

Amos Hochstein, who served as the special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs under President Barack Obama, was informally offered the role late last month, Politico reported, citing “current and former U.S. officials” it did not name.

The potential appointment of an envoy indicates a new strategic focus by the U.S. administration amid consensus that “the thorny geopolitics surrounding Nord Stream 2 now requires more dedicated attention,” according to the news service.

Source: energetyka24.com, politico.eu

Polish, Russian, Swedish and German Diplomats Expelled

On April 16, Poland expelled three Russian diplomats, following similar decisions taken by the United States over what Warsaw called “hostile actions” by Moscow.

Expressing its “full solidarity” with the sanctions and diplomat expulsions announced by the United States earlier, the Polish foreign ministry said that “the decisions jointly made and agreed upon (by) allies constitute the most appropriate response to the hostile actions by the Russian Federation.”

On February 5, the Russian Foreign Ministry expelled Swedish, German and Polish diplomats who took part in protest rallies in Moscow and St. Petersburg on January 23.

“In response to the groundless expulsion of the Polish diplomat by the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided today in accordance with the principle of reciprocity and in coordination with Germany and Sweden to consider the Russian diplomat working at the Russian Consulate General in Poznan as a *persona non grata*,” the Ministry said in a statement.

Following Poland’s April 16 expulsion of Russian diplomats, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced a tit-for-tat move, and expelled five Polish diplomats from Moscow,

Duda Offers Condolences

Poland’s President Andrzej Duda offered his condolences to Queen Elizabeth II at the passing of her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who died April 9, just two months prior to his 100th birthday.

“It is with great sadness that I received the news of the death of Prince Philip. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Polish nation, I would like to offer Her Majesty my sincerest condolences and sympathy,” said Duda. He commented also that the 1996 visit to Poland by the Queen and Prince Philip remains a most memorable event to the Polish people.

The Polish Embassy in London also expressed condolences, recalling the strong connection to Poland held by Prince Philip, citing as an example of same his participation in the 1975 European Championship in Horse Riding which took place in Sopot, Poland.

Biden invites Poland’s Duda, other leaders to climate summit

U.S. President Joe Biden has invited a number of world leaders including his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda to a virtual climate summit. Biden wants to convince the world of America’s return to the frontline of struggle with man-made climate change, from which his predecessor Trump withdrew the United States. Those invited include the leaders of Russia, China, Japan, Israel, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Turkey.

Poland which now still gets 80% of its electricity from coal-fired powerplants, is committed to shut down its coal mines over the next three decades. Wind farms are being built, solar panels are getting installed and the country’s energy sector hopes to develop its nuclear-power potential.

Katyń Victims Remembered



President Andrzej Duda places a wreath at the Katyń monument in Warsaw’s Old Town district.

WARSAW— April 13 was Pamięci Ofiar Zbrodni Katyńskiej (Katyń Memorial Day), a day to remember the Polish victims found in mass graves near the village of Katyń, in western Russia during World War II.

“Today, as every year, we honor the memory of Polish officers, servicemen and intellectuals murdered by the Soviets during World War II, in particular those who were imprisoned in places such as Ostashkov,

Kozelsk and Starobelsk, and then executed at sites including Katyń, Kharkiv and Kalinin,” Duda said during a wreath-laying ceremony.

He added that “there is no doubt that those terrible acts of genocide against members of the Polish intelligentsia were perpetrated with the aim of annihilating our nation—annihilating it by murdering its most influential and fastest developing

See “Katyń,” page 4

COVID-19 POLAND

President says health system coping with infectious surge

(Radio Polska) Polish President Andrzej Duda said that his country’s health system was efficient and coping well with a surge of infections amid a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

“On the whole, the number of new cases is showing signs of easing, and the healthcare system has an adequate supply of beds for COVID-19 patients,” Duda said after a remote meeting with members of Poland’s government, following the Easter spike.

He added that around 3,300 hospital beds with ventilators were occupied, out of a total of 4,300 available to coronavirus patients nationwide.

“The demand for oxygen supply is also being met on an ongoing basis,” Duda told reporters after the Cabinet Council meeting, which he had led virtually from his presidential palace.

The president appealed to citizens to get vaccinated against the coronavirus as soon as possible amid an expected increase in vac-

See “Poland Launches Drive-Thru ...,” page 4

Conflagration at Historic PNC Church



FIRE HEAVILY DAMAGED the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church in Northeast Minneapolis on Monday evening, April 20. The blaze broke out just before 7:00 p.m.; an hour later, the roof had collapsed. Minneapolis Fire Chief Bryan Tyner called it a total loss, although firefighters were able to save the stained-glass windows.

The cause of the fire at the wood frame and stucco church is under investigation. Firefighters on the scene suspected an electrical fire. Several parishioners were evacuated from the church at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported.

The church was built in 1914 in the historically Polish Northeast Minneapolis neighborhood, and its parishioners led a regional Red Cross fund-raising effort during World War I. Several families whose ancestors helped build this church still are active today.

The parish’s historic Pulaski Auditorium meeting hall and rectory across the street from the church were unaffected.

A GoFundMe account has been established: www.gofundme.com/f/help-sacred-heart-rebuild-our-church.

— Cynthia Snowden and Mark Dillon

Maryland Receives an Honorary Consulate Poremski Appointed Honorary Consul



Richard P. Poremski has been appointed an Honorary Consul by the Republic of Poland for the State of Maryland, headquartered in the City of Baltimore.

The United States Department of State granted Poland’s request for the establishment of the Consulate and formally approved the appointment of the Honorary Consul.

Story on page 4

PHOTO: MICHAEL CARRAHAN

PHOTO: MIKE MADISON / NORTHEASTER NEWS

REMINDER

MAY AND JUNE EDITIONS COMBINED. This month, subscribers are receiving a combined May and June edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the May and June editions. Likewise, the July-August editions will be combined. Copy deadline for that newspaper is June 11.

ALMANAC

May ☺ Maj

"Who doesn't respect and value his past, is not worth the honor of the present, and has no right to a future."
— Jozef Pilsudski

- 1 ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER 1908.** Birth of **Krystyna Skarbek**, who became a spy for the British Special Operations Executive during World War II.
- 1921. Third Silesian Uprising** begins. The Uprisings were a series of three armed uprisings of the Poles and Polish Silesians of Upper Silesia, from 1919 to 1921, against German rule.
- 3 FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND ŚWIĘTO TRZECIEGO MAJA Polish Constitution Day.** Banned by the communists, Poland's Constitution re-emerged with a vengeance following the collapse of the regime in 1989.
- 4 1870.** Birth of **Zygmunt Stojowski**, friend of Peter Tchaikovsky and student of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.
- 5 1846.** Birth of novelist **Henryk Sienkiewicz** († 1916), who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905. He is the author of "Quo Vadis?" and three other novels known as "The Trilogy."
- 6 1648.** Battle at **Zolty Wody-Bohdan**: Chmielricki's Cossacks beat John II Casimir.
- 7 1867.** Birth of writer and Nobel laureate **Władysław Reymont** († December 5, 1925). He received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1924 for his four-volume novel, "The Peasants," completed between 1904 and 1910.
- 8 VE DAY (U.S.) ST. STANISLAUS** Poland's patron, **Stanislaus**, an early Bishop of Krakow, was slain by King Boleslaw Smialy while celebrating Mass in 1079. His body lies in the cathedral of Wawel Hill in Krakow, Poland. Hundreds of Polish churches across the world are named after him.
- 9 MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.) 1667.** Death of **Marie Louise de Gonzague-Nevers**, French Queen of Poland (1645-48).
- 10 1573.** **Henry of Anjou** (Henry Walezy, Henry of Valois), became the first elected king of Poland. *Gdzie kucharek sześć, tam nie ma co jeść.* *Where six are cooking there there is nothing to eat.* ("Too many cooks spoil the broth")
- 12 1935.** Death of Polish Head of State **Józef Pilsudski**, 67, general, leader in the 1916. Polish independence, prime minister (1926-28, 1930), in Warsaw. Many Polish and Polish American organizations, schools and clubs are named in his honor. Pilsudski is buried in Wawel Cathedral in Krakow.
- 13 1984.** Death of **Stanislaw Marcin Ulam**, mathematician who participated in the Manhattan Project and proposed the Teller-Ulam design of thermonuclear weapons.
- 14 1792.** Signing of **Targowica Confederation**, a union of Polish and Lithuanian magnates who met April 27 1792, in Saint Petersburg, with the backing of the Russian Empress Catherine II. The confederation opposed the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791, and resulted in two Russian armies invading the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth without a formal declaration of war.
- 15 ARMED FORCES DAY (U.S.)**
- 16 1850.** Birth of **Johannes von Mikulica-Radecki**, Polish surgical pioneer. **1943.** **Warsaw Ghetto Uprising** ends. **1657.** Martyrdom of **St. Andrzej Bobola**.
- 17 1025.** Death of **King Boleslaw**

- 18 1920.** Birth of **Karol Wojtyła** in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978. **1944.** Second Polish Corps win the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy.
- 19 1881.** Birth of Polish **General Władysław Sikorski**. (†1943) He led the Polish government-in-exile during World War II.
- 21 1674.** Coronation of **Jan Sobieski**, who defeated the Turkish Armies during the battle of Vienna in 1683, which in turn saved Europe and Western civilization.
- 22 2010.** In Poland **Nicolaus Copernicus**, nee **Mikołaj Kopernik** (1473-1543), the 16th-century astronomer whose findings were condemned by the Roman Catholic Church as heretical, was reburied by Polish priests as a hero, nearly 500 years after he was laid to rest in an unmarked grave.
- 23 1939.** Hitler proclaims he wants to move into Poland.
- 25 992.** Death of **Mieszko I**, first Duke of Poland. **1997.** 46th International Eucharistic Congress held in **Wrocław, Poland**.
- 26 MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND)** In Poland, *Dzień Matki* is always celebrated in Poland on this fixed date rather than on the second Sunday of May.
- 27 1993.** Death of **Andrzej Wasowski**, 69, pianist, in Washington, D.C.
- 28 1981.** Death of Polish Primate and staunch anti-communist **Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński**.
- 29 1792.** **Great Sejm**, which ratified Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791 ends
- 30 MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**
- 31 1972.** Visit of President **Richard Nixon** to Poland, the first visit by a U.S. president.

June ☺ Czerwiec

"A true opium of the people is a belief in nothingness after death — the huge solace of thinking that for our betrayals, greed, cowardice, murders we are not going to be judged."
— Czeslaw Milosz

- 1 CHILDREN'S DAY (Poland)** *Dzień Dziecka* is an occasion on which youngsters receive gifts and attend various picnics, programs and sporting events organized just for them in place of normal school
- 2 1343.** Signing of the **Treaty of Kalisz**, a peace treaty signed by King Casimir III the Great of Poland and the Teutonic Knights in Kalisz. **1979.** First pilgrimage of **Pope John Paul II** to Poland, through June 10.
- 3 CORPUS CHRISTI** Boże Ciało, a free day in Poland, the religious feastday is marked by Eucharistic processions down city streets and country lanes. In addition to central processions in major cities, each parish also holds its own. It is still celebrated in larger Polish American parishes.
- 4 1960.** Death of **General Józef Haller**, commander of Polish units under French Command in 1916 during World War I.
- 5 1944.** Death of **Józef Beck**, Polish statesman, diplomat, military officer and close associate of Józef Pilsudski, who served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1932 to the outbreak of World War II.
- 6 1929.** Birth of **Bogusław Schaeffer**, Polish composer, musicologist, and graphic artist born in Lwow in 1929.
- 7 1982.** President **Ronald Reagan** and **Pope John Paul II** meet in the Vatican.
- 8 1949.** **Emanuel Ax**, pianist (Artur Rubinstein Competition winner, 1974), born in Lvov, Poland.
- 9 1815.** Conclusion of the **Congress of Vienna**, a conference of ambas-

sadors of European states to provide a long-term peace plan for Europe by settling critical issues arising from the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars.

- 10 ST. MARGARET** *Ze świętą Małgorzatą zaczyna się lato. Summer begins on St. Margaret.*
- 11 1675.** France and Poland form an alliance.
- 12 1659. Dr. Alexander (Kurcuzus) Curtius**, Polish educator and physician in the colony of New Amsterdam, arrives in the New World.
- 13 1907. Stanley (Kiecal) Ketchel** wins the middleweight boxing crown. He holds the title for three years.
- 14 FLAG DAY (U.S.) 1940.** In German-occupied Poland, the first inmates arrive at the **Auschwitz concentration camp**. They are all Polish political prisoners.
- 15 1298.** Death of **Blessed Jolanta**, known for her charitable works, and sister of Blessed Kinga.
- 16 1999. St. Kinga** (Kunegunda) canonized by Pope John Paul II at Nowy Sacz before a crowd of 650,000 people.
- 17 1025.** Death of **Bolesław I the Brave**.
- 18 1949.** Birth of **Lech Kaczyński**, former president of Poland from 2002 to 2010. Kaczyński died in a plane crash *en route* to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre in Russia on April 10, 2010.
- 19 1926.** The opera "**King Roger**," composed by Polish composer **Karol Szymanowski** (1882-1937), premiered in Warsaw.
- 20 FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
- 21 1305.** Death of **Wenceslaus II**.
- 22 1866.** Birth of **Kazimierz Żorawski**, renowned mathematician whose work in differential geometry and fluid mechanics contributed greatly to the fields of science, mathematics, astrophysics and physics.
- 23 FATHER'S DAY (Poland)** *Dzień Ojca*, like Mothers' Day, this occasion is also celebrated on this fixed date rather than on the third Sunday of June. **ST. JOHN'S EVE 1892.** Birth of **Mieczysław Horszowski**, internationally acclaimed pianist and music teacher whose performances were widely recorded.
- 24 1914.** Birth of **Jan Karski**, Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar. *Los szczęście rzuca, ale nie każdy je tapie* *Fate throws fortune, but not everyone catches it.* **1886.** Birth of **Fr. Justin Figas, OFM**, founder of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*.
- 25 1941.** Germans invaded **Dubno**, Poland, and encouraged the Ukrainians to do whatever they want to 12,000 Jews living there.
- 26 1295. White Eagle** made symbol of Poland.
- 27 1697.** Election of **August II the Strong**.
- 28 1941.** German troops occupy **Galicia**, Poland. **1919. Treaty of Versailles**, making Poland a free nation, signed by I.J. Paderewski today.
- 29 1964. Most Rev. Stanislaus Brzana** became bishop of Diocese of Buffalo. First Polish American to do so.
- 30 1911.** Birth of **Czeslaw Milosz**, Polish poet who received the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature.

This paper mailed on or before **April 30, 2021**. The July-August 2021 edition will be mailed on or before **June 29**.

INTERNATIONAL

"Smear campaign against Poland"

Once again, Poland has become the target of a smear campaign designed to falsify the history of the Holocaust and spread a series of lies about World War II, a Polish security expert has said.

In an opinion piece published by the *Washington Examiner*, Stanisław Żaryn said the country has also been a victim of "unfair interpretations of the relations between the Poles and the Jews for quite a while now."

"There is a high risk that the international public opinion will one day take it for granted that Poland and the Poles were the sole perpetrators of the Final Solution."

—Spokesperson of the Minister-Special Services Coordinator, and head of the Prime Minister's National Security Department, Stanisław Żaryn.

Żaryn, who serves as the director of the National Security Department at the Polish Prime Minister's Office in Warsaw, argues in his piece that wartime Poland has all too often been described in international media "as Nazi Germany's accomplice in the Holocaust."

"The current smear campaign against Poland and its people will eventually affect the way history, including the history of the Holocaust, will be interpreted," Żaryn warned in his opinion piece, which was posted by the American weekly magazine on its web site.

"There is a high risk that the international public opinion will one day take it for granted that Poland and the Poles were the sole perpetrators of the Final Solution," Żaryn cautioned.

"This image, however, will not have anything in common with the facts or anything to do with the respect for the victims of the genocide inflicted by Nazi Germany," he said.

LIES ABOUT POLAND. Żaryn's opinion piece, entitled "Fooling with facts on Poland's role in the Holocaust," came after a recent *New Yorker* article whose author, Masha Gessen, "implies that Poland was complicit in the murder of 3 million Jews during World War II," according to Żaryn.

Żaryn, who also serves as spokesman for Poland's security services chief, asserts in his piece that the *New Yorker* op-ed by Gessen, entitled "The Historians Under Attack for Exploring Poland's Role in the Holocaust," could be "part of a wider trend in the international media to smear wartime Poland as the accomplice of Adolf Hitler in the extermination of Jews."

"Her article is just one of many attempts to throw suspicion on Poland," Żaryn said. "If manipulations of history go unanswered," he added, "the green light is given for further activities of that sort."

A current-affairs commentator with the Forum of Polish Jews has slammed the *New Yorker* article by Gessen as "a gigantic, monstrous and vile falsification of the truth."

Source: PAP, washingtonexaminer.com

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POLONIA PLACES

Kopernik Monument in Elmira, New York

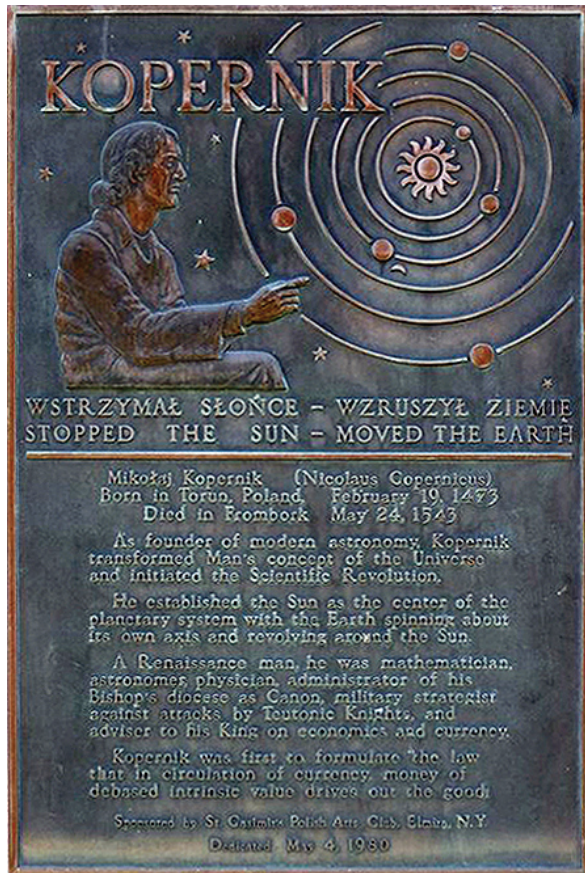
by Gregory L. Witul

1040 Davis Street, Elmira, N.Y.
Status: Open

New York State's Southern Tier is home to a number of Polish American enclaves, with the city of Elmira being one of the largest. There, on the campus of St. Casimir Church and nestled in a stand of trees is a monument dedicated to the world's greatest astronomer, Mikolaj Kopernik.

