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MEET ALEKSANDRA AUGUST, HOST OF FLAVOR OF POLAND PAGE 15

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

TEAM POLAND LEAVES TOKYO WITH 14 MEDALS • A BEVY OF BURSARY BONUSES • VIKING RANSOM?
 HISTORIC CHURCHES BURN TO THE GROUND • DOES POLONIA'S YOUTH HAVE A "POLISH AMERICAN VOTE"?
 MICHAŁEK GIVEN EMERITA STATUS • ORGANIZING GENEALOGY RESEARCH • A KRZYSZTOF KRAWCZYK TRIBUTE

NEWSMARK

Poland Says it will Change Court Reform

WARSAW — Poland will dismantle a judges' disciplinary chamber as part of wider judiciary reforms in coming months, the government said August 17 after the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that the disciplinary mechanism undercuts EU law.

The long-running dispute over Warsaw's judicial reforms heated up in recent months. Brussels demanded Poland implement an EU top court ruling to dissolve the contested chamber for judges, which critics say is politicized, by August 16.

"Poland will continue reforms of the judiciary, also in the area of judges' answerability, aimed at improving the efficiency of this system," the government said in a statement, adding that scrapping the chamber would be part of the overhaul.

Poland faced financial penalties if it did not comply. The government also said in its response to the European Commission that it would submit a motion for Court of Justice interim measures regarding the chamber to be revoked.

Under ruling Law and Justice (PiS) Poland has clashed with the EU on a number of fronts, such as media independence and the rights of migrants, women and gays.

Source: Reuters

Olympian auctions Silver Medal for Infant's Heart Surgery



Andrejczyk

Not even two weeks since winning a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, Polish javelin thrower Maria Andrejczyk put it up for auction to help save an infant's life.

Andrejczyk announced an auction on Facebook on Aug. 11 — five days after securing the medal — to raise funds for Miłoszek Małysa, an 8-month-old boy who needs to travel from Poland to Stanford University in California to have life-saving heart surgery. She didn't know Małysa, but wrote that she knew his cause was the right choice after reading online pleas for help from his parents, who needed roughly

\$385,000 USD to cover the costs of his transportation and medical care. Half had already been raised by the family's online fundraiser.

Andrejczyk, 25, is a cancer survivor, having osteosarcoma, a type of cancer that forms in the cells that form bones. She required surgery in 2018, but not chemotherapy, and was able to restart training for the Tokyo Games in 2019. She previously competed in the Rio Olympics in 2016, where she finished in fourth place.

A Polish convenience store chain called Zabka made the winning bid, and told Andrejczyk her medal will stay with her in appreciation of her "beautiful and extremely noble gesture."

PM says border is "well guarded"

Poland's prime minister said the country's border was well guarded and secure from what he described as provocations by the Belarusian regime, which "is seeking to push Iraqis towards the Polish border—people whom Lukashenko plans to use as pawns in his foreign policy."

Mateusz Morawiecki made the declaration at a news conference in Kuźnica, northeastern Poland, after a meeting with officials from the Polish border service, army, and police. It followed events near the Polish village of Usnierz Górny, where a group of migrants from Afghanistan and the Middle East has been stranded "in no man's land," according to some commentators, unable to enter Poland or retreat to Belarus.

Source: PAP

Help battle fires in Turkey and Greece

Convoys of Polish firefighters headed south to help Turkey and Greece battle wildfires raging in those countries' woodlands. One of the worst heat waves on record with temperatures as high as 115°F were blamed for the blazes. Teams of seasoned firefighters brought along dozens of fire-service vehicles and a water-dropping helicopter.

Another group of Polish rescuers was sent to Germany to help with emergency flood relief, bringing with them 137 air-drying machines. Polish firemen made a name for themselves when they helped to extinguish the forest fires that had swept through Sweden in 2018.

Bravery in Bronze



A statue of Stephen R. Gregg, a World War II hero and Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Bayonne, N.J., was unveiled in a ceremony in the county park that bears his name. In 1944, Gregg — one of the most highly decorated soldiers of World War II — braved enemy fire to save the lives of fellow soldiers near Montelimar, France. *Story on page 4*

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka Dead at 72

"A relentless champion of workers' rights"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka, one of the country's most powerful labor leaders and an influential voice in many Washington debates, died unexpectedly Aug. 5, 2021 at 72, according to the federation.



Trumka

Trumka died on a camping trip with his family after suffering a heart attack, President Biden told reporters, saying Trumka was a close friend of his.

A third-generation coal miner who rose to power through the United Mine Workers, Trumka had become one of the most powerful labor leaders in the country and a key ally of Democrats in Washington, having worked in some capacity with every Democratic White House the last 30 years.

His death comes during a critical moment for the economy and millions of workers.

Washington leaders and governors are locked in

See "Trumka," page 4

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary to Close

DETROIT — Next June, America's Polish Seminary, Ss. Cyril & Methodius in Orchard Lake, Michigan founded in 1885, will close.

On the seminary website, the Board of Regents of the Orchard Lake Schools stated it "has decided to accept the recommendation of the Board of the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary to close operations at the Seminary upon completion of 2021-22 academic studies."

Stephen Gross, chairman of the Board of Regents of Orchard Lake Schools, which oversees the seminary, the high school and a Polish Mission on the campus, said the closure was unrelated to a pending lawsuit, which accuses its former chancellor of sexually harassing staffers. He has denied the allegations.

The closure doesn't affect the high school or the Polish mission located on campus.

Gross said the closing is about numbers, as did the board, which said "declining enrollment caused by the changing demographics in the United States, more vocational

see "Orchard Lake," page 3

Legislation Virtually Ends Holocaust Compensation Claims

WARSAW — The Polish parliament amended an existing law by setting a 30-year time limit on legal challenges to restitution claims and ending outstanding claims for the return of seized property that have not reached a final decision in the last 30 years — effectively cutting off many cases.

The amendment was passed in the same parliamentary session as a bill aimed at limiting foreign ownership of Polish media that critics say is aimed at TVN, a popular TV channel owned by U.S. media company Discovery that has infuriated Poland's nationalist government with its critical coverage.

The media law drew condemnation from Washington, and the property restitution amendment is doing the same. Both Israel and the U.S. say it's aimed at hobbling Jewish Holocaust survivors and their heirs from regaining property seized by Poland's communist-era authorities, something the Polish government strongly denies.

Before the war, Poland had Europe's largest Jewish population, around 3 million people or 10 percent of the country. The vast majority were murdered by the Germans and most survivors left Poland after the war.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said the law "borders on Holocaust denial."

"The State of Israel will not compromise on a single comma when it comes to the memory of the

see "Compensation," page 3

ALMANAC

September 🌕 Wrzesień

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

- 1 **1939.** World War II begins when Nazi Germany attacks Poland, which becomes the first country in Europe to resist armed aggression.
- 2 **1833.** Birth of Polish scientist **Rudolf Weigl**, who discovered the typhus microbe.
- 4 **1809.** Birth of **Juliusz Słowacki** Romantic poet.
- 5 **1981.** Through Sept. 10. **First Solidarity Congress** with 865 representatives of the nearly ten million strong union meets in Oliwia Hall in Gdańsk.
- 6 **1921.** Birth of **Korczak Ziolkowski**, American sculptor best known for monumental tribute to Crazy Horse in South Dakota.
- 7 **1764.** Election of **Stanisław II Augustus**, last monarch of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- 8 **NATIVITY OF MARY**
*W Narodzenie Panny Marii pogodnie,
tak będzie cztery tygodnie.
The Virgin Mary's birthday bright,
So will it be for two fortnight.*
1264. Issuance of **Statute of Kalisz**, which provided for penalties for desecration of a Jewish cemetery or a synagogue.
- 9 **1912.** Vincentian Fathers open of **St. John Kanty Preparatory School and College** at 3002 E 38th St. in Erie, Pa. (Closed in 1980)
- 10 **1897.** **Lattimer Massacre.** Armed deputy sheriffs kill 19 striking coalminers, among them Poles.
- 11 **1382.** Coronation of **Jadwiga (Hedwig) d'Anjou**.
- 12 **1683.** **Jan Sobieski III** defeats Turks besieging Vienna.
- 13 **1894.** Birth of lyric poet **Julian Tuwin**.
- 14 **1951.** Death of painter and illustrator **Artur Szyk**.
- 16 **1668.** **King John Casimir II** abdicates the throne.
- 17 **1939.** **Soviet invasion of Poland**, a military operation that started without a formal declaration of war on 17 September 1939, during the early stages of World War II.
- 18 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 19 **1939.** Wehrmacht (German regular army) murders 100 Jews in Łuków, Poland.
- 20 **1874.** Birth of social and civic leader **Dr. Francis Eustace Franczak** in Buffalo's Polish East-Side.
- 21 **1945.** **General Dwight D. Eisenhower** visits Warsaw.
- 22 **1896.** Start of the first **Polish Catholic Congress** in Buffalo, founded by Rev. John Pitass.
- 23 **1947.** Birth of **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko**, pro-Solidarity priest murdered by Communist police in October 1984.
- 24 **1706.** **Treaty of Altranstädt** settled the rights of Protestants in Silesia.
- 26 **1956.** Birth of basketball superstar **Carol Blazejowski**.
- 27 **1605.** **Jan Karol Chodkiewicz** (1560-1621), Lithuanian hetman, led Lithuanian and Polish forces to victory against a Swedish army at Kirchholm, Latvia.
- 28 **1939.** **Warsaw** falls to Nazis. This marked the beginning of the Polish underground resistance, active throughout the war.
- 29 **1856.** Founding of **St. Mary's**, the first Polish church in America in Panna Maria, Texas.
- 30 **1831.** A committee led by James Fennimore Cooper and General Lafayette was set up to provide aid for the Poles during the Polish Insurrection of 1830-31.
- 31 **1918.** **Austrian Forces** are removed from Krakow.

