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

WHY WE REMEMBER NOVEMBER 11 • 2021 MODJESKA PRIZES • 19TH CENTURY CHOPIN PORTRAIT RESTORED  
 PRESERVING A PART OF THE ST. LAURENTIUS LEGACY • MAKING AND FREEZING PIEROGI FOR CHRISTMAS EVE  
 NEW NATIONAL HOLIDAY • TROOPS CONCERN MOSCOW • CLASS OF 2020 FINALLY ENTERS HALL OF FAME

## NEWSMARK

### Sacred Heart Fire Officially Arson

MINNEAPOLIS — The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), alongside its investigative partners, is seeking assistance from the public in identifying a person who may have information related to an April fire at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church.

According to a release, a reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered for helpful information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

The more than 100-year-old church, located at 2200 Fifth Street in northeast Minneapolis, caught fire in the early evening of April 19, 2021. The structure had extensive damage and a collapsed roof. ATF investigators worked alongside the Minneapolis Police Department and Minneapolis Fire Department to determine that the fire at the church was a result of an act of arson, classifying the fire incendiary.

“Surveillance footage shows an individual who was present in the area around the time when smoke started billowing from the church,” ATF Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jeff Reed said

Anyone with any information about this incident or identification of the individuals involved is asked to contact ATF by calling 1-888-283-8477, or by leaving an anonymous tip at the ATF website, <https://www.atf.gov/atf-tips>.

### Brussels-Warsaw Still at Odds

This month, the European Commission (EC), the EU’s executive branch, is prepared to grant Poland funds with which to rebuild its economy following the pandemic lockdown. However, Warsaw must restore the rule of law in the country as defined by the EC. That means — among other things — the disciplinary chamber of the Polish Supreme Court must be dissolved, and the supremacy of EU law over national law must be recognized.

Warsaw has repeatedly argued the EU treaties it signed when it joined the community left judicial matters in the hands of individual member nations, hence the EC was overstepping its bounds and unilaterally expanding its sphere of competence.

Warsaw has also chronically complained about Brussels’ double standards — one for the bloc’s “biggies” (Germany and France), and the other for smaller countries. Polish government circles have even hinted that if Poland’s rightful funds are withheld, Poland might cut back on its financial contributions to the EU, or even take the EC to the Europe’s highest court over the matter. That might be problematic, as Warsaw has ignored that court’s order to immediately shut down the Turów lignite mine in the country’s extreme SW corner.

### State of Emergency Extended

Following a stormy debate, Poland’s 460-seat Sejm voted to extend the 30-day state of emergency along the country’s border with Belarus for another 60 days. The migrant crisis was artificially created by Belarusian strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka, a protégé of Russia’s Vladimir Putin, to punish the EU for its sanctions against Minsk. The Belarusian regime has lifted visa requirements for several Middle Eastern countries, and is bringing in planeloads of Muslims, busing them to the border and urging them to illegally enter Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia. Since August, Polish border troops have prevented some 10,000 undocumented illegals from entering the country. Polish Television showed photos from migrant cellphones containing photos of top Islamic radicals, evidence of terrorist connections, and even a decapitation scene. At least 10% of would-be migrants had spent time in Russia and some had undergone military training there, the TV reported.

### Washington approves Magierowski as New Ambassador

Marek Magierowski, who has been Poland’s ambassador to Israel, received formal American approval to become the next ambassador to the United States.

The Polish Foreign Ministry hopes Magierowski will be able to take command of its diplomatic mission in Washington before the end of the year, said ministry spokesman Łukasz Jasina.

Magierowski had been Poland’s ambassador to Israel since 2018, but after traveling to Warsaw for consultations, was asked by Israel not to return as a result of a diplomatic dispute over a Polish property-restitution law. Israel claims the law discriminates against Holocaust victims and their descendants, although the measure applies to all former owners of Polish real estate regardless of ethnicity or religion.

## Visionary Commemorated



On September 18, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation dedicated an officially-sanctioned Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission marker to commemorate the achievements of Leopold Stokowski, the musical innovator who made the Philadelphia Orchestra world class institution. He is also famous for the musical score for Walt Disney’s animated film *Fantasia*.

The marker stands in front of the Academy of Music on Broad Street in Philadelphia. *Story on page 4.*

## Surge in COVID-19 Cases Worries Health Minister

WARSAW — Poland is facing an explosion of COVID-19 cases that may require drastic action, the health minister said. On October 20, more than 5,000 daily new infections — the highest since May — were reported.

Central Europe suffered a surge in COVID-19 cases in mid-October, fueling fears that vaccination rates — lower than in the west of the continent — could fan a damaging fresh wave of infections.

About 61% of adult Poles are fully vaccinated, below an EU average of just over 74%.

Poland is planning to make booster doses of the coronavirus vaccine available to all adults over the next few weeks, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said.

“Those over 18 who had their last dose at least six months ago will be able to get another dose,” he said in a Facebook post.

Earlier, Health Minister Adam Niedzielski warned that Poland had been hit by “an explosion of the pandemic” over a period of two days. “We have increases from week to week of 85% and over 100%,” Niedzielski told a news conference.

He said if the trend continues, the country “will have to take drastic measures,” while adding that there was currently no discussion in government about imposing another lockdown.

See “COVID-19 ...,” page 5

## Adwent – the waiting time

by Staś Kmieć

There are many pages in the Polish calendar with customs cultivated by our ancestors that are worth dusting off. The folk traditions and practices surrounding *Adwent* are intriguing and have a deeper background beyond the horizontal wreath with four candles seen in church.

There are many interesting but disappearing customs that are a combination of religion, observation, and the rhythm of nature with a pinch of magical and superstitious beliefs.

*Adwent* (Advent) is a time of vigilance and waiting patiently. In Poland this is a time of fasting and prayer, of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The customs, which have been passed down through the centuries are deeply rooted. During these days, the churchgoers went to confession and communion more often, and fasted on Mondays,

Wednesdays, and Fridays.

The custom of fasting was common. Meat and fat of animal origin

were not eaten, alcohol could not

see “Adwent ...,” page 2



Ceromancy (also known as ceromancy — divination involving wax) was one of the customs practiced in Old Poland during *Adwent*. Molten wax was poured through the hole of a key into cold water. The shape it formed was then interpreted to predict the future.

# Adwent. A time of fasting and prayer in preparation for Christmas

continued from cover

be consumed, and in some families, even dairy was forbidden on Wednesdays and Fridays. Those who were not fasting were not able to see the Bethlehem star on Christmas Eve, even if the sky was clear.

They tried to emphasize their difference not only with their behavior, but also the clothes they wore and appearance of their homes. The Podhale *górale* (highlanders) wore dark attire with no ornamentation.

The history of Advent as the waiting time for the birth of Christ traces back to the Middle Ages (5th century). It was a mapping of the Lenten period, meaning that it lasted six Sundays, or forty days, and began on the first Sunday after St. Martin. It was a turning point in the annual ritual.

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means “coming.” In the Christian church, it lasts about four weeks, preceding Christmas (four Sundays). These days start after November 30th, around St. Andrew’s Eve, on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and last until December 24th. This is a crucial period in Polish annual tradition of Church and folk rituals. In the Catholic liturgy, the anxiety of autumn was manifested in Advent — the arrival.

During Advent it was forbidden to work in the fields. It was believed that the uneven ground would endanger it with infertility for the next year or even seven years, depending on the region. The disturbance of the peace of the earth, when the souls of the dead and other spirits wandered over it, could damage the restoration of the time of life.

There was an old proverb — *Kto w adwent ziemię pruje, trzy lata choruje* (He who breaks ground in Advent will be suffering for three years).

Advent took a specific form in the Kaszuby region, where the Christmas celebrations were already starting. In the village, one could meet disguised people called *Gwiôzdk*, led by *Gwiôzdz*, dressed in straw. He was accompanied by *Gwiôzdz* which - as the name suggests - whistled loudly to scare the children rushing on the roads. Among the costumed, one could meet: the military officer *Żandarm-Szinder*, a chimney sweep, an old woman, a grandfather (*streich* in Kashubian), a Jew, a Gypsy, the devil *Pûrtk*, Death and animals: a horse, a stork and a bear.

## Trumpeting Advent

In the past, especially in Podlasie and some villages in the Lublin area, Advent began with a ceremonial herald on *ligawki*. These are long, wooden horns, which make a very characteristic, deep and loud sound. It was a symbol of the Archangel’s trumpet, which was to announce the imminent coming of the Savior. The instrument is made from spruce or alder wood, constructed from two curved halves, arched, glued with wax, and wrapped with the decorative root.

To intensify the effect, a trumpeter stood over a well, so that the echo amplified the played tune which signaled that from now on all music instruments should disappear along with any kind of parties. Weddings or other ceremonies connected with banqueting, sing-

ing, and dancing were not allowed — nor was matchmaking.

The time of reflection, solemnity, and religious practice had begun. To avoid temptation, instruments were kept in chests or in a hiding place. All this was necessary to be able to live the waiting time with dignity — deepening religious practices, making



prayers more zealous and remembering and honoring the deceased. Trumpeting Advent was the beginning of silence.

## Roraty

Throughout the Advent period in Catholic churches, the first morning liturgy, at the time of the sunrise is celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is known as “Roraty” from the first words in Latin of the Gregorian chant known as “The Advent Prose”: *Rorate caeli desuper* — “let the dew of heaven fall for us.”

During the mass, a huge *roratnica* candle was burning, as a symbol of Our Lady. People attended with small wax candles or lanterns to light the dark church. The candles were once decorated with a blue ribbon that symbolized the Virgin Mary.

In addition to the small *roratki* candles, four large candles are set in a special wreath, and each is lit successively during each of the four Sundays of Advent.

In Kraków, the Dominican Church *Bazylika Świętej Trójcy* (Basilica of the Holy Trinity) celebrates *Roraty* in a very traditional way. Despite the very early hour, people are tightly crowded inside.

*Roraty* has been present in Poland since the 13th century. The first city where they were held was Poznań. The celebrations were introduced by Prince Przemysław the Pious, and subsequently in Kraków by King Bolesław the Chaste.

In the past, after the morning mass, young, unmarried women would catch men returning from church, spinning them around in a playful way and calling: *Roracie, roracie, jak na imię macie?* (“Rorat, Rorat, what’s your name?”). From the answers, they learned what their future husband’s name might be.

## Przędki and Skubaczki

In villages of the past, long autumn evenings of Advent were the time of neighborly meetings of the women to do some minor work together. Most often it was spinning (*przędki*) and tearing feathers (*skubaczki*). They were spinning linen and wool with spindles or spinning wheels, plucking feathers, sorting beans and peas, sewing and other post-harvest house chores.

The women would invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to come and work with them. Both older housewives and young girls took part in the work. The number of women gathered in one household

were usually between five to 15. Significant stocks of feathers were collected primarily in these houses, where a dowry was prepared for daughters, in the form of feathers and pillows. This work was accompanied by tales, proverbs, singing or simply an exchange of thoughts and news.

Young

men would gather near the house, making jokes, and knocking on the windows to scare the women. They were often dressed in outrageous costumes or painted their faces with the soot. The women’s work usually lasted from a few days up to two weeks and after finishing, they would move on to another farm.

## Św. Katarzyna

The feast of Saint Catherine, the patroness of bachelors on November 25, announces the beginning of the Advent season. Her feast day was one of the last entertainments before the official one of St. Andrew (Andrzej, also in the archaic form of *Jędrzej*) on November 30, which was the final signal to stop all merriment in accordance with the canon law of the Catholic Church. The interval between these days was given to marriage and weather predictions.

## Św. Andrzej

Saint Andrew’s traditions have a very long history; it is a night of magic, fortune-telling, and mysterious rituals. St. Andrew’s Day is celebrated from November 29 to 30. According to tradition, St. Andrew’s Eve was the night when one’s future was revealed. It was then that maidens could discover the secret of their future marriage.

*Andrzejki, Jędrzejówki, Jędrzejki* is celebrated on the eve of St. Andrew. The tradition of these evenings goes back to ancient times. The first written records of this holiday come from the 16th century with rites that go far beyond the those known to us today.

The tradition may have come from the times of ancient Greece. The name *Andrzej* is associated with the Greek *andros* and *aner* meaning husband or man or *adnreios* (brave), referring to the martyrdom of St. Andrew. Other sources refer to the ancient German origin of *Andrzejek*, associated with the cult of the god of fertility, love, and wealth.

Polish maidens knew that on the name day of *Święty Andrzej* they had the chance to discover how their love life would turn out. In

old Poland, this was one of the most important dates on the calendar, and fortune-telling on this special evening was treated very seriously. Great fires were lit around the houses to ward off evil spirits, and virgins placed men’s trousers under pillows to dream of their future husband or counted posts in a fence in the hope that they would learn something about the future husband. There were many games and rituals that were enacted during this night.

## Wax pouring

Melted wax is traditionally poured through the hole of a key into cold water to find symbols in the formed shape. The shadow of the wax creation is projected against a wall and interpreted.

In the past, tin or lead were used for divination. It is best if they came from window frames or stained glass from the church, as it was a symbol of an unbreakable relationship. After melting, they were poured into cold water through a skeleton keyhole or horseshoe which meant opening the gate of time. The resulting shapes also had a specific meaning. The figure of an angel meant care, the shape of the cloud suggested that you need to open to new experiences, while the cat warned against making hasty decisions and ill-considered relationships.

## The Shoe Race

St. Andrew’s night was a night to organize a shoe race. The idea is to place the left shoes of the participants in a row in the corner of the room. The last shoe moves to the first place, this continues in succession until one of the shoes touches the threshold. The person who owns the shoe will, according to divination, be the first to be wed.

## A throw of a shoe

Another popular omen that also utilized footwear was a shoe throw. The participant turned her back to the door, and then threw her left shoe over her shoulder towards the door. The shoe, which had fallen with its sole to the floor and pointed with its tip towards the door, heralded a swift change in marital status.

## Four cups

Under three of four cups place: a wedding ring, a leaf and a coin. Put nothing under the fourth. Rearrange the cups several times and then each participant chooses one of them. The ring means love, the leaf - marriage, and the coin - wealth. An empty cup - most likely nothing will change in the near future, or it could mean spinsterhood. If needing additional cups, other small items can be used - a key symbolizing a move or a sugar cube representing a sweet and care-free life.

## The longest peeler

Prepare apples of the same size, which the participants then peel. Whoever succeeds in obtaining the longest peel will have a relationship for the longest term. The peels are then thrown behind and the first letter of the name of one’s future husband is deciphered.

## Notes under the pillow

On small pieces of paper, male names are written. The cards are folded, placed under the pillow and left overnight. In the morning, a random card is pulled out. The name written on it will be the name of one’s future beloved or friend for life.

## Floating Walnut shells

Another St. Andrew’s custom, for which steam is needed, is releasing walnut shells. If the shells sink, it means that people will not be joined by love. If, however, the shells meet, then they will surely get married.

## Flipping a coin

Each participant chooses a coin of any denomination.

Making a wish, the coin is thrown into a water-filled vessel placed at the appropriate distance - not be too close or too far. The coins that target the bowl of water, will have their wishes fulfilled. The first literary mention comes from the sixteenth century as primarily St. Andrew’s love omens:

- If a girl did not eat anything on St. Andrew’s, her future husband was supposed to appear in her dream. (In some parts of the country, girls fasted all day and ate salty herring before going to bed. This was to bring about a prophetic dream during which they would see their future husband).
- If a cherry branch cut off on St. Andrew’s Day had blossomed on Christmas Eve, then the bride could count on a quick marriage. Another St. Andrew’s Day tradition was to cut cherry twigs and put them in the water. If the twig bloomed on Christmas Eve, it promised the bride a quick marriage.
- The direction from which the dog barked on *Andrzejki*, is the one from which your fiancé will come.
- It was popular to cover a gander’s eyes and let him into the circle of girls; the girl pinched first would be married soonest

## Św. Barbara

At the beginning of the month (December 4), Saint Barbara, commonly known as *Barbórka* is best known as the patron saint of miners. She is especially venerated in Śląsk, Lublin, and Pomorze, where there are most chapels devoted to her in mines, harbors, and roadside shrines. On this day, the weather for Christmas was predicted. “Saint Barbara on the water, Christmas on the water.” or vice versa “Saint Barbara on the water, Christmas on the ice.”

## Św. Mikołaj

Joy to Advent’s solemn atmosphere was introduced by certain days, such as Saint Nicholas Day (December 6). **Dzień Świętego Mikołaja** starts off the Christmas

continued on next page

## Historical marker for Leopold Stokowski

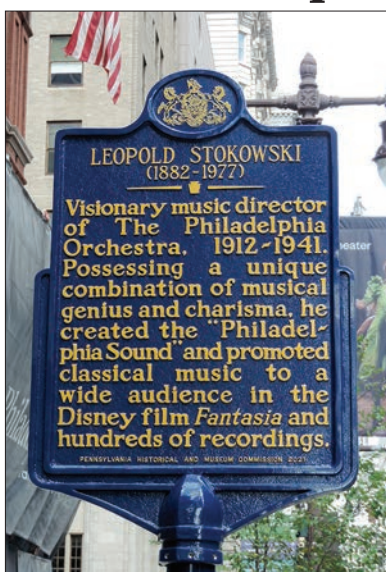
PHILADELPHIA — Leopold Stokowski was first among the musical innovators who began bringing the Philadelphia Sound to the world, through performance, radio and recordings. He experimented with new orchestral techniques and instruments. He had the right mixture of showmanship and talent to break the stale old mold of “classical music” and make audiences cheer. As conductor and musical director, he took the Philadelphia Orchestra to new heights, making it a real “world class” institution.

On September 18 of this year Stokowski was honored with an official Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker, placed in front of the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Its wording is as follows:

**Leopold Stokowski  
(1882-1977)**

**Visionary music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra, 1912-1941. Possessing a unique combination of musical genius and charisma, he created the “Philadelphia Sound” and promoted classical music to a wide audience in the Disney film *Fantasia* and hundreds of recordings.**

At noon, some thirty individuals gathered in front of the Academy of



Music at 240 South Broad Street in Philadelphia to witness the official unveiling of the marker. During a thirty-five-minute program, conducted by Sylwia Czajkowska, president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, several individuals were introduced. First the national anthems of Poland and the United States were played. Then, Deborah M. Majka, the honorary consul for Southeastern Pennsylvania, spoke for the Polish Consulate. She was followed by Nancy Moses, head of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Matias Tarnopolsky, chief executive officer of the Philadelphia Orchestra added

his remarks on the past and current status of the orchestra, while Paul Krzywicki, a tubist retired from the orchestra commented on the long-time influence of Leopold Stokowski's legacy. Incidentally, Paul is the author of *From Paderewski to Penderecki* a book which recounts the Polish influence on music in Philadelphia. Janusz Romanski, representing Polonia Technika, an association of Polish engineers in the United States presented Sylwia with a commendation certificate, on the accomplishment of placing this historical marker. At the end of the ceremony, Peter J. Obst read from a proclamation issued by James F. Kenney, mayor of Philadelphia especially for this ceremony. Then strains of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* sounded (recorded by Leopold Stokowski 1943) the cover was lifted from the marker to the applause of those present.

Some persons lingered afterwards to take some pictures in front of the marker, including Alexandra Golaszewska and her husband John B. Kelly III, president of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Several years prior, the Kelly family was granted a historical marker at their former Philadelphia residence. Alexandra's father, Walter Golaski, an inventor and engineer, was similarly honored on Drexel University

grounds. Many persons commented on the value of honoring outstanding persons of Polish background with similar symbols of recognition. Visitors to center city Philadelphia now have a new reference point and a historical reminder of its musical heritage.

It should also be mentioned that the Philadelphia Department of Streets was very helpful in the installation of this marker. Normally the installation takes a week or two before the unveiling. Unfortunately, Philadelphia was affected by flooding in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ida and the Dept. of Streets, already shorthanded because of the Covid pandemic, was hard-pressed to accomplish this



Sylwia Czajkowska, president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

planned task. Fortunately, they performed with great dedication and installed the marker a day before the dedication ceremony.

## Advent was also a time to predict the weather

continued from page 2

holidays in Poland. St. Nicholas was the 4th-century Bishop of Myra in Lycia, what is now a province of Turkey. He had a reputation for secret gift-giving and is associated by some countries with Santa Claus.