A project of the Polish Arts of Elmira, the idea of a monument to Copernicus began to take shape in the late 1970s. The group selected Stanley Klobuchowski to lead the effort and named him Chair of the Kopernik Committee. With some ideas in his head Klobuchowski reached out to his friend, the artist Jan Grybos to design together on a plaque for Elmira's Pulaski Park, the two men quickly came up with timeless motif of the scientist with lines that capture the breadth and scope of the man's work.

The bronze bas-relief plaque they created reads:



Kopernik
Wstrzymał Słońce - Wzruszył Ziemię
Stopped the Sun - Moved the Earth

Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus)
Born in Torun, Poland February 19, 1473
Died in Frombork May 24, 1543

As founder of modern astronomy, Kopernik transformed Man's concept of the Universe and initiated the Scientific Revolution.

He established the Sun as the center of the planetary system with the Earth spinning about its own axis and revolving around the Sun.

A Renaissance man, he was mathematician, astronomer, physician, administrator of his Bishop's diocese as Canon, military strategist against attacks by Teutonic Knights, and adviser to his King on economics and currency.

Kopernik was first to formulate the law that in circulation of currency, money of

debased intrinsic value drives out the good.

On May 4, 1980, Klobuchowski unveiled the finished work to a crowd of hundreds on St. Casimir's lawn. After sprinkling sand from Poland, the Reverend Henry Adamski blessed the monument. Those gathered then heard from Dr. Leonard T. Grant, the President of Elmira College who spoke about the importance of Copernicus' work, his high-quality research, and dangers he faced when he first proposed his discoveries.

Today the monument can still be found on the parish campus where it is enjoyed by Elmira's Polish community.



FORUM

Connectivity Potential

by Bogdan Kotnis

In her list of priorities, Poland should pay more attention to careful strategic planning beyond current tactical concerns.

Poland needs to create a plan of connecting with her neighbors: Lithuania, Ukraine, and Belarus in a network of connectivity. The plan should also include the analysis of any obstacles to such connectivity development potential.

CONNECTIVITY BACKGROUND.

Looking for a study on how the countries successfully adjust to the 21st century demands, Connectography: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization (2016) is a must read. In it, Parag Khanna, an Indian American specialist in international relations and a global strategy advisor describes thoroughly how connectivity in the form of transportation, energy and communication infrastructure networks has brought about "global network revolution." In the world that is currently rapidly changing in response to global pressures, the position of a country in the network of supply chains should be at the top of any government's priorities.

Countries that are gaining in global competition focus on connecting with others. Identifying threats and sealing the borders from potential enemies leads to a passive reactive posture and brings disappointing results. Rather than defense, successful countries are proactive; focus on offense; anticipate possible problems and plan how to face them. Looking for opportunities where to open lines of communications with their neighbors in a network of global supply chains is of utmost importance and brings measurable profits.

Historically, Poland benefited from connectivity when in the 10th century, she decided to allow a marriage of the Polish pagan prince to the Catholic Bohemian princess and accept Christianity rather than seal off the borders and fight for their Slavic gods. Later in the 14th century, Poles gave the crown to

Jagiełło, a pagan prince, to develop connectivity with a vast territory of Lithuania. The 17th century refusal to connect on the same terms with the Ukrainian Kozaks and expand the Commonwealth to include Ukraine, was one of the reasons of the ultimate downfall of the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania a century later.

RUSSIAN THREAT. Since the 1795 partitions, the territory of the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania, a well-developed food basket of Europe, was divided into chunks controlled by the invaders. Since 1945, Russia controlled more than half of former Poland-Lithuania, which she had attacked in 1939 with the help of Germany. Using the tools of hybrid warfare, this fact has been skillfully manipulated by layers of propaganda. Russians claim that they did not partition Poland with Germany but rather defended the Ukrainians and Belarussians threatened by the collapse of Polish government. It is commonly accepted that Russians are warm, peace loving people but because of Lenin and Stalin they got dragged into an awful idea of the Soviet Union. Russians were the first victims of these awful times. Now again, a bad Putin is praying on Russians. Few seem to feel sorry for the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania, which has a label of a backward concoction of bygone times.

In today's Poland, most of the intellectual elites are focused on divisions and blame game, which started 82 years ago (2021-1939=82). It was then when Russian propaganda began relentless pressure to divide Poland from within and without. While killing millions of Ukrainians, Belarussians, and Poles with the terror before World War II, the war itself and the Cold War after, Russians were convincing Poland's neighbors and the west that Poland is the enemy and the troublemaker. As the result, in today's Ukraine, there are groups that treat Russians as Big Brothers and saviors rather than ruthless and cunning colonizers. For some of the Ukrainians, Po-

land is more of a threat than Russia. What a proof of KGB's work well done.

For those who are confused why all names describing various Russian governments are lumped into one name i.e., Russia, I suggest reading on Proteus, a Greek god of the sea and his everchanging forms. When Menelaus was trying to catch Proteus on the island of Pharos, Proteus was changing into a lion, a serpent, a leopard, a pig, even water and a tree. To understand Russia, one needs to look beyond maskirovka and all her forms. Even today, as the Russian Republic, racial and ethnic profiling is a norm. A famous line five in the Soviet passport introduced by Stalin in 1932 reported ethnicity. You could not change your original ethnicity and become a pure Russian without ethnic identification. If your grandfather were Georgian, Polish or Kalmuck, you would be assigned such designation in your passport. This line was officially removed from Russian passports in 1997 after tremendous pressure from abroad. The term Russia is used here for all her disguises.

Using a plethora of names for Russia like Muscovy, Tsarist Empire, The Soviet Union, or Russian Federation and relating to it as a separate construct, complicates any analysis. In truth, all these names stand for the same political construct: an expansionistic colonial entity that controls territories in the name of Mother Russia through intimidation, fear, and corruption. Even the name Russia itself was stolen by the Duchy of Muscovy during the times of Peter the Great. Ukrainians have more right to that name than present Russians. Now, even after the collapse of their empire called the Soviet Union, they are still the largest country in the world with scores of oppressed ethnicities.

CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS. None of the four countries of Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Belarus has any appetite to play the Russian roulette with their indepen-

dence by squabbling over a city or two. Rather than fight among each other, these countries want peace, cooperation, and resulting prosperity. Because Russians cannot physically overpower these countries now, they are trying all the tricks at their disposal to keep them separated and antagonistic. The mediators like the United States, Germany, or France should facilitate direct talks and cooperation between Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Belarus if they honestly want to help in the development of the functioning territory from the Baltic to the Black Seas.

In her list of priorities, Poland should pay more attention to careful strategic planning beyond current tactical concerns.

The prospect of forming robust economic and cultural ties among Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Belarus is the biggest threat to Russia's dreams of reviving their colonial empire. Processing over 2 million Ukrainian immigrants into the Polish system without any major systemic problem is an impressive first step on the way to improve connectivity between these two countries. Ukrainians not only work in Poland but connect their wallets with their families in Ukraine. Many of them apply for the Pole's Card, which strengthens the connectivity even more. Thinking strategically, Poland should utilize this demographic potential as the means of improving connectivity between Poland and Ukraine. Imagine a four-lane highway between Odessa and Gdansk without Russian backed border thieves but Polish and Ukrainian customs officers instead. Imagine a high-speed railway parallel to this highway. I can hear money flowing like a river.

Dr. Stanislav Shushkevich, the first Head of State of independent Belarus, proposed the confederation of Poland and Belarus in 1991. If this came true, the threat of Russia would have been effectively di-

minished. The 1st Russian Guards Tank Army (GTA) is deployed around Moscow. It is the largest combat ready unit of tanks in the world. It actively exercises incursions into the Baltic states and Poland.

We should watch Russians' actions more and listen to their rhetoric less. If Russians really want peace and cooperation with Europe and the world, they should stop the war in Ukraine, return annexed territory, disarm Kaliningrad, and eventually allow this bygone enclave of World War II to be divided between Poland and Lithuania. They also should stop treating Belarus as their own military polygon. If it happened, Europe and indeed the whole world would breathe a sigh of relief. The savings on military deterrence and increased peace dividend profits from improved supply chain connectivity would be enormous. Watching Russians' actions carefully, it is obvious that they are not interested in cooperation. They want control and domination.

Poland needs a strategy of connectivity to establish her position within the network of global interactions. This strategy should support the vision of Poland as a crucial element on the map of global structure of safety and prosperity. A good start would be to coordinate such strategy with her immediate neighbors.



Bogdan Kotnis, Ph. D. was born in Kraków, Poland in 1955. He lived approximately 30 years in Poland and 30 years in the United States, with two years as the legal resident of Denmark. He holds a Ph.D. degree in educational administration from SUNY Buffalo, specializing in bureaucracy and institutional development. He also holds a Master's degree in American literature from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. He is the CEO of Polonia Global Fund and the owner of Polonia Perspectives. Currently, Dr. Kotnis serves as Institutional Strategic Analyst for the corporate and not-for-profit clients.

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

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Richard Poremski Appointed an Honorary Consul of Poland

by Malgorzata Bondyra

BALTIMORE – March 23, 2021 proved to be a very auspicious day for the Polonia and citizens of the State of Maryland. On this mid-March day the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C., formally announced the appointment of Honorary Consul Richard P. Poremski, and consequently the establishment of a Consulate in the City of Baltimore. The United States Department of State followed suite with its approvals and published the necessary official

government announcement, and issued consular credentials to Poremski.

Poremski's appointment began with a fraternal overture from the Polish Embassy. After he accepted the candidacy there followed over the course of time a lengthy, arduous and very complex application and vetting process. All of the various documents had to be submitted in Polish and English. Then there was all the necessary diplomatic interaction between the Embassy of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw, and the U.S. De-

partment of State. To be sure, every single 'i' was dotted and every single 't' was crossed – sometimes even more than once, before all of the parties applied their final stamp of approval to the new diplomatic venture.

The Polish Embassy, in its official government announcement, stated that "The duties of Polish Honorary Consuls include: protection of the rights and interests of the Republic of Poland and its citizens, fostering friendly relations and cooperation between Poland and the U.S., fostering the bonds between

Poland and Polish Americans, promoting the Polish economy, science, culture and language, and providing consular assistance."

There are five Consulate Generals located in the major U.S. cities of Washington, D.C, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and New York that are direct diplomatic extensions of the Polish Embassy in Washington. Additionally, there are seventeen Honorary Consulates that span the length and breadth of the United States, including those in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North

Carolina, Florida, and also offshore in The Commonwealth of the Bahamas. (Poland's ambassador to the United States is also its ambassador to The Bahamas.)

The Polonia of both Maryland and Baltimore are very proud of the newest diplomatic outpost of the Republic of Poland to be established in the United States of America.

Editor's note: Richard Poremski's appointment is a notable event in the history of the *Polish American Journal*. Poremski has been the PAJ's Washington Bureau Chief since 2001. Congratulations, Rich!

Poland Launches Drive-Thru Vaccinations

continued from cover

cine supplies. Meanwhile, those with symptoms should seek medical attention without delay, he said, adding that a recent spike in deaths linked to COVID-19 was in part due to patients receiving hospital treatment too late.

Poland launched drive-thru vaccination points in a pilot project as it accelerates its coronavirus inoculation campaign. Michał Dworczyk, the official spearheading Poland's vaccination campaign, said the first such drive-thru sites were opened April 15.

From April 23, individual paramedics and nurses will be able to administer shots.

In May, pharmacies will be able to give out shots, while later that month or at the start of June some

Poles will be able to get vaccinated at their place of work.

Dworczyk emphasized these are pilot projects.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters last month that his government aimed to vaccinate all Poles willing to receive shots by the end of August.

Nearly 9 million COVID-19 shots have been administered in Poland so far, officials announced.

VFW Cruise Nites

LANCASTER, N.Y. — Co-chairs Henry Mazurek and Carl Malczewski announce the return of "Cruise Nites" at the VFW 7275, 3741 Walden Ave., every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to dusk, May 5-Sept. 29.

The events are open to the public, and food will be available.

Restoration of St. Mary of Częstochowa to Begin

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — Bishop Larry Kulick made a series of announcements that will assist St. Mary of Częstochowa Parish, New Kensington, to begin the restoration process on their church building.

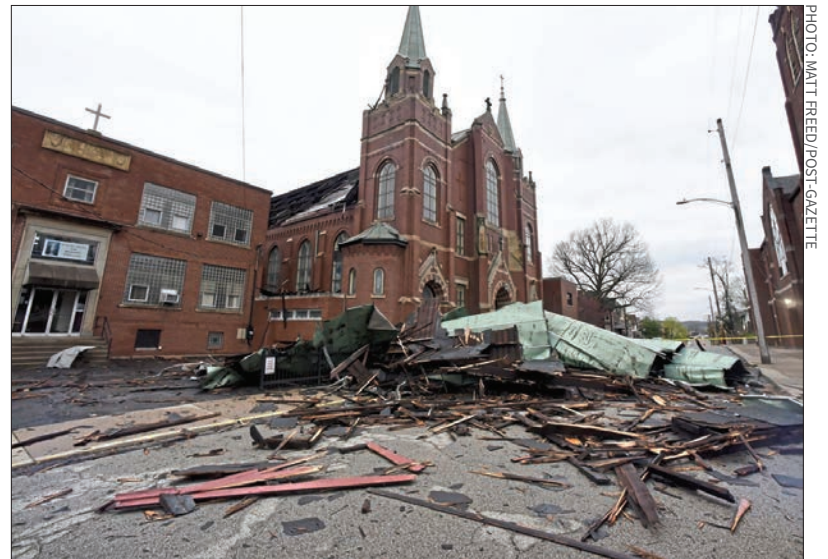
On April 8, 2020, the church building was struck by a tornado, causing extreme damage to the bell tower, steeple and roof. Immediate steps were taken to secure the structure, including the installation of a temporary roof to prevent further damage to the interior of the church.

Over the last several months, working alongside the parish pastor, Monsignor Michael Begolly, Bishop Kulick has devised a comprehensive strategy for the region.

Utilizing the insurance funds of approximately \$2.1 million received by St. Mary of Częstochowa, Bishop Kulick has granted permission for the church building to be restored. Bishop Kulick is extremely thankful for the leadership Monsignor Begolly has provided to the faith community during this difficult time, including his constant communication about the status of the church building.

"Compounding the devastation of this tragic storm, was its timing. The tornado damaged the church during Holy Week of 2020, a time when most of the world was locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My prayers have been with Monsignor Begolly and the parishioners, and I thank them for the patience, understanding and cooperation. They have remained a parish, even without a church building, for almost a year," Bishop Kulick said.

Some parishioners feared the cost of repairing the church would be a threat to its continuation. In



The roof of St. Mary of Częstochowa Church in New Kensington, Pennsylvania sustained heavy damage from strong storms last April.

response, ladies of St. Mary of Częstochowa formed a committee to impress upon the diocese the importance of the church within the deeply-devoted Slavic community.

The committee sought the advice of members of Cleveland's St. Casimir parish, which in 2009 was ordered closed by Bishop Lennon along with 56 other churches (and one other parish) in the Cleveland Diocese. In 2012, St. Casimir's was among a group of parishes reopened by on orders from the Vatican. The advice given by St. Casimir's members paid off with Bishop Kulick's announcement of the upcoming repairs.

To replace Monsignor Begolly who has served 16 years in New Kensington, Bishop Kulick has appointed Fr. Kenneth G. Zaccagnini as pastor of St. Mary of Częstochowa Parish, St. Joseph Parish and Mount St. Peter Parish, all in New Kensington, while remaining pastor of St. Margaret

Mary Parish, Lower Burrell effective with summer clergy appointments. Also, in these assignments, additional clergy assistance will be provided to the parishes.

While the clergy appointments are still months away, Bishop Kulick—wishing to expedite the restoration process — immediately assigned Fr. Zaccagnini as the Bishop's Liaison for Restoration.

"I am grateful to the faithful people of New Kensington for their support over the last year, as we worked side by side with the Diocese of Greensburg, insurance adjusters and building inspectors to assess the damage and determine next steps. Now that the Bishop has given permission to move forward on restoring the church, I am certain there will be a lot of excitement and energy surrounding these efforts," Begolly said.

Depending on the weather, the parish should re-open to the public within six months.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donation to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Theresa Child, Valparaiso, Ind.; Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gibowicz, East Meadow, Mass.; Paul Hiatt, Schenectady, N.Y.; Mitchell Kijanka, Chemsford, Mass.; Koproski Family Foundation, Stamford, Conn.; Geraldine Koziatek, St. Louis, Mo.; Ed Kubek, Aurora, Ohio; Mark and Barbara Levandoski, Evanston, Ill.; Dick Makuck, Riverside, Conn.; Edward Mohylowski, New York City; Dr. John Niziol, Clifton, N.J.; Frances Szurko, Sebastian, Fla.; Mitchell J. Wiet, Chicago; and six Friends of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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Katyn

continued from cover

social segments."

Earlier, in a special message focusing on the anniversary, Duda said that the Polish officers and intellectuals "were killed only because they were Polish patriots."

Preserving the memory of the Katyn crime "is our moral duty and a great obligation to serve our country," the Polish head of state said in his message. He added that "the victims of that crime left a legacy

of unshakable, proud patriotism," while also inspiring "generations of those who fought for a free and sovereign Poland."

Following the Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939, thousands of Polish officers were deported to camps in the Soviet Union. These POWs, as well as Poles held in prisons run by the Soviet Union's NKVD secret police, were among 22,000 murdered on Josef Stalin's orders in April 1940.

It was not until the end of 1989

that Poland was allowed to opening discuss the Massacre. In the USSR, the Katyn lie was upheld until the end of the state's existence, and it was not withdrawn until April 1990, when the TASS described the NKVD as the perpetrator of the crime on Polish prisoners of war.

◆ ◆ ◆

Documents indicating the responsibility of the AUCP Politburo for the Massacre were handed over to Poland by the president of Russia in 1992.

RELIGION

New Direction for National Church Dialogue

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

The (P)NCC or (Polish) National Catholic Church has embarked on a new direction in its ongoing dialogue activity. While the long-time dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church seems to be stalled, it is now approaching other Non-papal Catholic Churches to overcome their differences and build unity on a foundation of traditional Christian belief.