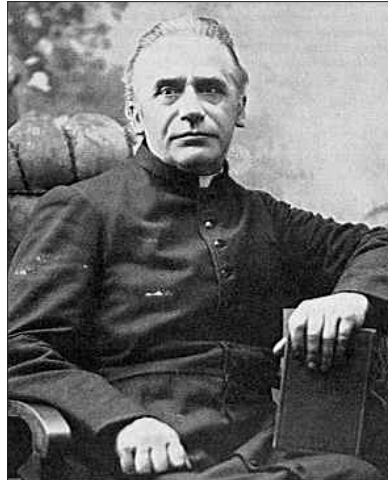
This paper mailed on or before **August 30**. The October 2021 edition will be mailed on or before **September 30**.

A Sad Day

by Mark Kohan

We all saw it coming but could nothing about it.

At the time it was composed, the press release announcing the closing of Orchard Lake Seminary was little more than a formality. The institution from which scores of Polish priests would emerge, eager to spread the Word of Christ to their soon-to-be parishioners, was closing its doors.



Father Józef Dąbrowski

Founded by Father Józef Dąbrowski in 1885, Orchard Lake Seminary was the spiritual heart of American Polonia. As a school for priests of Polish and Polish American descent, the seminary touched every Polish American Roman Catholic community. Thousands of priests studied and graduated from there. Its Polish-language missalette, *Pan z Wami*, could be found in virtually every Polonian church pew. At one time, there were over 900 Polish American parishes the United States. With the exception of large dioceses with their own seminaries, Orchard Lake connected with the majority of them. I think it would be safe to say that number is now below a third of that, and with

A Happy Resolution

Dear Editor:

My article entitled "A Guiding Hand" appeared in your July/August edition, along with a photo of me holding the hand of an American GI. This picture was taken in early 1946 while I, along with my mother and father, were sheltered in a refugee camp in Coburg, Germany.

The photo has always haunted me. Who was this soldier? Why are we holding hands? What was our connection? These would have been questions directed to my parents, but both have long passed away. I inherited a shoebox full of letters and documents detailing my parents' lives prior to, during, and after World War II, along with hundreds of pictures, including the subject of my article. I had given up hope of ever locating someone who may have had information that would help me in my search, because prior attempts directed at other news outlets came up empty-handed. It was during my submission to the PAJ that news of my GI's identity became known.

The magazine "Reminisce" was running stories of World War II events, and included my submission, and that article and picture found me! What are the odds that a man named Michael Ries living in

graduates numbering by the hand-ful, the Seminary's seeds were not being scattered.

The rich culture the seminary provided gave us choirs, museums, recordings, archives, and — adapting to technology — weekly live Masses on Facebook. Attempts to sustain it, however, came in vain, and it is not all the Seminary's fault. With Poland's freedom came fewer acolytes eager to learn in America. The number of Polish American men joining the priesthood decreased. The Roman Catholic Church itself is in a state of flux, caught between overall declining membership and distractions such as abuse charges (both true and alleged), homosexuality of priests, the involvement of the Church in politics, and other difficulties.

One need only study the his-



Music played a large part of Orchard Lake's culture, as evidenced by the 1915 Orchard Lake Seminary Orchestra.

tory of the Polish National Catholic Church to understand the Roman Catholic Church's reluctance to reward its faithful with priests and bishops of their own ethnicity. And

SPEAK UP



The American GI holding Zocia Pawlowski's hand at a refugee camp in Coburg, Germany has been identified.

Vanceburg, Kentucky, a subscriber to "Reminisce," found a picture of his father holding hands with a little girl, one which would trigger a search for her?

The search for my identity became complicated since the contact information was several years old, and I had moved to North Carolina (my residence at my that time) to Georgia. But that didn't stop Sarah Stone, granddaughter of my GI, and a voicemail to my son's phone brought, two families full circle.

while their intercity locations resulted in the closing and merging of many Polish parishes, there were many that were closed because their members constituted a generation that would eventually cut into diocesan profit margins.

Add all this up, and it is easy to see why the Board of Regents of the Orchard Schools decided to close the Seminary.

"The loss of the seminary, alongside the decimation of the Polish American parish network across the United States, is a major blow to an ethnic community that has been a loyal staple of the Catholic Church in the United States—even if that presence was not always appreciated by the bishops," said Catholic theologian John Grondelski in a commentary in the *National Catholic Register*. "The paradox is that, in an era profes-

ing commitment to diversity and inclusivity, an important force for that ethnic pluralism in the Catholic Church in the United States is vanishing."

Howard Charles Reis was her grandfather!

The past couple of weeks, we shared stories, pictures, and asked questions. My favorite story by far — and the one that answered many questions — is the one about the Easter basket sitting on the window ledge behind us. (The window was the only one in our one-room sanctuary). According to Howard's daughter, her dad gave Easter baskets to everyone, no matter their age. My family thinks that their dad was saying goodbye to me on either Easter Sunday or the week he was scheduled to go back stateside in June 1946. Easter fell on April 21 that year, clarifying the time line. Obviously, he placed the basket on the ledge for the photo, as I was too little to have reached it.

I now feel that I have become a member of a larger family. The Reis and Stone families have enfolded me into theirs, and my life and search for the GI has come full circle. Thank you for the coverage and for allowing people a platform to not only enjoy memories, but to share the stories of our lives. Please continue your wonderful service in connecting all us to our human family through articles and pictures.

**Zocia Pawlowski Barr
Columbus, Georgia**

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KU PAMIĘCI

Remembering Our Polish Hero, Captain John Ogonowski

Captain of American Airlines Flight 11 on September 11, 2001

What started as beautiful fall day in New England would end in tragedy and leave an indelible mark on the hearts and souls of many Americans.

At the Ogonowski farm in Dracut, Massachusetts, hay season was winding down and John Ogonowski would leave for his early morning flight as a captain for American Airlines flight 11 out of Boston.

It was a routine airline day for John. He kissed his wife goodbye and on his drive to Boston, he would pass his grandfather's farm and toot the horn.

Captain Ogonowski arrived at Logan airport and checked in with flight operations. The date was September 11, 2001 and he was captain of American Airlines flight number 11 heading to California. Little did Ogonowski realize that his flight would be the first plane to be hijacked by terrorists that day and would tragically end at the Twin Towers in New York.

For most people, he was known as a farmer. He owned White Gate Farm and farming was his life's

passion. He came from a long line of Polish immigrants and "John" was named after both of his grandfathers: John Ogonowski and John Dawidowicz.