Traditionally, St. Nicholas is dressed as a bishop, Polish children receive chocolates, nuts, oranges, and Advent calendars. Each day the boys and girls would open a door of the calendar. Behind the doors are pieces of chocolate. Currently, it is an opportunity for us to give loved ones small, mysterious gifts.

The origins of this tradition in Poland can be found already in the 13th century. Donations were left in *Saint Nicholas boxes* as a collection of financial aid for poor children. The custom of giving gifts to children, on the other hand, dates to the nineteenth century - it was then particularly popular in the regions of Śląsk, Małopolska, the Lublin region and Mazury.

In the western regions, *Gwiazdor* is a popular bringer of gifts. This character — with a huge bag of gifts and a rood — visits



One Advent belief was that if a girl did not eat anything on St. Andrew's, her future husband would appear in her dream.

children in Wielkopolska, Kujawy and Warmia. In the east, the popular equivalent of St. Nicholas is *Dziadek Mróz* — deriving from East Slavic folklore.

### Św. Łucja

The feast day of Saint Lucy (December 13) coincided with the short-

est day of the year prior to calendar reforms and is widely celebrated as a festival of light. The day is viewed as a precursor of Christmastide, pointing to the arrival of the light of Christ on Christmas Day.

On that day there was also the custom of predicting the weather for the coming year by observing the 12 consecutive days until Christmas. Each of them corresponded to one month over the following year.

In some regions, the small branches of trees were cut and put in the vase. If they released buds before Christmas, it announced the prosperity in the upcoming year. Another prediction was with the peeled onion: 12 scales were laid next to each other and if the water appeared in any of them, it meant the wet and rainy month.

The day was associated with the hope of a return to brightness. Christmas

cleaning and preparations were traditionally started on this day. Derogations from this deadline could have unpleasant consequences. There were no special forms of worship connected with this saint, but it was considered as the borderline time between what was and what will be.

## December PAJ will arrive late

Your December Polish American Journal will be mailed by December 3, 2021. This is due to printing and mailing schedules, made off-schedule because of Thanksgiving Day. Please allow at least one week delivery time (December 10) before contacting us with non-delivery of your paper.

## Grand Opening of Heritage Center

PANNA MARIA, Texas — Cutting the ribbon to the new Polish Heritage Center on Oct. 23, **Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta** officially opened the world-class museum and history center in the heart of Texas Polonia. Joined by Robert Rusiecki, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston, and Karnes

City Chamber of Commerce members, the Center became a reality for Bishop Yanta, who oversaw the project from its very beginning.

For more information contact the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation, P.O. Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228, or visit <https://polishheritagecentertx.org/>.

## A Period Rich in Proverbs

by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab and Mark Kohan

Based on old language meanings, which are sometimes hard to decipher in today's modern language, proverbs often lose something in translation. Nonetheless, their role in giving structure and meaning to the life of the people of Poland is evident at every turn, as evidenced by these gems found in folklore collections:

- *Święta Katarzyna adwent zaczyna or Święta Katarzyna adwent rozpoczyna.*  
St. Catherine (November 25) begins Advent.
  - *Święty Jędrzej adwent przytwierdzi.*  
St. Andrew (November 30) confirms the beginning of Advent.
  - *Święta Katarzyna klucze pogubiła, Święty Jędrzej znalazł – zamknął skrzypki zaraz.*  
St. Catherine lost her keys (figuratively, “losing one's head” during final pre-Advent celebrations) St. Andrew recovered them (brought them to their senses), and immediately locked up the fiddles.
  - *Święta Katarzyna adwent zawiązuje, sama hula, pije, a nam zakazuje.*  
St. Catharine starts Advent, she dances, drinks, but tells us we cannot.
  - *Święta Katarzyna adwent zaczyna, święty Jędrzej jeszcze mędrzej.*  
St. Catherine – Advent begins, St. Andrew is still wiser.
- Although marriage celebrations did not occur during Advent, the feasts of St. Catherine and St. Andrew the patron saints of marriageable individuals, was a time to make marriage predictions and dream of think about your future mate.
- *Noc Andrzeja świętego przyniesie nam narzeczonego.*  
The night of St. Andrew will bring us our betrothed.
  - *Święta Katarzyna adwent zawiązała: dziewczyna nieszczęśliwa, że się nie wydała.*  
When Advent begins on St. Catherine, the girls are unhappy they did not marry.(once Advent begins, such celebrations as marriages did not occur)
  - *Kto się zaleca w adwenta, ten będzie miał żonę na święta.*  
Whoever goes courting in Advent, will have a wife for the holidays.

The days are also associated with weather predictions, the growing season and, essentially, how to conduct your life. Attempts were made to predict the weather and harvest for the next year, as accurately as possible. In the farming culture, the whole existence of the family was dependent on that! There are many weather-prediction proverbs for Christmas time, and many during Advent.

- *Gdy w adwencie szadź na drzewach się pokazuje, to rok urodzajny nam zwiastuje.*  
Frost in the orchard during Advent portends a fertile year ahead.
- *Gdy święty Andrzej ze śniegiem przybieży, sto dni śnieg na polu leży.*  
If on St. Andrew the snow flies, it will lie on the fields for a hundred days.
- *Katarzyna dzień jaki, cały grudzień taki.*  
The type of day on St. Catherine, the entire month the same.
- *Jak co zamorzysz w adwencie, tego nie dobdziesz po święcie.*  
What you pine for in Advent, you won't get after the holiday.

## ALMANAC

## November 🌕 Listopad

"I don't like to be alone. I like to have my family around me. They disturb me, of course, but that's OK."

— **Composer Krzysztof Penderecki** (1933-2020).

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**  
1777. **Casimir Putaski** joins U.S. forces.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**  
*Dzień Zaduszny* or *Zaduszki*. A national holiday in Poland to memorialize the deceased.  
*W Dzień Zaduszny gdy pogoda, na Wielkanoc będzie woda. A rainy Easter is the price for an All Soul's that is nice.*  
1788. **Piotr Stadnicki** loans United States \$15 million and forms the Holland Land Company.
- 3 **1806. Greater Poland Uprising** begins.
- 4 **1990.** Douglas Wakihuri of Kenya and Wanda Panfil of Poland won the New York City Marathon.
- 5 **1904.** Poet **Karol Brzozowski** dies.
- 6 **1860.** **Ignacy Jan Paderewski** born in Kurylowce, Poland.
- 7 **1867.** Birth of chemist and physicist **Marie Skłodowska Curie** (d. 1934) in Warsaw, Poland.
- 8 **1946. Fr. Karol Wojtyła** (Pope John Paul II), says first Mass at his parish church in Wadowice.
- 10 **1444.** Death in Battle of Varna of **King Władysław III** (b. 1424).
- 11 **ST. MARTIN**  
Goose is traditional meal of the day in Poland. A winter weather forecast is then made according to the color of breastbone—white (much snow); mottled (variable); black (light); black and white (mixed).  
1918. **Independence of Poland** is reestablished by the Central Powers during World War I.
- 12 **1892.** Birth of **Stefan Mierzwa**, founder and first director of the Kościuszko Foundation.
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 15 **1916.** Death of novelist **Henryk Sienkiewicz**.
- 16 **1794.** End of the **Kościuszko Uprising**, which began March 24.
- 17 **1991.** Pope John Paul II canonizes **Bl. Raphael Kalinowski**.
- 18 **1738.** **Treaty of Vienna** concludes the War of the Polish Succession.
- 19 **1995.** **Aleksander Kwasniewski**, a former member of the Communist party, is elected president of Poland, replacing Solidarity trade union leader Lech Wałęsa.
- 20 **1815.** **Krakow** declares itself a free republic.
- 21 **1920.** Birth of **Stan Musial**, famed baseball star.
- 23 **1933.** Birth of composer **Krzysztof Penderecki**, in Debica, Poland.
- 25 **1764.** Coronation of **Stanisław August Poniatowski**, St. John's Cathedral, Warsaw.
- 26 **1913.** Russia forbids Polish congregation of speakers.
- 27 **1958.** Death of **Artur Rodzinski** (b. 1892), right, Polish conductor and composer. 
- 28 **1806.** French forces led by Joachim Murat, Marshal and Grand Admiral of France, entered Warsaw.
- 29 **ST. ANDREW'S EVE**  
*Andrzejki* brings a fortune telling for mostly unmarried young ladies. Rituals predict which female in the household will get married next or help to describe the man they will marry.  
1830. **November Uprising**, also known as the Cadet Revolution, an armed rebellion in partitioned Poland against the Russian Empire.
- 30 **ST. ANDREW**  
1926. Birth in Wilno, Poland of **Andrew Schally**, winner of 1977 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

This paper mailed on or before **October 29.**  
The December 2021 edition will be mailed on or before **December 3.**

## VIEWPOINTS

## Why We Remember November 11

by Donald Pienkos

Thursday, November 11, marks two great anniversaries and two national days of remembrance. What is more, they are very closely connected to one another.

On November 11, 1918 World War I ended with an "armistice" or cease fire between the armies of Germany, France, Britain, and the United States on the "western front" — that blood-soaked border between France and Germany. This cease fire ended a tragic four years of war, in which millions of soldiers died.

In the years after, people everywhere began to honor those who had sacrificed so much in the War. In America, November 11 was recognized as Armistice Day. Today, it is Veterans Day, when we honor those men and women in uniform who have served our country in all our wars. It is indeed a hallowed day.

On that very same day, November 11, 1918, Jozef Pilsudski was in Warsaw to proclaim Poland's independence after 123 years in which the Polish people had endured the oppressive rule of three alien empires — Russia, Germany and Austria. Today November 11 is Poland's national day, Poland's "Fourth of July."

For Poland's people, World War I had its own special significance. In 1918 the Russian, German, and Austrian empires all collapsed, giving them "the chance of a lifetime" to regain their independence. That independence had been lost between 1772 and 1795, when those same empires had combined to divide up the country in a series of three land-grabs known in the history books as the partitions of Poland. From 1795 on, six generations of Poles knew only foreign rule and oppression.

But the memory of independence survived. Indeed, in the 19th century, Poles heroically rebelled to regain their independent statehood, most notably in 1830 and 1863. But her efforts failed. Poland's oppressors were simply too powerful to be driven out in an insurrection. Indeed, it was the reality of oppression that led so many Poles — over five million — to emigrate from their homeland, to settle in France, Belgium, Canada, Brazil, and most by far in the United States. Everywhere they created organizations dedicated to helping Poland regain its freedom. In America these organizations included the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Falcons, and the Polish Women's Alliance.

In partitioned Poland, the dream of independence lived on as well. Among the countless patriots devoted to the cause were the self-trained military strategist

Jozef Pilsudski (1867-1935), the renowned virtuoso pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941), and the political thinker Roman Dmowski (1864-1939).

When World War I broke out, they and their comrades seized the moment to win Poland its freedom. Inside Poland, a killing ground for the armies of Poland's three occupiers at war with each other, Pilsudski led legions loyal to him and the cause. Dmowski was in Paris as head of a national committee that aimed at winning recognition from France and Britain for a postwar Polish state. In the United States, Paderewski put his musical fame to work in winning support for Poland from influential Americans, the massive Polish immigrant community, and even the president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson.

At War's end Pilsudski made his declaration of independence. Paderewski soon joined him and became Poland's first prime minister. In 1919, he and Dmowski represented Poland's cause at the Paris Peace Conference. Pilsudski became head of newly formed Polish armies and took on the tough task of regaining Poland's lands by force of arms. Indeed, it was only in March 1921 when Poland's borders were secured, after 300,000 fighting men were lost in battle.

The Poland that emerged after World War I became the Poland of the Second Republic. It was a Poland deluged with problems and no allies to assist in its reconstruction. But that new Poland succeeded in deepening its citizens' renewed commitment to independence. And despite the tragedy of World War II and 45 years of Soviet domination that followed, another Poland, the Poland of the Third Republic, was reborn to freedom in 1989, backed by the United States, Pope John Paul II, and people of Polish origin in the emigration.

The leaders of the new Third Republic acted quickly to make November 11 Poland's national day.

In November 2000, the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress was proud to hold its annual Polish Independence Day/Veterans Day Banquet at the newly opened Polish Center of Wisconsin. Over 240 guests were at that great event, including the consul general of free Poland from Chicago. This was the start of a beautiful tradition at the Polish Center that will be renewed once our country emerges from the pandemic.



*Donald Pienkos is professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a member of the Polish Heritage Alliance, and past president of the Wisconsin Polish American Congress.*

## Eagles Grace New Monument in Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT, Wisc. — A new monument to Polish heritage, "For Your Freedom and Ours," by artist Boleslaw Kochanowski was unveiled and dedicated September 18.

When asked to design and create a sculpture for the Polish garden section of the Stevens Point Cultural Commons, Kochanowski said he already had an idea for the sculpture, as "there has always been a Polish influence in America."

Kochanowski designed the over twenty-foot tall corten and stainless-steel sculpture to convey that history.

"I started by incorporating the American bald eagle and the Polish white eagle, as they are preeminent iconic symbols of these two nations."

Two larger-than-life eagles, perched on tapering spires, represent Poland and the United States. The eagles are together, in mutual support. The tall spires reference the grandness of these countries' histories.

The sculpture's title is inspired by the Polish motto "Za naszą i waszą wolność" ("For our freedom and yours"), a rallying cry used

since 1830 to unite oppressed peoples from many nations. The canted and skewed spires signify the difficulties of upholding and retaining

Corten alloy and stainless steel are used for durability, permanence, and signify strength and longevity.

These materials also differentiate the Polish white eagle and the American bald eagle, said Kochanowski.

Hosted by the Polish Heritage Awareness Society of Central Wisconsin and Heritage of Portage County, Inc., the dedication event drew a crowd of over three hundred. Guest speakers included Stevens Point Mayor Michael Wiza; Consul Paulina Szafałowicz, from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, who spoke on behalf of Head Consul Małgorzata Bąk-Guzik; Frank Spula, President of the Polish National Alliance, and the Polish American Congress; and David Rydzewski, National Director of the Polish American Congress, and President of the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress.

A third-generation blacksmith, Kochanowski has his work across the country. You can see more on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, or his website <https://www.boleslawkochanowski.com/>.



PHOTO: IRENA FRACZEK

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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 36th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

Make checks payable to The Polish Children's Heartline, and mail c/o Doreen Patras Cramer, 87 Deerfield Dr., Manahawkin, NJ 08050  
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## 19th Century Chopin portrait bought at flea market restored



Before and after portrait of composer Frederic Chopin.

(AP) — A peeling portrait of Frederic Chopin purchased at a flea market in Poland hung modestly in a private house for almost three decades before an expert dated the painting to the 19th century, when the Polish piano composer lived.

Now restored and in a gilded frame, the small painting resides in a bank vault somewhere in eastern Poland while its owners negotiate their next steps, including a public exhibit.

News of the artwork's existence broke as Warsaw hosted the 18th Frederic Chopin Piano Competition; an international event known for launching the careers of world-class pianists. The competition ran through Oct. 23.

Nicolaus Copernicus University professor Dariusz Markowski, the art expert who examined and restored the portrait last year, says it has significant historic and emotional value, but he refrained from estimating what it might sell for.

The painting measures 11.5 inches by 9 inches. Using advanced methods, Markowski timed its creation to the mid-19th century based on the materials and pigments used, and the extent of the ageing and damage.

But it is not now possible to pinpoint the exact year of its provenance, and it will be difficult to identify who painted it because only the artist's first name, Alfred, is preserved, he said.

"It is evidently Chopin, but I cannot say whether he posed for this portrait or whether it was painted from another picture," said Markowski, principal of the Torun university's Conservation and Restoration of Modern Art Department.

"We know nothing of its history or who it was painted for," he told The Associated Press. "It was in a very bad state, and I'm really happy that artwork like this can be saved."

Chopin was born in 1810 in a manor house in Zelazowa Wola, a village near Warsaw, to a Polish mother and a French father. He left Poland at 19 to broaden his music education in Vienna and then in Paris, where he settled, composing, giving concerts and teaching piano.

He died in Paris on Oct. 17, 1849 and is buried at the Pere Lachaise cemetery, but his heart is kept at the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, where observances mark the anni-

versaries of his birth and death.

An art connoisseur spotted the portrait that Markowski calls "a real curiosity" at a flea market near Lublin in the early 1990s. Decades later, a financial situation prompted the family to seek a professional appraisal, which led them to the university expert.

A member of the family says it's "extraordinary" that the painting survived about 170 years of historic turmoil and ended up in a flea market. He says the family's recent attention to the portrait made him study Chopin's life and music.

## Patriotic Philanthropy Rewarded

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The enchanting melodies of Fryderyk Chopin emanating from the Steinway grand piano, by the hands of accomplished pianist Thomas Pandolfi, were only made possible through the tireless efforts of one person and her dedicated, compact committee. The gala occasion, here on September 10, 2021, at the residence of Poland's Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, was for the ambassador to invest Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil with The Officers Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in recognition of her inestimable accomplishment and dedicated service to Poland.

The origin of the bestowed Steinway begins in 2018, the year of the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Regained Independence. The entire calendar year of 2018 was declared by Poland to be the Centennial Jubilee Year of 2018. It encompassed Poland's official "100 for 100" Campaign — a giant kaleidoscope of 100 celebrations, events, concerts and programs in Poland, and in league with the Polish diaspora worldwide.

But, undoubtedly, one of the most imaginative and unique of all



Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, newly decorated with Poland's Officers Cross, is pictured framed by the \$100,000 Steinway grand piano; she was key in securing it to grace the equally grand residence of Poland's ambassador in Washington, D.C.

of the centennial celebratory initiatives was that undertaken by the "\$100k for the 100th" Committee — under the auspices of O'Brien-Trefil — for the purchase of a Steinway grand piano to be gifted to the ambassador's residence. The spacious residence was purchased by the Polish government in 2008 and then underwent an extensive major renovation and expansion, but the spacious grand salon remained bereft of a requisite piano.

Committee Chair O'Brien-Trefil undertook the task of raising \$100,000 for the purchase of a Steinway piano that was officially gifted to the ambassador's residence at a black-tie donor's dinner and concert hosted by Ambassador Wilczek on March 22, 2019. (See *PAJ*: June, 2019 — "\$100k for the 100th' Campaign a Success" for more extensive coverage.)

In her medal acceptance remarks, O'Brien-Trefil said: "There are many of you here who have been my Polish friends for over 30 years. Being a pianist opened a lot

of doors for me, and I performed and accompanied singers at a variety of events for many Polish organizations. I want to acknowledge all the performers and singers who worked with me and shared their talents in the many performances. I also want to thank the people who worked with me on scholarship and



**The Officers Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.** Awarded to Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil by the order of His Excellency Andrzej Duda, president of the Republic of Poland, by the hand of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek.

competition committees, and fund raisers to support and reward outstanding young people of Polish heritage."

O'Brien-Trefil is a very accomplished and highly degreed pianist. She graduated Note Dame Academy Class of 1964, earned two degrees from Case Western Reserve University: Piano Performance — 1968, and Music Education — 1973, Kent State University: Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision — 1983, University of Maryland: Curriculum and Instruction — 1989, where she earned her Ph.D, making her a recognized academician among her peers.

## COVID-19 numbers on the rise in Poland

continued from cover

Asked what he meant by "drastic" measures, Niedzielski said it would involve stricter enforcement of existing rules about wearing masks indoors and practicing social distancing.

Poland's vaccination program has slowed significantly in recent months, and lower case numbers have led many people to feel they can disregard the few restrictions still in place.


Niedzielski said both of these facts were contributing to the surge, as he urged Poles to get vaccinated

and follow the rules, for example by wearing masks in enclosed spaces.

The country of around 38 million people reported 5,559 new coronavirus infections and 75 deaths on October 20. While the infection figure was well below the peak of the third wave last spring when daily new cases topped 35,000, pushing the health service to the brink, it is more than double the number reported a week prior.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Poland has reported a total of 2,950,616 cases of COVID-19 and 76,254 deaths, as of October 21.

Source: Reuters



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## NEWSWIRE

### New national holiday to commemorate Wielkopolska Uprising

President Andrzej Duda announced plans to establish a new national holiday. It will be celebrated on December 27th, the day in 1918 when the insurrection erupted to recover the Poznań region, occupied since the 18th-century partitions of Poland by Prussia.

The Uprising was sparked off by a patriotic speech delivered from a Poznań hotel balcony by the world-renowned piano virtuoso and composer, Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Although it lasted only half a year, the Wielkopolska Uprising was one of Poland's two most successful insurrections. The other also broke out in Wielkopolska in 1806, when Napoleon's armies entered what the Prussians called the Grand Duchy of Posen.