A gathering in St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton included faith leaders from the Nordic Catholic Church, based in Norway. The hope was that their meeting would lead to a renewal of the “undivided church,” or the Church of the thousand-year period before the Great Schism in 1054 when Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches split over political and theological differences. (P)NCC Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky looked to the Union of Scranton, established a decade ago after the Church left the Union of Utrecht over opposition to practices such as ordination of women and blessing of same-sex unions. The Nordic Catholic Church joined the Union of Scranton in 2011 and Mikovsky hopes others will follow.

Joining the dialogue are the Anglican Churches (offshoots of the British Anglican Church and the U.S. Episcopalian Church). The goal is to learn more about each other and explore the possibility of establishing a *communicatio in sacris* (intercommunion), which would reestablish the relationship of full communion that existed between the PNCC and the Episcopal Church in the United States from 1946 to 1978.

Meetings were held in January at the Anglican Province of America (APA) St. Barnabas Church in Atlanta with representatives of the G-4 churches (Anglican Churches), as well as the Anglican Church in Canada. In between sessions Prime Bishop Mikovsky celebrated Mass according to the rite of his church, the first time since 1952 that a Prime Bishop had celebrated the Eucharist using his own church's rite at an Anglican church.

Pro-Abortion Mob Disrupts Mass

A mob of mostly female supporters of abortion shouted slogans and obscenities during a Mass in January at the RC Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, marking the disastrous *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision which made the killing of babies through abortion legal in the United States.

After the Mass, Bishop Robert Brennan of Columbus and Cleveland's Bishop Edward Malesic accompanied Mass-goers on a march to the Ohio statehouse. The pro-abortion protesters continued to harass the marchers and used bull horns to drown out the speakers.

Bishop Malesic declared, “There are two sides here, and it's very odd. Let me tell you, if I was an outside observer, I know exactly which side I would choose. There's beauty and there's ugliness. There's peace and there's violence. There's love and there's hatred, there's life and there's death ... May we side with beauty and peace and love and non-violence, including verbal non-violence.”

Poles versus the government in Great Britain

In November, a Polish resident (identified only as R.S.) in Great Britain suffered a heart attack which cut off oxygen to the brain and left him in a coma. He has been on and off life support in Plymouth University Hospital. While his wife and children agreed with the British doctors that it would be in his best interest to have his intravenous food and water cut off and that he receive “palliative care,” his mother, sister, and niece family in Poland was strongly against that on the grounds of the Catholic teaching against abortion and euthanasia.

“Palliative Care,” as the British used the word, means to cut off nutrition and water until the patient starves to death, but under sedative medication. A specialist clinic in Olsztyn, which dealt with just such cases with success, offered to take R.S. for treatment.

Polish President Andrzej Duda spoke with British Ambassador Anna Clunes, and Polish head of Poland's Catholic Church, Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, has written to his counterpart in England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols to intervene in R.S.'s favor, to no avail. The Polish government's Justice Minister Marcin Warchol offered to fly the patient to Poland, but was refused.

He explained, “We must be faithful to our culture, traditions and faith ... We cannot agree with the civilization of death, we must defend the civilization of life as a matter of principle.”

In another incident, on Good Friday police in London, acting on the basis of a complaint they perceived, entered Christ the King Catholic Church and interrupted the Good Friday service attended by Poles living in Britain. They threatened the priest and all the congregation with a \$375 fine each if they did not leave the church immediately.

The pastor agreed to dismiss the congregation, whom police claimed included many who did not wear masks or keep social distance, as specified in national guidelines.

The Rector of the Catholic Polish Mission, Msgr. Stefan Wylezek intends to speak with authorities about how the situation was handled. The pastor of the church argues that he followed the rules by limiting participants and requiring tickets for entry.

Planned Parenthood Wins Against David Daleiden

David Daleiden, the investigative journalist who unmasked Planned Parenthood's commercial sales of body parts of aborted babies to experimental laboratories, was handed a multi-million dollar fine for his efforts at discovering the truth.

Planned Parenthood admitted their heinous practice of killing the babies and then selling the body parts, but they persisted in their suit's claim that Daleiden violated their privacy.

The original suit was entered and supported by now vice-president Kamala Harris and Health and Human Services Director Xavier Becerra. He is being defended in his appeal by Tom Brejcha and the Thomas More Society. Costs of the defense against the well-funded Planned Parenthood lawyers are

very large and the society could use whatever help they receive.

Health Officials Thrown out of Calgary, Canada Church

Polish-born Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who leads The Cave of Adullam Church in Calgary, Alberta, confronted the police and public health officials who entered his church during the Easter Passover Saturday service. Shouting “Until you get a warrant! OUT! ... Immediately go out and don't come back. I don't want to talk to you, not one word ... Out of this property, you Nazis, Gestapo is not allowed here.”

The police and government officials turned and left. The pastor explained that he had a flashback of his years under the boot of the Soviets in his native Poland and that he did “what every shepherd right now on the planet earth should be doing: fend off the wolves.”

Sen. Lisa Murkowski Denied Communion, Priest Punished

Senator Lisa Murkowski, who represents Alaska, supports legal abortion, *Rose v. Wade*, embryo-killing research, and taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood. She also opposed efforts to derail abortion supporting Obamacare.

When she attended Mass at Our Lady of the Snows RC Church in Girdwood, Alaska, and approached Fr. Robert Whitney at communion time, he instead gave her a blessing. For this he was moved by the Archbishop of Juneau-Anchorage Andrew Bellisario to a much smaller parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Soldotana, Alaska.

Former Archbishop of Philadelphia Charles Chaput, no fan of cafeteria Catholics, recalled the Vatican Guidelines for dealing with persistent violators of Catholic doctrine and practice, especially politicians. Priests are first to tell a wayward congregant not to present themselves for Communion until they resolve the sin in question. If the person refuses and presents himself for Communion anyway, the priest must refuse him (or her).

4 juveniles charged in the vandalism of St. Stanislaus

Four juveniles are facing felony charges, accused of breaking into the Church of St. Stanislaus in Amsterdam, N.Y. in March, and causing thousands of dollars in

property damage. The damage included statues knocked to the floor, police have said.

Three juveniles have been taken into custody and a fourth has been identified as being involved in the March 30 break-in at the 50 Cornell St. church.

All four juveniles will face felony counts of burglary and criminal mischief. Police are withholding the names of the individuals due to their age.

The arrests of all four suspects will be processed by the Amsterdam City Police Youth Aid Bureau and then referred to the Montgomery County Probation Department for action.

Police anticipate restitution to the church will be ordered for the thousands of dollars of property damage caused inside the building during the incident.

Police credited tips from the community and shared surveillance footage with leading to the identification of all four suspects.

The church was broken into through a door on the afternoon of March 30 when the building was unoccupied. A groundskeeper discovered the burglary upon returning to the church later that day and reported the incident to police.

Items were strewn about the interior of the building during the incident, officials have said. Police described the church property as rummaged through and left disheveled or damaged.

Scouting Honor Awarded

Randall Siejak, scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 107 at St. John Kanty Church, Buffalo, N.Y., for over 30 years, was awarded the Bronze Pelican at the Buffalo Diocese Cathedral.

The Bronze Pelican is awarded to adults who contribute to the spiritual growth of young scouts. The pelican is a symbol frequently used in church decoration. The Greek and Roman bestiaries or books containing legends and traditions about animals explain that when food is scarce the pelican will pierce its breast with its beak and feed its young with its own blood.

The pelican symbol, long a symbol of Holy Communion in Catholic churches, is used in this award to highlight the care given to young people by Scoutmasters such as Siejak.

Bishop Michael Fisher, newly installed as Bishop of the Buffalo RC Diocese, presented the award in St. Joseph's Cathedral.



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 THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. J.K.

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

Epic about Polish American Hero Kościuszko Planned

WARSAW — Preparations are underway for a historical epic based on the life of Tadeusz Kościuszko, a national hero in both Poland and the United States, who fought in the Continental Army in the War of Independence.

The movie is to be directed by Paweł Maślona, 38, whose *Panic Attack* (2017) was acclaimed as one of the most successful feature film debuts in recent years.


The script is by Michał A. Zieliński and the film is to be produced by Leszek Bodzak and Aneta Hickinbotham for Aurum Film, the production house behind Jan Komasa's Oscar-nominated *Corpus Christi*.

The new movie, with the working title *Scarborn*, has received development funding from the Polish Film Institute. Filming is to start in 2022.

Variety magazine writes that *Scarborn* “tells the story of the war veteran Kościuszko, a trusted ally of Gen. George Washington's and a colonel in the Continental Army, who returns to his native Poland with his valet and confidant, Jean Lapierre, a Black man who was known as Domingo.

“Together the duo fight to liberate Polish serfs from an oppressive feudal system, sparking a national uprising against the Russian Empire in 1794, a doomed effort that would bring an end to Polish sovereignty for the next 123 years,” *Variety* adds.

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VETERANS

Michael B. Ellis: Polonia's Forgotten Hero

by Tom Tarapacki

Michael B. Ellis, a Polish American from St. Louis, was one of the most highly decorated veterans of World War I. His military exploits are comparable to those of Sgt. Alvin York but, while York attained legendary status, few remember the courage and sacrifices of Ellis.

Ellis was born in St. Louis, Mo. on October 28, 1894 to Polish immigrants — the family name was originally Elias. Michael was the third of three boys, and his mother took ill after delivering him and later died. Unable to care for the boys, Michael's father placed him for adoption with the Moczdłowski, another Polish family who lived across the Mississippi River in East St. Louis, Ill., and had no children at the time.

Michael's adopted father had a printing plant and published a newspaper called *Przewodnik Polski*. When Michael was 12 he quit school and went to work there as a "printer's devil," or apprentice. When he was 17 he decided he wanted to join the Army and, with his father permission, enlisted at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, on February 8, 1912.

Ellis served with Company K, 7th Infantry during the Border War with Mexico, fighting in the Battle of Vera Cruz in 1914. When his three-year enlistment period was up, Ellis received his honorable discharge. Six months later he re-enlisted.

THE UNITED STATES ENTERED

World War I on April 6, 1917, and Ellis was part of America's relatively small standing army that was immediately sent to Europe. A private in Company C, 28th Infantry, 1st Division, he received his first citation for "conspicuous courage and extraordinary gallantry" near Cantigny, France. Ellis commanded a squadron that pursued three Germans who had penetrated American lines. One was captured and two were killed. Ellis shot one of the Germans, his first casualty of the war. "I didn't eat for three days after that," he later recalled. Later, the 24-year-old corporal was cited for "unusual courage in carrying supplies and attacking strong points" at Soissons.

BRAVES MACHINE GUN FIRE.

On October 5, 1918 Ellis' display of incredible bravery earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military commendation. While his division was

trying to advance near Exermont in northeast France, it was held back by machine gun fire. Ellis moved



Near Exermont in northeast France, Ellis' division was held back by machine gun fire. He moved far in advance, single-handedly attacking and eliminating machine gun nests.

far in advance, single-handedly attacking and eliminating machine gun nests. Flanking one emplacement, he killed two of the enemy with rifle fire and captured 17 others. Later he advanced under heavy fire and captured 27 prisoners by himself, including two officers and six machine guns. The prisoners pointed out the locations of four other machine guns, and Ellis captured those weapons and their crews.

By the end of the war, Ellis had earned various other honors, including the Chevalier Legion of Honor of France, and the Croix-de-Guerre with Palm, the Cross of War of Italy, Cross of Valor (Krzyż Walecznych) of Poland and Recognition by the Moroccan Government, two medals, Senior and Junior.

Another Army soldier named Sgt. Alvin York also earned the Medal of Honor with some exploits that were very similar to those of Ellis. However, York, a one-time contentious objector, would go on to great national fame and was even the subject of a Hollywood movie.

WORLD WAR I'S MOST MODEST

HERO. When Ellis returned to St. Louis, supporters wanted to erect a statue of him but he declined. More than a thousand people attended a tribute to him, demonstrating the pride of St. Louis as well as the Polish American community. During the ceremony Rev. Frank Pudłowski, chaplain of St. Mary's Orphan Asylum, not only praised Ellis but said proudly that "no Pole in the entire course of the war allowed himself to be considered a contentious objector." The *Buffalo En-*

quirer called Ellis "the man Polish Americans say should be rated the greatest hero in the war, ahead of

Sgt. York." Comparing him to York, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* wrote that Ellis "came home with as many medals and decorations and with more citations and feats of courageous achievement to his credit, and slipped in without any acclaim or fuss being made over him, thus establishing actual right to be acclaimed as the war's most mod-

est hero, and an equal claim to being its greatest."

Why did York receive so much recognition? It started with a lengthy article about him that appeared in an April 1919 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*, one of the country's most widely circulated and influential magazines. Of course, York's story was a compelling one that seemed to harken to America's early frontier days. York was tall, lean, a crack marksman from the backwoods of Tennessee. After a somewhat wild youth, he became a Christian fundamentalist. When the U.S. entered the war, he sought status as a conscientious objector, but it was denied and he was drafted into the army.

Ellis, on the other hand, was short and solid, from inner city St. Louis. He was an enlisted man, an orphan, a son of Polish Catholic immigrants. The end of the war brought on an era of isolation and anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States, so it was probably not surprising that York, not Ellis, drew national acclaim.

Later, in a series of articles entitled, "Heroes of the Service," written by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Ellis was described as "under 5 feet 5 inches but stockily built." He added that "his hair was yellow and his eyes the light-blue of the typical Pole." Ellis' mother recalled that younger Michael was "just like other boys, only he was a good boy." He worked around the house and cared for his sisters, she pointed out, and never smoked.

Ellis was discharged from the Army in 1920. Though he was never wounded in combat, he didn't

emerge from military service unscathed. The usually calm, easy-going Ellis began displaying signs of nervousness and irritability. In February 1923 he married Catherine Krzyżanowska, a Polish American who had served with the Red Cross in France and Poland during the war. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* noted the war hero's anxiety at the ceremony, pointing out the "trembling that shook the clustered medals on his chest."

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE APPOINTS ELLIS.

Ellis couldn't find work, but didn't want to accept offers of cash from friends. In 1924 Ellis wrote to the Secretary of Defense for help with a job, and his appeal was passed on to President Calvin Coolidge. The president issued an executive order appointing Ellis to a \$1,400 a year position in the St. Louis Post Office without having to take a civil service exam.



General John J. Pershing pins the Medal of Honor on Ellis. By the end of the war, Ellis had earned various other honors, including the Chevalier Legion of Honor of France, and the Croix-de-Guerre with Palm, the Cross of War of Italy, Cross of Valor (Krzyż Walecznych) of Poland, and Recognition by the Moroccan Government, two medals, Senior and Junior.

December 9, 1937 at the age of 43.

The Associated Press later reported that a coroner's inquest was held and determined that Ellis had died due to "an overdose of a sleep-producing drug" that was prescribed to him. There was no determination "whether the overdose was accidental or an act of suicide." The AP added that Ellis' widow had testified earlier that her husband "frequently was irrational and nervous as a result of shell shock." The psychological trauma resulting from war, little understood at the time, is now referred to as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. A hospital doctor said that Ellis had been suffering from "dementia praecox of the paranoid type, caused by war service."

In 1943, some six years after his death, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported that there would finally be a fitting honor for Ellis. Sgt. Michael B. Ellis, "The Forgotten Hero," would be honored and remembered with the renaming of a sprawling camp located in rural Fulton County, Illinois. Larger than many cities, the self-contained facility was primarily a training center for U.S. troops. At one point during World War II it housed 40,000 soldiers and 5,000 POWs. However, after the war ended Camp Ellis became a "ghost town." By 1949 it was closed and abandoned by the Army.

Today, there is only one memorial to this World War I hero: in Arlington National Cemetery, Section 6, there is a simple tombstone bearing the inscription, "Sgt. Michael B. Ellis, Medal of Honor."



Newspaper clipping announcing Ellis' death in 1937 at the age of 43.

Ellis and Catherine eventually moved to Chicago. His health worsened in time, and he was believed to be primarily living off his military pension. Suffering from pneumonia, he died in a Chicago hospital on

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Highlights of the Traditional Polish Wedding

by Robert Strybel

Rather than a one-day affair, the traditional Polish wedding was an extended process consisting of several stages. The following are the key phases a boy and girl had to traverse before launching a new family.

ASKING FOR A GIRL'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.

Tradition-minded males pay a visit to the girl's parents to officially request permission to marry their daughter. If permission is granted, he is no free to propose.

PROPOSAL (OŚWIADCZYNIA).

Although scenarios vary, and nowadays there is quite a bit of improvisation, traditionally the man would kneel on one knee, present an engagement ring and ask his lady love: "Czy zostaniesz moją żoną?" (literally: Will you become my wife?) or "Czy wyjdiesz za mnie?" (Will you marry me?).

ENGAGEMENT PARTY (ZARĘCZYNIA).

If the families of the future bride and groom did not know each other earlier, the engagement party was the occasion of their first encounter. It was usually attended by both sets of parents, the future bridal couple's godparents, siblings and possibly other relatives and close friends. Now the couple are referred to as "narzeczeni" (betrothed, fiancés).

NO "BORROWED OR BLUE." The "something old, something new, something borrowed ... etc.," is not part of a traditional Polish wedding. The father giving away the bride to the groom like a piece of property and the future husband not seeing his fiancée before the ceremony are other Anglo-Saxon superstitions. But these Hollywood-promoted customs are gradually beginning to seep in among some of Poland's "trendier" younger set.

PARENTAL BLESSING. The groom to be and his parents arrive at the home of the future bride the morning of the wedding for the parental blessing. There the bridal couple kneels (usually on a kneeler or decorative cushions) as each of the parents gives their blessing, sprinkles them with holy water and gives them a crucifix to kiss. A typical blessing might go: "We wish the both of you mutual love, patience and unfaltering faith in Jesus Christ, Our Lord, whom we ask to bestow his abundant grace upon you and your future children. I bless



EDITOR'S PARENTS RECEIVE THE PARENTAL BLESSING. Mother of the bride Mary Winkowski blesses her daughter Mary and future son-in-law Jon Kohan before the ceremony at St. Barbara's R.C. Church, Lackawanna, N.Y., August 30, 1958. Standing (l. to r.): Groom's step-mother Myrtle Kohan; groom's father William Kohan; bride's grandfather Jan Winkowski; bride's father Adam Winkowski; and the bride's mother Mary (nee Ciarkowska) Winkowski.

The blessing took place in the home of Adam and Mary Winkowski in Lackawanna, N.Y.

you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go with God." Then the whole party moves to church.

LEAVING FOR CHURCH. Musicians play "Serdeczna Matko" as the wedding party leaves the home and heads for church. Older folk raised in the old Polonian neighborhoods fondly recall the image of a musician on the porch and the wedding party filing past.