In the United States, Lowell, Massachusetts was the center of the Industrial Revolution, and the home of many immigrants seeking a new life in America. Like John's grandparents, many of those migrants were of Polish descent. As a child, Ogonowski attended St. Stanislaus School. This Polish school was part of Holy Trinity parish and was founded by his great uncle, Monsignor Alexander Ogonowski in 1904. This Polish church and school were one of the first Polish American Roman Catholic parishes in New England.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Lowell once again saw an influx of immigrants, this time from Southeast Asia. Many of these immigrants were Cambodians who had fled persecution. To help these struggling immigrants, Ogonowski joined Tufts University's "New Entry Sustainable Farming Project" and opened up his farm land to help the Cambodians grow vegetables. These farmers would sell their specialized produce to Asian restaurants along the east coast. Ogonowski helped the Cambodian farmers by harrowing the land, teaching American agricultural



methods, building greenhouses and hosting meetings. He did all this and never charged any rent for the use of his land. This valuable farm program continues on Ogonowski's farm today with the help of his brother.

Land preservation was another of Ogonowski's crusades. In 1999, he was one of the founders of the Dracut Land Trust. Through this organization he was instrumental in preserving over 350 acres of farm land in his home town. Prior to his death, Ogonowski also ensured that his 150-acre farm will forever remain as farm land through the federal Agriculture Preservation Restriction program.

Like his grandfathers who

farmed the land, Ogonowski also had a strong military heritage. During World War I, both of his grandfathers returned to Poland as part of the Haller's Blue Army and his dad, Alexander Ogonowski was in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Ogonowski earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nuclear engineering from Lowell Technological Institute. It was at the university, that he enrolled in Air Force ROTC and joined the Air Force as a pilot, flying C-141 aircraft during the Vietnam War. After his death, his parents started an endowment in his honor at the University of Lowell. The John Ogonowski ROTC Scholarship is awarded each year to Air Force ROTC students who plan to serve in the Air Force.

Ogonowski wore two very different uniforms: his crisp navy-blue airline captain's uniform and his simple blue cotton shirt and jeans for farming. He never made it back to his farm on that infamous September day in 2001, but his legacy as a farmer has lived on and has spread across the world through the United States Agency for International Development.

After his death, the United States Congress designated the farm bill as the "John Ogonowski Farmer to Farmer Program." This initiative provides technical assistance

to farmers and farm groups in developing and transitional countries. The farmer-to-farmer volunteers respond to the needs of host-country farmers. To date, this program has reached over 136 million people in 116 countries.

Ogonowski was a quiet, salt-of-the-earth kind of guy. This blonde, blue-eyed man who towered over 6 feet tall, had a special presence about him. He was genuine, humble and hardworking.

He was a life time member of the Polish American Veterans Association, the American Legion, the Dracut Grange and the Dracut Historical Society. He was a founding member of the Dracut Land Trust and he served on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau.

Ogonowski had celebrated his 50th birthday just before his death. He left behind a wife, three daughters, his parents, two brothers, two sisters and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

As our nation marks the 20th Anniversary of September 11th, we remember our Polish hero. Captain John Ogonowski, our quiet giant whose presence and legacy will continue to impact the lives of so many. We can't help but wonder, what he would have accomplished if his life had not been tragically cut so short.

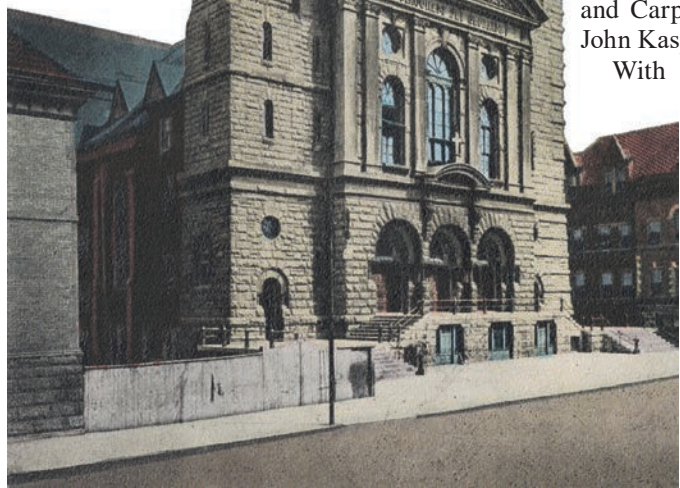
POLONIA PLACES

St. John Cantius Roman Catholic Church in Chicago

ST. JOHN CANTIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
825 N. Carpenter St.
Chicago, Illinois
Status: Open

by Gregory L. Witul

Since the founding of St. Stanislaus in 1867, Chicago has



been home to historic and glorious churches. Among them are eighteen done in what is popularly known as Polish Cathedral Style. The Church of St. John Cantius in West Town is one of the best-known examples of this style.

The origins of St. John Cantius can be found in the congregation of St. Stanislaus Kostka parish who lived south of the church. As this community grew, they petitioned the priest in charge of St. Stanislaus to start their own parish. Seeing this plea, Father Vincent Barzyński of the Resurrectionist Congregation purchased \$75,000 worth of land near Fry and Carpenter Streets and appointed Father John Kasprzycki to lead the new flock.

With land and parishioners, Father Kasprzycki hired architect Adolphus Druiding to design the new church he desired. Having already completed St. John Nepomuk in St. Louis and Our Lady of Sorrows in Buffalo, Druiding gave Kasprzycki a Baroque-influenced building that would stand out in Chicago's Polonia. Started in the spring of 1893, the site was dedicated September 4, 1893 with the basement ready for Mass by Christmas. The rest of the church would take five years to

finish and decorate with the final consecration being held on December 11, 1898.



For the first twenty years, the parish flourished topping with 23,000 Polish parishioners in 1918 — but decline was soon on its way. The 1920s first saw the construction of Ogden Avenue which sliced up the neighborhood, and then the Great Depression which sliced up the parish bank account. By the middle of the Second World War the register rolls were down by 78%, and the construction of the Kennedy Expressway forced out the last of the Polish stalwarts in the neighborhood.

With the makeup of the neighborhood transitioning, so too, did St. John's. A new priest brought new parishioners and new money to the church. The less Polish focused parish began holding traditional Catholic festivals and services like the Tridentine Mass in Latin, and a Corpus Christi procession. But while Polishness was no longer the focus of the parish, it never forgot its roots. Over the years Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Cardinal Primate of Poland Jozef Glemp, and MP Malgorzata Gosiewska have visited St. John Cantius.



Today the church is open and holds regular Masses in English and Latin.

Orchard Lake. "It became very apparent to us that we would have literally no new seminarians."

continued from cover

opportunities in Poland, and recent policy changes that do not allow Polish seminarians to transfer between seminaries" as the reasons for the closure.

There are currently 11 seminarians at Ss. Cyril & Methodius.

"In the past 15 years, 90% of our seminarians were people transferring out of seminaries in Poland," he said. "It became very apparent to us that we would have literally no new seminarians."

The seminary, founded by Father Józef Dąbrowski in 1885, is the first seminary in the State of Michi-

gan and the only one in the United States dedicated to preparing foreign-born seminarians, primarily from Poland, to serve the Catholic Church in the United States.

More than 1,000 such priests passed through Orchard Lake through the years.

Some dioceses still offer Masses in Polish, but the days of large exclusively Polish-speaking parishes are over, Gross said.

"It was a great institution that did so much for the faith and for Polonia and for its mission for a very long time," Gross said. "Its mission has been fulfilled."

The seminary recently offered

four degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry, Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry with a Specialization in Catechetics, and a Master of Arts in Theology.

TO REMAIN COMMITTED. In its announcement, the seminary's Board of Regents said it is "committed to continuing to uphold the ideals of our founder, Father Józef Dąbrowski, in reflecting American Polonia's consciousness of its religious, historical, and cultural Polish heritage, as is stated in our Schools' Articles of Incorporation. The Regents will be furthering their his-

toric commitment to maintaining and advancing our Polish culture and heritage, locally, nationally, and worldwide by expanding the role and activities of The Polish Mission.

"Our vision remains to grow and invest in the success of St. Mary's Preparatory High School, the Polish Mission, the Polish-American Liturgical Center, the Marian Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake - Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II, and most importantly, our Catholic faith."

sources: Detroit Free Press, AP, and Am-Pol Eagle

Compensation

continued from cover

Holocaust," Lapid tweeted. "I condemn the Polish parliamentary law that was approved today, that damages the memory of the Holocaust and the rights of its victims."