The new holiday will be celebrated with historical commemo-

rations, but will not be a work-free day.

### Moscow concerned about US troop build-up in Poland

A spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed her country's concern over what she called a U.S. troop build-up in Poland. "Plans are under way to significantly increase the 4,500 U.S. troops already stationed in Poland. The infrastructure now being created will make it possible to swiftly increase American troop strength to 20,000," Maria Zakharova said.

She was referring to the rapid-reaction force which in short order can be mobilized and sent into action. The U.S. and NATO forces in Poland are strictly defensive in nature and only meant to react to outside aggression. "If Russia is not planning to attack Poland, why all the concern?" — is a question frequently asked in Poland. (R.S.)

# Emigrants, Exiles, and Wanderers – The Polish American Dream

Part II

by Staś Kmieć

## The American Civil War

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, there were 30,000 Poles in the United States. The majority lived in the northern states – the Union. Many, including women, became active in the Abolition Movement to oppose slavery. Polish Americans fought in the American Civil War on both sides. Owing to geography and ideology, the majority were Union soldiers. An estimated 5,000 Polish Americans served in the Union – including 166 commissioned officers of whom three were brigadier generals and four were colonels, and 1,000 soldiers and 40 officers for the Confederacy. Being so much a part of the life in their section of the country, they fought for the honor of their area, whether it was North or South.

After the War, the Polish image became negative. Poles were perceived as crude and uneducated people who were not a good fit for America socially or culturally.

The Poles in Panna Maria had Union sympathies and were the subject of discrimination by the local Southerners. Following the Civil War, the Polish community was almost massacred when the government of Texas was dismantled, and Confederate nativists and gangs of cowboys harassed and shot at the Poles. In 1867, a showdown between a contingent of armed cowboys and the Polish community nearly became a deadly confrontation. Polish priests requested the Union Army to protect them, and a stationed Army helped keep them safe, registered to vote in elections, and free from religious intolerance.

After the collapse of the Confederacy, Southern farms desired Polish foreign labor as replacements for black slaves. In 1871, Texas funded the immigration of Europe-

Black-English dialect and vernacular.

In installments, Poles paid back their owners for the ship tickets to America. After years working on plantation farms, Poles had purchased almost all the farmland in New Waverly by 1900 and expanded their land ownership to the surrounding areas.

The first Polish American national organization – *The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America* traces its existence to October 3, 1873. Among the founders were Father Vincent Barzyński, an influential pastor of Saint Stanislaus Kostka in Chicago and Father Moczygomba, founder of the Panna Maria settlement in Texas. *The Polish National Alliance* was founded on February 15, 1880, in Philadelphia under the influence of Polish patriot Agaton Giller. In 1886, the PNA inaugurated the first fraternal insurance program kind in the Polish American community. The two fraternal organizations had outward differences and were locked in battle as rivals for much of the 20th century.

## New Avenues of Work

During the last decades of the nineteenth century, immigration to America increased sharply. America began to receive a new type of Polish immigrant – the peasant. Most who immigrated after 1865 were rural people who wanted to improve their economic situation. This wave is referred to as *za chlebem* (for bread) immigrants because they were primarily peasants facing starvation and poverty in occupied Poland. With an eye on their homeland, they passionately guarded their language, faith, and Polish identity.

Destined for already established Polish settlements, the immigrants



The overcrowded home of Polish cotton mill workers in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence, Rhode Island at 23 Chaffee Street. Eight people lived in the three small rooms; three of them were boarders. Inner bedrooms were 9 x 8 feet, the largest room 12 x 12 feet. Rent \$4.50 a month.

the factories, steel mills, slaughterhouses, and foundries in the industrial belt. New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Cleveland became anchor cities of the new Polish communities. They built communities that were committed to the preservation of their heritage. While they were citizens of the United States, they were also loyal to the community of Poles worldwide – Polonia.

At first, Polish nationalists discouraged emigration; however, when relatives in the United States began sending money to their families in Russia and Galicia, attitudes shifted.

**Most who immigrated after 1865 were rural people who wanted to improve their economic situation. This wave is referred to as *za chlebem* (for bread) immigrants because they were primarily peasants facing starvation and poverty in occupied Poland.**

High numbers went to Baltimore, Maryland and created an ethnic community in Fells Point. They worked in Maryland as migrant farming families. Oyster companies from the Gulf of Mexico engaged recruiters to hire Polish farmers for work in their industry. Polish farmers in Baltimore, Maryland and in the southern United States commonly came to Louisiana and Mississippi during the winter months. Those that came were provided small, cramped living quarters and only one worker per family was given a permanent job canning oysters. Jobs were segregated by gender; women and children worked in the oyster house, while men and boys fished on the boats.

Polish workers were highly desired by American employers for low-level positions. There was a high demand for manual labor in steel mills and mining camps. With a 12-hour workday, 7 days a week, steel work was undesirable to other immigrant groups. Poles would chain-market the job positions to their friends and relatives. It was common for a Polish friend with good English to negotiate wages for newer immigrants. These favored jobs had preferred locations in Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, and Pittsburgh.

Polish immigrants took low-paying jobs at blast furnaces in high numbers. Pennsylvania attracted the greatest number of Polish coal miners; and Polish was spoken in the mines of Appalachia and the Alleghenies.

Polish immigrants dominated

meatpacking in the Midwestern states during the late 19th century until World War II. It was a large industry in Chicago in the 1880s, with many Poles joining packing plants in 1886. Through networking and successive generations, Poles took over the profession.

Poles arriving in America frequently had years of experience working in agriculture and gained a reputation as skilled farmers in the United States. Polish immigrants to Massachusetts and Connecticut sought jobs in New England's mills. The local American population was actively seeking those jobs, as well. This opened agricultural opportunities for the Poles.

In New England, they came and used land that had been abandoned by farmers. Poles had higher crop yields than American counterparts because of labor-intensive efforts and their willingness to cultivate lands previously disregarded as worthless. The success of the Polish farmers was due to their large families, where children helped in agriculture, and their long hours of work – including the hours spent clearing abandoned land after a full day's work.

Few Poles opened shops, restaurants, stores, or other ventures. Most were cautious regarding entrepreneurial risk-taking. For first and second generation Poles who entered business, supermarkets and drinking establishments were most popular. Many stayed locked economically in less aggressive, less challenging careers. They were content with steady paychecks, and private venture was viewed as a detriment to their families and future generations.

There were about 50,000 Poles in 1870; only five years later, there were 200,000 Poles. In 1889, there were ~800,000 Poles living in the northeastern part of the United States. Though most came from small towns and villages, about two-thirds of them settled in the big cities. As early as 1880, Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee had become centers for Polish immigrants. Poles tended not to settle in the South.

## Child labor

In 1895 government inspectors found a child working at a dangerous machine. The child told inspectors that his father had been injured at the machine and would lose his job if his son did not work for him.

Illinois labor inspectors needed Polish translators to collect evidence because many child workers were unable to answer inquiries in English. Reports found that parents falsified birth records to bypass laws prohibiting work for children under 14 years old. It was found that work commonly started at age 10 or 11. Because of vigorous State prosecution against factories, from 1900 to 1914, the number of children under 16 working in urban Illinois decreased by half.

## The Fourth Province

By the end of the 19th century, Polish immigration exploded. As it became unsustainable for the Poles of Europe, they left for America by the thousands, then by the hundreds of thousands.

The disjointed Polish nation was forced to define itself as an oppressed minority within three neighboring empires – struggling to maintain its national culture and identity. Founded on a unified national culture and society, Polonia in the United States assumed its place and role as the “fourth province.”

## World War I

On April 6, 1917, when America entered World War I, Poland was struggling for her freedom from Germany. The patriotic feeling that swept the numerous Polish American communities was twofold: to support their new home – America, and to indirectly aid their homeland in its quest for independence.

American Poles immediately assured President Woodrow Wilson of their support and loyalty. World War I motivated Polish Americans to contribute to the cause and vigorously support the war effort, with large numbers volunteering for or drafted into the United States Army, working in war-related industries, and buying war bonds. Of the first 100,000 volunteers who responded immediately to the President's initial call for volunteers, about 40,000 were Poles.

## Interwar period

With the end of World War I and the re-establishment of an independent Polish state, it was believed that there would be a huge exodus of Polish immigrants returning to their homeland. Such an exodus did not occur, though immigration over the next generation greatly dropped off. U.S. immigration quotas imposed in the 1920s had much to do with this, as did the Great Depression. Even so, it is estimated that more than 2 million Poles had immigrated by the 1920s. The reborn Polish state began the process of economic recovery and some Poles returned.

Polish Americans were active in strikes and trade union organizations during the early 20th century. Many Polish Americans worked in industrial cities and in organized trades and contributed to historical struggles in large numbers. The Great Depression in the United States made a deep impact on Polish American communities across the country, as heavy industry and mining sharply cut employment.

*Next, Part III: World War II and Beyond, Polish War Refugees, Aftermath in Polonia to the Present, the Church, Fraternal Organizations, Discrimination and Prejudice and Polish Pride.*



Polish woman working the linen loom at Lowell Mills textile factory in Massachusetts.

ans. *The Waverly Emigration Society* dispatched a representative to Poland to acquire 150 Poles to pick cotton. The agreement that Poles had with the plantation owners was that the farmers would be paid \$90 (equivalent to \$1,667), \$100 (\$1852), and \$110 (\$2037) per year for three years of their labor, while the owners provided them with a “comfortable cabin” and food.

Polish farmers commonly worked directly with southern Black people in east Texas, and they were commonly in direct competition for agricultural jobs. Black people frequently picked up words in Polish, and Poles picked up some

who came after the Civil War went primarily to the Middle Atlantic and Midwest states, especially to New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Missouri. The majority landed in New York – at Castle Garden before 1892 and at Ellis Island afterward.

In Poland, owning land had been a major source of pride and status. Many Poles struck out for farm country, founding agricultural towns in the mid-Atlantic states and New England; while the Great Lakes region reminded them of home.

Others were drawn to jobs in

## RELIGION

# Pastor Warns United States

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

**Pastor Artur Pawlikowski**, who kicked out “Nazi” police officers from his church in Alberta, Canada, has been arrested several times for holding worship services despite the government’s prohibitions of indoor gatherings due to the Covid virus, came to the United States on a speaking tour to offer a “simple warning”: if you don’t stand up to the type of tyranny going on in Canada, “you’re next.”

While he was able to return to Canada without fear of any pending charges or future arrests, he accuses the Alberta government of being hypocrites who have a personal vendetta against him for his outspoken resistance to “unconstitutional medical tyranny.”

## Warning about Transgender Seminarians

**Archbishop Jerome Listeki**, chairman of the U.S. Bishops Conference canonical affairs committee, sent a warning to bishops to consider requiring DNA tests, physical examinations of applicants to seminaries or a certification from a medical expert of the bishop’s choosing to be sure the candidates are biological men.

The Milwaukee, Wisconsin prelate cites a case where “the individual’s sacramental records had been fraudulently obtained to reflect her new identity.” The archbishop did not specify which seminary or even which country was involved in instances of a biological female presenting herself as a male. Archbishop

Listeki issued the warning now since this is the period in which “a new year of seminary formation begins.”

Roman Catholic Canon Law requires that bishops promote to Holy Orders only men who possess the requisite physical and psychological qualities.”

## Popular Polish Bakery Becomes Training Center

**Our Lady of Victory Human Services** in Lackawanna, N.Y., received sufficient donations to purchase Mazurek’s Bakery and renovate and outfit it to serve as a vocational training site for students and youth assisted at Our Lady of Victory. In addition to learning the basics of baking, the participants will also receive experience working in a for-profit business setting. In addition, the bakery is the Germany-approved supplier of soft pretzels as wholesaler to Buffalo Hofbräuhaus. The bakery also has a presence through the Queen City Traveling Market pop-up and as a seasonal stand at Buffalo’s Broadway market.

## Sisters Help Haiti Earthquake Victims

**Sr. Marilyn Minter, CSSF**, and her fellow Felician Sisters **Inge Borko, Juitta Kurak**, and **Izajasa Rojek** were all jolted by Haiti’s recent earthquake but they escaped injury as they fled the convent building. The sisters run a mobile medical clinic, a pharmacy, a volunteer house, an activity cen-

ter, a playground, a computer lab for students, and a kitchen that feeds nearly 100 children. After assuring their superiors in the United States, and upon hearing of the devastation further south from their center, the sisters got together whatever medical supplies they could, to send to those assisting the victims. Sr. Minter then came to the United States to gather supplies and support for the needs that will be ongoing. Many agencies and even the USCCB are collecting funds and supplies to help the Haiti victims, but for an immediate and direct way to help, the Felician Sisters will accept donations and forward them immediately to their sisters on the ground in Haiti. Contact the Felician Sisters of North America, 871 Mercer Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010 or online at feliciansistersna.org.

## Happy Anniversary to....

**Fr. Steven Kosinski** on the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The Indiana native currently serves St. Casmir and St. Stanislaus parish, where he has made noticeable improvements as a gardener since his arrival in the spring. His spiritual ministry has also won him numerous friends and supporters



**FOUNDER’S STATUE BLESSED.** Father Superior Mikolaj Markiewicz (left), Brother Piotr Bogawski (center), and Father Stanislaw Pieczara – all of the Society of the Divine Savior (the Salvatorian Fathers) – proudly pose with the new statue of their order’s founder, Blessed Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, in front of the church at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana. (Not pictured: Father Bronislaw Jakubiec, SDS.)

PHOTO: ANN SCAMERHORN

who expect to have a more significant celebration when times are more settled.

## Sto Lat to....

**Fr. Leon Biernat**, pastor of St. Gregory the Great Church, Williamsville, N.Y., since 2014, on be-

ing awarded the Curé of Ars Award by the Buffalo Diocese. The award honors those who exemplify the Christian dedication and service that distinguished St. John Vianey, the Curé of Ars. Fr. Biernat was a member of Assumption Church, Buffalo, N.Y., and after his graduation from Canisius College, served the Buffalo diocese as a priest since 1992 as vocation director, and member of the board of the diocesan seminary among many others. He is also a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher.

**Fr. Daniel Serbicki**, current pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Corfu & E. Pembroke, N.Y. as he takes on the additional responsibility of being pastor of St. John the Baptist parish in Alden.

**Fr. Patrick G. Sobczyk**, currently parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Parish in Elma, N.Y. as he becomes parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Alden and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Corfu and E. Pembroke, N.Y.

**Rev. Mr. Christian Zombek, S.J.** who pronounced his vows in the Society of Jesus along with four other Jesuits.

## Following Brexit, Poles need passport to enter the UK

From October 1, Polish citizens wishing to enter the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) have to show a valid Polish passport, the Poland’s Embassy in London announced. The exception, at least until the end of 2025, will be people with the status of “settled” or “temporarily settled” in the UK who obtained that status on the basis of an ID card.

Brexit is the term used to describe the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union in 2020.

## 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.

**HANKSGIVING PRAYERTOTHE HOLY SPIRIT.** Father, as a Church Family, we are grateful to You for sealing us with the promise of Your Holy Spirit. We are thankful that the same power (Holy Spirit) that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is now working in us to do Your good will and pleasure. Holy Spirit, we thank You for being our Helper and living in us forever. We thank You for teaching us all things and bringing to our remembrance all things God, our Father, has said. Thank You, for leading us and guiding us into all truth. Thank You for freeing us from the bondages of our fleshly desires; for to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Holy Spirit, thank You, for producing in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as we walk in You. Holy Spirit, because of You, we have the power to love unconditionally; power to perform miracles and healing; and the power to cast out demons. We can do all things through Jesus Christ because of You. S.B.

## Polish Church urges help for migrants amid border crisis

WARSAW (AP) — Poland’s influential Catholic Church appealed for humanitarian assistance for migrants from Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere who have been seeking to reach Europe by crossing from Belarus into Poland.

Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, the president of the Polish Bishops’ Conference, called for permission to launch humanitarian corridors in order to control the relocation of refugees and put an end to a chaotic migration happening “at the hands of gangs of smugglers.”

Church authorities have been largely aligned with Poland’s conservative government and the statement appeared to be an unusual reproach of how the state authorities

have been handling the migration crisis.

Warsaw has responded to the large-scale migration with a tough approach, refusing to let migrants apply for asylum and pushing some back across the border into Belarus. Those policies violate international law, but the Polish government argues that it must protect the nation’s borders and security in the face of a “hybrid war” attack from Belarus.

People have been getting trapped at the border, suffering thirst, hunger and exhaustion. There are reports of several deaths from exposure. Many Poles were horrified at images of children, including toddlers, who arrived in Poland only to be sent back to Belarus.

“The right and duty to defend the state borders can be reconciled with bringing help to people who find themselves in dramatic situations,” Gadecki wrote in his appeal.

Poland’s right-wing government accuses Belarus of facilitating the large-scale migration into Poland to create instability in the European Union. Poland and other EU countries — particularly Lithuania and Latvia, which also border Belarus and have seen migrants enter their countries — believe it is revenge for EU sanctions against the government of authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Top government officials have portrayed some of the migrants as dangerous criminals, terrorists,

or people with sexual perversions. Meanwhile, those Poles who criticize the government’s approach have been accused of siding with Lukashenko against their own nation.

Gadecki said that the authorities have the duty to detect potential threats from people crossing the country’s borders, but shouldn’t stigmatize newcomers by making harmful generalizations.

He recalled the Christian duty to help migrants and refugees.

He also expressed his gratitude for the help given to Afghans who were evacuated by the Polish authorities as the Taliban seized control of Kabul.

This Christmas season, please remember those who still need our help

## POLISH CHILDREN’S HEARTLINE

Established in 1985, The Polish Children’s Heartline is a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit volunteer organization which raises money to purchase medical equipment for children’s heart surgery in pediatric units throughout Poland. Every year over 2,000 procedures are performed in Poland on children with heart problems. In almost 36 years, The Polish Children’s Heartline has donated over \$20 million dollars’ worth of medical equipment, saving thousands of Polish children’s lives. There is still much work to do, and through your generous donations we will continue to save many, because, **“IF WE DON’T HELP OUR POLISH CHILDREN, WHO WILL?”**

Please contact us for further information  
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Thank you to all our contributors who helped The Polish Children’s Heartline donate \$50,000 worth of medical equipment to hospitals in Ostroleka and Bialystok. **The doctors, nurses and especially our little patients appreciate this much-needed help!**



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# THE GENEALOGY ASSISTANT

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## Poland now attracting immigrants

An estimated 97% of Poland's residents speak Polish at home and 93% identify with the Catholic faith, making it one of Europe's most homogeneous countries. But that is gradually changing. A decade ago, the country had only some 100,000 foreigners living within its borders. Now, Ukrainians account for nearly two million immigrants. Others have moved to Poland from Asia including such countries as Vietnam (60,000), Nepal (36,000), India (20,000) and Bangladesh (18,000). Although still a tiny minority, among the newcomers a growing number of West Europeans and North Americans are also gradually rebasing to Poland (R.S.)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Zofia Rydet (May 5, 1911 – August 24, 1997) was a Polish photographer, best known for her project "Sociological Record," which aimed to document every household in Poland. She began working on "Sociological Record" in 1978 at the age of 67 and took nearly 20,000 pictures until her death in 1997.

Many of the pictures remain undeveloped. The photographs are predominantly portraits of children, men, women, couples, families and the elderly amidst their belongings. Rydet tended to photograph her subjects straight-on, using a wide-angle lens and a flash.

## GENEALOGY

# Helpful Books in Polish Research

by Stephen M. Szabados

The Christmas season is upon us, and here are some gift ideas for your family genealogist or your Christmas wish list to pass along. All are available online from various sources. Check the *Polish American Journal* book store first.

### Research and Translation

**Polish Genealogy: Four steps to success** by Stephen Szabados (2013) - The book outlines a simple process that will help identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records.

**In Their Words: a genealogist's translation guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian documents** (Four books (2003, 2007, 2013, 2017) – each covers a different language) by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman – Four separate books covering the languages found in Polish records. The books discuss documents and extracts from American and European sources, analyzed and translated

**Going Home – A Guide to Polish American Family Research** by Jonathan D. Shea (2008) – Another great guide discussing where to find U.S. and Polish records for your ancestors.

**Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy** by Cecile Wendt Jensen (2010) – This is a workbook that offers a plan for research based on the techniques developed by the author over thirty years of research and teaching.