NUPTIAL. The betrothed enter church together, and both their right feet should cross the threshold simultaneously which is said to foretell the future unity of their marriage. The Polish hymn "Serdeczna Matko" and the "Latin Ave Maria" are usually played on the organ and/or sung by a vocalist during the nuptial mass. Throughout the ceremony, the bride is always on the groom's right. After the couple have been pronounced man and wife, the bride kneels in prayer at the side altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary and leaves a bouquet there.

WELL-WISHING. A receiving line of well-wishers forms at the back of the church, in its vestibule or outside and the bride and groom receive best wishes and cut flowers from all present. A typical wish goes: "Wszystkiego najlepszego na nowej drodze życia!" (All the best

on your new road through life!).

BREAD & SALT WELCOME. The newlyweds are greeted at the entrance of the reception site with bread and salt which symbolizes the wish that the new family will never go hungry. At times wine or vodka are included on the tray which the newlyweds drink from a single glass. In Polish tradition the parents of the newlyweds do the honors. The bride may be asked, "What do you prefer, the bread, the salt or the groom?" She replies: "I prefer the bread, salt and the groom so he can pay for them!"

BLESSING AND TOAST. The clergyman officiating at the nuptial is usually invited to the reception, sits at the head table with the bridal party and gives the benediction preceding the banquet. The best man then offers a toast to the bride and groom.

STAROSTA I STAROŚCINA. When planning the wedding, the groom to be chooses a Starosta (Marshal of Honor) whose job it is to make sure everything, especially the hospitality side of the celebration runs smoothly and the vodka keeps flowing. His partner is the Starościna (Matron of Honor) who sees to it that platters stay filled and guests are looked after and entertained. Those tasks may be performed by



OCZEPINY (UNVEILING OF THE BRIDE) CEREMONY. Wedding reception of Mary Winkowski and Jon Kohan. Holy Trinity PNCC Hall, 39 Pulaski Street, Lackawanna, N.Y. August 30, 1958. Seated in bride's circle (l. to r.) Mary Winkowski, Adam Winkowski; bride Mary Kohan; groom Jon Kohan; Myrtle Kohan; and William Kohan.

The traditions continued here were brought to the United States from Poland: the bride's mother was born in Krakow, and her paternal grandparents emigrated from Krosno. The groom's paternal grandparents (nee Kochan) were born outside Lwow, now in Ukraine.

the Best Man and Maid of Honor or someone else may be chosen by the bride and groom to do the honors.

BITTER VODKA. Time and again during the banquet the guests begin chanting "gorzko, gorzko" (bitter, bitter), implying that the vodka has turned bitter and must be sweetened by the newlyweds kissing. In Polonia, guests are known to jangle their silverware against plates and glasses for the same purpose.

FIRST DANCE. In Poland it is customary for the groom to dance the first dance of the wedding with his bride. At Polonian weddings, the bride often dances the first dance with her father.

DANCING WITH BRIDE. Some form of bridal fund-raiser has been practiced at Polish weddings for ages, during which male guests pay for the honor of dancing with the bride. In modern Poland, female guests also pay for the honor and dancing with the groom, and after it's all over a contest takes place to see who raised more money "na kołyskę" (for the cradle).

BECAPPING/UNVEILING (OCZEPINY). Towards the end of the reception, usually at the stroke of midnight, the bride is seated, her female relatives and friends gather and her wedding wreath or veil are

ceremonially replaced with a traditional matron's cap ("czepek"), the symbol of wifehood. It is the Starościna who officiates at this ceremony. In Poland, since time immemorial a song about hops ("Piosenka o chmielu") was once sung during the becapping. At PolAm weddings, "Dwanaście aniołów" (Twelve Angels) was the most popular.

TILL THE LAST GUEST LEAVES. Polish bridal couples do not disappear at midnight but stay around until the last wedding guest leaves, even if that's at the crack of dawn. That is to show their respect for those who may have traveled some distance to celebrate their big day with them and brought a gift to help them get started.

WEDDING AFTERMATH (POPRAWINY). Since Polish people rarely skimp on such occasions, there is usually plenty of food and drink left over, so guests drop round the next day usually to the home of the bride's parents for follow-up festivities. Musicians are often on hand to provide more dance music. The "poprawiny" can last more than one day, and the newlyweds are usually on hand to socialize with their guests. They'll have plenty of time to go off on their honeymoon after it's all over!



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GENEALOGY

Finding the Polish Records for your Ancestors

by Stephen M Szabados

At this point in our research for our Polish ancestors, we should know where they left. Our immigrant ancestors were probably born or baptized at this location. We need to use this place name in our search because officials cataloged them using these town names. Their church's name is usually not required unless their baptism was in a large city with multiple churches.

The next step is to look for the records online for our Polish Family. Polish genealogists have made significant progress in digitizing images of Polish records that are now available in many new online databases. These include Polish websites such as Geneteka, Matryki, and State Archives of Poland. The databases and film catalog on FamilySearch also remains a valuable resource for Polish records. Also, many more Polish websites cover only regional areas, and the PGSA (Polish Genealogical Society of America) has the best list of these pages. Use PGSA's directory to find "Polish Sites" and a list of more than forty Polish genealogy websites, including Geneteka, Matryki, and State Archives.

I first look at the indexes on Geneteka and FamilySearch using my surnames. Next, I use my list of place names to search Matryki, the State Archives of Poland, and the FamilySearch catalog. I can view

the records on Geneteka, Matryki, and the State Archives from home. I can also view the indexed records on FamilySearch from home. However, I have to go to a Family History Center or an affiliated library to view the FamilySearch catalog's images. If I cannot find the record in these databases, my next step is to search the databases offered by the other Polish genealogy societies. Note that no one database has all of the records, and there may be overlaps where you can find records on more than one website.

Language may be a problem – learn to use both the English and Polish versions (sometimes the English version converts Polish town names to English words causing confusion).

Once I find the digital image of the record, I save the copy to my computer. Remember that it is always essential to obtain a copy of the actual record because extracted documents and indexes may contain errors.

Most of the Polish websites are new and have just begun to add records to their databases. Be patient, and Polish Research has become more accessible each year.

These web sites cover records for all of Poland:

- Geneteka - geneteka.genealodzy.pl
- Metryki - <https://metryki.genealodzy.pl/>

alodzy.pl/

- State Archives of Poland (old) – <https://szukajwarchiwach.pl/>
- State Archives of Poland (new) – <https://szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/> (note – use both the old and new websites because some information has not been moved from the old site to the new site. Also, new information has only been added to the new site)
- Familysearch (Databases and digital image catalog) – Familysearch.org
- PGSA list of Polish Sites – <https://pgsa.org/polish-sites/>

HIRING A POLISH RESEARCHER.

Not all records are available online yet. If you are in this situation, you may want to consider hiring a professional researcher. They can help you find the documents that organizations have not digitized yet. Since this may be an expensive option, you will need to be specific in your request, and you should try to use researchers recommended by trusted friends or groups. Also, check with one of the Polish genealogy societies for recommendations. I have used this option when I could not find a birth record for my grandmother and a marriage record for my great-grandparents. I have

also asked a researcher to track down living descendants of my grandparents' brothers to find older pictures of the family and exchange family stories. I found that paying a researcher to find these documents and people was a bargain compared to the travel costs to perform the research myself in Poland.

Other tips in hiring a researcher in Poland:

- Your request should be for specific documents. Please do not ask for a generic search.
- Also, ask how they require payment and be careful with your payments.
- Be prepared to send your email or written request in the language of the country – the Polish Genealogy Society of America (PGSA) offers form letters that you can use for these requests. This jester is a sign of respect, and it may generate a more positive response from the archive. I usually send my request in English and Polish.

Another problem you may encounter is someone may tell you the records were destroyed during the "War." For most missing records, this is a myth. Many build-

ings were destroyed during World War II, but the priests or officials hid the records before the destruction. Most of the records are now in archives, although some are still under the control of parish priests who distrust those seeking the documents. Historically, they have hidden documents fearing the Nazis and Communist governments would misuse them. In recent years, researchers for the Church of Later-Day Saints (Mormons) have baptized their ancestors they found in the documents. The priests may not understand why the genealogy researchers want to see these records and are reluctant to let any of these crazy people see such vital records. This hesitancy has created brick walls and is frustrating to many researchers because they feel they have found the records but cannot see them. Today, Polish genealogists and officials are breaking down these walls.

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

Remember to have fun!

Archives in Krakow Suffer Extensive Fire Damage

KRAKOW — On February 6, a fire started in the Municipal Archives of the city of Krakow. The fire was not extinguished until the following morning, February 10. Firefighters were inhibited by sub-zero temperatures but the building design also contributed to the problem. Ultimately, because the building had no windows, firefighters had to demolish a wall to get to the source of the blaze.

The building was new (opened in 2019) and the design was sup-

posed to improve fire protection. 20,000 meters of documents were stored there. According to additional reporting, most documents sustained significant damage. Agnieszka Pawlus of the Polish Origins genealogical web site said that most documents in this archive were not often accessed by Polish Origins patrons.

However, the most precious units were registration books for Krakow residents from 1930 to present. Employee documents and

expired ID cards were among other records stored there.

Because the building design may be partially to blame for the fire, an investigation has been launched. This incident has raised the alarm for other archives storing paper records that have not yet been digitized. For example, a petition to allow digitization of materials held at the Archives at the Archdiocese of Przemyśl is being circulated.

— PGSA Notebook

NEWSWIRE

Sikora's Market to Close

MINNEAPOLIS — Another Minnesota store is calling it quits, this time Sikora's Polish Market in Northeast Minneapolis will be closing its doors for good in May. The market made the announcement on

its Facebook page.

"Seven years ago, with all the excitement, we announced the grand opening of Sikora's Polish Market. We have had very challenging and successful seven years.

"With a heavy heart, we have decided to end this journey and are announcing the pending closure of Sikora's Polish Market."

Sikora's opened up in Northeast Minneapolis in 2014 and offered up plenty of "items that are familiar to people of Polish descent or admirers of Polish heritage. Many products will be from Poland or similar to those labels found in Poland and the meats are prepared in a traditional Polish manner" according to its website.

Patrons of the market reacted with sadness and shock to the news.

The owners thanked it customers for their loyalty and support, and are open to offers to anyone interested in the business, location, or equipment.

There still are some options for those looking for Eastern European/Polish fares in and around the Metro/Southern Minnesota, including Kramarczuk Sausage Company (612) 379-3018, and Sentyrz Liquor & Supermarket (612) 781-3484.

— Judith Blanchard contributed to this story

Akron PACC to Observe 100th

AKRON, Ohio — On June 5, 2021, the Polish American Citizens Club of Akron will host its 100th Year Celebration Festival, noon-8:00 p.m., at its clubroom, 472 E. Glenwood Ave. There will be Polish food, music from Rewind and North Coast Mix, custom-brewed beer from Thirsty Dog Brewing, R. Shea Brewing, Akronym Brewing and more; Polish liquors; games; dancing; raffles; 50/50; Pierogi Corn Hole; and more.

Admission is free.

For details, call (330) 253-0496.



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The Prawdzic coat of arms was shared by the szlachta (gentry) lines of over 500 variously surnamed Polish families including: Baranowski, Ząb, Dąbski Sowiński, Bielski, Lang, Cybulski, Szuba, Trębski Rudzki, Dobrowolski and Gołębiowski.

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BOOK REVIEW

Brady's Research is Painstakingly Excellent

THE HEART OF A HUSSAR

by Griffin Brady
Published by Trefoil Publishing
2020, 424 pp.

reviewed by David Trawinski

"The Heart of a Hussar" is an exquisitely detailed historical fiction set during the first decades of the 17th century, coinciding with Russia's Time of Troubles following the death of Ivan the Terrible. Poland and Russia (then Muscovy) were warring over the lands between them. Poland had supported false claimants to the Tsar's throne, the first of which having been discovered, was executed, stuffed into a cannon and his remains fired off in the direction of Warsaw.

In this period, novelist Griffin Brady develops her two primary characters of Jacek and Oliwia. Jacek is a noble winged hussar, the greatest horse-borne warriors of the time period throughout Europe. After a raid on a Muscovite village by another party, Jacek and his companion hussars come upon two surviving children, Olivia and her younger brother Filip. Jacek's unit decides to rescue the orphaned pair, and take them back to the Castle Biaska within Poland's borders. Here the young Oliwia is slowly transformed from a wildling to a maiden of finest upbringing under the tutelage of the castle's lord, Eryk, and his wife, Katarzyna.

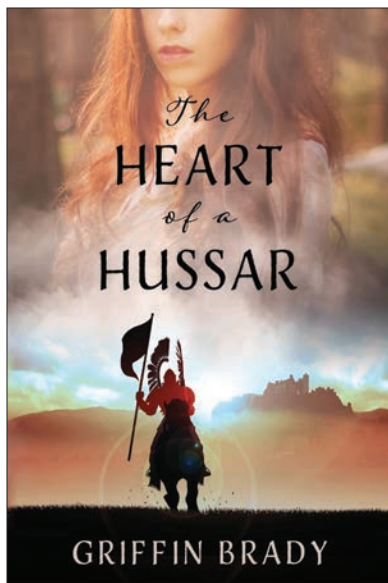
Brady weaves her fictional story seamlessly amongst the real-life intrigue, feudalism, and often barbaric conditions of the period. Her narrative is elegant. It paints a vivid image of life in the opulence of the royal courts and feudal enclaves juxtaposed with the battle for survival by the less fortunate living outside their walls. Her characters are richly developed, each having well-described motivations for their actions.

The descriptive passages are adeptly written, and what follows is a small sampling of her writing prowess:

"Tattered, leaden clouds shrouded the countryside, but the cavaliers seemed to reflect an unseen light bursting through the dimness, as if the heavens had opened just to illuminate them. They rode fast, bringing them closer to Biaska Castle on the thunder of hoofbeats. Soon they were near enough that Oliwia could make them out, and her heart turned over when she recognized the lieutenant out in front with another familiar form. Jacek and Henryk rode side by side, so close their stirrups could have been touching."

Historical fiction is most enjoyable when the integration of fictional storyline and historical record is so tight that the reader cannot tell where one leaves off and the other begins. Grady's novel is not only immersive in this way, as it conjures its world portrait in the reader's mind, but it also paints that canvas with the all-too-human hues of romance, greed and regret. The novel ends in somewhat of a cliffhanger, but the story continues in the companion volume, *A Hussar's Promise*.

Grady's research is painstakingly excellent, and her appreciation for the period and its Polish culture shines through. She rewards



the reader with a robust chronology and detailed Author's End-notes to highlight the experience that is her novel, *The Heart of a Hussar*.



Griffin Brady is an accomplished author of both the romance and historical fiction genres. "The Heart of a Hussar" took third place in a recent Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers' competition. She is a proud mother of three grown sons and lives with her husband in Colorado.

Trawinski's Page-turner Sets Records Straight

THE TWINS OF NARVIK PART I

First part of a two-part novel
by David Trawinski
2021

Available from
DavidTrawinski.com

Reviewed by
Barbara Betlejewska

The Twins of Narvik is a mystery split into two alternating-but interwoven tales, cleverly wrapped around a World War I-II history lesson. The time period of Part I is 1912 to 1939, told from a present-day viewpoint. This book is part of Trawinski's Churchill Trilogy. Quotes from Winston Churchill are sprinkled throughout the book. The battles in the Arctic port of Narvik, Norway (some of the lesser-known early engagements of World War II) are mentioned.

In the book, a wealthy but elderly Texas oilman hires a private investigation firm, Sterling Investigations Int'l., to ferret out the truth behind his mother's verbal ramblings – prior to her demise with dementia – about the possible existence of two half-brothers. Naturally, his only son and thus far sole beneficiary impedes the investigation for fear of having to split the inheritance with long-lost relatives coming out of the woodwork. Trawinski has a natural talent to keep one turning the pages to find out what happens next!

One of the team members of Sterling Investigations is a young Polish woman from Poznań named Zofia Czyszkowska, nicknamed Zosia. I found it fascinating that Zofia or Sophia in English means "wisdom," and Zosia is portrayed as wise well beyond her youthful demeanor. As a young Polish-American girl growing up in the United States in the 1960s and '70s, I met almost no Polish characters in any books

A Snapshot of the Polish Soul

WARSAW MOURNING

by Jeph Ellis
60 pp.
JAKNE Publishing
Available through Amazon
or at JephEllis.com

reviewed by David Trawinski

On March 5th, 1940, Joseph Stalin signed the execution order for Polish military officers in Soviet captivity. Fittingly, Stalin would die thirteen years later to the day. However, during those intervening years, millions would die, including twenty-two thousand Polish officers in the Forest of Katyń.

On April 10th, 2010, a Russian-built Polish military aircraft traveled to Smolensk, carrying with it nearly the entire upper strata of the Polish Government, including President Lech Kaczynski and his wife and many of his ministers and staff. Also, many of the relatives of those massacred were aboard. They all traveled together for a solemn commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Katyń Massacre. Horrifically, the Tupolev aircraft crashed in a heavy ground fog, killing all 96 souls on board.

Warsaw Mourning is a beautifully constructed, large-format

photo-essay of the week of mourning in the Polish capital that followed the 2010 crash. We, the readers, benefit from the fact that the author, Jeph Ellis, was living in Warsaw that week, and faithfully captured the somber events that followed. The images enclosed in this highly stylized photo-essay are not structured compositions per se, but rather near-voyeuristic peeks into the crowds of the shocked, embittered, and distraught Poles as they emerged stunned from their homes and spilled through the city's beautiful open spaces and boulevards. The photos are of a very high quality, their colors vivid, and their captured faces awash in angst, bewilderment and concern for their country's future.

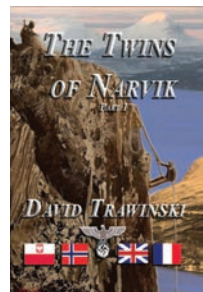
Ellis adjoins his photos with a stream-of-consciousness style text. His words at times, ramble, stutter, and then plow ahead almost as if they are a body pressing their way through the amassed throngs. They add to the immersive feeling of this pictorial. The images are large, flowing to the edge of each page. The text is bold and easy to read set cleanly in banners that seem to threaten to sway in the spring breezes of Warsaw. My point being, this book is an entirely immersive

experience. You will feel as if you are one of the thousands of collective mourners shuffling about in disbelief through the city during that fateful week.

At this point, I feel I must offer a few considerations for our readers. First, in his text Ellis recalls the thread of conspiracy theories of the crash that permeated through the crowds that week. These words can be graphic and disturbing, but I am sure they are accurate representations of the city's angst. They take up only a few sentences of the entire text, but be aware they are embedded in this work.