Lapid's comments sparked outrage in Warsaw. Poland's deputy foreign minister Paweł Jabłoński said Lapid's response was "an ill-motivated attempt to gain domestic political support, detached from reality and the nature of the law itself."

"Poland strongly condemns instrumental exploitation of the tragedy of millions of Jews during World War II in the current political discourse, as well as malevolent attacks against our country," he added.

The U.S. administration also got involved, calling for Polish President Andrzej Duda not to sign the law.

The Polish ministry stressed that the law is not aimed at the heirs of Poland's prewar Jewish citizens, and will not prevent claimants from seeking compensation for lost property. It said the complaints from Israel were based on "misinformation" about the new rules.

Property restitution is an old and tangled issue in Poland. The war left Warsaw in ruins, and the communist government nationalized all the land in city limits to make rebuilding easier. Many Jewish properties across Poland were taken over by Poles after their inhabitants were murdered or fled. The new communist authorities also nationalized most businesses and confiscated properties belonging to large landowners.

"It's just a pity that such a law wasn't passed 30 or 40 years ago, so we could avoid many dramas linked to reprivatization," said Mikołaj Paja of Miasto Jest Nasze, an NGO monitoring restitutions.

source: Politico

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Pol Am World War II Hero Honored with Bronze Statue

BAYONNE, N.J. — As of July 15, the Stephen R. Gregg County Park has a new addition: a large bronze statue of its namesake, Lt. Stephen R. Gregg (1914-2005). The 7-foot-tall statue was ceremoniously unveiled by Hudson County officials in a dedication ceremony which paid tribute to the World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

"My father was a very humble man. Frankly, he would be embarrassed by the honors being bestowed on him today," said son Stephen Gregg Jr. "He always said there were other servicemen who did brave deeds and did not receive their claim."

Born Stephen Grzegorzewski to Polish immigrants in the Bronx, the family settled in Bayonne when Stephen was six months old. He later worked at the Kearny shipyards before being inducted into the U.S. Army in 1942, serving with the 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division in the European Theater. In the summer of 1944, after fighting in the Italian Campaign, the 36th Infantry Division took part in Operation Dragoon, the Allied landings in Southern France on August 15. Following the successful

amphibious assault, Allied forces pushed into France's Rhone River valley.

On August 27, near Montélimar, France, Lt. Gregg (then a TSgt.) and his platoon suddenly found themselves under heavy enemy fire and suffering numerous casualties. In the moments that followed, Lt. Gregg acted, as would later be recognized, at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty to rescue his fellow soldiers. Seeing that the medic was unable to retrieve the injured men, Gregg, "took one of the light .30-caliber machine guns and, firing from the hip, started boldly up the hill with the medical aide man following him" reads his Medal of Honor citation. Lt. Gregg continued to provide cover until all seven wounded men were retrieved, at which point, having exhausted his ammunition, he himself was briefly captured by the Germans. Shortly thereafter the German party attempting to apprehend him were fired upon, allowing Gregg to retrieve a weapon, fire upon his captors and make his escape.

The next day, during a strong German counterattack, Lt. Gregg again displayed conspicuous gal-



Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr. (left), commanding general, U.S. 7th Army, congratulates Lt. Stephen R. Gregg after presenting him with the Medal of Honor, near Bernoisheim, France, on March 14, 1945.

lantry, directing his mortars against advancing units which were supported by tanks. When his mortar position was overtaken, he organized an attack party which managed to retake the firing position and capture two German prisoners-of-war.

Gregg received a battlefield promotion to lieutenant, and on March

14, 1945 he was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch Jr., Commanding General of the U.S. 7th Army, during a ceremony near Bernoisheim, France. He is credited with saving the lives of seven American servicemen.

In addition to the Congressional Medal of Honor, Lt. Gregg was

awarded a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with cluster, a Purple Heart with cluster, the French Croix de Guerre, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He returned to Bayonne in 1945 and was greeted with a celebratory parade attended by 50,000 people, during which he met his future wife, Irene Zawalick, whom he married in 1947. Gregg worked for the Hudson County Sheriff for the next fifty years and was active in several organizations including being honorary member of the American Polish Veterans, Bayonne.

"Stephen Gregg was a son of Bayonne willing to do his duty but then go far beyond the call of duty when the circumstances demanded it," said County Commissioner Kenneth Kopacz, who sponsored the resolution to build the statue. Kopacz was the 2018 Bayonne Contingent marshal of the tri-state General Casimir Pulaski Day Parade in New York City.

When asked to describe his father, Stephen Gregg Jr. said, "An ordinary man who did something stupendous. A true representative of Bayonne and Hudson County and a symbol for veterans everywhere."

*Dopóty dzban wodę nosi, dopóki mu się ucho nie urwie.
A jug carries water until its handle breaks off.*

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Trumka. Led AFL-CIO since 2009

continued from cover

a fierce debate about the best way to reopen the economy amid risks posed by the new Delta variant of the coronavirus. Many Democrats and White House officials had looked to Trumka for direction on how best to proceed.

Trumka had been president of the AFL-CIO, a group of more than 50 labor unions representing 12.5 million members, since 2009, and active in the fight for labor rights dating back decades before that.

He has played an important part in debates during both Democratic and Republican administrations, playing a key role during the Trump administration's effort to rewrite the North American Free Trade Agreement. Democrats only signed onto the pact after Trumka helped negotiate key changes.

As labor issues took center stage in the Biden administration, Trumka's profile — and sway — was perhaps at its peak. With his blue-collar background and working-class credibility, he had been a crucial ally and public advocate in the larger discussions about strengthening the country's labor laws, through legislation like the Pro Act, that remains a top Democratic priority.

"He was a relentless champion of workers' rights, workplace safety, worker-centered trade, democracy and so much more," the AFL-CIO said in a statement.

DURING THE PANDEMIC, Trumka's positions on complicated issues like workplace safety, and vaccine mandates — which he recently expressed support for — and other policies helped set the tone for the rest of the country.

He had recently been championing the White House's push to pass

an infrastructure package, which he called the biggest infrastructure bill in history. He said it would create the type of strong jobs needed for the country's recovery.

"This will help us with schools, transit, roads, and make us more competitive, make the U.S. more competitive on the global market," he said, during a recent appearance on CSPAN. "It's a win-win for everybody."

TRUMKA WAS BORN JULY 24, 1949 in Nemaquin, Pa., near Pittsburgh, to an Italian American mother, Eola Elizabeth (née Bertugli), and a second-generation Polish American father, coal miner Frank Richard Trumka. He went to work in the mines in 1968. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State in 1971 and a Juris Doctor from the Villanova University School of Law in 1974.

From 1974 to 1979, Trumka was a staff attorney with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. He was elected to the board of directors of UMWA District 4 in 1981 and became president of the UMWA in 1982.

While president of the UMWA, Trumka led a successful nine-month strike against the Pittston Coal Company in 1989. A major issue in the dispute was Pittston's refusal to pay into the industry-wide health and retirement fund created in 1950. Trumka encouraged nonviolent civil disobedience to confront the company and relied on a comprehensive campaign.

Besides his domestic labor activities, Trumka established an office that raised U.S. mineworker solidarity with the miners in South Africa while they were fighting apartheid. He further helped orga-

nize the U.S. Shell boycott, which challenged the multinational Royal Dutch/Shell Group for its continued business dealings in South Africa. For these steps, Trumka received the 1990 Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award.

AS SECRETARY-TREASURER of the AFL-CIO, Trumka focused on creating investment programs for the pension and benefit funds of the labor movement, capital market strategies, and demanding corporate accountability to America's communities. He was elected president of the AFL-CIO after the retirement of John Sweeney in 2009.

In March 2013, Trumka confirmed that organized labor would make an effort to work more closely with groups trying to aid immigrant workers, as the national debate on minimum wage and fair employment in the restaurant industry heated up.

On Aug. 15, 2017, a few days after the Unite the Right rally and then-President Trump's broadly criticized statements, Trumka quit the president's "manufacturing council" and published a statement, which included the following: "We cannot sit in a council for a President who tolerates bigotry and domestic terrorism. [...] President Trump's remarks today repudiate his forced remarks yesterday about the KKK and neo-Nazis, [...] We must resign on behalf of America's working people, who reject all notions of legitimacy of these bigoted groups."

His dedication to the cause of labor and labor rights, seeking equality, and defending the rights of working men and women earned him the World Peace Prize for Labor Leadership in 2018. He was its first recipient.