**A Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy** by Jason Kruski (2018) - Learn to access the Chicago and Midwestern records related to your Polish ancestors using both paper records or the wealth of information available on websites.

**The Family Tree Polish, Czech and Slovak Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Family Tree in Eastern Europe** by Lisa Alzo (2016) – This is an in-depth guide that will walk you through a step-by-step process of finding your Polish, Czech, or Slovak roots.

**Polish Roots. Second Edition** by Rosemary A. Chorzempa (2014).

**The Study of Obituaries as a Source for Polish Genealogical Research** by Thomas E. Golembiewski (2009) – This book provides information on deciphering and using Polish language obituaries.

**Haller's Polish Army in France** by Paul S. Valasek (2006) – An excellent reference for information if your ancestor was part of the Polish Army in France, aka Haller's Army, aka the Blue Army.

**Slownik Geograficzny** by Filip Sulimierski, Bronisław Chlebowski, Władysław Walewski and others, Warsaw, multiple volumes published between 1880 and 1902 – available on DVD from Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA.org)

**A translation guide to 19th-century Polish-language civil registration documents: including birth, marriage, and death records** by Judith R. Frazin. Great translation guide for Polish records found in the Russian Partition.

**First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins & Meanings** by William F. Hoffman and George Wiesław Helon (1998) – This is an excellent reference to decipher the correct first name for your ancestors.

**Polish surnames: origins and meanings** by William F. Hoffman (2012) – must have reference to determine the proper Polish surname for ancestors.

### Books on History, Culture, and Customs

**Polish Immigration to America** by Stephen Szabados (2016) - This book gives excellent insights into the emigration and arrival in America. A must-read for the family historian.

**Daily Life in Immigrant America 1820-1870** by James M. Bergquist (2019) – This book gives great insight into the lives of our ancestors who arrived in the 1800s.

**Daily Life in Immigrant America 1870-1920** by June Granatir Alexander (2009) – This book gives great insight into the lives of our ancestors who arrived in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

**Jadwiga's Crossing: A Story of the Great Migration** by Aloysius A. Lutz, Richard J. Lutz (2006) – Must-read to gain insights to challenges of crossing the Atlantic on sailing ship in the 1800s. It will change your perspective of your ancestors.

**God's Playground: A History of Poland: In Two Volumes** by Norman Davies (2005) – Best and most accurate Polish history book.

**Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore** by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab (1996) – Must-have to learn more about your Polish heritage.

**Creating Kashubia, History, Memory, and Identity in Canada's First Polish Community** by Joshua C. Blank (2016).

**Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago: Workers on The South Side, 1880-1922** (1991) by Dominic A. Pacyga – Great reference with many stories of Polish life in Chicago.

**Chicago's Southeast Side** by Ron Sellers and Dominic A. Pacyga (2001) – Great details of life in the southside Polish neighborhoods.

**Chicago's Polish Downtown (Images of America) by Victoria Granacki (2004)**. Book contains many pictures detailing Polish life in Chicago.

**Forgotten Doors, The Other Ports of Entry to the United States** edited by M. Mark Stolarik (1988) – Not all immigrants arrived through New York. This book covers the history and describes coming through the other major U.S. ports.

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You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order. To receive the results via email or for more information please contact: [strybel@interia.pl](mailto:strybel@interia.pl)



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



CULTURE

# Englert and Pozniak Receive 2021 Modjeska Prizes

LOS ANGELES —During the 50th Anniversary Ball of the Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the Club presented Helena Modrzejewska prizes to two great actors, Beata Poźniak and Jan Englert.

Poźniak was cited as a distinguished representative of the success of Polish actors in Hollywood. Englert was recognized as one of the most eminent actors in the history of Polish theater and film, and as the artistic director of the National Theater. He has appeared in over 100 films.

Due to travel restrictions, Englert accepted his award virtually. Poźniak was able to receive the

the “Best Audiobook of the Year” in the United States, for which she became not only the first Polish performer, but also the first non-English-speaking actress to be hired by the largest literary publisher in the world, Penguin Random House.

In Poland, she made her debut in the series Kamil Kurant’s Life and in the United States in Oliver Stone’s eight-time Oscar-nominated film JFK playing Marina Oswald, the on-screen wife of Gary Oldman. An experimental film *All These Voices* won a student Oscar. She is remembered from the TV theater playing Ophelia in *Hamlet* in the village of Głucha Dolna (The Golden Hundred in TV Theater)

dition of “Hollywood’s Walk of Fame,” she was acknowledged with a bronze imprint of her hand. Poźniak holds an MA in Film and Drama Arts and has lectured at USC and UCLA.

**JAN ENGLERT.**

Jan Englert (born in 1943 in Warsaw) is a Polish theater and film actor, theater director, professor of theater arts, and since 2003 the artistic director of the National Theater in Warsaw. He made his debut on the big screen as Zefir in Andrzej Wajda’s film *Kanal* about the Warsaw Uprising (1956). In 1964, Englert graduated from the Acting Department of the Aleksander Zelwerowicz State Higher School of Theater in Warsaw and started working for the following theaters: Polski (1964–1969, 1981–1994),



PHOTO BY SYLVIA

Actress Beata Pozniak with her Modjeska Prize and actor Marek Probosz, MC, with the Modjeska Prize for Jan Englert of Warsaw, Poland, who was not able to attend due to travel restrictions.

Współczesny (1969–1981), and Narodowy (since 1997). He remained in the National Theater and has served as its artistic director for 18 years. Englert collaborated with the most outstanding theater directors, appearing in important roles in plays by Shakespeare, Mickiewicz, Wyspiański, Gombrowicz, Ionesco,

and Mrozek. As a theater director he staged plays by Mickiewicz, Słowacki, Fredro, Chekhov, Turgenyev and Witkacy.

We could watch him on the screen in the films of Andrzej Wajda (*Kanal, Katyń, Tatarak*), Kazimierz Kutz (*Salt of the Black Earth, Pearl in the Crown*), Janusz Zaorski (*Baryton*), Filip Bajon (*The Magistrate*), as well as in the TV series by Janusz Morgenstern (*Kolombowie, Polskie drogi*), Jerzy Antczak (*Nights and Days*), and Ryszard Ber (*The Doll*). In total, he has appeared in over 100 films, and many television plays and TV series.

He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Knight’s Cross and the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1988, 2001), the Gold Cross of Merit (1997), and the Gold Medal “Gloria Artis” (2005). He also received the Gustaw Award (2014), the Icon of Polish Cinema title (2018) and the Golden Hipolit Prize (2019). Englert performed for the Club in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2009.

He shared with the Club’s members and guests the wonders of Polish romantic poetry, *Kwiaty Polskie* by Julian Tuwim, *Dziady (The Forefathers’ Eve)* by Adam Mickiewicz, a play about Saint Nicholas, and other theatrical performances.



Paweł Lickiewicz, Vice Consul for Public Diplomacy at the Consulate General of Poland in Los Angeles, and Modjeska Club President, dr. Maja Trochimczyk with a Commemorative Plaque awarded by the Consulate for the Club’s 50th Anniversary.

award in person.

Established in 2010, the Helena Modjeska Prizes honor the Club’s patron, a star of Polish theater, who emigrated to California in 1876. These prizes are also presented in appreciation for the “lifetime” of artistic achievements of great Polish actors who continue Modjeska’s acting traditions. In addition to the award statuette, winners will also receive congratulatory diplomas from Los Angeles County (County Supervisor Kathryn Barger), Orange County (County Supervisor Donald P. Wagner), and the State of California (State Senator Anthony Portantino).

**BEATA POŹNIAK.** Beata Poźniak, is an actress, voiceover artist, activist, painter, and poet, honored by *The Washington Post* for narrating

and from the series: *Young Indiana Chronicles, Złotopolscy, Melrose Place, Mad About You, and Babylon 5.*

She made U.S. history by proposing the first-ever recorded official bill celebrating International Women’s Day (H.J.R. 316) for which she was honored by the Mayor of Los Angeles and in the U.S. Congress. She received the Maria Konopnicka International Prize for “Outstanding Achievements in the Arts and for Championing Women’s Rights Around the World.” She is a two-time Earphones Award Winner for the best interpretation of an audiobook: *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Nobel Prize winner Olga Tokarczuk and *The Light in Hidden Places* by Sharon Cameron. At the Promenade of Stars in Międzyzdroje, in the tra-



Modjeska Club Board of Directors and the Ball’s volunteers, L to R: Dr. Elżbieta Trybuś, Vice President, Ella Czajkowska, Graphic Designer, Directors Beata Czajkowska, Elżbieta Przybyła, & Anna Sadowska, Secretary Barbara Nowicka, President Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, Treasurer Maria Kubal, past President Jolanta Zych, and Director Syl Vès.

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## 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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## Poles unveil Europe's first hydrogen-powered locomotive



The Coradia iLint on the Railway Research Institute's test track in Żmigród, near Wrocław in Poland.

GDAŃSK — A hydrogen-powered locomotive, produced by the Pesa Railway Works of Bydgoszcz, made its world debut at this year's International Railway Fair held in the Baltic Port of Gdańsk. This is Europe's first locomotive of its kind, and second in the world to one developed in China.

Work on the Polish emission-free workhorse lasted two years. The Polish hydrogen-fuel-cell locomotive was coupled to a passenger train manufactured by France's Alstom company for a trial run on a test track in Żmigród, not far from the southwest Polish city of Wrocław.

## Canadian pianist wins 18th International Chopin Competition

WARSAW — Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu of Canada has won the 18th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

Artur Szklener, the director of the competition and chairman of Poland's National Chopin Institute (NIFC), said the judges had had Liu



an exceptionally lengthy discussion because it "wasn't easy" to choose the winner. When the name of the victor was announced, the Paris-born, 24-year-old Liu struggled to contain his emotions.

"Being able to play Chopin in Warsaw is one of the best things you can imagine, of course, so I'm truly honored for this award, of course, and for this jury's trust and for all the warmth I have received in recent days," he said, as quoted by the AP news agency.

Just hours before, he had performed as the last among the 12 finalists, playing Chopin's Concerto in E-minor, opus 11 with the orchestra before the packed National Philharmonic hall in the Polish capital.

Undaunted by the occasion, the Canadian produced an "inspired" performance, earning "huge applause" from the audience, the AP reported.

Liu had already won several international competitions, including in Montreal and Tel Aviv, and now stands to receive EUR 40,000 from Polish President Andrzej Duda for emerging victorious in the renowned Warsaw event, the Polish state news agency reported.

The second prize and EUR 30,000 went jointly to Alexander Gadjević, who represented Italy and Slovenia, and Kyohei Sorita of Japan.

Gadjević also won Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman's EUR 10,000 prize for best sonata performance.

Spain's Martin Garcia Garcia came third, winning EUR 20,000 as well as the EUR 5,000 prize for best concerto performance.

The fourth prize and EUR 15,000 was shared by Aimi Kobayashi of Japan and Poland's Jakub Kuszlik,

who also won the EUR 5,000 prize offered by public broadcaster Polish Radio for best mazurka performance.

Leonora Armellini of Italy was awarded the fifth prize of EUR 10,000, while the sixth prize and EUR 7,000 went to Canada's J.J. Jun Li Bui.

Launched in 1927 and held every five years since 1955, Warsaw's International Chopin Piano Competition is a tribute to Poland's best known and beloved classical music composer.

Success in the contest paves the way to a global career, opening the doors to the world's top concert halls and record companies.

## Street Co-Named "Janta-Półczyńska Polish Heroes Way"

QUEENS, New York — On September 18, 2021, New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm, in partnership with Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society, celebrated the Street co-naming of 43rd Avenue and Judge Street as Janta-Półczyńska Polish Heroes Way. This co-naming highlights the historic home and contributions of local Polish war heroes Walentyna Janta-Półczyńska and her husband Aleksander Janta Półczyński. The Elmhurst community has been actively petitioning the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission to landmark their home as a historic cultural site since 2020.

Walentyna and Aleksander dedicated their entire life to undermining the oppressive totalitarian regimes of Europe. The couple, exiled from their native Poland, moved to 88-28 43rd Avenue in Elmhurst after their marriage in 1949. Their home was a gathering place for notable Polish immigrants, including Czesław Miłosz, Jerzy Giedroyc, Jan Karski and Marek Hasko. Walentyna died in 2020 after 107 extraordinary years. After her death, the *New York Times* profiled her extraordinary life as one of the last surviving members of the Polish government in exile.

Council Member Daniel Dromm said, "The Janta-Półczyńska home in Elmhurst is a pillar of my district and a symbol of the Polish immigrant contributions in Queens. The

## Whiting's St. Adalbert Church

*St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church  
1340 121st St.  
Whiting, Indiana  
Status: Open*

by Gregory L. Witul

The industrial revolution reached the southern shore of Lake Michigan at the end of the 1880s. The Standard Oil Company built a refinery in Whiting, Ind., and was soon joined by steel mills, factories, and industrial plants of all types. To fill the endless need for labor, the industrialists brought in Poles and Slovaks as workers. By 1900 the Polish community had grown to the point that they wanted their own parish. In that year they formed a committee to approach Bishop Rademacher about establishing a church.

After considering the request of the committee, Bishop Rademacher approved the new parish and sent Father Ka-

hellek from St. Casimir's in Hammond to help organize it. After purchasing a plot of land for \$2,000 and spending \$3,200 on the frame church, the completed building was blessed in the spring of 1902, as St. Peter's. The name was quickly changed to the more appropriate St. Adalbert and Father Peter Budnik was installed as the parish's first permanent pastor.

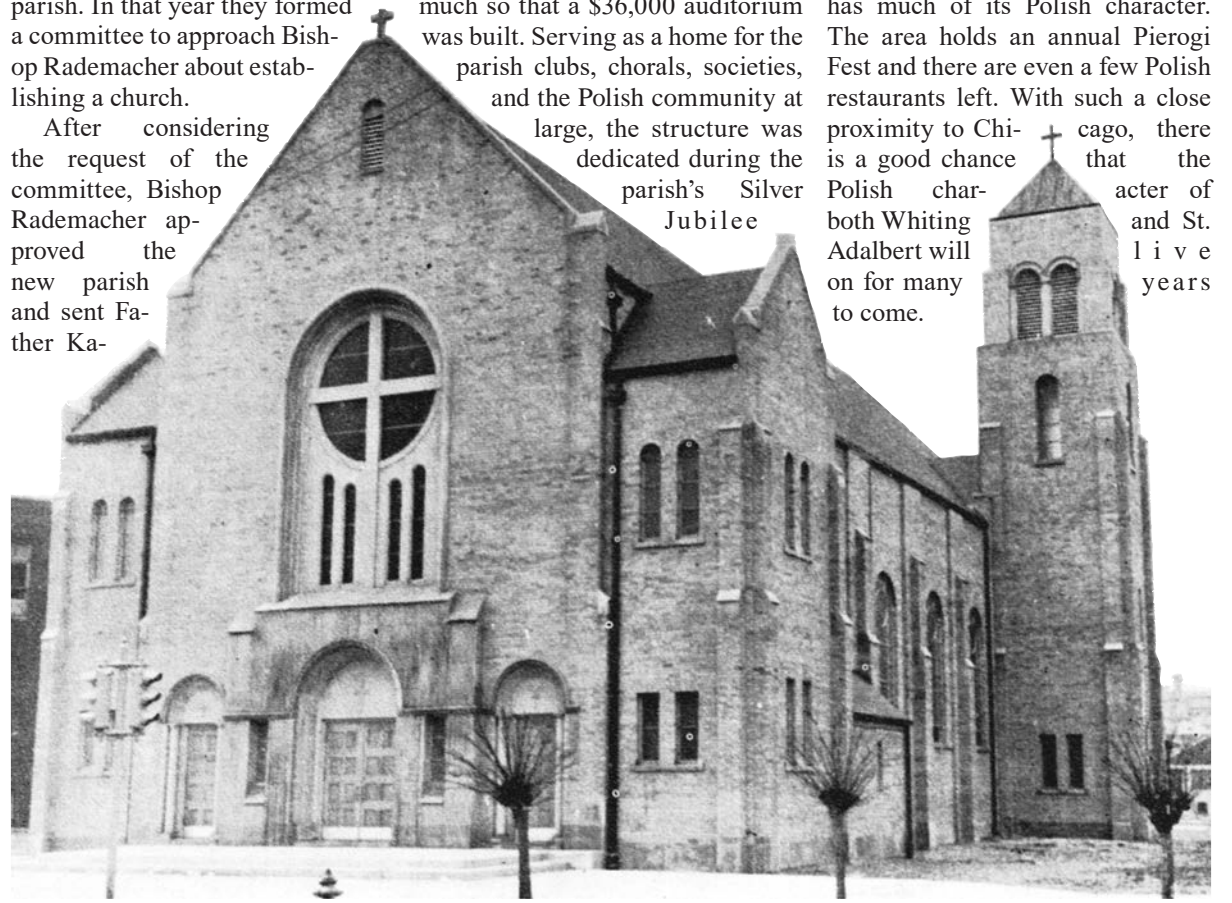
As the parish grew, a school was formed and soon a home for the Sisters of the Franciscan was built so they could serve as teachers. They would be later replaced by the Sisters of Nazareth who would start teaching in the 1910s. The post World War I era would see even greater growth of the parish — so much so that a \$36,000 auditorium was built. Serving as a home for the parish clubs, chorals, societies,

and the Polish community at large, the structure was dedicated during the parish's Silver Jubilee

on December 11, 1927. An even larger project would be undertaken for the church's Golden Jubilee.

On July 15th, 1951, ground was broken for a new St. Adalbert's church. The Kenneth R. Vaughn Romanesque-designed structure was built by Fred C. Rowley & Sons Inc. of Hammond at the cost of about \$350,000. To fill the windows, stained glass panels of Christ the King, the Nativity, and the Holy Family were installed.

In the intervening years the parish has had the ebbs and flows that many Polish churches have experienced, but through it all the heart of St. Adalbert still beats strong. The church today still has a Mass on the weekend and greater Whiting still has much of its Polish character. The area holds an annual Pierogi Fest and there are even a few Polish restaurants left. With such a close proximity to Chicago, there is a good chance that the Polish character of both Whiting and St. Adalbert will live on for many years to come.



"The Janta-Półczyńska home in Elmhurst is a pillar of my district and a symbol of the Polish immigrant contributions in Queens," said Council Member Daniel Dromm (above, with microphone). "The house stands as a monument to Polish citizens who fought against the scourge of fascism in Europe. I'm so proud to have named this street 'Polish Heroes Way.' We hope to preserve homes like this that are rooted in history."

house stands as a monument to Polish citizens who fought against the scourge of fascism in Europe. I'm so proud to have named this street Polish Heroes way. We hope to preserve homes like this that are rooted in history."

Council Member Robert Holden said, "Walentyna and Aleksander Janta-Półczyński were humanitarians who fought valiantly against Nazi occupation and later Communist oppression. Their house in Elmhurst often served as a meeting place for Polish revolutionaries

and is a part of Polish history. This street will forever memorialize the Jantas' heroism. The NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission must landmark this house."

"Today's street renaming is an important part of recognizing the historical importance of Elmhurst, Queens," said Alfonso Quiroz, local community activist. "This place is one of the oldest established neighborhoods in New York City, with a history dating back to before the Revolutionary War, and it's being swallowed up by unscrupulous de-

velopers. The clock is ticking and time is of the essence. We can no longer sit back and watch these cultural gems disappear from our landscape."

Kelly Carroll, Preservation Consultant and Adjunct Instructor for New York University said, "Mrs. Janta's education and bilingualism put her at the nexus of Polish intelligence during World War II. Because of her skill set, she transcribed Nazi atrocities for the world to see. In a world where women's education is still not a right, her story is a story worth preserving and sharing. Our only hope is that the celebration today will propel the house to priority status for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to act and save it for future generations."

### Help Landmark the Janta-Półczyńska house in Elmhurst

Elmhurst History & Cemeteries Preservation Society is still in pursuit of advocating to landmark the Janta-Półczyńska home for its cultural historic importance. Please send an email to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and express your support.

Please help the Elmhurst community save the Janta-Półczyńska home and make it an official NYC landmark. Send letters of support to Chair Sarah Carroll at: Chair@lpc.nyc.gov as well as the Research Dept. at: rfe@lpc.nyc.gov.

BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS

# Hope, After All

reviewed by David Trawinski

## WHAT KIND OF FUTURE WILL OUR CHILDREN INHERIT?

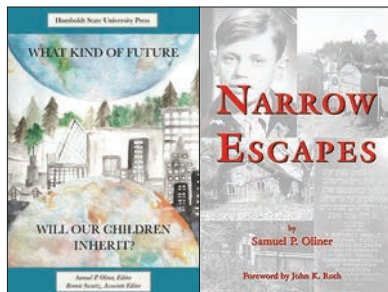
Samuel P. Oliner, Editor  
Ronnie Swartz, Associate Editor  
Humboldt State University  
Press, 2020  
341 pp.

## NARROW ESCAPES

Samuel P. Oliner  
Paragon Press (2000)  
Previously released as "Restless Memories" (1979, 1986)  
216 pp.

Traditionally, November brings in the harvest and the Thanksgiving that follows the year's efforts. Hopefully, full of the comforts brought by our year's providence, it is only natural to begin looking forward to what comes ahead for ourselves and our families. Would this not be the best time to review this collection of essays proposing to take both a "glass half-full and glass half-empty" assessment of the coming years? And so, this month we review "What Kind of Future Will Our Children Inherit?" edited by Dr. Samuel P. Oliner.

This collection was sent for review and was accompanied by one of Dr. Oliner's first books entitled "Narrow Escapes" which detailed his incredible story in Poland as a runaway Jewish child living with a Polish family on a farm for most of the war. The young Samuel Oliner was fortunate under the circumstances to have blond features, which more readily allowed him to pass as a Catholic Pole. He went on to live out an alternate identity as Juszek Polewski from 1942 until 1945, when the area was liberated from the Nazi regime by the ad-



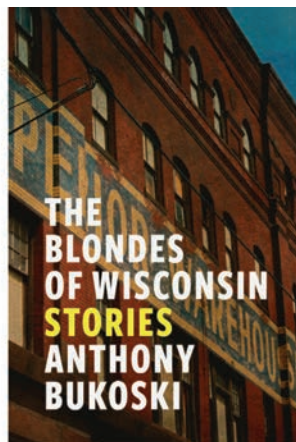
vancing Russian Army. But most interesting is the book's extended epilogue, which details Mr. Oliner's travel to America in the 1950s, first to New York, then, later to California, where he focused his efforts on the societal impacts of the ongoing world battle of good vs. evil. Samuel Oliner earned his Ph.D. at Cal-Berkeley and is professor of sociology of Humboldt State University and founded its Altruistic Personality and Pro-Social Behavior Institute.

Getting back to the featured collection, Dr. Ronnie Swartz, the associate editor, has served as director of the Altruistic Behavior Institute since 2010. Together, Drs. Oliner and Swartz have structured some thirteen essays including "Causes of Wars and Violence," "The Nature of Contemporary Hatred," "Genocide and Holocaust," "The Status of Women," "Families of the Future," and an extended treatise on "Climate Change." The perspectives in some of these writings may take some readers far outside their comfort zones, but can make for some expansive contemplation.

Personally, I had difficulty accepting conclusions from some of these writings that violence in the world has actually been decreasing since World Wars I and II, as this seemed anti-intuitive and against all experiential input that I personally have. Despite this, the case is

almost immediately made in subsequent essay that nearly all of today's hatred as coming only from one side of the world's widening political chasm. Also, another treatise seems to demand societal redefinition away from the long held nuclear family structure that seems to be heading in exactly the wrong direction from what traditionalists view as is needed. To me, these are the "glasses half empty."

What is more interesting is the last half of the book - the majority of these essays authored by Dr. Oliner which are much more upbeat and positive. They include: "Heroic Acts of Extraordinary People," "Sorokin's Visions of Love and Altruism," "Altruism in Different Religions," "Ecumenism of the Deep Well," "Apology and Forgiveness," and "Elimination of Suffering." These are "the glasses half full," and those that appear to most bear the emotional maturity and hopeful expectations forged by the life experiences of this 90-plus-year-old survivor of the Holocaust. His heart survived the most evil manifestation of all crimes against humanity — that of abject genocide — and yet he seeks only to share how to found our future world on man's better character.



Polish-American stories by ANTHONY BUKOSKI  
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— Lee Zacharias, author of *Across the Great Lake*

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# The Elephant Revisited

by Barbara Betlejewska

## THE ELEPHANT (SŁOŃ)

by Sławomir Mrozek  
1957. English translation  
by Konrad Syrop, 1972.  
Illustrations by Daniel Mróz

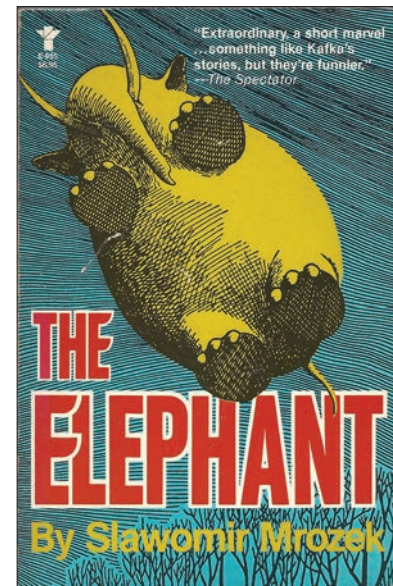
*The Elephant* is a little gem of a book! Billed as "a mordant or biting humorous satire on totalitarianism, it is a little-known classic of Polish and world literature. This easy-to-read book consists of a series of concise, several-pages-long chapters, each one relating a unique short story. All belong to the absurdist style, meaning they are filled with non-realistic elements, distortion, parody, satire, and political and historical references. One can pick any chapter at random, read it, set the book aside, and pick another chapter to read later on. Many of the episodes are absolutely hilarious (and quite clever, to boot!). Children would even enjoy most of them, as the tone and language are short and simple in Syrop's translation. The stories provide a devastatingly tragic yet humorous view of life in a state-run society in the Communist world of the 1950s in Poland, where seemingly nothing makes sense. The book is quite relevant today as similar bizarre situations seem to be occurring at present in the United States.

Lurking covertly in each simple tale is also a peek at one's own human foibles. There is the story of a man who finds tiny creatures (*a la Alice in Wonderland*) living in his desk drawer while searching for his spectacles and thus becomes, unexpectedly, a great power. Authority is exposed in its stupidity in the tale of a group of children whose innocent snowman becomes a caricature and threat in the minds of local officials.

The chapter entitled "The Elephant," which also gives its name to the book's title, describes what happens when the director of the local zoo displays a rubber elephant in his zeal to save state money on a bona fide live animal.

"Spring in Poland" relates the boredom of public officials who are unable to resist leaving their paperwork and offices behind, flying out the window and turning into birds. As Mrozek deliciously writes, "The higher the authority, the larger the percentage of government officials turning into birds of prey." In "Modern Life," a Problem stands on the sidewalk, shifting its weight from time to time in fatigue. "Poor Problem." The chapter entitled "I want to be a horse" discusses the benefits of human-turned-equine life, reminiscent of *Gulliver's Travels*, with the added opportunity of becoming a Pegasus and flying away.

One comment on the book's jacket sums it all up: "After read-



ing this book, one simply does not know whether Mrozek's courage in writing such tales is more amazing than the careless illogicality of the censors who permitted it to be published. In, out, and beyond the Iron Curtain, readers will devour this juicy volume with delight." The crowning irony is that the officials of the *Polish State Cultural Review* awarded *The Elephant* the annual literary prize for 1957.

Sławomir Mrozek (29 June 1930–15 August 2013) was a Polish dramatist, writer and cartoonist. Mrozek joined the Polish United Workers' Party during the reign of Stalinism in the People's Republic of Poland and made a living as a political journalist. He began writing plays in the late 1950s. His theatrical works all belong to the genre of absurdist fiction.

Living in absurd times under Communism as he did, this is perfectly understandable. Mrozek married Maria Obremba and moved to Warsaw in 1959. In 1963 Mrozek traveled to Italy with his wife and they decided to defect together. After five years in Italy, he moved to France and in 1978 received French citizenship.

After his defection, Mrozek became overtly critical of the Polish communist regime, and his writings were often banned in Poland. Later, from the safety of his residence in France, he also protested publicly against the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. His first wife died in 1969 and in 1987, Mrozek married Susana Osorio-Mrozek, a Mexican woman, and moved to Mexico. In 1996, they relocated back to Poland and settled in Kraków. They left Poland again in 2008, and moved to Nice in southern France, where he died in 2013.

Not a religious person by any means, he was buried at the Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Kraków. His first full-length play, *Tango* (1965) was also his most successful. *The Elephant* is an example of Mrozek at his succinct best. Find a copy and give yourself a real treat.

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## HAPPENINGS CHICAGO STYLE

## In Memory of Vanessa Lynn Przybylo Kolpak

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Etched forever in our minds, we remember well what we were doing or where we were on September 11, 2001. It was a late summer morning and the weather on the east coast and in the midwest featured brilliant blue skies. Then we learned that at 8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m., and 10:03 a.m., airliners crashed into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and at Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Shock spread throughout the United States and the world. All air travel into and within the United States ceased. Even train and bus travel stopped. The United States was at a virtue standstill.

Here in Chicago, the sad news that **Vanessa Lynn Przybylo Kolpak**, the daughter and niece of the owners of the White Eagle Restaurant and Banquet Hall in Niles, Illinois, was among the missing from the South Tower. She had just left the family's Lincolnwood residence three weeks prior to begin a position as a financial researcher at the investment firm of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods located on the 89th floor of that building.

As the events unfolded, Vanessa called her mother, Vivian Kolpak, and told her that the North Tower had been hit and that her floor was told not to evacuate, even though people in floors below were evacuating. That was the last time Vivian heard from her daughter.

Vanessa was a brilliant student in every sense of the word. She graduated from St. Ignatius College Prep with honors and *Magna Cum Laude* from Georgetown University with a major in economics and minors in theatre and philosophy. She had other interests including playing the violin for 13 years and even performing at Chicago's Orchestra Hall. She was on her high school's debate team, golf team, and was a National Merit Scholar.

Since then, the grieving family has held fundraising events to support Vanessa's favorite charities: music scholarships and breast can-



Vivian Kolpak holds a picture of her daughter Vanessa.

cer research. It is likely that Vanessa and others who tragically perished that day could have changed the world for the better.

On September 12, 2021, the Lira Ensemble of Chicago held a special musical concert at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles. It dedicated its concert in memory of Vanessa Kolpak and the victims of 9/11, and in honor of the beatification of Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński.



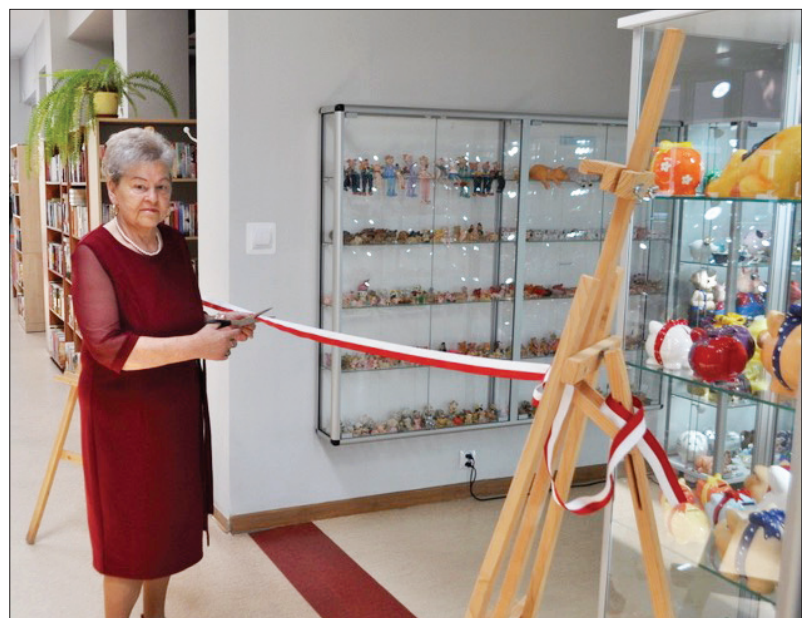
Justin (center) and his siblings.

**LEARNING TO PLAY FOOTBALL ACROSS THE POND.** Justin Kowalak, a senior quarterback at Crystal Lake South High School in Crystal Lake, Illinois, has attained

honorable-mention status in the Illinois Class 6A category according to the Chicago Sun Times. There are numerous high school football players who received honorable mention, so what makes Kowalak different? Most American high school football players learn to play either on elementary school teams or participating in youth leagues, but not Justin. Even though Kowalak was born in Plainfield, Illinois, his family moved back to his parents' homeland, Poland, and later moved to England. His father noticed that Justin and his brother were not in the best physical shape, and the boys had to get outside more. His father decided that learning American-style football would help, and that's where Justin's football story began.

In England, he started training with the Durham Saints, an American-style football team out of Durham University. Prior to his high school years, Justin learned the game with much older university players, practicing all positions: quarterback, center, running back, and receiver as American football caught on in Europe.

Then, the summer before Justin's freshman year, he moved by himself to Crystal Lake and stayed with family friends. Even though he missed his family, he



Irena Kaliska cuts the ribbon at the museum opening.

focused on improving his football skills. Being busy kept him from thinking about being homesick. Rob Fontana, Crystal Lake South's football coach, first accepted freshman Kowalak as a back-up player. The following year much to the surprise of everyone, the school's quarterback, Ian Gorke, approached Fontana and suggested trying Justin at the quarterback position, and that he, himself, be placed where he was most needed.

Success came quickly. But Kowalak's subsequent yardage statistics and touchdown numbers are not the entire story. Coach Fontana refers to Justin as a "football savant" spending considerable time reviewing and analyzing football game videos for preparation. His next step might be playing at the college level. So far, it appears that South Dakota State and Murray State are showing interest in him.

**PIGGY BANKS FOR A MUSEUM IN POLAND.** Nestled in Stepnica, a small town in northwest Poland, with a population of less than 3,000, a new but very special museum has been especially built to showcase over 1800 "piggy banks."

Irena Kaliska who owned and operated a hair salon in Stepnica, began acquiring these banks during her travel days and as gifts from family, friends, and clients. She has

a collection of banks from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan and even China. Many donors contributed to the collection when they learned of Irena's passion. The new museum had probably the largest collection of these banks in Europe when it opened in June 2021. Naturally, Ms. Kaliska was the guest of honor.

In the meantime, Andrew Wyganowski, mayor of Stepnica, contacted the Polish American Congress - Illinois Division (PAC-IL) requesting that Michael Niedzinski, president of PAC-IL, spread the word about donating Chicago, Illinois, non-Polish, and other themed piggy banks. So now the PAC-IL is reaching out to its constituents and friends in Illinois and beyond to expand this collection. Niedzinski said that everyone and anyone can donate. All shapes and sizes are appreciated. Banks need not be Polish-oriented. Michael Frerichs, Illinois state treasurer, donated a special blue piggy bank with the Illinois State Seal.

Anyone interested in donating piggy banks can bring them to the PAC-IL's office at 110 Higgins Road, Unit 2, in Park Ridge. Please email Niedzinski at [michael.niedzinski@constellium.com](mailto:michael.niedzinski@constellium.com) to arrange the donation trip.

## PHILATELICS

## Personalized Stamps

by Barbara Szydłowski

As a stamp collector, what are your thoughts about personalized postage stamps?

In an article by Wieslaw Kostka and Roman Sobus in the *Polonus Philatelic Society Bulletin*, people have looked for ways to make their correspondence stand out from all others. The perfumed stationery or a catchy advertisement printed on the envelope was intended to try to make the recipient open that letter first. Mechanical postage meters often carried and still do carry messages promoting specific businesses and events. However, in recent years, with the ability to print postage at home using a computer and printer, the option of adding a personal note on the postage stamp itself became possible.

While the process is somewhat different than adding images to digital stamp on the home computer,



the Polish Post (Poczta Polska) issued on February 1, 2005, the first stamp specifically prepared to be personalized. This was one of the "Kocham Cie" or "I Love You" series first issued in February, and very popular in sending Valentine's Day greetings and correspondence of a romantic nature. The issue bore a denomination of 1.30 zloty and was printed in sheets laid out as 20 stamps, each with a blank label adjacent to it. These blank labels became the canvas specially designed for personalization by the purchaser and the process was a paid service

provided by the Polish Post at the request of individuals or private companies. The personalized postage stamp was dependent on an order being placed along with the necessary artwork desired by the customer for the label. This graphic design could consist of a photograph, drawing, advertisement or some other text.

On 8 February 2007, a new "Kocham Cie" stamp was issued in the 8x8 stamp/label format, the last of the personalized "I Love You" series.

The Polonus Society offers a Polish translation service to aid members in their writing, collecting research and exhibiting interests. For additional information contact Andrew Katz at [katz95040@yahoo.com](mailto:katz95040@yahoo.com). To become a member of the oldest Polish Philatelic Society and learn more about Poland's place in history through stamps, visit [www.polonus.org](http://www.polonus.org).

## Szczesny Joins Piast Board

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute, a national non-profit 501(c)(3) research and social resource organization devoted to Polish and Polish American affairs, is pleased to welcome Stella Szczesny to the Piast Institute Board of Directors. Ms. Szczesny has been elected unanimously at the September 29th meeting.

Szczesny has been an active member of the Polish community on a local and a national level. Previously serving as the President of the Polish National Alliance (PNA), Lodge 1758 and the President of Polish National Alliance, Council 122. She has also served on the Central Citizens Committee, Polish American Congress, the Friends of Polish Art, the Polish Womens Alliance / First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Szczesny has been previously involved with the Piast Institute in various capacities including the Dekaban Committee, Polish Womens Hall of Fame project, and more recently on its drug free coalition,

the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC).

Szczesny has received her B.A. from Madonna College in Social Science, a B.A. in Education and Reading Instruction from Eastern Michigan University, her B.A. in Business and Accounting from Marygrove College and her M.B.A. from the University of Detroit.

Piast Institute is also one of fifty-two United States Census Information Centers (CIC), and one of two located in Michigan. The Piast Institute develops conferences, seminars, publications, public programs, lectures and exhibits that provide information about Poland, Poles, and Polish Americans. A key element of its community service is the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC), which the Institute founded in 2007 to serve the immigrant, racial and ethnic groups of the community and its youth.

If you would like additional information about the Piast Institute, call (313) 733-4535 or visit website at: [www.piastinstitute.org](http://www.piastinstitute.org).

## MINNESOTA VOICE

## MINNESOTA

# ACPC Convention in D.C. celebrates Polish music

Eyes Texas  
for 2022 event

by Mark Dillon

WASHINGTON D.C. — Reuniting in person for the first time in two years, delegates to the American Council for Polish Culture's Sept. 22 to Sept. 24 convention reaffirmed the group's 73-year commitment to bring together Polonia.

Adam Krzywosądzki delivered a keynote address that was his first live public speech as deputy chief of mission for the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the United States. He expressed gratitude to ACPC, urging Poles of all generations to promote a greater understanding of Polish heritage and history with passion and zeal.

"Your continuing work and commitment demonstrate the kind of responsibility that all Poles should embrace with their hearts and minds," Krzywosądzki said. "Thank you for promoting Polish history, from telling the story of



At ACPC's convention last month, delegate John Cebrowski presented the story of the development of a new Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, sharing a poignant moment when Polish President Andrzej Duda presented Bishop Emeritus John Yanta of San Antonio with a Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit during Duda's visit to Texas in June 2019. ACPC officers look on.

at the Arts Club of Washington which is housed in a mansion built in 1802 that was once that was once the home of former U.S. President James Monroe.

Convention delegates included affiliate and supporting organization members from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Texas, Maryland, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. It was ACPC's first live gathering since its September 2019 convention at the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw.

Presentations included a virtual tour of a new \$14 million, 16,000 sq. ft. Polish Heritage Center Museum and research complex that formally opened October 23 in Panna Maria,

Texas, presented by John Cebrowski, the center's director of development. ACPC is considering Panna Maria and nearby San Antonio as the potential site for its next national convention in late summer/early autumn 2022.

Activities included a live evening concert by noted Polish soprano Magdalena Kuzma, winner of the 2021 Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Competition, who was scheduled perform in Paris at the Galerie doree de la Banque de France in Paris on October 18. To celebrate the ACPC vocal competition's 50th anniversary, two former Sembrich Award winners from the Washington, D.C., area, Laura Kafka-Price and David W. Cook, gave a short recital at the Arts Club's Friday Sept. 24 noon concert.