Second, in his introductory paragraphs the author offers a significant, but inaccurate, fact. He states that, "On the 3rd of September 1939, the Nazi war machine entered and attacked the western half of Poland." Those whose relatives were lost at Gdansk's Westerplatte and Post Office or at the Stuka dive-bombed village of Wieluń on the first of September might be offended. My personal view is that it is an unfortunate error in an otherwise wonderful treatment of this tragedy. I highly recommend *Warsaw Mourning*, not as a historical treatise, but more as a snapshot of the sorrowful Polish soul.

NEW BOOKS



I read, and the few I did find were often portrayed as buffoons. This is a welcome breath of fresh air! No more rude, loutish, drunk portrayals of Poles like Stanley Kowalski in Tennessee Williams's "A Streetcar Named Desire." First and second-generation Polish-Americans seldom had advanced enough command of the English language to write positive Polish portrayals and get published, but that has changed for the better now with the third- and fourth-generations and the advent of self-publishing. (Tennessee Williams, by the way, died of a drug and alcohol overdose).

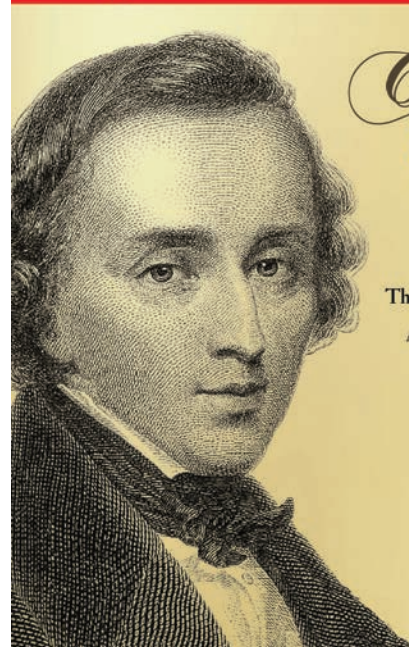
Part of the history interwoven in the mystery itself is the fascinating story of the Polish codebreakers, who were the first to break the

Enigma code of the Germans, thus paving the way for the ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany. If you Google "Who broke the Enigma code?" Alan Turing of Bletchley Park in the U.K. comes up first, but this is erroneous. Turing was a latecomer to Enigma codebreaking, only amplifying what the Poles had already discovered. The preliminary Enigma code had been broken years before in 1932 by three Polish mathematicians, coincidentally from Poznań. The brilliant young Polish math grads, named Marian Rejewski, Jerzy Różycki, and Henryk Zygalski, who were working in the Polish Cypher Bureau, Biuro Szyfrów. Thanks to their efforts at the Cypher Bureau, the Poles knew 95% of the Germans' order of battle before the invasion of Poland on the 1st of September 1939. This is an absolutely amazing accomplishment. The tradition continues with the high quality of Polish video gamers today. If you have difficulty

recalling the codebreakers' names, just remember that "Ray," "Rush," and "Ziggy" cracked the Enigma code. Fortunately, there are now more Polish-American writers like Trawinski to set the actual record straight.

If you like to read war books with intel ops, you will like this mystery, lengthy and chock full of details. But if, like me, wartime espionage doesn't appeal to you, you'll still find plenty of "chick flick" material included. Romance, family secrets, interpersonal relations, mental illness, DNA identifying lost relatives, father/son difficulties, the avoidable problems caused by excess wealth, power, money, adventure — it's all there. And, as I said earlier, Trawinski has a natural talent to keep you turning pages to find out just how his clues interconnect to solve the mystery. My only disappointment is having to wait until Part II is published for the answer.

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SPORTS

Mariusz Czerkawski leads Polish-born NHLers



Czerkawski



Oliwa

by Tom Tarapacki

When you talk about Polish-born players who made it in the NHL, **Mariusz Czerkawski** is clearly the best. In fact, he was the first player born and trained in Poland to play in the league. He also leads all Polish-born players in NHL scoring — by a lot.

Czerkawski was born on April 13, 1972 in Radomsko, Poland. He started playing at the age of 8 with Poland's GKS Tychy program, and did well enough that he was drafted by the Boston Bruins with their fifth pick (106th overall) in the 1991 NHL Entry Draft. He debuted with Boston on April 9, 1994.

The 6-1, 195-lb. winger played in the NHL for the Boston Bruins, Edmonton Oilers, New York Islanders, Montreal Canadiens, and Toronto Maple Leafs. During his career he played in 745 games and tallied 215 goals and 220 assists. "The Polish Prince" had his best years with the Islanders, where he had two 30-goal plus seasons and was named to the 2000 NHL All-Star team. He also played for several different European-based teams, and represented Poland internationally.

Today Czerkawski leads all Polish-born goal scorers by a large margin. After his 215 NHL goals comes **Wojtek Wolski**, with 99. Wolski left Zabrze, Poland when he was two, and came up in the Canadian hockey system. He played almost as long in Europe as he did in North America, retiring last year at age 34.

Third on the list is **Mikolaj "Nick" Harbaruk** with 45 goals. He was of Ukrainian descent, born in Poland and immigrated to Toronto at the age of five. Playing in the 1960s and 1970s Nick scored 45 goals in the NHL, and the exact same amount in the WHA.

In fourth place is **Joe Jerwa**, a defenseman who scored 29 goals in the 1930s. He was born in Warsaw in 1907, and came to Canada when he was about six.

Next is **Krzysztof Oliwa** who, like Czerkawski, was a product of Polish hockey. The 6-5, 245-lb. winger scored 17 NHL goals, but the rugged forward was more of an enforcer than a scorer. However, Oliwa did win the Stanley Cup with New Jersey in 2000, the first and only Pole to do so.

The emergence of Czerkawski and Oliwa in the 1990s, both born and trained in Poland, raised the hope that there would be a resurgence in Polish hockey. That resurgence has yet to happen.

While some of Poland's neighbors have produced dozens of NHL players of distinction, Poland con-

tinues to lag behind. Poland produced some pretty competitive hockey in the past, especially after World War II when the government put some resources into the sport. Both Czerkawski and Oliwa experienced their early development during the waning years of the communist regime. Following the collapse of communism in 1989 hockey and sports in general suffered greatly due to the economic and political instability. Poland, more than most of the former Eastern Bloc nations, was left with declining production, huge foreign debt and runaway inflation. With that kind of economic distress, it was hard to devote a lot of resources to sports — especially a sport that can be as costly as ice hockey. In addition, the transition from communism to democracy changed the way that sports were operated and funded in Poland, and Poles had to make a significant adjustment.

The current state of Polish hockey is not great. The last time the Polish National team reached the Olympics was in 1992, and it finished eleventh out of twelve teams. The team has struggled of late, and have gone through three coaches — including former NHL coach Ted Nolan — since 2017.

Unfortunately for ice hockey fans, the sport has never been very widely popular among Poles. Recent polls indicate that, among the top rated spectator sports in Poland, hockey lags well behind such favorites as soccer, volleyball, ski jumping, handball and basketball. A number of Polish athletes are doing well internationally these days, but currently there are no Polish-born players in the NHL. Who knows what the future holds, but it may be that no Pole will ever surpass the NHL scoring achievements of the NHL's Polish Prince, Mariusz Czerkawski.

NEW LEADER. In 2022 World Cup qualifiers Polish team opened its 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-3 against Hungary, then beat Andorra 3-0 and lost to England, 2-1. As a result, Poland has moved down from 19th to 21st place in the latest FIFA rankings. They will now take on Albania in their next World Cup qualifying fixture at home on September 2.

Leading the team is Paulo Sousa, who took over as Poland's manager just months before the World Cup campaign started. The 50-year-old is a native of Portugal, who has had great success as a player and manager.

Sousa replaced **Jerzy Brzęczek**, who was fired earlier this year. Brzęczek had guided Poland to

qualification for Euro 2020 by finishing at the top of its qualifying group. However, the Poles failed to beat Italy and the Netherlands at home and away in Nations League games last year.

STRAIGHT SETS. Hubert Hukacz pulled off a straight-set 7-6, 6-4 victory over Italy's Jannik Sinner in the final on Sunday, becoming the first Pole to win a Masters 1000 title in the singles.

After his triumph in the tournament in Florida, the 24-year-old climbed in the rankings to world No. 16, a career best. The 6-5 native of Wrocław has a strong family athletic background. He first started playing tennis at five, taught by his mother, Zofia Maliszewska-Hurkacz, a junior tennis champion in Poland.



Hukacz

Before this season Tokarski played in just 34 NHL games during his 11-year career, but spent most of his time in the AHL. He's done well there, compiling a 192-120-16 mark with a 2.50 goals-against and

One of the coaches prominently mentioned as a possible successor to Coach K is **Bobby Hurley**. Hurley's Arizona State team finished 11-14, finishing eighth in the Pac-12. It was a tough, injury-plagued season,



Hurley



Krzyszewski



NOT GIVING UP. Goalie **Dustin Tokarski** (above) is back in the NHL with the Buffalo Sabres. Although the Sabres are struggling, Tokarski is getting a chance to show that he belongs in the NHL.

The Saskatchewan native has had an outstanding career in the amateurs and minors. In 2006, he won the Telus Cup, Canada's mid-gauge hockey championship. He made 53 saves in the Memorial Cup final in 2008 to win it all for the WHL's Spokane Chiefs. At the 2009 World Junior Hockey Championships he made 39 saves in game 5 to help Team Canada win its fifth consecutive gold medal.

Pro scouts had one problem with Dustin: his size. Listed at 5-11 at the time of the draft, he did not have the large frame that most NHL teams were looking for in a goaltender. As a result, he wasn't selected in the 2008 draft until the Tampa Bay Lightning picked him in the fifth round, 122nd overall.

a .912 save percentage in 361 games with nine teams. He's also been on Calder Cup winning teams twice, with Norfolk and Charlotte.

His NHL highlight came during the 2014 playoffs with Montreal. When Canadiens goalie Carey Price was injured Tokarski started five games, winning two and posting a .916 save percentage. That turned into a stint as Price's backup the next season.

Late last year the Sabres signed Tokarski to a two-way contract to provide some goaltending depth. Called up after mid-season injuries, the 31-year-old has played well enough to think that he might stay in the NHL this time.

Dustin was born on September 16, 1989 in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, but grew up in nearby Watson. His grandfather, Michael Tokarski, immigrated to Canada from Oplizko, Poland at the age of 10. Since 2015 Dustin has been married to Linea Ruzzkowski.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACH UPDATE. Despite a difficult 2020-21 season, 74-year-old Duke basketball head coach **Mike Krzyzewski** is not considering retirement. The Chicago native, college hoops' all-time winningest coach with 1,097 victories, has signed two five-star recruits in preparation for next season.

Duke had a disappointing 13-11 season, but hoped to reach the postseason by winning the ACC Tournament. However, their season ended after finding a positive COVID-19 test prior to its quarterfinal game against Florida State.

but the former Duke point guard has rebuilt a program that was in rough shape when he went there in 2015. In his six years he's had 103 wins (including three straight 20-win seasons) and a couple of NCAA postseason appearances, and the Sun Devils have set attendance records.

On the other hand, another Duke guard-turned-coach, **Steve Wojciechowski**, is out at Marquette after a 13-14 season. It was his first head-coaching job after 15 seasons as an assistant to Krzyzewski. He was there for seven up-and-down seasons during which the Golden Eagles went 128-95 overall. The victim of overly high expectations, Wojciechowski had some good runs but could never establish consistency. He also didn't have much postseason success, going 0-2 in the NCAA Tournament and 4-6 in the Big East tournament.

Larry Krystkowiak was also fired by Utah after the Utes lost to USC in the quarterfinals of the Pac-12 Tourney. The loss finished Utah's season at 12-13, its first losing campaign since 2013. That was Krystkowiak's second season at the U., when his team finished 15-18 overall and 5-13 in the Pac-12.

In his 10 seasons, Krystkowiak amassed a 183-139 record. Utah's two NCAA Tournament appearances under Krystkowiak's watch came in 2015 (Sweet 16) and 2016 (second round). Since those two March Madness trips, Utah has been to the NIT twice, including the 2018 championship game, but hasn't made a postseason appearance since.

HISTORY

Grand Rapids a Heavyweight in Polish American Boxing History

by Matthew Gryczan

Like many cities and towns across America with sizable Polish populations, Grand Rapids, Michigan has a rich history in the sport of boxing that reaches back to the first half of the 20th century – and for good reason.

Boxing was seen as a short path to glory and money for some first-generation Americans whose families immigrated from the Polish region of central Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, just like other immigrants from Ireland, Italy, and Scandinavia.

And while it doesn't hold the same allure of fame and fortune now that it did then, boxing still lives on in Grand Rapids through amateur tournaments sponsored by the Michigan Golden Gloves Association and historic markers of

some of the city's favorite sons.

Along the 400 block of Bridge Street on the city's west side stands the larger-than-life bronze statue of **Stanley Ketchel** (born Stanislaus Kiecel), regarded by sports historians as one of the greatest middleweights in boxing history.

The statue's sculptor Ann Hirsch said in an interview with the MLive Media Group during its unveiling that "there's a bit of Superman in him. As a Polish American, Ketchel tested himself and stood his ground."

Known as the "Michigan Assassin," Ketchel won the World Middleweight Title in 1907 and posted a record of 49 wins, 5 losses and 3 draws before his life was tragically cut short when he was murdered during a robbery in 1910. It is estimated that his funeral at the Basilica of St Adalbert on the city's west side drew about 5,000 people.

In addition to the statue, anyone passing by Holy Cross Cemetery on Richmond Avenue can easily spot Ketchel's gravesite from the road, as the looming monument is often adorned with a Polish flag.

Also buried at Holy Cross just west of Ketchel's grave is **Gus Jazwinski**, an elevator operator who became amateur flyweight champion of Michigan, but died tragically at 17 when he fell off a train heading home from a visit with then President Calvin Coolidge.

Other renowned boxers from Grand Rapids included professional national heavyweight **Al Kubiak**, who went by the aliases "Human Battleship" and "The Michigan Giant," and national amateur light-weight champion **Martin Lewandowski**, according to local historian Edward Symanski.

Local champions of Golden Glove tournaments held in Grand Rapids included **Edward Wosinski**, **Leon Jasinski**, **Leon Nowakowski**, **Henry Sampolinski**, **Albert Maslowski**, and **Edward Anisko**.

Like many young fighters from Grand Rapids, Jaswinski learned the ropes of boxing under the auspices of the American Legion Furniture City Post 258, which organized boxing tournaments in the 1920s and later sponsored Michigan Golden Glove tournaments until 1988.

In 1927, the post had sponsored a trip for Jaswinski and other Michigan champions to the national A.A.U. boxing tournament in Boston, and a visit with President Coolidge at the White House. An elevator operator at the Morton Hotel, Jaswinski had lost in the tournament, but the Grand Rapids Press reported that he "always gave a good account of himself."

While returning home on the back platform of the Red Arrow speeding through Pennsylvania on the night of April 28, Jaswinski lost his grip on a rail when the train swerved on a sharp curve, and he plunged over the side. Witnesses pulled the emergency stop cord, and train crews set up warning lights to slow any oncoming trains. His body was soon discovered near the tracks, where he had died from a broken neck.

While Jaswinski's boxing career was tragically cut short, a number of other boxers of Polish-American descent from Grand Rapids engaged in amateur boxing for years at Golden Glove tournaments held at the City Armory, the Civic Auditorium and other venues.



The bronze statue of boxing legend Stanley Ketchel on Bridge Street in Grand Rapids. Ketchel won the World Middleweight Title in 1907 and posted a record of 49 wins, 5 losses and 3 draws before his life was cut short when he was murdered during a robbery in 1910.



The gravestone of Gus Jazwinski, an elevator operator who became the amateur flyweight champion of Michigan.

PHILATELICS

Poland was the First in U.S.-issued Overrun Nations Flag Stamps

by Barbara Szydłowski

In the Fall of 1942, President Theodore Roosevelt invited stamp designer to the White House to discuss a new set of stamps to promote the war efforts. Many of the designers and stamp columnists promoted artistic designs included warships, military aircrafts, and tanks showing the military strength of the United States. However, the President had a different idea. He did not want to convey the United States as a militaristic and imperialist nation.

Roosevelt proposed was a set of stamps honoring countries overrun by the Axis powers. These stamps would reproduce on the one side the mythical phoenix to represent rebirth from the tragedies of war. On the other side would be the figure of a woman breaking the chains of oppression. In the center would be the flag of the overrun country, reproduced in its natural colors. To conform to the international surface rate, the stamps would be five cents.

On October 22, 1942 Roosevelt



asked his secretary to speak to the Postmaster General Frank C. Walker about this set and proposed the countries of Poland, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, and Greece be the first designs. The President's idea met with immediate approval and the State Department suggested adding France, Austria, Albania, and Denmark.

Roosevelt, an avid stamp collector, decided the Poland flag would be the first to be issued as it was the first country invaded by the Germans.

Organ-Donor Release

In March 2015, Poland issued a colorful 1.75zł stamp recognizing the benefits of medical organ trans-

plantation. A tan caricature of an individual is shown with a hand over their heart, with a dark blue background. The stamp raises the awareness of organ donation, from living and deceased. Currently Poland ranks in the middle among EU countries. The need to increase the organs available remains a priority.

Visit the PPPS Store

The **Polonus Polish Philatelic Society Store** has a variety of philatelic material for sale, including show covers, cachet envelopes, and monographs. Also available is the first Polonus handbook, "The Occupation of Russia by the Polish I Corp.," authored by Tadeusz Gryzewski and edited by Dr. James Mazepa. The book covers the occupation of Russian territory 1918 by the Polish I Corps. This was unique in that a foreign territory was occupied and administered by an Army belonging to no sovereign nation. A limited edition is available. For additional information visit www.ebay.com/str/polonusstore.

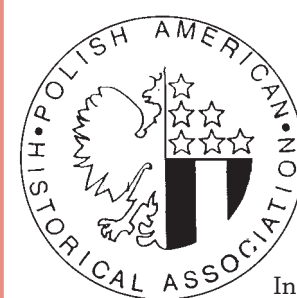
To this day, the Michigan Golden Gloves Association operates St. Mary's Boxing Gym, where it teaches youth the sport of boxing in the basement of the St. Mary's Activity Center, 526 Broadway

N.W. The Michigan Golden Gloves Association, a 501(c)3 organization based at 2447 Glenvalley N.W., sponsors annual boxing tournaments at the gym and the DeltaPlex Arena & Conference Center.

Customs, Traditions and More

If you are interested in Polish customs, traditions, and food you may be interested in the words and works of long-time PAJ contributor Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab. Her most recent book is about Polish women during World War II.

You can learn more about Sophie by visiting her blog, <http://www.sophieknab.com/>.