RELIGION

Two More Historic Polish Churches Burn to the Ground

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

A “landmark” church built by Polish settlers some hundred years ago in northwest central Saskatchewan, Canada, was burned to ground in a suspicious fire in July. Suspicions are raised because the fire took place in an atmosphere of anger and protest against the Catholic Church’s residential schools for native Canadians. Native people blame the church for emotional and physical abuse, for trying to eradicate native culture and language, as well as for burying large numbers of deceased children in unmarked graves. The Church which ran the schools has apologized for misdeeds but the government’s role in forcing the children into underfunded schools has largely been overlooked in the charged atmosphere.

Also in July, a fire destroyed the 160-year-old St. Simon’s church in Glasgow, Scotland. The church was used by Polish soldiers during World War II and became known as the Polish Church, where masses continued to be offered in Polish until the fire. The fire occurred two days after a Catholic priest was attacked by a man with a glass bottle as he prayed in a church in Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital. Anti-Catholic sentiment is noticeable in largely Protestant Scotland and, since the United Kingdom left the Economic Union, anti-Polish sentiment has also sprung up in various places in the United Kingdom.

Removal of Saint’s Memorial Triggers Outrage

The removal of a Spanish memorial honoring Saint John Paul II has angered Spanish Catholic organizations and media. Erected in 1989 to commemorate the Polish Pontiff’s pilgrimage to the well-known sanctuary at Santiago De Compostela, it was removed in March this year by the regional government of Galicia province purportedly for “repairs and maintenance.” Only after several months did the authorities announce that the site would become a grassy area. Abogados Cristianos, a Christian lawyers association, has demanded the monument’s reinstatement and threatened legal action against those responsible for its removal.

The Spanish website *Hispanidad* said the incident was proof of “ongoing paganization,” and blamed EU head Ursula von der Leyen for “de-Christianizing Europe and persecuting Poland and Hungary, the EU’s last Christian strongholds.”

Protesters Disrupt Rosary Procession in Brooklyn

Red Rose rescuer Franciscan Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, whose pro-life advocacy has led to several personal arrests, was among those in the rosary procession for the unborn in Brooklyn when it was blocked by pro-abortion protesters as they processed from a Catholic church to a Planned Parenthood facility seven blocks away. The 80 pro-lifers were screamed at with pro-murder chants while they were at Mass in the church. Fr. Moscinski said, “The Lord sent us on this mission to give testimony to our faith in Him and to the sanctity of life. I can’t help but think that if there were Catholics

in every city in this country, in all the churches, who were gathering in prayer and then in procession to the abortion clinics, abortion would end very quickly in our country.” The church received over 100 threatening phone calls and protesters wrote on the sidewalk “this church harasses women.” Brooklyn’s Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio declared, “May we pray for peace and tolerance within our society, as we continue to encourage decisions that promote the sanctity of human life.”

Canadian Health Authority Wants Pastor Jailed

Pastor Artur Pawlowski, pastor of the Cave of Adullam church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and his brother were both arrested for holding church services in violation of a government prohibition of indoor gatherings during the pandemic. The Polish-born pair drove the police out of their church during the service calling them Nazis and Gestapo but they were arrested along a highway after the confrontation. The health authority wants them to serve their 21-day sentence while their lawyers argue that with the virus rampant in the prisons, this would be excessive punishment.

Diocese Leaves Church Coalition, Bishop Supports Statement on the Eucharist

Bishop David Konderla of the RC Diocese of Tulsa pulled his diocese from the Oklahoma Conference of Churches before the conference released its new anti-racism/discrimination theological statement. A conference spokesman asserted that the withdrawal was because the bishop disagreed with the conference’s assertion that the LGBTQ community deserved protection from discrimination. Bishop Konderla, however, posted a statement that the withdrawal was due to the fact that the conference’s statement did not address “the most marginalized, mistreated, abused and discriminated against group in the country” - the unborn.

He explained that a Christian group that wants to publish moral statements but can’t agree that “abortion is a grave evil” should continue without the Catholic diocese as a “co-signer” of its statements. As to the homosexuality issue, Bishop Konderla stated that persons with deep-seated homosexual tendencies “must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.”

Bishop Konderla also spoke out in the question of whether Catholics such as President Biden and Speaker Nancy Pelosi should be barred from communion. He explained that “if a person does not believe they are receiving the Lord in the Eucharist, then it would be almost impossible for them to believe their commitment to such mortal sin [such as abortion promotion] would place their soul in eternal peril.” He went on to explain, “Ultimately, the point of this teaching on the proper reception of Holy Communion is to offer all people the opportunity to repent, whether it be for support of abortion or any other grave sin,

so that when they come to the altar they are truly in communion with Jesus.” Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, Ill., stated succinctly that there should be “no unity with iniquity.”

Latin Mass Supported by Bishop Paprocki

Following Pope Francis’ directive that local bishops must be consulted for permission to celebrate the Latin Mass in the pre-Vatican Council form, Bishop Thomas Paprocki of the Springfield, Ill., diocese has allowed two churches in the diocese to continue to offer the Latin Mass. He noted that he does not see divisiveness or the rejection of Vatican II in those parishes or in the United States at large, one of the pope reasons for restricting use of the Latin Mass. He also finds that a more contemporary form of Mass has not accomplished its aim of attracting people back to the Church, as was hoped. He also noted that, while the Christian culture in the United States is still predominantly Protestant, it is the wrong approach to bring about Church unity by Catholics becoming more Protestant. Rather, a more traditional and respectful way of celebrating the post-Vatican II Mass, as it is done in Poland, would be more appropriate.

Both Bishop Edward Malefic of Cleveland and Bishop Jerome Listeki of Milwaukee allowed the current practice of Latin Masses to continue until further consideration. Bishop Listeki did stipulate, however, that any other priest who wishes to say the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass will have to inform him and “explain the circumstances under which they will celebrate.”

In Our Memory

Sr. Mary Bernice, CSSF, who died in April, is remembered by the Felician Sisters in Enfield, Conn., for her devoted work for the elderly and infirm Felician sisters. Before that, she was the principal in the parish school. Memorial gifts can be sent to Sr. M. Lawrence Lojko, CSSF, Felician Sisters, 1315 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082.

Servant of God’s Remains Moved to basilica

Bishop Richard Stika of the Knoxville, Tenn. diocese moved the remains of Servant of God Patrick Ryan from Mount Olivet Cemetery to the Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul in Chattanooga in order to advance the Tennessee priest’s cause for beatification. Fr. Ryan, fled Ireland with his family in 1845 when the family was evicted from their home. Ordained a priest in 1869 he served in Chattanooga and opened the city’s first private school. During a yellow fever epidemic, Fr. Ryan remained in the city abandoned by 80% of its residents. He went door-to-door looking for the worst infected among the poor and needy and ministered to them. Bishop Stika noted, “Fr. Ryan did indeed give his life for his friends, friends that were Catholic, and friends that were not Catholic ... His memory is still strong today.” He, himself, died of the disease on Sept 28, 1878. After documents relating his holiness are evaluated in Rome, the bishop hopes that Fr. Ryan will be declared Venerable before Christmas.

Safe for Now

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.— The city’s Central Business Architecture Committee voted to put off deciding if developers should be allowed to demolish the St. John Cantius Church until November after people urged them to save the building.

The city’s Central Business Architecture Committee was slated to decide the fate of the 108-year-old church built by Polish immigrants that has been closed since 2010. The meeting, held part in person and partly on Zoom, drew at least 10 speakers who urged the board to save the church.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield sold the church and its 2.23 acres on Hawley Street to O’Connell development in March 2020 for \$1.6 million. At the time the church had been closed for a decade.

Developers at O’Connell planned a 23-townhouse development at the site by demolishing the social hall and the rectory and constructing the housing in its place. At the time the company planned to renovate the church building and use it for a restaurant or other commercial property.

In February, O’Connell development applied for permission from the city to demolish the church and replace it with five townhomes, saying the redevelopment into commercial space was not feasible, especially during a pandemic.



Northampton’s former St. John Cantius.

During a presentation, architects and other representatives for O’Connell spoke about the deteriorating condition of the church. As a concession to those who want to save the church, the company said they would salvage the organ and other features. It also agreed to place a plaque to remember the church in a park or other green space.