Kafka-Price was also a recipient of one of two ACPC Cultural Achievement Awards given at a Sept. 24 banquet at the University Club of Washington. She gave a lecture at the convention on the nuances of singing in Polish, reflecting an ongoing project intended to make Polish songs and opera more accessible to non-Polish speakers.

In a luncheon talk on "Celebrating Polish Culture in the Nation's Capital" on Thursday, Sept. 23, Piotr Gajewski, founding musical director of the National Philharmonic, detailed examples of how Polish art, music, literature and dance are represented through statutes and sculptures at the Library of Congress and through the performing arts such as an annual Wianki celebration on the National Mall.

ACPC also held officer and director elections Thursday afternoon. Raymond Glembocki of Virginia was reelected to a second term as president. Mark Dillon of Minnesota was elected first vice president. Lilia Kieltyka of Connecticut was elected as second vice president.

Thomas Payne of Virginia and Marcia Lewandowski of Michigan were reelected as treasurer and recording secretary, respectively.

Also elected as directors were John Cebrowski of Texas, Mariana Eckel of Virginia, Cecilia Glembocki of Virginia, Rev. Philip Majka of Virginia, Richard Poremski of Maryland and Stella Szczesny of Michigan.

In addition to Kafka-Price's 2021 Cultural Achievement award, ACPC 2020 awards were presented at the Friday banquet to pianist Brian Ganz for Cultural Achievement, Alice Lech Laning, Founders Award, and Marcia Lewandowski, Jan de Rosen Award (2021). Distinguished Service awards were presented to Marek Chodakiewicz (2020) and Elzbieta Vande Sande (2021).

## 2022 Declared Year of Józef Wybicki

WARSAW (IAR) — The lower house of Poland's parliament passed a resolution to designate 2022 as the Year of Józef Wybicki, a writer and politician whose popular patriotic song "Dąbrowski's Mazurka" was adopted as the national anthem in the 1920s.

A total of 446 deputies supported the designation, while one voted against and none abstained, public broadcaster Polish Radio's IAR news agency reported.

The resolution passed by Polish lawmakers paid tribute to Wybicki, noting that 2022 will mark the 200th anniversary of his death as well as 275 years since his birth

### Library Hours

MINNEAPOLIS — The library of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, Unit 228, Riverplace, 43 Main Street SE, will be open 1:00-3:00 p.m. the November 14 and 28, and December 12 and 26.

Those wishing to visit the library outside of these dates and times can email [library@pacim.org](mailto:library@pacim.org) to make an appointment.

### Christmas Bake, Craft, and Pierogi Sale

MINNEAPOLIS — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish invites you to its Christmas Bake, Craft, and Pierogi Sale, Dec. 7, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at Pulaski Hall, 2114 – 5th Street NE. Phone: (612) 781-9328.

### Wigilia

MINNEAPOLIS — The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold its Wigilia December 12, at Kolbe Hall, 1621 University Ave NE. The event starts at 4:30, and will feature kolędy, Christmas activities, and a Wigilia dinner at 6:00 p.m. Everyone will get the opportunity to make a special Christmas ornament, which can be taken home or donated to decorate the Christmas tree in Kolbe Hall.

You can join other dinners at the festive tables or reserve entire table exclusively for your family and friends.

The cost of the event is \$40 for PACIM Members; \$50 for Non-Members; \$15 for Children under 15. Please send a check to 43 Main Street SE, Unit 228, Minneapolis, MN 55414 or pay online at [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org).



ACPC convention keynote speaker Adam Krzywosądzki, deputy chief of mission for the Republic of Poland, at right, poses with two ACPC leaders who are also honorary consuls – Richard Poremski (Maryland) at left and Deborah Majka (Southeast Pennsylvania).

the first Polish settlers in the United States to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw last year."

The 2021 ACPC Convention was hosted by Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C.,



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## SPORTS

# Class of 2020 Finally Enters Hall of Fame

by Tom Tarapacki

TROY, Mich. – Delayed by more than a year due to the pandemic, the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame recently held its 48th annual Induction Banquet, originally scheduled for June 18, 2020. The event held at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan still drew an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 300 attendees as it inducted Bronko Nagurski, J.R. Celski, A.J. Pierzynski, and Mike Krukow.

**Bronko Nagurski** was one of football's all-time greats, and was elected to the first class of the College Football Hall of Fame, and in 1963, to the inaugural class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. For years, there was debate about whether he should be considered Polish or Ukrainian, since his parents immigrated from what was then considered Ukraine. However, recent genealogical research confirmed his Polish ancestry. The induction of the sports legend, who died in 1990, was accepted by his son, Tony, via video. Tony Nagurski said that his father's plaque "will be proudly displayed in the Bronko Nagurski Museum in International Falls, Minnesota."

**A.J. Pierzynski** was a major league catcher for 19 seasons, a two-time All-Star and a big part of the White Sox World Series Championship in 2005.

Pierzynski pointed out that he is Polish on both sides, and that his great-grandparents "came here with nothing." They became potato farmers in Bridgehampton, N.Y., the home of baseball great Carl Yastrzemski. In fact, Pierzynski's grandfather played with Yaz's father on the Bridgehampton White Eagles, and Yaz was the bat boy.

AJ admitted that he "had to play with a hate" to get the best out of himself, but his intensity led to very harsh criticism from fans and media. He compared his hard-nosed approach to that of the fictional Roy Kent in the Ted Lasso Netflix series.

In closing, Pierzynski told the audience that Polish Americans have been though a lot, but "We need to be proud of our heritage ... it's a great, great heritage."

**J.R. Celski**, one of the top U.S. short track speed skaters of the last decade and a three-time medalist in the Winter Olympics, also attended. The son of a Polish father and Filipino mother. He was joined by his father, Bob. JR paid tribute to his Polish great-great grandparents, who came from Poland in the late 1800s. The family eventually settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, and lived in the area of St. Adalbert's Church. Celski said that he dreamed of being in the Olympics at a young age, and that his parents "moved mountains to make that dream a reality."

**Mike Krukow** enjoyed an outstanding 14-year major-league pitching career before becoming an Emmy-winning broadcaster for the San Francisco Giants. He said that he was particularly honored to be inducted with Bronko Nagurski, since his grandfather's two favorites were Nagurski and Ted Kluszewski. Growing up in Long Beach, California, he recalled his grandfather taking him to see "Big Klu" play for the Los Angeles Angels when he was nine. When the slugger belted a home run, Mike decided, "I want to be a baseball player."



Board chair David Jansen (left) and MC Jon Paul Morosi (center) watch JR Celski accept his induction.

In 1974, when Krukow was playing in the minors, he got a call from his grandfather saying that Kluszewski was elected to the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. "Someday you're going to be in the Polish Hall of Fame," he predicted.

When the "Polish Prince" got to the Chicago Cubs in 1976 he was warmly embraced by the Polish community. "I was part of the family," Mike recalled.

The Tony Kubek Media Award was given to award-winning sportswriter Joe Posnanski. Posnanski

## THE LEGEND OF PINKY DERAS.

The Taylor North Little League team recently won the Little League World Championship trophy, becoming the first squad from the state of Michigan to win that title in more than 60 years. For many it brought back memories of the last team from Michigan to win the title, the legendary 1959 Hamtramck team led by **Art "Pinky" Deras**.

Hamtramck is a city in Michigan that's almost completely surrounded by another city, Detroit. In the first half of the 20th century its residents were of predominantly Polish

tournament the team posted nine straight shutouts. The ninth shutout came in the opening game in Williamsport, with Deras tossing a 5-0 one-hit win over San Juan, Puerto Rico. The shutout streak came to an end in the second game in Williamsport, taking on Oahu, Hawaii, but Deras belted a grand slam and Hamtramck still won easily, 7-1. Deras was back on the mound for the championship game, throwing a three-hitter to beat Auburn, California, 12-0.

In all, Deras finished the season with 75 consecutive scoreless innings, hitting 12 homers in the 13 tournament games. His final numbers for the season: 16 shutouts in 18 starts, 10 no-hitters, 298 strikeouts recorded in 108 innings (compared to only 10 walks), plus a .641 batting average, 33 home runs and 112 runs batted in.

The team was given a huge welcome back to Hamtramck, and the easy-going, modest Deras was proclaimed a sports hero. The team traveled to Los Angeles for an appearance on the Lawrence Welk show in Los Angeles and a trip to Disneyland.

Only two years later, Hamtramck won the World Pony League baseball title for 13- and 14-year-olds, becoming the first youth baseball program to win both championships. Deras and four others played on both winning teams. One of Pinky's teammates on the 1961 Pony League championship team was Tom Paciorek, who went on to star in the Major Leagues for 18 years.

Later at Hamtramck High, Deras starred in baseball, football and basketball. He was offered a scholarship to play quarterback at Michigan State, but he opted for baseball. In 1964 the St. Louis Cardinals, outbidding his hometown Detroit Tigers and numerous other teams, offered the 17-year-old an \$80,000 signing bonus. Since his family was struggling financially and he was an only child, he signed with the Cards. As he closed the deal at the house of family friend John "Chico" Kryczkowski, the scout who signed him proclaimed that Art "has the talent to reach the major leagues in two years."

The Cardinals moved Deras to third base and planned for him to succeed their all-star at that position, Ken Boyer. Pinky was later shifted to the outfield as he strug-

gled to advance in the minor league system. He would go on to play five seasons in the Cardinals minor league system, but never made it to the majors. He only rose to the AA level, and in his best season he hit .269 with eight home runs.

By 1968, he grew tired of the pressure to succeed and lost his desire to pursue a baseball career. As the possibility of being drafted became more likely, Deras joined the Army Reserve. Since basic training and spring training conflicted, that was the end of Art's pro baseball career. Deras then joined the Warren, Mich. police department, and retired in 2001 as a detective after a 30-year-career. He also became a Little League father. Now 75, he still lives in Michigan.

"I say this to everybody who listens to me, and I'm not the only one to think or say this: Pinky was the greatest 12-year-old ballplayer who ever lived," said Paciorek. Paciorek thinks that things might have worked out better for Pinky in the pros if he had more support in the



Art "Pinky" Deras is widely considered the best Little Leaguer ever.

Cardinals organization.

Pinky was inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 2011, and his 1959 Hamtramck Little League team was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

**BASEBALL ROUNDUP.** **Mike Yastrzemski** hit 25 home runs for San Francisco ... Detroit native **Anthony Misiewicz** was one of Seattle's most reliable relievers ... Athletics outfielder **Stephen Piscotty** ended up having surgery on his left wrist, a problem that caused him to hit just .220... Yankees reliever **Darren O'Day** (Odachowski) spent about two months on the injured list due to a rotator cuff strain ... catcher **Kevan Smith** (Szmydth) was released by Atlanta ... Now with the Texas Rangers, former All Star pitcher **Mike Foltyniewicz** struggled with a 5.44 ERA ... infielder Joe Panik was traded from Toronto to Miami ... Minnesota's **Max Kepler** (Rózycki) hit .211 with 19 HRs ... Kevin Plawewski played well this season as Boston's number two catcher ... former Padre and Reds outfielder **Travis Jankowski** signed with Philadelphia this year ... **Ryne Stanek** has been consistent out of the bullpen for Houston, and has earned a role pitching in the final third of games ... pitcher **Ryan Borucki** split the season between Toronto and Triple A Buffalo.



Celski (left) and AJ Pierzynski in the Hall of Fame.

said that both of his parents grew up in Poland, and his father worked in a factory. For his dad, "success meant you wore a suit to work." That's why Joe went to college, studying to become an accountant. Eventually he stumbled into sports writing and realized "this is what I'm meant to do." Joe currently writes for The Athletic and his personal blog, JoeBlogs, is where you can read his account of the induction in a piece entitled, Dziękuję.

NPASHOF President David Jansen was happy with how the banquet turned out, and he was particularly pleased with the feedback from the honorees. "They were just thrilled," he said. "They had a really good time — and so did we!"

You can get more information at: [www.polishsportshof.com](http://www.polishsportshof.com).

origin, drawn into the region by the thriving auto industry. It was also a baseball hotbed that produced major leaguers like Steve Gromek, Bill Naharodny and the Paciorek brothers.

Deras, whose original family name was Darasz, is still fondly remembered in the Hamtramck and Detroit areas. That's because of his amazing talent, great accomplishments, and "colorful" nickname. It was given to him by his Polish grandmother shortly after his birth, though he never did learn why she called him Pinky.

The 1959 Hamtramck Little League team included Deras, Sidney Cline, William Heald, Kenneth Jones, Steven Lepkowski, Michael Milewski, Mark Modich, Joseph Piasecki, Gregory Pniewski, James

# Parades, Ceremonies Highlight Polish Heritage Month

## CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS



Polish American Heritage Month was celebrated in Calumet City, its 26th annual, with ceremonies in the city's Pulaski Park on October 3. (Above): Dancers in traditional costumes from the Mala Polska song and dance group of the St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish school prepare to perform.



Above, dignitaries lay wreaths at the bronze plaque of Casimir Pulaski. (l. to r.): James Robaczewski, president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Steve Tokarski, treasurer of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress Indiana Division president; Anna Wierzbicki, president of the Polish American Foundation Illinois Division; Mark Kalwinski, 1st District councilman from Hammond, Indiana; and Stanley Miller Calumet Memorial Park district commissioner.



Students from the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America St. Raphael Kalinowski Polish Language School located in Munster Indiana, perform traditional Polish songs during breakfast for guests at the celebration.

## NEW YORK CITY



PHOTO: ZOSIA ZELSKA-BOBROWSKI / DZIENNIK POLONIA

This year's General Pulaski Memorial Day Parade was dedicated to St. John Paul II on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Held annually on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, this year's event took place October 3 following Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Above, students and staff of Polish School at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York were among the hundreds of organizations in the parade. The school, commonly known as the Consular School, is one of 69 schools scattered around the world. They enable students who attend foreign schools during the week to complete their education in Polish in the field of primary school, middle school and general secondary school.

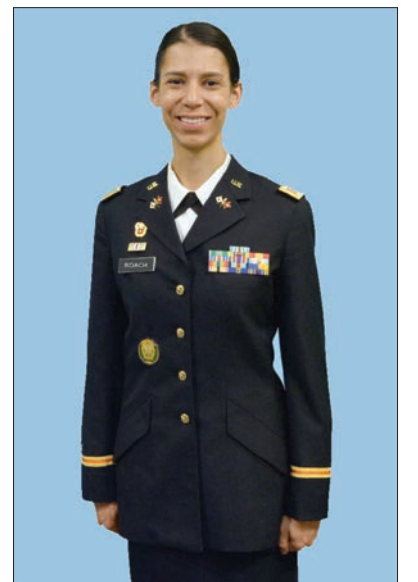
## PHILADELPHIA

Captain Teresa Krakowiak Roach, Assistant Operations Officer, 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion of the Delaware Army National Guard, served as Military Marshal of this year's Pulaski Day Parade.

CPT Roach was born in Langhorne, Pa. to John and Cynthia Krakowiak. She graduated from Villa Joseph Marie High School, Holland, Pa. in 2003 and from Norwich University, Northfield, Vt. in 2007, with a degree in Computer Security and Information Assurance. She enlisted in 2011 into the Delaware Army National Guard and earned her commission as a Signal Officer from the Officer Candidate School in November of 2013.

Upon completion of the Signal Basic Officer Leader Course in 2014, CPT Roach was assigned to Charlie Company, 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, where she served as a Platoon Leader and the Operations Officer, in Wilmington, Del. until 2016. During this assignment, she led her platoon during a training exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., where she met her husband, Gary. CPT Roach was then assigned to the 261st Tactical Signal Brigade in Smyrna, Del. as a Network Officer. She was then deployed as a part of small team to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait where she served as a Signal Future Plans Officer for III Corps in support of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve from 2017-2018.

Upon redeployment, CPT Roach took command of Alpha Company, 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Georgetown, Del. During this assignment, she attended Signal Captain's Career Course and graduated as the distinguished honor graduate in March of 2019. From August 2019-July 2020, CPT Roach deployed her Company to Camp Buerhing, Kuwait in support of Operations Inherent Resolve, Spartan Shield, and Freedom's Sentinel. Upon return, she accepted her most recent assignment as the Executive Officer at the Military Entrance and Processing Station in Fort Lee, Virg. until September 2021, before returning to Delaware and serving as the Assistant Operations Officer for the 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.



CPT Roach's military awards and decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal (2nd award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd award), National Defense Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd award), Global War on Terrorism – Expeditionary Medal (2nd award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Region (2nd award), Delaware Medal for Military Merit, Delaware National Guard Medal, Delaware National Defense Service Medal, Delaware Medal for Service in Aid to Civil Authority (2nd award), and Delaware Physical Fitness Ribbon (6th award).

CPT Roach has always been proud of her Polish heritage, which has been an important part of her life since childhood. She attended Saint Adalbert's Polish Language School as a child with her sisters Mary, Anna, and Rose. After college, she was a member of the Polish Intercollegiate Dance Group (PKM) and performed in several Pulaski Day parades, Polish Constitution Day at Our Lady of Czestochowa and performing at the Kimmel Center prior to the Mazowsze Dance Ensemble performance. In 2010, she had the honor of being named Miss PKM and appeared in the Pulaski Day Parade. Currently, she is enrolled at the University of Maryland Global Campus earning a graduate degree in Human Resource Management. CPT Roach lives in Virginia with her husband CPT Gary Roach and daughter Evelyn.

## THE POLISH CHEF

## Now is a good time to make and freeze Christmas Eve pierogi

by Robert Strybel

A standard fixture on many a Polish and PolAm Wigilia table are pierogi, but on this occasion only the meatless kind will do. Nowadays store-bought pierogi are easy enough to obtain, even online, but if you want to try your hand at the real thing, here are some from-scratch recipes to consider.

**PIEROGI DOUGH (ciasto na pierogi).** 1. Sift 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 c flour onto bread-board. Sprinkle with 1/2 t salt. Deposit 1 small egg at center and use knife to mix outlying flour into egg. Gradually add about 1/2 fairly hot water in a thin stream and work mixture by hand into a dough, gradually working in 2 T salad oil. Knead well until dough is smooth and elastic and no longer sticks to hand. On lightly floured board, roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. 2. Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out and proceed as with the recipe above.

**CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI (ruskie pierogi):** Cook 2 lbs peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, mashed with potato-masher or processed to a ground-like consistency in processor, 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. Toppings may include sour cream, or skwarki (fried gold-



**SAVORY CHEESE PIEROGI (pierogi z serem na słono):** Combine 1 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, pulverized to a powder in food-processor, 1 t salt, 1-2 t sugar, 1-2 t lemon juice and 1 raw egg yolk into a smooth filling. The cooked pierogi may be served with melted butter, sour cream or plain low-fat yogurt.

en-brown pork fatback nuggets).

**SWEET CHEESE PIEROGI (pierogi z serem na słodko):** Combine 1 lb grated or processor-pulverized farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, 1/2 t salt, 3 T sugar, 1 t lemon juice, 1/2 t vanilla extract and 1 raw egg yolk and enough sour cream to form a smooth filling. Optional: Add 1/2 c plumped raisins. The cooked pierogi may be served with melted butter, confectioner's sugar, sour cream or butter-browned plain bread crumbs.

**POTATO & ONION PIEROGI (pierogi z kartoflami):** Cook 6-7 med potatoes until tender, drain well, steaming off moisture, and mash thoroughly are put through ricer. Dice 3-4 slices thick-sliced bacon and brown with 2 finely diced onions. Note: For fast-day (or vegetarian) pierogi, fry the onions in 2-3 T butter or oil.) Add fried mixture to potatoes, stir in 1 egg and (optional) 1 T bread crumbs. Salt & pepper to

taste. 1-2 T chopped chives, parsley or dill or a combination thereof may be added to filling. Serve with sour cream or plain yogurt.

**SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOM PIEROGI (pierogi z kapustą i grzybami):** Soak 1/2 - 1 oz dried Polish (bolete) mushrooms in water to more than cover, cook in same water until tender and dice. Drain, rinse and re-drain 1 qt sauerkraut and cook under cover in water to cover containing 1-2 bayleaves and 1 mushroom cube 30 min. Uncover and continue cooking until most of the liquid has evaporated. Transfer to colander and, when cool enough to handle, press out as much moisture as possible, chop rather fine. Add diced cooked mushrooms and their liquid and simmer until it is absorbed. Again press out moisture through colander, Salt & pepper to taste.