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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HAPPENINGS CHICAGO STYLE

Jefferson Park Firehouse Decision

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The legal battle ends. The final decision regarding the 115-year-old Jefferson Park firehouse, a building that the neighboring Copernicus Foundation wanted to purchase, has been made. Ambrosia Homes has officially purchased the firehouse from the city of Chicago and will convert it into a brewery with added apartments.

The purchase price was the source of contention for the Copernicus Foundation, which sought to purchase the abandoned property for \$300,000, and, in November 2020, sued the city. According to Copernicus, as stated in its lawsuit, the city denied the Foundation access to the firehouse's interior prior to the sale and "deprived Copernicus of the right to participate in a competitive, fair process toward purchase of the fire station."

In February 2021, a Cook County judge denied the Foundation's request for a temporary restraining order, and the lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed. Hubert Cioromski, the Foundation's chairman, stated that the Foundation was disappointed in the decision.

Ambrosia Homes, a real estate developer, intends to add a third floor for apartments and convert the second floor to apartments as well. The first floor will house the Lake Effect Brewing Company. The closing sale was \$208,000. Ambrosia Homes will be required to remove all remaining hazardous materials, especially all lead paint.

Local architectural watchdog Preservation Chicago is pleased by the architectural plans submitted by Ambrosia Homes and KLLM Architects because they preserve some of the building's important historical features.

Tim Pomaville of Ambrosia Homes has expressed hopes that the Copernicus Foundation will be pleased with the firehouse plans and that its nearby brewery could complement the Copernicus Center's theatrical and cultural events. He ended by stating "They're obviously our neighbor, so we want to have a good relationship with them."

CUPICH SAYS "NO" TO ST. CONSTANCE. The controversy regarding the forced merger of two Chicago Northwest Side parishes, St. Constance and St. Robert Bellarmine, continues.

On March 4, Cardinal Blaise Cupich, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, sent a letter to the "Petitioning Members of St. Constance Parish" stating that he received "several scores" of letters from parishioners requesting the reversal of his decision regarding the combining of the two parishes. In his letter he states that those who

KF Ball Postponed

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation's Fundraising Dinner & Ball has been cancelled for the second year in a row because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Plan for Jefferson Park Firehouse

contacted him had "a misunderstanding of what is to happen." As he stated on January 28, the decree would unite St. Constance with St. Robert Bellarmine "in one new parish under the leadership of a single priest/pastor. St. Robert Bellarmine Church will be the designated parish church."

He continued to state that "designating one of the two churches...only means that the new parish campus will be the location of the new parish office and records." He also stated that it is not his intention to close either church. The minis-

demic has caused the cancellation of the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade. However, Jan Kopeć, president of the ACPA, and Lucja Mirowski-Kopeć, press spokesperson for the APCA, announced that **Jesse White**, Illinois's Secretary of State, has been nominated as a Friend of Polonia. This honor, established in 2016, is bestowed on members of the non-Polish community who are in government, politics, or philanthropy and are recognized by the APCA for their support of Polonia.

Ordinarily, the honoree attends



l. to r.: Lucja Mirowski-Kopeć, Jesse White, and Jan Kopeć.

tries at St. Constance will continue, and "there are no plans to sell the property of either parish." Thus, he decided to let members of both parishes know that he sees "no grounds to withdraw my (his) decree for the basis of the request." St. Constance will not close, but will remain open.

A concern among parishioners of both churches remains. How will St. Constance, a parish with approximately 80% Polish parishioners and a strong Polish identity, work well with a parish with very few members of Polish descent.

JESSE WHITE HONORED AS FRIEND OF POLONIA. On March 24, the Alliance of Polish Clubs in America (APCA) officially announce that once again the pan-

various events, such as the flag raising ceremony, as well as the parade, the parade banquet, and other ACPA events throughout the year. The committee does not want the Polish Constitution Day Parade to be forgotten.

The Friend of Polonia ceremony was held at the office of Tom Benigno, Mayor of Norridge and Deputy Secretary of Illinois. Also present was Nick Caiafa, Mayor of Schiller Park.

In accepting his honor, Jesse White emphasized the important role of the Chicago and Illinois Polonian community. Not to be forgotten, the election of a Parade Queen took place on April 25 at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles.

Facebook users identify Polish Mystery Girl

Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) posted a wartime photo of an unknown Polish young lady on Facebook and asked social-media users to identify her. It showed an attractive young woman wearing a steel-blue air force uniform and a side cap with a Polish Eagle pin.

Within less than 48 hours, internet sleuths had managed to track her down, identifying her as Maria Barr (Barczyńska), The photo showed her at Buckingham Palace after collecting a Flying Cross medal from King George VI. It had been awarded to her late husband, Squadron Leader Phillip R. Barr, who went missing in action.

Her later life remains a mystery, and the IPN continues to seek and



PHOTO: INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

verify information. According to some accounts, Maria died in 1991 at the age of 78. Others claim she lived on into her 90s.

— Robert Strybel

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MINNESOTA VOICE

A small Polish church on the prairie fights to survive

by Mark Dillon

St. Mary of Czestochowa Church in Delano, Minn., population 6,282, could fit right in to the Carpathian foothills of Małopolska.

Nestled among freshly plowed corn and soybean fields on the outskirts of a town with 19th century, two-story brick storefronts on the banks of the slowly flowing Crow River, the white spire of a well-maintained 1914 church stands firm in the crisp spring morning sunlight.

The parish is home to about 100 households, some who can trace their lineage to founding Polish families such as the Motzkos and Lyreks in the 1880s. Their ancestors are buried in a parish cemetery with iron and limestone crucifixes and headstones behind a church designed by noted Minnesota architect Victor Cordella. Like sentinels, the graves perpetually guard the approaching road.

“My grandfather laid the bricks to the church,” says parishioner Dale Lyrek.

Join, or die?

Some 40 miles to the east in a former 3M office building in an industrial area of urban St. Paul, the leadership of the Diocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis has given St. Mary of Czestochowa three choices — pay \$80,000 in salary and benefits to fund your own priest, cluster



Painted glass windows depict St. Stanislaus and St. Queen Jadwiga to the left and right of the altar at St. Mary of Czestochowa.

with a nearby parish or merge.

In a March 13 letter to parishioners, Archbishop Bernard Hebda said that the parish can

1. “Stand on its own” until “its savings and endowment are exhausted, at which point the parish would discontinue its operations and the Church building would be closed.”
2. Cluster with nearby St. Maximilian Kolbe parish, ending weekend Masses and paying a portion of Kolbe parish pastor Fr. Kyle Kowalczyk’s salary. St. Mary of Czestochowa would get to keep its own finance council and trustees
3. Merge with Kolbe, surrendering its assets and independence providing “the stability necessary for building a larger unified Catholic presence in Delano” with “use of the St. Mary of Czestochowa buildings would be determined by your new parish in away consistent with Church law”

At a Palm Sunday, after Mass meeting that tested the seating capacity of St. Mary of Czestochowa’s church basement gathering space, Parish Trustee Andrew Dickhausen heard feedback from an indigent, tear-filled audience that questioned the diocese’s motivation, timing, data priorities and sincerity. Some of the most impassioned remarks



The interior of St. Mary of Czestochowa of Delano, Minn., one of two-dozen Minnesota churches designed by Krakow-born architect Victor Cordella.

came from the parish’s younger members.

“My brother is buried in the cemetery,” said teenager Lily Zimmerman, sobbing. Her mother Wanda noted that St. Mary of Czestochowa, founded in 1884 as a mission that became a parish in 1940, was always intended to serve a rural congregation as a small community of faith, and that this remains one of the parish’s cherished strengths.

One man noted “I want to have my funeral Mass here.”

The church seats about 200, much less amid COVID-related restrictions. Ten painted green glass windows with medallions such as a Pascal Lamb and Swiety Pitro with Vatican keys adorn the walls while two large angels holding large clam-shell shaped Holy Water vessels greet visitors. Two more windows flanking the altar depict St. Stanislaus and St. Queen Jadwiga.

A reproduction of the Black Madonna icon is above a Gothic altar, shrouded in purple for Lent. Distinctive light blue and salmon paint accent Corinthian pillars and buttress trim. A modern elevator provides handicap access to the sanctuary while there is also a modern addition to the front entrance.

A vote for independence

A show of hands at the Palm Sunday meeting showed a more than two-thirds majority favoring financial independence and option one, with some members calling for the recruitment of a non-diocesan priest from outside Minnesota or even Poland to replace current pastor Fr. Peter Hughes. Hughes faces an assignment change due to what Hebda describes in his letter as “a pressing need at a larger parish due to a retirement.”

“We owe this fight to the families whose names are on those windows” Wanda Zimmerman said. “We can’t let them down.”

Parishioner Greg Glavans told the audience that the Archdiocesan Finance Council is operating under a premise that it takes 1,000 households to financially support a

full-time priest, and restructuring Twin Cities area parishes around that concept.

The parish has a small brick rectory next to the church and the parish’s preference would be recruit and pay for a live-in priest, says Angela Tibbetts, President of the Pastoral Council. R-1 religious visas allow priests and other clergy from overseas to be employed at a church for 30 months in the United States, with an option for a 30-month renewal.

Some audience members questioned characterizations in Hebda’s letter that portrayed the parish as financially challenged, and “not able to sustain a full-time priest.” Parish leaders said St. Czestochowa has a substantial endowment and has not fully tapped the financial resources provided by income from a nearby farm provided by the co-founding Motzko family.

Hebda’s letter to St. Mary of Czestochowa said “financial reports from recent years have shown an annual deficit with shortfalls being taken from endowment funds” and a 20% decline in Mass attendance since 2011. However, some larger parishes have had bigger percentage declines in attendance, fewer endowment resources to draw upon, higher operating costs and greater deferred maintenance.

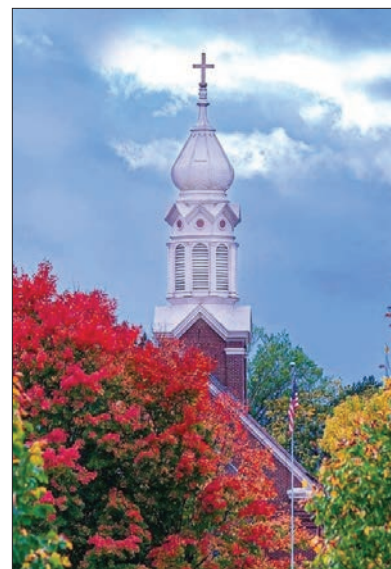
The diocese is hardly in a position to cast financial stones. Three years ago, it emerged from bankruptcy protection by agreeing to pay \$210 million to sexual abuse victims, then the largest settlement of its kind in the United States. The diocese also sold off its headquarters buildings adjacent to the St. Paul Cathedral to move to 75,000 sq. ft. of leased office space across town that was once 3M’s headquarters.

“Why are they doing this now?” one Palm Sunday meeting audience member asked aloud regarding Hebda’s letter. Another, noting that attendance actually rose in 2019 when Fr. Hughes became pastor, suggested that recent metrics are skewed because of the impact of COVID-related gathering restrictions.

Though small, Delano has grown over the past decade, its population increasing by 15.5% between 2010 and 2019, according to a Wright County government estimate. The rural church sits near

Franklin Township property slated for potential Delano annexation and suburban housing development. It is just across the county line from Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis.

In 2010, the diocese closed 21 churches after a “comprehensive planning effort” and last year conducted a diocesan-wide synod that gathered about 35,000 public com-



Exterior view St. Mary of Czestochowa has a spire design with an onion dome that Cordella incorporated from churches in Krakow.

ments from parish town halls and group meetings. In a video, Hebda says part of the fruit of that process is a need to make parishes “more accessible and dedicated to service.”

A possible appeal to the Vatican

Legally, given how it was founded, St. Mary of Czestochowa has more survival options open to it than many diocesan or religious order-operated parishes around the country that have faced closure and mergers, such as in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Baltimore. These can be closed at the discretion of the property owner, a diocese or order, based solely on a bishop’s authority.

In St. Mary of Czestochowa’s case, Glavans noted that the parish could appeal directly to the Vatican, but that such a canon law fight can be long and expensive. The parish could also face a formidable legal foe in Hebda, a Harvard University (BA political science) and Columbia Law School graduate. Hebda also worked in Rome at the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts served as under-secretary of the Pontifical Council, and in the U.S. has chaired the Committee on Ca-

nonical Affairs and Church Governance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Privately, some parishioners say Bishop Hebda, who is Polish-American with family roots in the Krosno area of southeast Poland, is reluctant to pressure the rural church but is being asked by the Archdiocesan Finance Council to consolidate parishes that don’t meet economic metrics that, to some, seem more appropriate for a fast-food franchisee.

Parishioners speaking at the meeting expressed skepticism about the merger and clustering options, with some characterizing it as a temporary solution and legal trick that would narrow the parish’s options in the future and force a forfeiture of assets.

“We should step up to the challenge” and not give in to fear, one woman said.

Some parishioners also say a priest shortage has prompted some of the Council’s lay private sector members to view diocesan priests as a rain-making sales force. Currently, the diocese has less than 200 priests to serve 188 parishes and 750,000 people in 12 counties.

Others say the numbers are only part of the issue, that Council members themselves may have conflicts of interest, or have urban cultural biases that compromise their objectivity when dealing with rural parishes that closely follow traditional church teachings.

Three of the Council’s members are involved with two large suburban parishes within 16 miles of St. Mary of Czestochowa — St. Bartholomew’s in Wayzata and Holy Name of Jesus in Medina. The seven non-diocesan employee lay members of the 14-member council include the chief executive of a major regional lumber company, a retired Minnesota Supreme Court judge, a lawyer for an investment banking firm, the CEO of a company that provides trucks to the U.S. Postal Service, a KPMG accountant, and a financial advisor for Wells Fargo.

Cordella churches have stood the test of time

Working in St. Mary’s favor is the historical fact that Minnesota churches designed by Victor Cordella have a very high survival rate as parish churches. Of his 24 confirmed designs between 1903 and 1930, 21 are still active parishes, of the remaining three one is now the Perham Center for the Performing Arts, and the other were two torn down, one to make way for a much larger church on the same grounds (St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church in Minneapolis). The other was in Superior, Wisconsin.

One option not suggested by Hebda but that the Trustee Dickhausen said the parish may consider is becoming a shrine like the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. However, he noted that option would require considerable paperwork and the loss of status as a parish.

Minnesota currently has two Catholic shrines, the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia near Lake Mille Lacs (patron saint of the blind, martyred in 720 A.D. by barbarians in Cologne, Germany) and the National Shrine Cathedral of the Apostle Paul (St. Paul).

DID YOU KNOW?

Polish firsts and innovations

compiled by Robert Strybel

Although the Polish nation can boast an impressive list of pioneering individuals and outstanding firsts, many of them remain unknown to the general public. The following are among those worthy of note:

POLAND'S FIRST KING, Boleslaus the Brave (992-1025), was known as a builder of military forts, bridges, churches and monasteries who introduced Poland's first currency, the *grzywna*. He consolidated the country's regions, and his successful campaigns expanded its territory to include Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, Lusatia and Meissen. Poland acquired its own independent Church structure following a visit to Gniezno by German emperor Otto III in the year 1000.

MONK INVENTS BULLET-PROOF VEST. Incongruous as it may seem, it was a Polish Resurrectionist monk, **Father Kazimierz Żegleń**, who invented the bullet-proof vest in the late 19th century. He later teamed up with Polish entrepreneur Jan Szczepanik to mass-produce the woven-silk vests. They gained popularity when their protective material saved the life of Spain's King Alfonso XIII who survived an assassination attempt on his wedding day in 1901.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW. Now taken for granted, this was a revolutionary concept when proclaimed by Polish Renaissance theologian and political writer **Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski** (1503-1572). He advocated equal penalties for murder whether the victim was a noble or peasant and advocated giving all social classes the right to own land. His crowning treatise *De Republica emendanda (On improv-*

ing the Republic) was translated into different languages and was widely read across Renaissance Europe. His pro-Protestant leanings put him in jeopardy of being declared a heretic, but he was protected by Polish King Zygmunt August.

NIHIL NOVI. A 1505 act whose full name in Latin translated as "Nothing New without Common Consent." It was way ahead of its time in limiting the power of the king who thenceforth could not impose any new laws without the consent of parliament. Thereby, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth effectively became Europe's first parliamentary democracy centuries before that polity became the norm.

FATHER OF THE OIL INDUSTRY. **Ignacy Łukasiewicz** (1822-1882), a pharmacist and engineer from Lwów (then under Austrian occupation), could rightly be called the "Father of the Oil Industry." He was the first to distill seep oil into kerosene, invent the kerosene lamp and introduce Europe's first kerosene street lamp. He also built the world's first oil well and modern oil refinery. A patriotic philanthropist, Łukasiewicz supported the 1863 anti-Russian insurrection, assisted Polish refugees, founded a church, chapel and spa resort.

WAŚAL BROTHERS. One of the world's biggest and most successful media companies was originally known as **Warner Brothers Pictures**. Its founders, Aaron, Szmul and Hirs, were Polish immigrants of Jewish descent from the village of Krasnosielec in Poland's Mazowsze voivodeship (province). They Americanized their first names to Albert, Sam and Harry and adopted the more surname Warner. It had originally been Waśal, the Polish word for a "moustached male."

POETRY

Until We Meet Again

Dedicated to Staff Sergeant Wayne G. Locke, USMC

I Now Know the Beauty of Life,
And understand the deepest sorry,
I now know the soaring of heartfelt joy,
And the hope of tomorrow,
I now know the meaning of love,
With the memories of you,
Although we are apart,
Our journey never ends,
It continues on with love uniting us,
Until we meet again.
— Josephine A. Kaszuba Locke

The Polish Woman

The divine has taken over Warsaw,
Its miseries and terrors have dissipated.
The conquering spirit has triumphed over fears,
The divinity of the Polish woman has flourished.
She is in control,
She rises,
She succeeds.
Many ask for more,
Virtuous circles replace vicious circles,
Poland has overcome the imposed squalor.
Thank you,
Polish woman for your eternal strength,
Made of flesh, blood and solidarity.
— Karen Lesnicki

Karen Lesnicki is of Polish heritage and has toured Poland several times. She is a long-time member of the American Institute of Polish Culture in Miami, Florida. Her roots go back to Nowy Korczyn, where she visited her great grandmother and grandmother's home. She said her inspiration for this poem comes from her love of the great motherland of Poland.

THE POLISH CHEF

The Old Polonian wedding feast

by Robert Strybel

Here are some standard dishes served at Polonian weddings throughout the northeast and Great Lakes area for generations. Would they still be popular today? – is a question only the future bride and groom can decide.