But residents who are trying to save the church showed ideas on how the building could be repurposed and saved. During the meeting, one of many speakers offered a petition with more than 1,500 names, to save the church.

“I don’t think it is necessary to tear down the church. I want to work with people from O’Connell,” said Deb Hensen, one of the organizers of the group trying to save the church.

Source: MassLive

Poland rescues Poles and Afghans fleeing Taliban takeover

Poland sent military planes to Afghanistan’s Taliban-besieged Kabul airport to help evacuate Polish nationals as well as Afghans who had assisted Poland’s military there.

The Taliban has announced an amnesty for those who had supported “the occupation forces,” but most of those who had served “the infidels” as translators, drivers, guides and other auxiliary staff fear for their lives. The radical Muslim Taliban took over the country

with lightning speed shortly after President Joe Biden withdrew U.S. forces from that country. Poland, one of the first countries to join the NATO-led Afghan campaign, withdrew its last troops in June after the United States announced plans to terminate its mission there.

Over the past 20 years, some 33,000 Polish troops had been involved in the operation. Forty-four had lost their lives, and many more were wounded.

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

FORUM

Does Polonia's Youth have a "Polish American Vote"?

by David J. Jackson

For the past several years, one topic has increasingly drawn my attention: what does it mean to be Polish American for the fourth, fifth, and beyond generations removed from the immigrant experience? Most scholars of white ethnicity believe that the meaning declines substantially because of movement away from ethnic neighborhoods, abandonment of the Polish language, intermarriage, and a host of other factors.

I've become particularly interested in the influence of Polish American ethnicity on voting behavior in particular and political beliefs overall. Recently I sent a survey to 10,000 students enrolled at Bowling Green State University's campuses in Bowling Green and Huron, Ohio through the on-line survey tool Qualtrics. Just under 1,100 students completed the survey, for a response rate of nearly eleven percent. Of those respondents, 97 consider themselves to be Polish-American. Of those who consider themselves Polish-American, 59% have at least one great-grandparent born in Poland, while 23% have a grandparent who was born in Poland, and another 17% identify as Polish American but were not born there, and their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were not either.

Given that the sample consists exclusively of young, college educated Polish Americans who are many generations removed from the immigrant experience, any inferences drawn must be limited. In terms of 2020 presidential vote, the young Polish American respondents voted nearly

identically with others in the sample: 70% of Polish Americans voted for Joe Biden, while 68% of the other respondents did. There are no statistically significant differences in terms of political party preference, although the Polish Americans in the sample were slightly more likely to identify as Democrats. There were also no statistically significant differences in ideology between the young Polish Americans and the others in the sample.

Given these modest findings and the limitations of the data, let's examine the answer to one more traditional survey question, and then look at some open-ended responses that allow us to use this sample's responses as more of a focus group than a traditional survey. Polish American respondents were asked if being Polish American influences how they think about politics. The vast majority (81%) said it does not. However, respondents were prompted to explain why or why not, and their answers give us some insights into how these young Polish Americans think about their ethnicity and political beliefs.

One "no" respondent was clear and definitive, writing, "My family moved from Poland generations ago, it means nothing to me now," while another wrote, "No, it is not really a huge part of my identity." Among the minority who answered in the affirmative, one respondent wrote, "I think a lot of the discrimination that Polish Americans faced and the experiences that my grandparents faced influence how I want other immigrants to be accepted

and my opinions on unions and citizenship is influenced by this," while another wrote of their, "awareness of European politics, attention to anti-Slavic sentiment." Another "yes" respondent wrote, "Poland is strongly religious and has a long history experiencing oppression from externalities," while another asserted, "yes, as a people we've experienced hardships and tend to be left leaning." The low percentages who answered in the affirmative

actions, one respondent wrote, "It means an emphasis on family, good food, a good time, and working hard," while another wrote, "Being hard-working and resourceful. Caring of the community around me."

A handful of respondents believe they need to work to integrate their identity into their lives and to teach others about it, such as the respondent who wrote, "It means incorporating my Polish culture and heritage into my American life and teaching others about my culture, like Wigilia." Another group of respondents focused on the harshness of life for their ancestors in Poland.

Typical of these is the respondent who wrote, "Having a heritage that goes back hundreds of years and spans a variety of migrations (sometimes forced) of people. Poland has often been at the center of conflict and often suffered greatly because of it."

One respondent offered a summary that offers ideas for how to preserve a more meaningful Polish American identity, writing, "It is meaningful to me and my life, as I do care about family quite a bit, as well as keeping up my family name/family image. I have a fascination with history, and I have attempted to learn a bit of Polish. I hope to travel to Poland, or even study abroad there. I continue to keep the culture up when I play polkas and go to Polish festivals throughout Toledo." This indicates that the Polish American community can use music, festivals and other events to inspire young Polish Americans to develop a more meaningful ethnic-

ity.

In summary, for the young Polish Americans sampled here, ethnicity does not appear to have significant effects on presidential vote choice, partisanship or ethnicity. However, there is a minority for whom Polish American ethnicity is meaningful politically, and an even greater number for whom it is meaningful in terms of food ways, family and community practices, and beliefs about the hardships of life and the opportunities and benefits being an American offers. Finally, there appears to be an openness among many young Polish Americans to learn more and experience more of their heritage, and the organizers of festivals and other events could reach out to young people to get them more involved and to grow their ethnic identity.

◆ ◆ ◆

David J. Jackson is professor of political science at Bowling Green State University. His research interests include U.S. political behavior and the interactive relationship between politics and culture, with a current focus on the Polish American community. He is the author of *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Pop Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization*, a second and revised edition of which was published in 2009. He has published articles in such journals as *Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Polish American Studies*, *American Review of Canadian Studies*, and the *International Journal of Press/Politics*. In 2007-2008 he was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Łódź. His book *Classrooms and Barrooms: An American in Poland*, was published in 2008.

QUOTES

"Nothing connects me to Solidarity as it is now. We have completely different goals and interests ... [It is] so different from what it was that it should not be allowed to use the same name."

— *Solidarity leader and founding member Lech Wałęsa on how the trade union is now a symbol of divisiveness, and is closely aligned with Poland's nationalist governing party, Law and Justice.*

◆ ◆ ◆
"Back then (Solidarity) was a mass movement of millions with different tendencies and currents, but its essential premise was that Poland be democratic, tolerant, and pro-Western ... Today's Solidarity is an organization with only a few people, which supports the destruction of democracy and supports

anti-Western forces."

— *Gazeta Wyborcza editor-in-chief Adam Michnik, who rallied to the side of Gdansk's striking workers in the 1980s.*

◆ ◆ ◆
"Our principle is that whoever wants peace, must prepare for war. Well, we want peace, but in the event of distress, our defense will be stronger."

— *Poland's deputy prime minister and ruling party leader Jarosław Kaczyński, on a "great number" of Abrams tanks Poland will buy from the United States at approximately \$6 billion USD. Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak also announced three made-in-Poland frigates have been ordered for the Polish Navy to improve its military capabilities in the Baltic Sea.*

"We are not here for politicians, and they do not set our daily agenda. This is determined by specific people for whom decisions made by politicians are of fundamental life importance. We have such a feeling that this is the moment when we are simply, absolutely indispensable to our viewers."

— *Brygida Grysiak, deputy editor-in-chief of TVN24, on Poland's National Broadcasting Council suspension of license extension of the independent channel, which is owned and financed by an American company. TVN24 employs nearly one thousand people and is watched by 4.5 million people daily, a significant audience in a country of 38 million. It is an important source of information for many in Poland.*

"I can only say that as long as I am the PM, Poland will surely not pay for the German crimes. Not a zloty, not a euro, not a dollar."

— *Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, after Poland's Lower House of Parliament – the Sejm – passed a draft bill introducing a 30-year statute of limitations on claims for the restitution of property, thus making all Holocaust-era claims ineligible.*

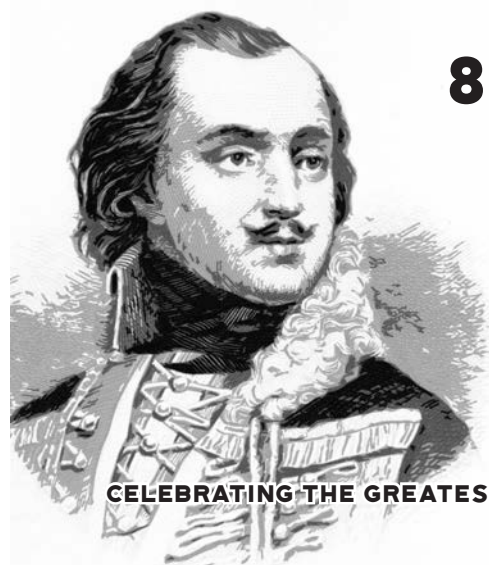
◆ ◆ ◆
"Following Lapid's logic of infinite grievance, we should now turn our eyes on Cordoba and Madrid and reclaim the haciendas that once housed our ancestors."