In 2-3 T butter or oil simmer 16 oz washed, diced Portobello mushrooms with a finely diced onion un-

til fully cooked (about 15 min). Return sauerkraut to pot, add cooked mushrooms and simmer covered about 20. Drain in colander pressing out all moisture. Salt & pepper to taste. Garnish cooked pierogi with fried chopped onions.

**POTATO & ONION PIEROGI (pierogi z kartoflami):** Cook 6-7 med potatoes until tender, drain well, steaming off moisture, and mash thoroughly or put through ricer. Dice fine 2 onions and and simmer in 2-3 T butter or oil until light golden-brown and fully cooked. To potatoes add the fried onions, 1 small egg and (optional) 1 heaping T bread crumbs. Salt & pepper to taste. Optional: To improve color and flavor, to mixture add 1 heaping T chopped chives or dill or a little of each.

**CABBAGE PIEROGI (pierogi ze słodką kapustą):** Core, and shred 1-3/4 lb cabbage, place in pot cover with water, add 1 T salt and cook 30 min from the time it comes to a boil. Cabbage should be fully cooked. Drain in colander and press out moisture. When cool enough to handle, chop. Brown 1 chopped onion in 3 T butter or oil. Combine with cabbage and simmer 15 min, stirring to allow moisture to evaporate. Drain and press out moisture. Add 1 T bread crumbs and salt & pepper to taste. Variation: Browning 8 oz or so chopped fresh mushrooms (or 1 oz cooked dried mushrooms) with the onion will greatly enhance the flavor.

**MUSHROOM PIEROGI (pierogi z grzybami):** Soak 1 slice crumbled-up stale French or Vienna bread or a small roll in 1/2 c milk. Wash and dice 1 lb fresh Portobello mushrooms, place in skillet with 1-2 chopped onions and 3 T butter and fry uncovered on low heat, stirring frequently, until moisture evaporates. Grind or process mushrooms,

onions and soaked bread, add 1/4 c bread crumbs and mix well. Salt & pepper to taste and (optional) garnish with 1 T chopped fresh parsley.

**GROAT & CHEESE PIEROGI (pierogi z kaszą gryczaną i twarogiem):** Combine 2 c cooked buckwheat groats with 1 c mashed farmer cheese and 2 chopped onions sautéed in 3 T butter, margarine or oil. Mix well to get a uniform consistency. Stir in 1 small egg and salt & pepper to taste.

There are several methods to freezing and reheating pierogi.

The easiest is to prepare pierogi as usual. Allow to drain. Place pierogi on plastic cutting board or cookie sheet lined with cling wrap. Place in freezer. Once frozen (about 2 hours), move them into a freezer-friendly bags. Remember to label and date the bags. They can be stored for up to 3 months.

To prepare for dinner, allow to thaw in refrigerator and fry as usual.

Some prefer to "blanche" the pierogi (i.e., remove them from the boiling water before they begin to float), and then freeze. To prepare, add to boiling water directly from the freezer. Pierogi will be ready when they begin to float. Be careful not to overcook.

**LENTIL PIEROGI (pierogi z soczewicą):** Swish around 1 c dried lentils in a pot of cold water so impurities float up. Pour off water and rinse in sieve. Transfer to cooking pot, add 2-1/2 c water and cook until tender (35-40 min) and drain well. Fry 2 fine-chopped onions in 3 T butter until soft and golden. To lentils add the onions, 2 cooked potatoes, mashed well, and (optional) 1 ground hard-cooked egg. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram.

## PONDERING POLE

## Anything you can do...

by Ed Poniewaz

Here are two Polish gals who can outdo anyone when it comes to ballroom dancing and starting a financial services company.

The first is Jowita Przystal and the second is Magdalena "Magda" Wierzycka.

If you are like me, you have been waiting for another beautiful Polish lady to take over where Edyta Sliwinska of *Dancing with the Stars* left off.

The wait is over.

This year, the British version of *Dancing with the Stars* called *Strictly Come Dancing* is adding Jowita Przystal as a member of the professional dancer corps. She comes to *Strictly Come Dancing* after finishing first in the 2020 British dance talent show, *The Greatest Dancer*, created by Simon Cowell.

Jowita was born August 22, 1994, in Krakow, Poland and started taking dance lessons when she

was six years old. Her success and talent started to blossom after she hooked up with dance and life partner Michael Danilczuk who she met at a dance camp in Krakow in 2013. Danilczuk and Przystal won the Polish Open Latin Dance Championship in 2014 and in 2015 joined *Burn the Dance*, a live dance company "which has performed around the world, including on Broadway in New York City and the West End in London." They performed in several Broadway productions, then moved to London in 2019 to further their careers, and in 2020 they won the *Greatest Dancer* competition.

Both auditioned for *Strictly Come Dancing* but only Przystal was selected for the 2021 season. How does she feel about this new opportunity?

"This is my biggest dream come true. No words can describe how I feel right now. I'm still pinching myself to

check if this is real, but I am beyond excited to be joining the *Strictly Come Dancing* family and I can't wait to give all of my heart and soul on that dance floor!"

That's the spirit and we wish pani Przystal all the luck! Here's hoping this will be a great first year in a long run with a wonderful television program.

**I AM NOT SURE** if Magda Wierzycka can dance but she certainly can pay for lessons if she needs them. At least one source has her as the richest woman in South Africa, but some are describing her worth at a measly billion. Poland has a number of men and women billionaires, and the *Pondering Pole* has written in the past about billionaire Polish self-made men such as Conrad Prebys and Ed Roski. Magda now joins that select club as a Polish woman billionaire.

"One of South Africa's most successful businesswomen," Magdalena Franciszka "Magda" Wierzycka was born October 14, 1969, in Gliwice, Poland. When she was twelve and with the emergence of Solidarity and the subsequent social unrest, the family moved to Austria "where they lived for a year in a Polish refugee camp..." In 1983, the fam-



Wierzycka

ily once again moved, this time to South Africa where she learned English and Afrikaans and attended Pretoria High School for Girls and the University of Cape Town.

Though her mother and father were doctors, Magda's career path leaned towards the financial services industry and she found employment with insurance and fund management companies. Over time and after periods as director and CEO of various firms, she was able to orchestrate moves and deals culminating in the "establishment of Sygnia Asset Management, a financial technology company."

Wierzycka became the company's CEO in 2006. In a decade, she grew the company's assets from R2 billion to R162 billion which resulted in Sygnia becoming the second largest multi-management company in the country. On 14 October 2015, Sygnia was listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

In case you were wondering, R2 and R162 mean that revenues for the company grew from 2 billion to 162 billion under her management. That is how you run a successful business and become a billionaire!!

Magda's hard work and persistence eventually paid off for her financially and she is a staunch fighter against corporate and political corruption. While I haven't seen the connection made public, perhaps it was the bad taste of the latter (Communism, corruption, and martial law) in her country of birth that shaped her feelings in her adopted country. What a super woman and what a wonderful story.

◆ ◆ ◆

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 3765 Autumn View Drive, Arnold, MO 63010; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.



Przystal

## Conference honors Polish diplomats who saved Jews

WARSAW — An international academic conference — “The Choice to Save Lives: Diplomatic Rescue During the Holocaust” — was held in Warsaw as part of efforts to honor Polish diplomats who helped Jews in World War II.

Organized by Poland's Pilecki Institute, the conference is part of events to mark the Year of Aleksander Ladoś.

Ladoś, who served as Poland's envoy to Switzerland during World War II, led an unofficial group of Polish diplomats who worked together with members of Jewish organizations to rescue European Jews from the Holocaust. The group's members illegally purchased and issued passports and citizenship certificates for people facing deportation to Nazi German death camps.

It is estimated that the Ladoś group issued 4,000 to 5,000 such documents.

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A sincere “THANK YOU” for your donation to the PAJ PRESS Press fund: Carol Wierzbicki Anderson, Buena Vista, Colo.; Frank & Linda Austin, Orchard Park, N.Y.; Rose Axtell, Brookfield, Ohio; Tom Bania, San Diego, Calif.; Steve Blicharz, Merrilan, Wisc.; Anthony and Elaine Bukoski, Superior, Wisc.; Michael and Karen Hrabowski, Langhorne, Pa.; Paul Hynek, Jericho, Vt.; J.M Michalak, South Bend, Ind.; Dr. John A. Niziol, Clifton, N.J.; Gerald Ortell, Lords Valley, Pa.; Steve Zimny, Hudson, Ohio; and three Friends of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Polish opera star Żylis-Gara dies at 91

Teresa Żylis-Gara, the most famous Polish soprano, passed away recently in Monaco where she had lived since 1980. She made her operatic debut in Stanisław Moniuszko's Halka in 1956 before launching an international career in the 1960s in Paris in Mozart's comic opera Don Giovanni. She later signed on with New York's prestigious Metropolitan Opera where Żylis-Gara performed 233 times over 14 seasons. She sang alongside Carreras, Pavarotti, Corelli, Domingo and other opera greats and performed on the stages of Milan's La Scala, London's Covent Garden and opera houses in Moscow, Warsaw, Madrid, Chicago, Buenos Aires, Amsterdam, and Miami. Her hallmark was her crystal-clear lyric soprano voice which will be missed by many.

### Krystyna Maria Pisarska Chciuk, Joined Home Army at 15

SAN FRANCISCO — Krystyna Maria Pisarska was born in Warsaw, Poland on March 13, 1926, the oldest child of Janina (Kurpiewska) and Stanislaw Pisarski. The family, along with a younger brother Ryszard, lived in the outskirts of the city, now a part of Warsaw called Wesola Praga. At the age of seven, her father died and the family moved into Warsaw proper, so her mother could work. Krystyna attended school, eventually living in a boarding school taught by Catholic Sisters and graduated high school. In 1943, she was accepted into the University. However, World War II was in progress and schools were closed, interrupting her formal education.

Krystyna joined the Home Army following her cousin to an underground meeting at the age of 15 and, unknowingly, as the Polish Resistance was swearing in its new recruits, she was sworn in as well. As she was underage, a female officer took her under her wing. Krystyna became a *laczniczka*, a liaison and courier for the Home Army. She couriered arms, messages and led soldiers from one area of Warsaw to another. Taking part in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, she was captured by the Nazis and taken to several Prisoner of War camps, the most



notable being Oberlangen, in Eastern Germany.

She survived the camps and, once freed in 1945, she joined the Polish Army in Exile in London. There she met Wladyslaw Chciuk, and they married in January 1951. Their first daughter was born in November of that year. In January 1952 they immigrated to the United States and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where their second and third daughters were born. In 1965, the family moved and settled in San Francisco. Krystyna worked professionally as a waitress, raising her family, eventually holding the position of catering manager at the Olympic City Club, from which she retired. In retirement, she con-

tinued working with the many organizations she had founded or co-founded.

Krystyna is remembered for her many contributions to the Polish American community, being a founder or officer with the Lowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble, Polish Scouting, Polish Saturday language schools and numerous clubs.

She is survived by a brother; three daughters; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and family in Poland. She is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Lowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble, Polish Scouting Organization, Polish Language School, or The Polish Club of San Francisco.

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

## Polish American Journal Foundation

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

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).



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NOTEWORTHY

# Honoring Jake Fortin

by Margaret R. Zotkiewicz

With his outgoing personality and love of people, Jake Fortin is an individual that I feel as if I've known all my life.

I met Jake several years ago at the Summer Music Fest in Frankenmuth, Michigan. I had heard about this courageous young man through social media posts about him and by him. It is clear from the moment that you meet Jake, he loves polka music. He first began to play the drums at four years of age, and he really got into polkas around age ten.

My first experience of hearing Jake play drums was when he visited Toledo in 2017 and sat in with Aaron Slivinski's Great Lakes Sounds Band for a Toledo Area Polka Society dance. Aaron and Jake have been friends since 2005, and Aaron has mentored Jake in Jake's polka endeavors, teaching him to play polka drums in 2008, and giving Jake the chance to get some public playing exposure in Aaron's band.

Jake counts among his friends and musical heroes the following people: his cousin Bob Naessens, his late Grandpa Ed Fortin, Tommy Reder, Kelly Grocholski, Lenny Gomulka, Paul Krywy, Johnny Pilch, Aaron Slivinski, Jeff Yash, Kenny Yash, Dave Slivinski, and Alex Yash. His nonmusical mentors



Jake Fortin (left) and Lenny Gomulka.

include family members, especially his mom Charlene and his brother Ben. Other friends and people he considers as mentors include Mark and Cherie Trzepakz, the Bizon family, the Rosinski family, and the Piatkowski family.

Jake has sat in with several bands since those early days, including Polka Riot, Bay City Polka Panic, the Steve Drzewicki Band, the DynaBrass, the DynaVersaSt-tickToneAires, and Lenny Gomulka

and Chicago Push.

Jake also greatly enjoys being on the radio and he is currently in his eighth year on 247polkaheaven.com as an IJ with the show *The New Polka Party USA*, broadcast Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. He also started a program on a new station out of the Bay City area that plays a variety of country, rock and roll, and polkas at [www.grizzlyradios.com](http://www.grizzlyradios.com), called *Grizzly Rocking Polkas* on Saturdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Jake also enjoys writing songs and hopes to have his originals one day get play time.

Jake isn't only into polka music; he also is very active in his home area of Sanford, Michigan, with The Arc of Midland, and on several special needs boards. He dons a Santa Claus suit at Christmas and volunteers in his community.

Jake's future looks bright, and even though he struggles with medical issues as a result of living with a disability, he has not let anything stop him from realizing his dreams.

"I'd really like to have my own band one day" he told me recently.

And when I saw Jake at this year's Summer Music Fest, he was overjoyed to receive an award from Lenny Gomulka and his bandmates for ten years of involvement in the polka community.

What a joyous occasion!  
Congratulations, Jake!

SCHOLARSHIPS

# Apply Now for the 2022 Freddie K., Jr. Scholarship

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — The Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2022 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument.

Freddy K Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, The Freddy K Band when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially polka music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality sense of humor and love of polkas affected all who knew him. The Music Scholarship Fund was set up

to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year.

Anyone who is interested in applying for this award can download an application at [www.freddykjmusicsscholarship.com](http://www.freddykjmusicsscholarship.com), or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

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Awards are presented during one of the summer polka festivals.

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- 2018 Zachary Piatkowski Canastota, New York
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Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York
- 2016 Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2015 Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts
- 2014 Jenna Libera. Charlton, Massachusetts
- 2013 Eva Snyder South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2012 Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York
- 2011 Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota New York
- 2010 Kassandre Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts;  
Anita Marie Thomas, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2009 David Raccis, Wilbraham, Massachusetts
- 2008 Christopher Wanyo, Shillington Pennsylvania
- 2007 Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire
- 2006 Lanelle Raccis, Wilbraham, Massachusetts
- 2005 Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York
- 2004 Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts
- 2003 Ryan Ogrodny, White Oak, Pennsylvania
- 2002 Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey
- 2001 Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- 2000 Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware
- 1999 William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania


## T. K. Frank's Polka CDs

<p>Stephen Huber/ Happy Austrians Alpine Bells Lustig Jeden Tag!</p> <p>Freddy K There's no Reason for It All</p> <p>Randy Krajewski &amp; Badinov Manifesto</p> <p>Kryger Brothers Polish Wedding Memories</p> <p>Joe Oberaitis Polkaitis</p> <p>Orlando Polka Magic OPM2K w/Conn. Stas Working Dogs</p> <p>Walt Solek Tribute</p> <p>Jimmy Sturr Polkas</p> <p>Rod Henry On the Road</p> <p>New Tradition Out of the Box All Tuned Up</p> <p>Joe Timmer Back by Popular Demand Peoples Choice Polka Fun for Everyone Polka Hit Parade</p> <p>Rosie and the Jammers At Last Celebration</p> <p>PA Merry Makers Reunion</p>	<p>Twin City Sound Intrigue</p> <p>7th Ave. Name the Same Joe, Joe, Joe</p> <p>Judy and Her Suchey Brothers Celebrating 25 years</p> <p>Polka Generations featuring John Koworski Three of a kind</p> <p>Eddie Foreman Tiger by the tail</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>CHRISTMAS Edelweiss Choir Sings German Christmas Carols John Huchrowski Polish Christmas Carols Steve Meisner Forever Christmas Jenny O Christmas Time Don Peachey We Love Christmas</p> </div> <p>25 Polka Hits by various artist Who Stole the Kishka, Beer Barrel Polka, Pennsylvania Polka Helena Polka and more</p>	<p>John Stevens Best Of John Stevens Everyones Having Fun Going to a Dance Kick'n Polkas Overlooked</p> <p>Mike Surratt/The Continentals Polka Element</p> <p>Matty Rock Ride the Polka Wave Through the Years The Rock is Back</p> <p>Dave Banasiak and the Polka Knights Swing</p> <p>Bernie Gorak Classic Polkas</p> <p>Rodney Beyer Going to a Polka Town</p> <p>Touch of Brass 25th Silver Salute</p> <p>Kevin Adams Love Notes Songs in the Key of Love</p> <p>Don Peachey Music Does It What Goes On Here</p> <p>Polkas for Charity Let's Get this Party Started Polka Fever</p>
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NAME	BORN	DIED	KNOWN FOR	CITY, STATE
1 Max Smulewicz	1936		Bandleader / Musician	N.J.
1 Kevin Adams	1957		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Ohio
2 Jolly Rich Anton	1947		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
2 Ray Henry MocarSKI	1924	1/24/98	Bandleader / Musician / Arranger	Conn.
3 Ray Jay Jarusinski			Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	Pa.
3 Mark Trzepacz	1956		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician / IJ	Buffalo, N.Y.
3 The Big Moose	1954		Polka D.J. WOWQ	Dubois, Pa.
4 Stan Ozimek ( Cousin Ozzie)	1915	11/11/87	Polka D. J.	E. Hartford , Conn.
4 Joe Oberaitis	1949		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician / IJ	Fla.
5 Myron Floren	1919	2005	Accordianist (Lawrence Welk Show)	Calif.
5 Dave Dombrowski			Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pa.
6 Jim Polaski			Bandleader / Musician	Ill.
6 Casey Bruzdinski	1924	3/1/07	Musician (Concertina)	Ill.
9 Ted Gibala	1942		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee	Pa.
10 Jullie Williams		(d.)	Former DJ (WMBS Radio)	Uniontown, Pa.
10 Connie Brzowski			Former Polka DJ	Md.
19 Ron Somers	1939		Musician (Ray Budzilek Band)	Pa.
12 Dick Kuicemba	1932		Musician / Arranger	Mich.
12 Don Cialkoszewski (Polish Kid)			Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ariz.
14 Alan Volek Jr.	1974		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
17 Carl Hoynoski	1944		Musician / Vocalist (Golden Brass)	Fla.
18 Marty Dzik	1964		Musician / Vocalist	Ill.
19 Ken Olowin			Polka D.J. / I.J.	Erie, Pa.
20 Rick Piotrowski	1956		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Fla.
20 Whitey Ryniec			Musician / Vocalist	Ill.
21 Wally Raczkowski	1967		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Wisc.
22 Wally Pala	1941	11/12/00	Musician / Vocalist (Pala Brothers)	Chicago
23 Gino Kurdziel	1935	3/16/19	Musician / Vocalist (New Yorkers, G -Notes)	Buffalo, N.Y.
24 Charlie Tanssek	1941		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
25 Mitch Moskal	1950		Polka I.J.	Mass.
26 Andy (Dziagwa) Day	1928		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee (Ampol Aires)	Ill.
27 Larry Chesky	1933	1/25/11	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Producer	Mass.
27 Mikey Dee	1973		Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Pa.
27 Sandy Lewandowski			IJ / Polka Jammer Network	Buffalo, N.Y.
29 Frania (Yakima) Urbaniak			Polka D.J. WEDO	Pa.
30 Ray Barsukiewicz	1948		Musician / Vocalist / Composer	Buffalo, N.Y.