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP. Wash 2 lbs chicken parts such as backs and necks, place in pot, add 1 T salt and 2-1/2 - 3 qts water, bring to gentle boil and cook 60. Skim off scum until no more forms. To broth add 2 carrots, 1 parsley root, 1 leek and a slice of celeriac (or 2 stalks celery), 1 halved onion (impaled on fork and charred over flame), 1 whole tomato, 6 peppercorns, 2-3 grains allspice and 3 1 bay leaves. Cook until vegetables are tender and meat comes away from the bones. Strain and discard all spices. Remove meat from bone, dice and return to soup. Vegetables may be used in some other dish, but the carrots may be diced and served in the soup. Serve over store-bought egg noodles or poured-batter noodles (see below). Note: For the benefit of today's many weight-conscious guests, refrigerate broth overnight and discard congealed fat from top before reheating. Garnish with a little finely chopped parsley and/or dill before serving.

POURED-BATTER NOODLES. Fork-blend 2 small eggs, 6 T flour and 2 pinches of salt until mixture is smooth. Stir in 1 T chicken broth or as much as needed to get a nice pourable batter and beat with fork until smooth. Pour batter in a thin stream into a pot of rapidly boiling water and cook about 2 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve in broth.

POL-AM WEDDING CHICKEN. Many PolAms associate chicken prepared in this manner with old-style Polonian weddings. Season cut-up chicken (just meaty thighs and drumsticks are excellent!) with salt, pepper and paprika, rub all over with oil, place in open pan and bake in 450° oven 15 min, turning once. Baste with water or stock, reduce heat to 350° and bake 60-80 min or until done, basting every 15 min and turning when bottom has browned. Allow about 3/4 lb chicken (uncooked weight) per serving.

ROAST CHICKEN POLONAISE. Soak 2 broken-up stale white bread rolls in milk to cover until soggy. Process or grind together with 6-8 raw, deveined chicken livers. Combine mixture with 1/2 lb raw ground veal, 1-2 eggs, 1-2 T soft butter or margarine. Work well by hand until fully blended. Season with salt, pepper, a dash of nutmeg, 2 heaping T or more finely chopped fresh dill and (optional) 1 t finely chopped parsley. Mix well. Rinse well 2-1/2-3 lb broiler and pat dry. Rub inside of cavity with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and stuff just before roasting. The general rule of thumb is to allow about 3/4 c stuffing per lb of chicken. Sew up, tying legs together. Rub chicken all over with a little oil, sprinkle with pepper and paprika and rub in. Bake in preheated 375° oven about 75 - 90 min. Baste occasionally with pan drippings.



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

Drain on paper towel, transfer to covered baking pan and keep in low oven at least 30 min to tenderize.

MEATBALLS IN MUSHROOM

GRAVY. Soak 2-3 stale bread rolls or similar amount of French bread (app. 1/4 lb) in water or milk until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run drained soaked bread and onions through meat-grinder or process briefly. Combine with 2-1/4 lbs ground pork, pork & beef or pork, veal & beef, add 2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients. If too soft and mushy, work in some plain bread crumbs. and salt & pepper to taste. With floured hands form 10 - 12 meatballs and fry in butter or oil to a nice golden-brown on all sides. As they fry, in separate skillet, sauté in a little butter 12 oz fresh, washed and patted-dry white or Portobello mushrooms, diced, with 2 finely chopped onions, stirring until lightly browned. Dissolve 1 mushroom bouillon cube in 1 c hot water, add to mushrooms and simmer covered on low 15 min. Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream with 1 heaping T flour until smooth and lump-free and stir into mushrooms. Simmer on low briefly, add meatballs and simmer another 15 min. Remove from heat and let stand covered for flavors to blend.

STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS/

GOŁĄBKI. Combine 2-2 1/2 lbs raw ground pork and/or beef with 4-6 c undercooked rice, 1-3 chopped butter-fried onions and 1 egg. Add heaping T fresh chopped dill (optional). Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Place oblong portion of filling at base of wilted, parboiled cabbage leaves with thick center vein removed, roll up and place snugly in roasting pan in no more than two layers. Drench cabbage rolls in roasting pan with 3-4 c tomato purée or tomato juice and bake covered at 350° 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven until cooled to room temp. Refrigerate overnight. They'll be even tastier when reheated.

STEWED SAUERKRAUT. Drain 2-3 qts sauerkraut, reserving drippings. Rinse in cold water, drain, press out moisture, chop, place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1-2

bay leaves and cook uncovered 45 mins. Drain and transfer to baking pan. Sprinkle with 1 level t caraway seeds, 1-2 t sugar and season to taste with salt & pepper and several dashes liquid Maggi seasoning. Bake in 350° oven 90 min or so. Fry up 1/2 c diced pork fatback or slab bacon with 2 finely chopped onions until lithely browned. Stir in a little flour to get a nicely browned roux. Dilute it with a little reserved sauerkraut liquid and stir into sauerkraut. If not as tart as you like, add a little reserved sauerkraut liquid and simmer a while longer. Drain off excess liquid and sprinkle through sieve with 1-2 level T flour, mix well and leave in oven until cooled to room temp.

POLISH MASHED POTATOES.

Cook 2-1/4 lbs peeled potatoes in lightly salted water until tender. After draining well and steaming off moisture, mash well or run through ricer. Polonian wedding cooks from Poland often preferred such fluffier plain-mashed potatoes. The more Americanized ones would add butter and milk to get the more mushy whipped potatoes.

PEAS & CARROTS. For whatever reason, canned heat-and-eat peas & carrots were the most common vegetable side-dish at the Polonian weddings of yesteryear.

CUCUMBER SALAD. Combine peeled, thinly sliced cucumbers with 1 onion (of similar circumference) sliced wafer thin. Sprinkle with salt and freshly ground pepper, 1/2 t sugar and 2 T or more cider vinegar. Let stand 20 min and pour off liquid. Lace with 1/2 c (more or less) fork-blended sour cream just before serving.

STRAWBERRY ICE-CUP. Hull, wash well to remove all sand, and drip dry in colander 1 qt or more fresh, in-season strawberries. Slice, sprinkle with several T sugar and let stand for juice to form. Spoon over individual portions of vanilla ice-cream in sundae cups or parfait glasses.

PONDERING POLE

Case of Mistaken ID brings a Greater Understanding

by Edward Poniewaz

So, I am driving around in the neighborhood one day and I spot a painting – a print – of what I thought was Rembrandt van Rijn's *A Polish Nobleman*. I was convinced of it. Someone was throwing it out with the trash, so I grabbed it. I cleaned it up and used it as the centerpiece for the Poniewaz Family Golf & Reunion group picture that year. As we gathered around it, cracks were made as to why Cousin Eddie brought a picture of our long lost dead relative Uncle Zbigniew.

I found out it was actually Rembrandt's *The Man with the Golden Helmet*. I still have the *Golden Helmet* hanging on the wall with other pictures and paintings.

For Constitution month, if you want to meditate on *A Polish Nobleman*, go for it. That is an interesting and significant work. Might I also suggest though that you watch the YouTube presentation of *Cocktails with a Curator*, sponsored by The Frick Collection, about the painting called *The Polish Rider*.

The episode is hosted by Xavier F. Salomon, the Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator of the museum, and he speaks about the history and impact of many of the paintings and pieces in the collection. He does this only after describing the ingredients and making of an appropriate cocktail for the subject. In the case of *The Polish Rider* the drink he chose is szarlotka, made with 1/3 Zubrowka (Bison Grass) vodka, and 2/3 chilled freshly pressed apple juice/cider, with a pinch of ground cinnamon.

The Polish Rider is a famous painting with the subject being a young man, atop a horse, dressed in the Polish military style with head dress, coat (*zupan*), and armed with weapons of seventeenth century Poland, two carabellas (swords) and a *nadziak* (horseman's pick). The scene is dark, having a foreboding quality, and he is gazing back or to his side, looking for something.

Rembrandt's (l. to r.): *The Man with the Golden Helmet*; *A Polish Nobleman*; and *The Polish Rider*.

It is the “looking for something” that focusses our attention and makes art historians stay up at night, maybe for centuries. The historical perspective, not mentioned in *Cocktails*, should be mentioned. One thing you could do is read chapter nine, “A Biblical Flood,” of Adam Zamoyski's *Poland, A History* (Hippocrene Books, New York, 2012). That would give you the whole story of 17th century Poland but in summary, the young *lisowczyk* (light cavalry) soldier is probably looking for the enemy that could be in the form of a Cossack, a Swede, a Russian, an Ottoman Turk, or a Tartar. 17th century Poland, as Rembrandt undoubtedly knew, was turbulent, to say the least.

Perhaps, though, the *lisowczyk* rider is looking for something more than the enemy, something better than war and destruction, better than running and fighting, something about family, a wife, or a lover. Xavier Salomon suggests as much in the context of the rider representing all of us, looking for something better, especially in this new year after experiencing hardship and death in our own world and time. Maybe Rembrandt, after hearing again and again about the tribulations and wars of the Commonwealth decided to paint the *The Polish Rider* looking outwardly as

a beacon of hope rather than of despair for himself and for all of us.

Think about it and enjoy *Cocktails with a Curator*. Please share if there is another idea on this painting.

Polish or not?

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) is a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to “inspire college students to discover, embrace, and advance the principles and virtues that make America free and prosperous.” You cannot beat that kind of guiding principle and the current president of ISI is **Johnny Burtka**. Johnny has been a guest commentator on a number of the most popular talk shows recently.

“He is a graduate from Hillsdale College with degrees in French and Christian Studies and earned a graduate degree in theology from La Faculté Jean Calvin in Aix-en-Provence, France. Johnny began his career at ISI, where he served as a development officer ... He has been a Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute and has participated in academic fellowships at Washington College and the Trinity Forum.”

In an eMail, I asked him if he was Polish, and he answered, yes, and “Na zdrowie!”

To your health as well Johnny,

keep espousing and promoting those great principles, and good luck going forward.

Another name spotted and quoted on television in recent months especially regarding the state of the COVID virus is **Lidia Morawska**. She is a professor at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia, and the director of the International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health.

Professor Morawska is a physicist, a graduate of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and is a consultant to the World Health Organization. Her specialty is the airborne dispersal of COVID-19 particles. A good paper to read on this subject authored by her and Donald K. Milton can be found online at (<https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/71/9/2311/5867798>).

Thought you might like to know. **Laura Ingraham**, host of *The Ingraham Angle* on Fox, was featured in a *Pondering Pole* column about television talk-show personalities that have a Polish background. Laura's mom is Anne Caroline Kozak, whose parents were immigrants from Poland. Besides, the *Angle*, Ingraham is a graduate of Dartmouth College, is a lawyer with a JD from the University of Virginia, and grew up in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

In her March 17, 2021 show, she had a piece about the state of teaching in public education and reminisced about the kinds of teachers she had back in Glastonbury. Names such as Markowicz, Kowaleski, and Bluchas were ones that caught my attention as she praised and thanked them for the impact they had on her life.

“They were tough but fair, they were rigorous but acceptable.” We are grateful for them as well.

I watched a lot of Masses during the previous year on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). There is a lot of good programming on this channel and the current Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer is **Michael P. Warsaw**. He has been with EWTN since 1991. Might be an obvious one but is Michael Warsaw, Polish or not?

We are breaking through to Spring (finally) and a hopeful respite of the COVID. For these two reasons, at least, life is good. Happy Constitution Day to all. *Dziękuję bardzo* to Jack Jackowski for the information on *Cocktails with a Curator* and *The Polish Rider*. I loved it (though I need to buy another bottle of Zubrowka).

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

N.B. If you send eMail, reference the *Polish American Journal* or the *Pondering Pole* in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

FILM

A Better Life in America in Musical Form

STARS ARE SINGING

1953. Musical

Director: Norman Taurog

Writers: Paul Hervey Fox (story), Liam O'Brien (screen)

Paramount Pictures

Anna Marie Alberghetti (as Katri Walenska),

Lauritz Melchior (as Jan Poldi), Mikhail

Rasumny (as Ladowski), Otto Waldis (as

Capt. Goslak), Danny Arnold (as Zaleski)

by John Zurawski

Aboard the *SS Podolski*, a ship arriving from Communist-controlled Poland to New York in 1953, is a fifteen-year-old stowaway, Katri Walenska. She jumps ship and swims to shore. A friend on the ship gave her \$10 and an address. Speaking five languages, she is able to hitch a ride, get a taxi, and arrives at the apartment of Jan Poldi. She attempts to explain to the inebriated Poldi — a friend of her parents when all three were alive and opera stars in Poland during the 1920s — that she is now an orphan and was able to escape Communist Poland.

Tap-dancing in the apartment above disturbs Katri's attempts to speak with Poldi. She rushes upstairs to meet the dancer, a singer, and a dog trainer anxious to get into show business. Katri and the three entertainers strike up a friendship. They quickly find out Katri has a magnificent

voice.

The U.S. immigration officials, including a Polish government official, Ladowski, are determined to find Katri and deport her. They track down the taxi driver who took her to Poldi's apartment. When they arrive at Poldi's apartment, Katri is nowhere to be found. There is also a Zaleski with the U.S. Immigration Service, who, like others, frequently comments about the seriousness of the immigration laws being violated.

Katri's new friends are determined to help Katri stay in the U.S. and become a U.S. citizen. They engage a lawyer to try to influence U.S. Congress-

men to pass a law and speed up any process with U.S. immigration authorities necessary for Katri's citizenship. They arrange an audition, get her on a television amateur hour, and send out her newly-made recordings to disc jockeys around the country. Katri becomes a smash fa-

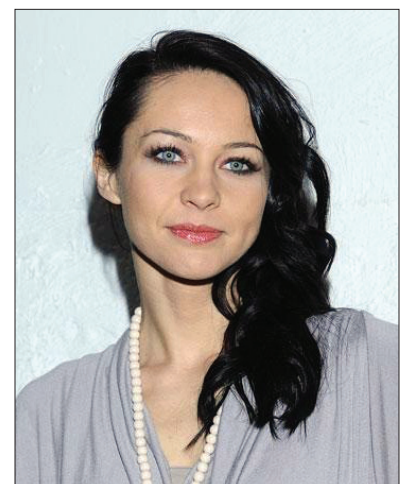


vorite.

On their second visit to Poldi's apartment, immigration officials arrest Poldi. When Katri finds out about this, she surrenders in person to the police. By this time, U.S. congressmen were being sent thousands of letters on Katri's behalf asking that a law be passed to allow Katri to become a citizen. While at the police station Katri gets a phone call. As she asks, “Ike who?” the smiles of everyone around assure her that she will achieve her dream and become a U.S. citizen. The movie concludes with her singing, “My Heart Is Home.”

History buffs may recall that 1953 was the year of Stalin's death and the beginning of Poland's “thaw.” Perhaps *Stars Are Singing* was released at that time to promote further relaxation of Communist control of Poland and give Poles the impression that the United States does welcome Poles to U.S. citizenship.

Tul Signs with Banner Records



LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. — The latest recording of Poland's top Soul artist, **Magdalena Tul** (above), will be released by Banner Records. Her debut single and video, will hit the U.S. market this month.

Banner Records is a world-known independent record label, which produces and promotes professional artists in the genres of R&B, Soul, Latin, Jazz, Country, and Pop Rock. The label promotion's team consists of longtime music industry veterans.

To learn more, visit bannerrecords.com/; (609) 558-4400; email: info@bannerrecords.com.

OBITUARIES

Leonard J. Kniffel: Librarian, Publisher, Writer, and Editor

CHICAGO — Leonard J. Kniffel, 73, born on August 25, 1947, in Mount Clemens, Michigan, passed away on March 19, 2021 in Chicago of pancreatic cancer.

Kniffel grew up in the small rural town of Armada in Michigan's Thumb District. He attended the Armada Schools from kindergarten through high school. In 1970, he graduated from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. While working on his master's degrees in English and Library Science at Wayne State University, he worked as a page at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library. Kniffel then worked in the library's language

and literature departments, became active in the local literary scene, and established his own publishing company, Fallen Angel Press, publishing over a dozen of small poetry "chapbooks."

He was one of the founders of the Poetry Resource Center of Michigan and organized the annual Michigan Poetry Festival. He worked as a librarian in the Detroit Public Library for 18 years.

In 1988, Kniffel joined the staff of *American Libraries*, the flagship magazine of the American Library Association (ALA) in Chicago. In 1989, he became its managing editor, then its editor-in-chief from



1996-2011. He retired from the ALA in 2012. In 2014, he became the executive director of the Polish American Librarians Association (PALA) and a board member of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). From that point on, he devoted most of his time and efforts to the PALA and PMA.

In 2020, through his efforts, the PALA became an official affiliate of the American Library Association.

Kniffel was a librarian, an editor of countless books and periodicals, a publisher, and a writer. He wrote much poetry, many articles, and several books, including *A Polish Son in the Motherland: An Ameri-*

can's Journey Home, Busia: Seasons on the Farm with My Polish Grandmother, and Busia: School Days on the Farm with my Polish Grandmother.

Through Kniffel's writings and publications, his objective was to deepen an understanding among Polish Americans and others of the unique role that Poland and its people have played in history and contemporary society.

Kniffel leaves behind his life partner of 42 years, Carlon B. Walker, along with many fond cousins in the United States, Poland, and England.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

Jozefa Solecki, Siberian Exile Survivor, Polish Air Force Veteran

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jozefa (nee Kawalek) Solecki, born October 17, 1925, in Mosciskach, Poland, was one of the last remaining Polish survivors exiled to Siberia by the Soviet Union during World War II.

At the start of the war, the Soviet Union invaded Poland and deported close to a million Polish citizens along with her family, to the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (abbreviated NKVD) labor camp in Siberia. It was there she lost her father, Jan Kawalek.

On February 10, 1940, her family was amongst a group deported in cattle cars from Poland to a place called Molotowska Blas, in the Ural Mountains, and "housed" in two-family buildings.

Conditions were minimal. There was a stove with an area on top on which a person could sleep (such stoves can still be found in rural Po-



PHOTO: PETER SIMONE

land and other European countries.) Beds were covered with straw for mattresses, she said.

The Camp was called Kluczanka in the Dobranski Region. For two years, the family struggled to survive the atrocities of Stalin's regime. After the declaration of am-

nesty in 1942, her brother joined the Polish 2nd Corps and her elder brother joined the 1st Armoured Division, which resulted in her family being allowed to leave Siberia, by way of Teheran, Iran.

Unable to return to Poland, the family was resettled in the British territories in Africa, where Jozefa was a border guard. From 1942-1943 Jozefa, along with her mother and three younger siblings, lived in the British refugee settlements of Kidugala and Tengeru in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), where she completed her high school education. Jozefa joined the Polish Air Force in Africa and eventually made it to Scotland and England where she joined the 300th Bomber Division of the Polish Air Force.