— *Senior writer for the online American Jewish Tablet magazine Liel Leibovitz, in response to Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Yair*

Lapid's rants about Poland's Holocaust compensation legislation. Lapid, who will become his country's Prime Minister in 2023, said Poland is an "anti-democratic, non-liberal country that does not honor the greatest tragedy in human history." Leibovitz, who wrote Poland has a right to end Holocaust claims, said Lapid should focus his ire on Germany, which actually masterminded and perpetrated the Holocaust.

◆ ◆ ◆
"The best gift I received was my great-great-granddaughter Iga, who was born on my 115th birthday."

— *Tekla Juniewicz, Poland's oldest woman, who recently celebrated her 115th birthday. She is among the more than 2,000 Poles aged over 100 years.*



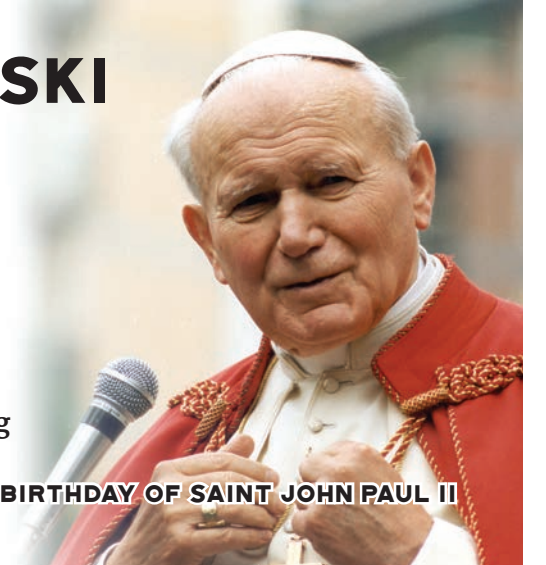
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Viking Ransom?

TWO TREASURE HUNTERS IN POLAND have unearthed a number of silver coins—and a great mystery. As Andrew Higgins asks in the *New York Times*, “How did a cornfield in north-eastern Poland come to hold silver coins minted more than 1,100 years ago and nearly 1,000 miles away



by the medieval rulers of what is now France?” One archaeologist in the country has floated the tantalizing theory that the coins were part of a ransom of more than two tons of silver paid to Vikings in the 9th century to prevent the ransacking of Paris. Others question that.

PHILATELICS

Stamps from a Missing Poland, and two from Roch Stefaniak

by Barbara Szydłowski

One of the gems of Polish philately — and the most difficult — is collecting postmarks up to the time Poland disappeared from the map of

1787. while Type Two was a crown and “W” in 19mm circle from 1783 to 1787. and Type Three was a “W” without a circle recorded between 1778 to 1794.



IN FEBRUARY 2019, Poczta Polska issued a 2.60 zł stamp recognizing Poland’s century-old Prison Service (below, left), designed by Roch Stefaniak. Many know Stefaniak for his 2017 stamp honoring Wojtek, the World War II Polish soldier bear (below).



Poland also has a 5 zł stamp celebrating the largest city in northeast Poland, Białystok. It is the capital of the Podlaskie Voivodeship located on the Biala River, a little over 30

Europe after the third partition in 1794.

According to Dr. James Mazepa, the first marks on Polish letters indicating their origin appeared in the early 1700s. These were handwritten notations such as “na poczta Lwowska” (Lwow post office) known from 1714 and “na poczta Warszawska” (Warsaw post office) recorded in 1721. The oldest postmarks are wax seals, which were introduced about 1760. They usually had the town name in Latin, and images of a crown and posthorn. There are many different varieties and sizes of these seals and they can be found in black and red.

The first inked postmarks were based on the design of the wax seals. The earliest recorded one is from Zamość in 1768. Warsaw began using inked postmarks in 1778, and had three types in use up to 1794. Type One was a crown and “W” in a 17mm circle from 1778 to

miles from the border of Belarus. The stamp depicts the Branicki Palace as it was first enhanced as a baroque mansion in 1691-1697 by Stefan Mikołaj Branicki. Later in 1726-1728, the inherited dwelling was transformed by Count Jan Klemens Branicki, a wealthy Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth hetman. The stamp-emerging eagle, from the coat of arms and official seal of Białystok, was designed by Andrzej Gosik.

To learn more about the exciting world of collecting Polish stamps visit www.polonus.org.

Arts Club Meets with Janta-Polczynski Nieces

Matching challenge monies from will remain in Buffalo

by Mary Lou Wyrobek

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo Executive Board had the privilege of hosting Karolina Rostafinski-Merk and Anna Rostafinska, nieces of Aleksander and Walentyna Janta-Polczynski on July 17, 2021 at the Buffalo Yacht Club.

The meeting was to discuss the Aleksander and Walentyna Janta-Polczynski Endowment Fund established with a generous challenge grant of \$100,000 offered by Mrs. Walentyna Janta-Polczynska in an effort to allow the Club to continue and expand its offerings of Polish cultural programs. Her husband, a World War II soldier, war correspondent, journalist, poet and prolific author — known for his charm and wit — served as the third president of the Polish Arts Club. The couple spent a few years in Buffalo, and Walentyna had a fondness for their time in the city and wished to see the Club flourish as it had under her husband’s tenure. Walentyna passed away last year at the age of 107 and plans, delayed by COVID, are underway for a military funeral and burial at Powazki Cemetery in Warsaw, Poland.

Mrs. Janta-Polczynska served the Polish Government-in-Exile in England as personal secretary to Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski and chief translator for the Polish cabinet during World War II. In that role, she attended meetings with foreign leaders including Winston Churchill, and translated and prepared reports of Jan Karski, one of the earliest couriers to provide eyewitness accounts of the atrocities against Jews by the occupying German Nazis. She also helped establish and was one of the first announcers at *Swit* (Dawn) a clandestine radio station that broadcast to Poland from an intelligence complex in England.

After the war, with the rank of second lieutenant in the Polish army, she served debriefing Polish former prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates, especially those who had been victims of medical experiments.

Later living in Elmhurst, N.Y., the home of the couple became a meeting place for Polish emigres including Jan Karski, Czeslaw Milosz, Jerzy Kosinski, and Marek Hlasko as well as other luminaries



Walentyna and Aleksander Janta-Polczyński, c. 1960

such as Mahatma Gandhi, Charlie Chaplin, and Vladimir Nabokov. The home is currently under danger of demolition, but the Elmhurst Community has rallied in hopes of saving it. The Polish Arts Club has written in support of these efforts.

Unfortunately, the Polish Arts Club was stymied in its fundraising efforts for Mrs. Janta-Polczynska’s challenge grant by frequent changes in leadership and, of course, COVID. A fundraising concert planned for 2020 had to be postponed to June of 2021. At the meeting with the Rostafinski sisters, the Club was pleased to hear that the full initial challenge monies of \$100,000 from their aunt would remain in Buffalo, despite only raising approximately \$90,000 in matching monies. The initial monies are held at the Com-


munity Foundation of Greater Buffalo. Walentyna’s family members look forward to excellent programming for the wider community promoting Polish culture. They have recommended the establishment of an award honoring a worthy individual who has done much to promote Polish culture. The Club hopes to have a program dedicated to the fascinating lives of Aleksander and Walentyna in the near future, and to collaborate with other Polish American organizations and the Buffalo Arts community to bring quality programming to Western New York as a lasting legacy to the lives of Walentyna and Aleksander Janta-Polczynski.