**POLKA CALENDAR**

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to: [ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com](mailto:ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com)

**NOVEMBER 5**  
 • DynaVersaStickToneAires /Energy — Holiday Inn, Independence, Oh., 7-1 (440) 886-6157

**NOVEMBER 6**  
 • Special Delivery — Hofbrauhaus, Buffalo, N.Y. 6-9. (716) 939-2337.  
 • Polka Family /Polka Country Musicians/Lenny Gomulka — Holiday Inn, Independence, Oh., 4-1 (440) 886-6157

**NOVEMBER 7**  
 • Dennis Polisky — PACC, Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 283-4596  
 • John Stanky — VFW, Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 650-0436  
 • Eddie Forman — Roselawn Rest., New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6. (315) 735-5030  
 • Tony's Polka Band — Fire Hall, Glenfield, N.Y. (315) 376-2511  
 • Randy Krajewski & Badinov — PRCUA Misiuda Hall, Toledo, Ohio. 2-6 (419) 351-5031  
 • Polka Generations — Polish Club, St. Petersburg, Fla. (727) 894-9908

**NOVEMBER 11-14**  
 • Jimmy Sturr — Wurstfest ,New Braunfels, Texas, (830) 625-9167

**NOVEMBER 13**  
 • The Boys — Pulaski Club, Phoenix, Ariz., 5-9 (602) 275-9329

**NOVEMBER 14**  
 • The Boys — Pulaski Club, Phoenix, Ariz., 2-6 (602) 275-9329  
 • John Gora — PRCUA Hall , Wyandotte, Mich., 2-6 (248) 881-6819  
 • John Stevens — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6 (570) 650-0436  
 • Mass Brass — PACC, Ludlow, Mass., 2:30-6:30 (413) 283-4596

**NOVEMBER 20**  
 • Buffalo Touch — VFW, Lancaster, N.Y., 5-9 (716) 681-8387

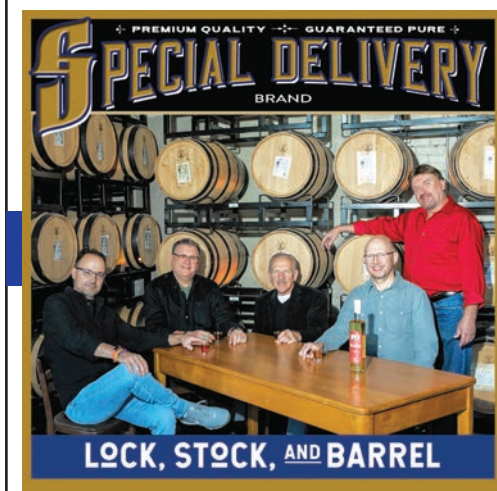
**NOVEMBER 21**  
 • Northern Sounds — Polish Club, St. Petersburg, Fla., (727) 894-9908  
 • Swingmasters — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6 (570) 650-0436  
 • Jack Taddy /Jack's Guys — Kinloch Fire Hall ,New Kensington, Pa., 2-6 (412) 260-9725  
 • Nothern Sounds — Polish Club, St. Petersburg, Fla., (727) 894-9908  
 • Swingmasters — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6 (570) 650-0436  
 • The Main Squeeze — MPA Dance, Murzyn Hall, Columbia Hts., Minn.

1-5.  
**NOVEMBER 27**  
 • Polka Family — Holy Spirit Party Ctr., Parma, Oh., 6-10 (216) 496-0223

**NOVEMBER 28**  
 • George Tarasek — VFW , Dupont, Pa., 2-6 , (570) 650-0436

**DEC. 4**  
 • Jimmy Sturr — Paramount Theater, Middletown, N.Y., 3-5 (845) 346-4195  
 • The Boys — Holy Spirit Party Ctr., Parma, Oh., 6-10 (216) 496-0223  
 • John Stevens — Tilbury Hall, Nanticoke, Pa., (570) 417-5725  
 • Tonys Polka Band — Roselawn, New York Mills, N.Y., 4-8 (315) 736-5030  
 • Mike Surratt — White Rose, York, Pa., 7-11 (717) 848-5368

**DEC. 5**  
 • Jimmy K — K of C, Kalida, Oh., 2-6 (419) 532-3669  
 • Polka All Stars — Polish Club, St. Petersburg, Fla., (727) 894-9908  
 • John Stanky — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6 (570) 650-0436  
 • Crusade — PACC, Ludlow, Mass. , 2:30-6:30 (413) 283-4596  
 • Jimmy Sturr — Cadillac Ranch, Southington, Conn., 2-4 (860) 621-8805  
 • The Boys — PRCUA Hall, Toledo, Oh., 2-6 (419) 691-5684.



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DANCE TIME

# Cascade Park a great place for polkas

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Over 200 bands performed on 21 stages at Buffalo Riverworks on a sunny September afternoon. **Buffalo Touch** proudly represented the polka genre among fellow talented musicians at the 19th annual “Music is Art Festival.” This western New York mainstay is dedicated to creating opportunities to fuel the unifying power of music in the region.

Music is Art is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2003 by Goo Goo Dolls bassist and Buffalo resident, **Robby Takac**. Music is Art is proud to enrich our community with access to music. The mission of this organization states “It is our hope that we encourage people to find their musical voice, think about how music touches their lives, and most importantly think about the fact that...music is art.”

As the Buffalo Touch performed many onlookers took the opportunity to enjoy their music and many were hearing polka music for the very first time. The Touch capitalized on this opportunity to embody their music by picking a crowd-pleasing set list. The cheerful melodies grabbed the attention of folks making their way about the many stages. Music lovers savored an enormous array of musical acts. Thanks to the staff of Music Is Art for continuing to showcase polka music as this stellar event.

**EAST SIDE EVENT.** The General Pulaski Association of Buffalo hosted Buffalo Pulaski Day at Stan-



Johnny Ryndak with Hank Guzevich — Pulaski Day, St. Stan’s.



RJ Bogdon, Kayla Urbanczyk, and Chris Bogdon — Cascade Park.



Chris and Linda Stamer at Gene McCarthy's Oktoberfest.

with such passion, it is obvious to see why Polka Family continues to gain popularity even after performing for decades.

Long-time polka supporter’s **John and Linda Ryndak** were in attendance with their family. Their four-year-old grandson took to the stage to play his trumpet emulating Hank while tapping his foot to each and every song. The energy of the event brought welcomed life to this key landmark in a treasured and changing neighborhood of Buffalo.

**POLKAS IN PARK PAVILION.** After visiting family in West Virginia, I decided to take a short detour to Polish Day at Cascade Park in New Castle, Pa. The venue, which was a former amusement park is a prized recreation area in Western Pennsylvania. The pavilion where the dance was held was built in 1898,

prizes in store along with amazing musicianship. They are a fun, energetic group that reinvents polka music, and their affinity for performing is infectious. If you have not gotten your chance to see them, don’t wait. Check out their upcoming schedule at [www.theenergyband.com](http://www.theenergyband.com) — they have already started booking gigs into 2022.

Gomulka & Chicago Push remain a polka fan favorite and did

there was a blessing of the OFW Oktoberfest lager. Many were dressed in traditional German attire adding to the atmosphere of this fall celebration. Special Delivery played many of their requested hits, as well as a great mix of German songs to add to the Oktoberfest celebration. Chants of “Prost,” a sing-along of “Ein Prosit,” and glasses of beer clinking filled the air as the band captivated the appreciative

ber dance will feature **John Gora & Gorale** on Sunday, November 14, 2021. This event takes place at PRCU 162 in Wyandotte, Mich. Doors will open at 1:00 with music from 2:00-6:00pm. Admission is \$14.00 and children under 16 are free. There will be a cash bar and food available for purchase. Please contact Shirley Siwec for table reservations or questions (248) 881-6819.

Cleveland Polka Association has announced their Toys-For-Tots/Turkey Trot Dance on Saturday November 27, 2021 at Holy Spirit Party Center 5500 West 54th Street Parma, Ohio. Please bring a new unwrapped toy for “Toys-For-Tots.” Doors will open at 5:00 pm, Music by the **Polka Family Band** from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Donation for this event is \$15.00; 18 and under will be admitted free. Food and beverages will be available; snacks welcome.

You can also make your reservation for the CPA Christmas Dinner Dance which is being held on Saturday December 4, 2021. This event, also taking place at the Holy Spirit



Buffalo Touch brought their style of polkas to Music is Art.

islaus Social Center. The schedule boasted nine hours of polka music featuring **Captain Tom & The Ho-oloigans, Special Delivery, Polka Family**, and hometown novelty band **Those Idiots**.

Walking into St. Stan’s Social Center evokes a windfall of memories of the booming days of this east side neighborhood. A reminder of a time filled with families and friends who gathered at the local church hall to partake in whatever event was occurring on any given weekend.

Upon walking into the hall, the smell of kielbasa, and gołabki filled the air and friendly bartenders were quick to serve up a large assortment of Polish beers. Special Delivery and Polka Family took turns entertaining the enthusiastic crowd during the afternoon. Polka Family performed with the same intensity they do at a large polka festival for the fans gathered at St. Stan’s. Taking fan requests, smiling nonstop, and performing each song

and was, at that time, the largest in Pennsylvania. The Victorian-inspired structure is a stunning setting for this annual event.

**Lenny Gomulka** and **Energy** took turns on stage, both playing their hearts out as dancers circled the dance floor. The space allowed more than ample room for Energy’s Joseph Baranowski to roller blade all about while not missing a note on his fiddle. You never know what you are going to get when you have the chance to see Energy live because there are always some sur-

**IN THE OLD FIRST WARD.** Gene McCarthy’s Harvest March and Oktoberfest Celebration spotlighted the music of **Special Delivery**. An absolutely perfect fall day in Buffalo added to the fun of music in the outside beer garden.

The afternoon began with a parade from the corner of Hamburg St. and South Park Ave. as folks strolled the four blocks down the street to Gene McCarthy’s, accompanied by the music of Special Delivery aboard a float. Once the parade arrived at the beer garden,

crowd. The members of Special Delivery captured the true feel of Oktoberfest at this treasured Western New York pub.

**A TWO-FER DAY.** Immediately following Gene McCarthy’s, I made my way to Clinton Bar & Grill to hear the music of **Buffalo Touch**. Many of those attending were proudly donning Buffalo Bills attire in preparation for the Sunday night game. The small Cheektowaga tavern always draws a great polka crowd that keep the dance floor hopping all night. It was great to see so many polka friends congregating back together at this local watering hole with great polka music and fun.

**UPCOMING EVENTS.** Polka Booster Club of America’s Novem-

ber Party Center, features music by **The Boys**. Ticket sales will be limited to 175 persons and available via advance sales only. Tickets are \$45.00 for members, \$60.00 for non-members. The admission includes open bar, appetizers, dinner, dessert, coffee, and music. Doors will open at 5:00 with cocktails beginning at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00 pm. Music and dancing will be from 8:00 to midnight.

For more information about either of these events, please call Elaine (216) 496-0223 or visit [www.cpopolkas.com](http://www.cpopolkas.com).



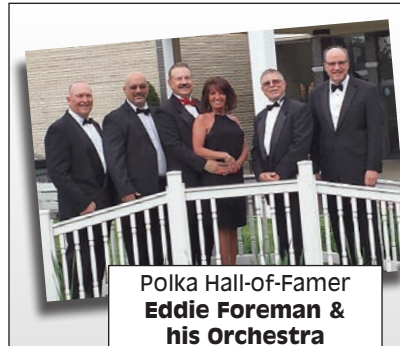
Rich and Melanie Schuler. Great folks who support polkas.



Eric Cieslak, Kristin and Carol Kowalski were ready for polkas and Buffalo Bills football.



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Start your Christmas planning now

Wigilia guidelines and suggestions

by Robert Strybel

**Atmosphere, mood, climate:** Rather than making a fuss about buying, wrapping, hiding and opening presents, set the proper mood by telling your kids about Wigilia, what they can expect and what part they can play in the preparations. Above all, make it clear that Christmas Eve is not just the day before the main event. Wigilia is the main event!

**Wigilia lore:** How you are on Wigilia you will be the whole year, is one popular belief. Also tell your kids the legend of animals being able to speak and water in wells turning to wine at midnight. Such stories may help pique your youngsters' interest in and curiosity about this "magic Polish night."

**Gifts on Wigilia:** Although gifts and gadgets are not the true meaning of Christmas, youngsters are big on presents, so let them know they will get to open theirs right after Christmas Eve supper. In families which do not observe Wigilia, kids have to wait till the next day.

**Polish Christmas enhancement:** To enhance your home, business or community hall with genuine Polish Christmas touches including folkcrafts, recordings and assorted artifacts, PolArt or the Polish Art Center can easily be found on the internet.

**Meatless meal:** Whether you are preparing everything from scratch, using outside sources or a combination of both, it's good to

give this some thought well in advance. The meatless supper centers on beet or mushroom soup, herring, other fish, pierogi, sauerkraut, noodles, and sweet dishes incorporating poppyseeds, honey, nuts and raisins. Recipes can be found in this paper and online.

**Table-top hay:** Depending on where you live, getting a handful of hay to scatter on the bare table-top may be easy enough at a riding stable or livestock feed store. If not, then some well dried lawn clippings will do.

**Pure white table-cloth:** The gaudy table-cloths spangled with reindeer, candy canes, Santas and poinsettias are OK for Christmas Day, if you like that sort of thing, but the Wigilia tradition requires a pure white one devoid of colorful designs. Look through your linen closet or pick one up at the mall.

**Oplatek:** The Christmas wafer is the holiday's main ritual artifact without which no Wigilia is complete. If your parish or some local retail shop does not supply oplatek, contact, see page 12 of this edition, visit www.polamjournal.com, or call the PAJ at (800) 422-1275.

**Wigilia etiquette:** Wigilia dishes are brought in and eaten one at a time. One of the beliefs surrounding the meal is that no-one should get up and leave the table until the supper is over. Another says everyone should sample at least the tiniest bit of every food on the table. Failure to do so may augur poverty and hunger in the year ahead.

Preserving a Part of the St. Laurentius Legacy

Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa steps in to save windows

Looking for a home for murals

by John Wisniewski

PHILADELPHIA — The city's the first Polish Catholic Church — Św. Wawrzyńca (St. Laurentius) — was founded in 1882, making St. Laurentius the oldest Polish Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the first of what would be 10 Polish Catholic Churches within the city of Philadelphia. The church was built sequentially with a basement constructed in 1886 and the magnificent Gothic upper church erected and blessed in 1890.

The magnificence of the interior of St. Laurentius was a result of painstaking efforts to establish a church which echoed a theme of rebirth and hope and represented the devotedness of the Polish immigrants to both Catholicism and their heritage.

The interior of St. Laurentius was constructed with three naves; three Gothic wood carved altars, statues and pulpits were imported from Munich along with the impressive stained-glass windows. The center altar, the decor and trim around the central reredo, as well as the stars on the ceiling of the church were designed to mimic that of Kościół Mariacki in Kraków (St. Mary's Basilica).

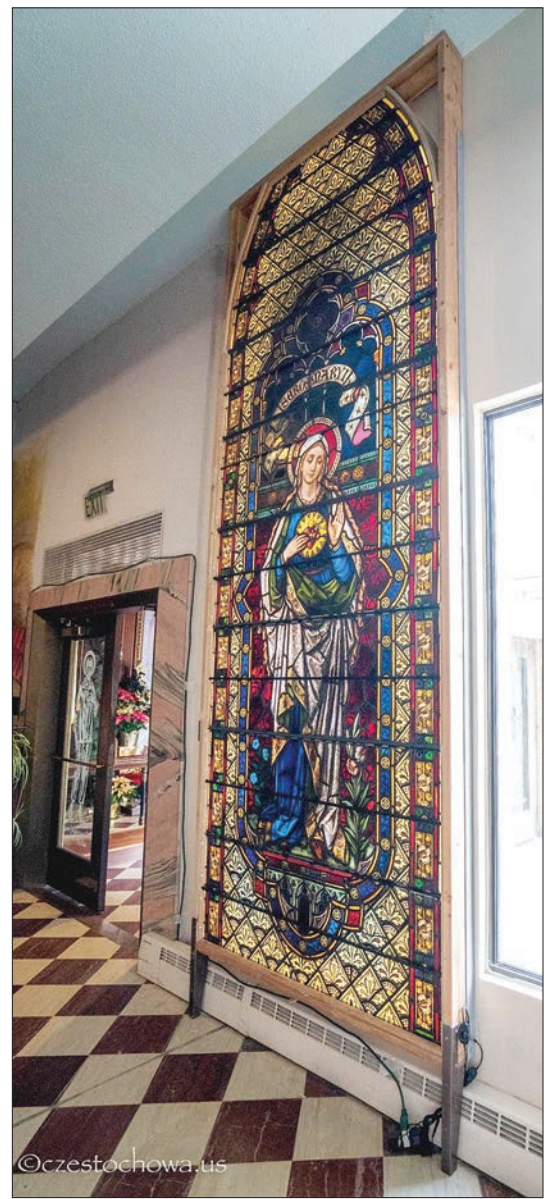
In 1912, murals (canvas paintings by Lorenzo Scataglia) adorned

the central nave and aside from including aspects of the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, also included: St. Hedwig blessing her son Henryk Pobożny (Grand Duke Henry II [Pious]), St. Stanislaus, Our Lady of Czestochowa along with the logo of PNA (Polish National Alliance), and a replication of the Styka painting, Matka Boska Błogosławiąca.

Over the years, St. Laurentius was a focal point for religious and cultural activities for the its parishioners, the Polonia of Fishtown and the greater Philadelphia area. It even has hosted dignitaries. In December 1923, Ignacy Paderewski came to St. Laurentius to confer the Order of Polonia Restituta upon Pastor Gabriel Kraus for the pastor's services on behalf of Poland in World War I.

Despite ongoing maintenance and refurbishments, on July 1, 2013, as part of a Parish Area Pastoral Planning Initiative, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia merged St. Laurentius into Holy Name of Jesus Parish. This done despite the better fiscal status and physical integrity of St. Laurentius and the rectory and school. Over the next few years, the efforts of the archdiocese to eradicate the existence of St. Laurentius included: closing the church for safety reasons in March 2014 yet refusing to repair, relegating St. Laurentius to profane but not sordid use in October 2014 (no longer a worship site) and announcing demolition of St. Laurentius in March 2015. These efforts were countered by the establishment of the Save St. Laurentius Committee by myself and the late Tim Breslin and included Megan and AJ Thompson, Sue Ceronka Phillips, Maggie O'Brien and Patricia Kinsman. In October 2014, this group filed an appeal to the Vatican, a subsequent recourse to the Vatican when the appeal was denied in June 2015; these efforts were funded by monies raised by committee efforts. Additional letters were written to the Pope and Cardinal Dziwisz; I even met with the Ambassador from Poland to the Vatican on a trip to Rome—all in an effort to intercede for preserving the religious, historical and cultural legacy embodied in St. Laurentius.

The Save St. Laurentius entity spearheaded, along with the assistance of many others, the successful designation of St. Laurentius exterior in the Philadelphia Registry of Historic Places. I withdrew an application to the Philadelphia Historical Commission for designation of aspects of the interior of St. Laurentius in order to prevent the archdiocese from filing a document with the Historical Commission for demolition for financial reasons. In exchange, a contract was orchestrated with the archdiocese to allow my finding a placement of the reredos and murals for a period of



The first stained glass window which has been placed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in the downstairs chapel.

one year after their removal. I have intentionally left this chronology superficial as well as specifics of the eye-opening travesty orchestrated by the archdiocese and its leaders—all for the topic of another compilation.

In August 2020, the Historical Commission voted to allow partial demolition of St. Laurentius—that is, removal of the steeples. There is concern that damage to the remainder of the building may occur during this process resulting in total demolition. Nothing has yet to be done in this regard. However, vital aspects of St. Laurentius have been preserved as a tribute to the resolve of the Polish immigrants who founded, supported and transformed St. Laurentius into a church, which is a profound testament to the faith as well the rich culture and traditions of Polish people. Father Tadeusz Lizinczyk, Provincial of the Pauline Fathers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, coordinated purchase of the magnificent stained-glass windows which are currently being placed in the Chapel at the Shrine.

The murals and reredos have been removed. I am trying to find a home for the murals. If anyone can help in that regard, please contact me at rw153@comcast.net. Their dimensions are: 12 murals 11' x 17' and 2 murals 7' x 17'. Most of the statues and reredos remain in the Ecclesiastical Exchange; a place where the treasures of all closed parishes reside. I was successful in having one of the statues of the Crucified Jesus moved to St. Jerome's.

If you have never had the opportunity to witness the beauty of St. Laurentius, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aomFJpZ6cyU> The video nicely portrays the murals, reredos, statues, and stained-glass windows.

It is at this time of the year that we call upon our loyal friends and supporters to participate in the Christmas editions of the Polish American Journal.

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This has been a hard year for all us, and the PAJ is feeling the pinch because of the loss of advertising revenue. Your support is appreciated not only by us, but they the thousands of readers who keep in touch with their Polish roots because of the newspaper.

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