In Lincolnshire, she met her future husband, Zbigniew Solecki, who was a member of the 300th

Bomber Division. Solecki flew over 37 combat missions in his Lancaster (plane).

The couple married in April 1946.

In 1952, Jozefa and Zbigniew took advantage of the bill admitting Polish ex-servicemen to immigrate to the United States, and settled in Buffalo, N.Y., where she lived until her death.

Jozefa and Zbigniew became productive U.S. citizens, raised a family, and educated their children.

Also known as "Mama" to everyone she met, Jozefa enjoyed endeavors, such as cooking most-loved soups, baking, gardening, and spending time with her family. Quite often Jozefa would share her life experiences with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The Soleckis both belonged to the Polish Veterans of World War II, and SWAP Post #1, where she held the position of Vice Commander. She also belonged to the Ladies Auxiliary and helped coordinate many cultural and social programs organized by the Post.

Jozefa received numerous awards and recognition of her achievements, including the *Am-Pol Eagle* "Citizen of the Year" award, and the "Women of Distinction" award, from the Polish American Congress, WNY Division.

She was also honored with the Polish Golden Medal by the Polish Government, as well as the Siberian Medal, for her hardship during World War II.

Jozefa was also the oldest member of St. John Kanty Church.

Krzysztof Krawczyk, Popular Polish Singer and Composer, 74

Famous Polish singer, guitarist, and composer Krzysztof Krawczyk has died at the age of 74, his manager Andrzej Kosmala. State news agency PAP reported that he died from COVID-19 complications exacerbated by his underlying medical conditions.

Krawczyk's artistic career spanned over 50 years.

He was the vocalist of a popular Polish band, Trubadurzy, from 1963 to 1973 when he started his solo career. He travelled widely on concert tours in Europe and further afield, and had a string of hits. He was a versatile performer, reaching for a

variety of genres, from pop through R&B, swing, soul, jazz, rock'n'roll and country.

He was also capable of wowing audiences with Christmas carols, religious and folk songs, as well as reggae and gypsy music, and even found himself dubbed the "Polish Elvis."

From 1980, he spent years living and performing in the United States, especially in Las Vegas.

In 2000, he sang before Polish-born Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square. A survey found he was the most popular Polish singer at the time.

Capt. Waclaw Butowski, World War II Veteran

Capt. Waclaw Butowski, one of the last living veterans of the Polish Army's 1st Armoured Division in World War II, has died at the age of 94.

He was born in 1926 in Starogard Gdańsk, a town in northern Poland which under German occupation was annexed into the province of Reichsgau Danzig-West Prussia.

Drafted into the Wehrmacht in January 1944, Butowski served in

southern France and Normandy.

In August that year, he escaped from the German army and surrendered to the allies. He joined the Polish Armed Forces in the West and fought in Gen. Stanislaw Maczek's 1st Armored Division as it liberated Breda and other Dutch towns.

He was seriously wounded in April 1945.

After returning to Poland in

1947, Butowski, who had studied violin as a child and teenager, resumed his musical studies.

He played the violin in the Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra until his retirement in 1981. He also directed a choir and an amateur orchestra at the Union of War Veterans in the Polish coastal city of Gdańsk.

He died in Gdańsk five days before his 95th birthday.

Antoni Chroscielewski, SWAP Commander

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — The Commander of the Second District of the Polish Army Veterans Association in America (Stowarzyszenie Weteranów Armii Polskiej w Ameryce, SWAP), Antoni Chroscielewski died April 1, 2021 at the age of 97.

In 1940, together with his mother and sisters, he was transported from his native home Augustow to

Siberia, then to northern Kazakhstan where he spent two years.

Upon hearing that General Anders was forming the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR, he joined the Polish troops. He went through training and combat route of the Second Polish Corps, including the Battle of Monte Cassino.

He spent several years in London working in the factory of the French Company Renault. In the 1950s, upon arriving in New York, he was employed in an American company gaining knowledge and experience, which allowed him to open his own business, which was a success.

Over the past several decades, he devoted himself to the Polish community. In 1980 he became the president of the Polish National Home in, Brooklyn.

Chroscielewski received many military awards including the Commander's Cross with the Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta, presented Sept. 30, 2020 by the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York Adrian Kubicki.

Composer Penderecki's state funeral planned for March 2022

The state funeral of renowned Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki is to take place on March 29, 2022, the second anniversary of his death. The postponement was caused by the continuing coronavirus pandemic and his widow Elzbieta Penderecka's state of health. An urn containing the composer's ashes has been temporarily deposited at St. Florian's church in Kraków.

Until his death, Penderecki, whose legacy included orchestral, choral, operatic and chamber compositions, was regarded by many as the world's greatest living composer. He first gained international prominence in 1961, when his work *Threnody* to the Victims of Hiroshima won a UNESCO prize.

His long list of Polish and foreign honors includes the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest distinction, as well as several Grammy awards.

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DANCE TIME

Restrictions Notwithstanding, Dyngus Spirit Stays Strong

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — This city has long been honorably labeled as the Dyngus Day capitol of America. Buffalo has been hosting the largest number of festival locations, polka bands and showcasing of Polish traditions in the United States. Over 60,000 people descend on the city adorned in red and white to celebrate the conclusion of Lenten regulations and the joyous occasion of Easter.

The planning and anticipation of Dyngus Day 2020 came to a screeching halt due to the COVID pandemic lockdown. The Polish community missed this joyous celebration with friends and family, but quickly took a positive approach by looking forward to returning in 2021. Plans surged as promoters anticipated that this pandemic would be behind us by Easter 2021.

However, those plans were squashed as capacity restrictions, social distancing, and State mandates are still very stringent in New

York, and other parts of the country

with polka fans. Just down the street, a longtime Cheektowaga staple reopened under a new name and new ownership. Matt Burdzy's Pubski Pub, the former Anchor Inn, opened on William Street community in Cheektowaga. The newly-renovated bar still retained the old school charm of this corner tavern serving as a comfortable stop for great food, cold drinks, and friendly staff. Guests were seated at tables in small groups, while the band performing in the cozy corner. Those seated at the bar in groups of two were kept separated from other parties by the plexiglass partitions, that we unfortunately all know too well. Social distancing and no dancing rules applied, but the excitement in the air was undeniable. **Buffalo Touch** took request after request, energizing the crowd with their trademark antics. "Alice" and "Dyngus Day in Buffalo" were amongst the favorite tunes requested multiple times in the three-hour window they performed.

Matt and his family are longtime



Lilly Wisniewski, Michal Zachowicz, and Marzena Wisniewski at Mickie's outdoor Dyngus event.

A number of events became a reality by promoters reconfiguring what they had done in the past. Many organizations rely on their large Dyngus Day celebrations to fund operations for the entire year. I was so thrilled that many of these events were able to take place.

The Polish Cadets in the Black Rock section of the city hosted limited ticket events throughout the day. The timed events were at 12:00, 4:00, and 7:00 with music by **Tom Mroczka & The Music Box** from Cleveland. The event ticket included admission, live music, dinner, and dessert. For those who were not comfortable attending the event, Cadets also offered Polish platters "to go" all day, so you could enjoy your Dyngus celebration at home.

The Cadets, founded in 1899, has acted as a central social meeting place and advocate for the citizenry of the Black Rock community. At one time a men's club for Polish immigrants, it has evolved into a family oriented, multi-ethnic meeting place for a variety of events. With a full kitchen and two bars, this club

is well equipped to host public cultural events like Dyngus Day, Oktoberfest, as well as private parties. President Wendy Higgins, her husband Corky, and their family, work tirelessly to continue the traditions at Polish Cadets and keep this treasure a viable organization in Buffalo. You can learn more about them by visiting www.polishcadetsofbuffalo.com.

Multiple-timed events were very popular this year to regulate crowds, while creating the ability to double ticket sales during these limitations. Potts Banquet Hall accommodated sold out

three-hour windows. The Stage was booked well in advance with tables full. Attendants enjoyed plates of Polish food, cocktails, and were ecstatic to enjoy the music provided by each band. The large stage at the far end of this large venue allowed each table a direct view of the band. While fans wanted to dance, security was quick to make certain everyone remained seated during the event. While not the way we are used to enjoying polka music, this spacious venue amplified the loud, bolstering cheers that motivate a band to play their hearts out. It would be great to see an event like "Polka Meets Country" return to this venue once crowds can once again be at full capacity.

The Dyngus Day parade is the essential event of Dyngus Day on the East side of Buffalo. Typically lasting well over an hour, floats, organizations, and individuals go above and beyond to boast the best in show for this event. Packed streets, standing shoulder to shoulder along the parade route really encapsulates the intensity of Dyngus Day. With crowds being



Phocus at Potts Banquet Hall.

hoping to host events. Dyngus Day, once again, looked dismal for this year, but all was not lost.

Thanks to the determination of Dyngus Day organizers, restaurant owners, venue operators, and many volunteers, several events were held with much success. Easter Monday celebrations had a different look and aura this year, but the sense of joy, pride, and hope for the future was deeply felt throughout the Polish community.

Two venues hosted Dyngus Day kick-off events on the evening of Easter. Potts Banquet Hall, a longtime Dyngus Day venue with Polish owners, showcased **Phocus** at a limited pre-sale ticket sit-down event. Guests were treated to an evening of music and food for a mere admission of \$13.00. Guests raved about the spirited celebration, and were beyond thrilled to hear live polka music again. Although dancing was not allowed, there was plenty of bouncing and clapping coming from the many tables lined

polka supporters, and this event was the very first of what I believe will be years of live polka music being pumped through this locale. The food, staff, and atmosphere were impeccable allowing people to really enjoy themselves, while closing following all state regulations.



Burdzy family of Pubski's Pub.



Ula Pulkotycki, Andrzej J. Ogiba, and Rayanne Bakowski at The Stage.

crowds following their limitations on capacity during two time slots.

An afternoon seating was entertained by the music of **Special Delivery** from 1:00-5:00, and the evening session listened to the music of **Phocus** from 6:00-11:00. Folks enjoyed the upbeat polka music and were served a Polish dinner with their price of admission. It was no surprise that Potts sold out very early for these two events as Special Delivery and Phocus always draw fans.

The Stage in Williamsville had live polka music nonstop from 2:00-8:00 p.m. featuring **Dave Gradowski's Musical Magic**, **Hocus Polkas**, and **Buffalo Touch**. Guests had to make table reservations ahead of time and were limited to

deterred even in an outdoor setting, there were serious doubts that the parade could event take place. Eddy Dobosiewicz, president of Dyngus Day Buffalo worked to pull off a COVID-safe car parade for the 2021 events. A few dozen floats and cars made their way through the Polonia district with onlookers spaced apart of the streets cheering on the parade. The parade gave some hope that things will return to normal, and Dyngus Day as we know it will return once again. It was nice to participants lining up for the event. Their smiles, waves, and elation brought up years of great memories attending this parade.

Also, taking place in Buffalo's

See "Dyngus Day," next page

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2	Dave (Nigel) Kurdziel	1968	Musician (Bass) / Vocalist	Grand Rapids, Mich.
4	John Stanky	1939	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Nanticoke, Pa.
5	Erik Volek	1978	Musician (Drums)	N.Y.
6	Al Soyka	1922 4-5-13	Bandleader / Musician	Conn.
10	John Demerski	1935 6-2-15	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
10	Lenny Zielinski		Bandleader / Musician	Chicago
12	Allen (Abe) Carrick	1948	Musician (Drums)	Pa. / Ariz.
13	Big Joe Siedlik	1934 1-1-15	Promoter / DJ	Omaha
14	Stacey Morris		Musician / Vocalist (Nutones)	Pa.
16	Gary Krupski (Krew)		Musician / Vocalist (Krew Bros.)	Cheektowaga, N.Y.
16	Eddie Korosa Jr.	1958	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
16	Chris Bogdon	1971	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
17	Ray Kovac	1936	Bandleader / Musician (Al Ray Combo)	Ohio
17	Dave Pietrzak	1945	Musician / Vocalist	Cleveland
18	Don Evans	1927 4-24-04	Polka D.J. (WEEP)	Pittsburgh
18	Eddie Swiderski	1939 4-19-71	Musician / Arranger (Naturals)	Chicago
18	Robyn Mrozinski	1976	Musician / Vocalist	Minneapolis
19	Karl Lukitsch		Bandleader / Musician	Pa.
20	Ryan Ogradny		Musician / Vocalist	Pittsburgh / Nashville
21	Mitch Biskup		Vocalist / Raconteur (Golden & New Brass)	Ludlow, Mass.
22	Ray Soyka	1924	Vocalist (Al Soyka Orch.)	Conn.
22	Greg Novak		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
22	Tom Kula	1936 10-21-18	Musician / Vocalist (Ampol-Aires)	Chicago
22	Chet Schaffer	1922- 4-11-2018	DJ / Producer (Chicago Polka Records)	Chicago
22	Steve Fornek		Bandleader/Musician/Vocalist	Chicago
22	Henny Jasiewicz	1945 4-25-17	Bandleader Vocalist (Henny & Versa-Js)	McKeesport, Pa.
23	Vinny Horoschock		Musician (Stanky & Coalminers)	Nanticoke, Pa.
23	Matt Gregg Jr.		Bandleader / Vocalist	Pa.
24	Ann Golembewski		Promoter / DJ	Conn.
24	Rich Suckiel		I.J. (Polka Jammer)	N.J.
24	Jas Prasynski	1925 1-4-96	Musician / Vocalist (Conn. Twins)	Conn.
24	Stas Prasynski	1925 11-24-14	Musician / Vocalist (Conn. Twins)	Conn.
26	Marisha Data (Mary Gribac)	1910 10-12-72	Musician / Arranger / DJ	Chicago
26	Jimmy Soldridge	1942 10-10-09	Bandleader / Musician / DJ	Pa.
27	Jersey Polka Richie	1958	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Fla.
29	Louie Jedlowski	1947 7-30-07	Musician (Trumpet)	Chicago

JUNE POLKA BIRTHDAYS

1	Derryl Schmitz	1960	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Mich.
3	Steve Muchoney	1944	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
3	Eddie Forman		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Mass.
4	Rich Sendra	1942	Musician (Original Versatones)-	Chicago
5	Ray Budzilek Sr.	1929 6-21-82	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
5	Big Steve Krzeminski	1945 1-6-99	Bandleader / musician / Vocalist / DJ	Buffalo
5	Rich Biela	1952	Musician (Drums)	Ohio
6	Steve Gibala	1978	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
7	Rich Benkowski	1955	Musician (Original TBC)	Ohio
8	Rose Zelinski		Musician / Vocalist (Jolly Js)	Ohio
9	Bob Earl	1960	Musician / Vocalist	Toledo
9	Dave Smialowski	1970	Polka D.J.	New Castle, Pa.
10	Fred Brozek	1934	Lyricist / DJ WTCC	Mass.
11	Ed Ostry		Polka D.J.	Ohio
11	Major Mel Himes	1957	Polka D.J.	Erie, Pa.
12	Chet Kowalkowski	1939	Musician / Vocalist (Versatones)	Chicago
14	Don (Porter) Baptiste	1939	Musician (Trumpet) / Ha-Lo Musician	Mass.
14	Henry langlois		D.J. / Record Collector	Rhode Island
15	Jeff Volek	1976	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
17	John Stevens	1976	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
18	Chester J. Jakoski	1933 10-16-07	Polka D.J. / Promoter	Pittsburgh
18	Eddie Madura	1939 12-25-16	Musician (Casinos) Bel-Aire Studio Musician	Chicago
18	Rick Gazda	1952	Musician / Bandleader	Philadelphia.
19	Jimmy Homel		Musician	Chicago
20	Sil Martini	1932 11-13-08	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Invictas)	Pa.
20	Bob Bajek		Musician (Trumpet) Polka Dot -5 / Lush Band	Chicago
20	Bill Czerniak	1946 4-18-02	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Minn.
20	Steve Spidak	1964 2002	Musician (Drums)	Pa.
21	Dan Gury	1931	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Mich.
21	Peter Shalins	1946 3-31-2014	Bandleader / Musician	N.Y.
23	Rich Raclowski	1961	Musician / Vocalist	Wisc.
23	Jolly Joe Truszkowski	1944 4-23-09	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pa.
24	Molly Busta		Musician / Vocalist (Squeeze Box)	Ohio
26	Francis (Lefty) Lewandowski	1932 1993	Musician (Trumpet) Lush Band	Chicago
27	Bryant Gambu	1956	Musician	Chicago
28	Julie (Julcia) Dusseault		Vocalist / DJ/ Promoter Happy Louie's Wife	Mass.
28	Randy Krajewski		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist-Toledo	Toledo
29	Bob Frydryk	1958	Musician / Vocalist (EFO)	Mass.
29	Ron Urbanczyk	1951 12-16-21	Bandleader (New Direction)	N.Y.

Dyngus Day

continued from previous page

Polonia was an event at Adam Mickiewicz Library, located on Fillmore Ave. "Mickie's" is Buffalo's oldest Polish organization, established in 1895. It hosts one of the most authentic celebrations in Buffalo.

I have a special place in my heart for this organization, as it is the first Dyngus Day event I attended when I moved to Buffalo. I attended the event alone, and I was hooked within a few minutes of entering its doors. Mickie's was slated for a huge blowout celebration in 2020 to celebrate its 125th anniversary, and volunteers used this past year to do major renovations to the space. An

indoor VIP event with limited tickets allowed the choice of four time slots and took place inside the hall. The VIP event included a drink ticket, food, table service, and a special gift package upon arrival. There was also a limited admission outdoor tent with music by DJ Red. Outdoor admission was for a two-hour time slot to allow more people to celebrate while remaining socially distant. Babcia's Pierogi food truck and vendors were on hand to add to the party atmosphere.

While we were lucky to have these paired down safe events this year, I look forward to April 18, 2022 when we can hopefully return to celebrating Dyngus Day together safely with record breaking crowds.



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SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

To be eligible, the applicant must:

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

The complete application pack-

age must be received in its entirety no later than August 31, 2021.

There is no application fee.

Factors for consideration include (in order of importance):

- a demonstrated interest and involvement in Polish American cultural activities with future plans to advance those interests.
- significant and potential contributions (academic, cultural, scientific, civic), open to all career fields.
- academic and scholastic performance and achievements as demonstrated in application materials provided for examination.

The theme is this year's scholarship essay is the impact of razing of Detroit's Poletown neighborhood on its displaced Polish-American residents. In 1981, a portion of the neighborhood was demolished to make way for the construction of the General Motors Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly plant. General Motors and the cities of Detroit and Hamtramck relied on eminent domain to relocate the 4,200 people

who lived in the area, along with their 1,300 homes, 140 businesses, six churches, and one hospital.

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

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

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

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

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Polish American Journal Foundation

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

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.

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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.

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