To learn more about the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, write to P.O. Box 542, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Afghanistan evacuees arrive in Warsaw

WARSAW — On the morning of August 22, a sixth aircraft with nearly 100 evacuees from Afghanistan arrived in Warsaw. The evacuees included people who worked for Poland’s diplomatic mission and military contingent. The plane took off from Navoi International Airport, Uzbekistan, with a stopover in Tbilisi, Georgia, where a group of employees of the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF) disembarked. IMF director Kristalina Georgieva thanked Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki for the country’s assistance in evacuating the organization’s personnel from Afghanistan. To date, over 350 people have been airlifted out of Afghanistan to Poland so far, said deputy foreign minister Marcin Przydacz.



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SCHOLARSHIPS

Connecticut's Bevy of Bursary Bonuses

HARTFORD, Conn. — On June 20, 2021, at the 10:00 Mass, the Ladies Guild of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church awarded four outstanding students with its **2021 Rev. Edward Zyskowski Scholarship**. Virginia Pudlo, chair, assisted by committee members Cheryl Pietrycha and Wiesia Rozynski, introduced the candidates and provided background information on their accomplishments. Rev. Adam Hurbanczuk, pastor, presented the checks and offered inspirational remarks.

Janelle Stefanski will attend the University of Hartford in the fall majoring in Biology. She joined the Polish American Scout Organization ZHP at age three and became a troop leader for children ages 6-11. A student at the Hartford Polish Saturday School since age five, she advanced to become an assistant teacher. She is involved with the CCD program at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish and is an assistant teacher for second graders. Helping children learn and grow, as well as teaching Polish culture, is something in which Janelle takes great pride.

Jessica Szaro will enter the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying Animal Science with the goal of becoming a veterinarian working in zoological medicine, advocating for the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. Fluent in Polish, she has been a member of the Polish Scouting Organization since age three and has served as a troop leader and camp counselor. She volunteers at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford as an assistant teacher in the CCD program and is also an altar server. Jessica is a talented dancer



Rev. Adam Hurbanczuk, scholarship committee members Virginia Pudlo, Cheryl Pietrycha, and Wiesia Rozynski, with recipients (l. to r.): Dominic Zuccalo, Olivia Zbikowski, and Janelle Stefanski.

and assistant dance teacher.

Olivia Zbikowski will be attending Central CT State University this fall majoring in Nursing. She joined the Hartford Polish Saturday School at a very young age to learn more about her Polish heritage, advancing to Assistant Teacher. A Polish Scout since age eight, she developed her teaching and leadership skills and is now a supervisor and mentor to scouts ages 4-10. Olivia is an altar server at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford and has been involved with the CCD program for the past 12 years, where she is now a teacher's aide to first grade students.

Dominic Zuccalo will begin his studies in Nursing at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. He has received many honors and awards for his outstanding athleticism throughout high school in football, varsity wrestling, and

track and field. He volunteers time to his community through the Honors Choir, Courtyard Community Service, Caroling, and the Mazzone Youth Football Camp.

The Ladies Guild of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church was established in 1939 for women of the parish to render service, strengthen their faith, engage in social activities, and promote the affirmation of friendships. Assisting youth in achieving their higher education goals through scholarships has always been a major mission of the Guild. Named for the late Rev. Edward Zyskowski, a well-loved priest in the Parish, the scholarship recognizes the qualities of "a perfect example of a man of God" whose caring devotion to people and kindness of heart and goodness was inspiring.

HARTFORD — On, June 17, 2021, at a ceremony held at the Polish National Home, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. awarded five outstanding students with its **2021 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship**. Scholarship Committee co-chairs Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo presented the following recipients with a check for \$1,000:

Damian Kret, who will return to the University of Conn., Hartford Branch, where he is majoring in Business;

Julia Nowak, who will attend Boston University in the fall studying Biomedical Engineering;

Victoria Pietrucha, who will enter Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. to obtain a degree in Nursing;

Jessica Szaro, who will enter the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying Animal Science with the goal of becoming a veterinarian; and

Maya Wieckowska, who will study Biology at the University of Connecticut-Storrs this fall.

The Kosciuszko 303 Squadron was the topic of this year's scholarship essay. In addition to its significant contributions to the Allied war effort in the air, the 303rd played a crucial role in the Battle of Britain in 1940 during World War II.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. was established in 1976 to preserve, promote, and share the history, culture, and customs of Poland with fellow Americans. It hosts many events in the Greater Hartford area. New members are encouraged to find more information about the Club at www.polishculturalclub.org.

STAMFORD, Conn. — The **Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford** awarded nine scholarships to students in the Stamford area.

This year's recipients are: **John Falger** (Notre Dame); **Sara Falger** (FL Atlantic U); **Paula Frankowski** (S. Conn. State U); **Alexandra Cavaliere** (FL Atlantic U); **Krzysztof Luniewski** (Wesleyan U), and four students who will attend the University of Connecticut — **Gabriela Kubisiak**, **Kora Makarska**, **Aleksandra Sajdek**, and **Nicole Wroblewski**.

Since 1973, the PACS of Stamford has awarded over 200 scholarships to students of Polish heritage.

Kopala to Lead this Year's Pulaski Parade



Kopala

NEW YORK — New York City's Fifth Avenue will close Sun., Oct. 3, 2021, from noon to 6:00 p.m. as Polish Americans

join together in honor of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, hero of the American Revolutionary War, who died at the battle of Savannah Georgia in October, 1779. The parade will step off from Fifth Avenue at 35th Street at 12:30 p.m. with the Honor Guard of the New York City Police and Fire Departments leading the way up 5th Avenue to 54th Street.

The Pulaski Parade Banquet this year will be held on Sat., Sept. 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in New York Marriott Marquis located in Times Square.

President Richard D. Zawisny announced there will be a 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, New York, Oct. 3, 2021 with many concelebrants.

The theme of the **83rd Pulaski Day Parade** in New York City is "Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Saint John Paul II."

The Honorable Heidi Jadwiga Kopala of New Jersey is the 2021 grand marshal of the Quadstate Pulaski Parade. She will lead the contingents of New Jersey, New York State, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas up Fifth Avenue. She invites all to attend the parade and all of the events in honor of the Polish-born hero.

A breakfast will follow the 9:00 a.m. Mass Liturgy, Oct 3, at the 3 West Club on 51st Street. Contact David M. Kopala (908) 265-8165 for tickets and information.

"The Pulaski Day Parade has been celebrated on Fifth Avenue since 1937 and is the second longest active parade in New York City history, and marches rain or sun," said The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee President Richard D. Zawisny.

ACADEMIA

Prizes for Student Translators

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Are you a high school student who studies Polish and/or is a heritage speaker of Polish? If so, consider participating in the 2021 Illinois High School Translation Competition, organized by the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Participants will translate a B2/C1, 450-700-word text from one of the five languages featured in the competition (Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, and Swedish) into English. The texts, which range from literature to news articles, have been chosen by University of Illinois faculty and graduate students. This competition aims to promote the study of Less Commonly Taught Languages and to provide high school students with an opportunity to get hands-on experience in

translation.

All students who were enrolled in high school in Illinois during the 2020-21 academic year and/or will be enrolled in high school in the 2021-22 academic year are eligible to participate. Home-schooled students who reside in Illinois are also eligible to participate.

Winners will be given a prize and a certificate from the European Union Center at the University of Illinois, and the winners will be recognized at an award ceremony at the Italian Consulate in Chicago on November 4, 2021.

To participate, register at <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/169703375>. The deadline is Sept. 20, 2021, so register early to have more time to work on your translation.

For more details, email eucenter@illinois.edu.

Kosciuszko Foundation Issues Call for Research Grant and Fellowship Applications

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation announces that applications for research grants during the academic year 2022/2023 are now open.

The Exchange Program to the United States enables Polish scholars to carry out research and artistic projects at accredited institutions of higher learning in the United States. The program helps researchers garner expertise, practical knowledge, and skills they can bring back to Poland. Every year, The Foundation

awards approximately 40 scholars with grants and fellowships worth over \$400,000.

To learn more, write to ExchangeToTheUS@thekf.org. Applications deadline is Nov. 15, 2021

The Foundation has been promoting academic exchanges between Poland and the United States since its establishment nearly 100 years ago. To learn more about its scholarship programs, visit

www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/exchange-us/

LOOKING BACK



TOP TEN. The ten children of Czeslaw and Kamylla Kaszuba (seated) posed for the family photo at the wedding reception of daughter Theresa in the late 1950s.

The Kaszubas were Polish immigrants who settled in West Rutland, Vermont. Today, their memory is being kept alive by the Polish American Journal Foundation, which named its scholarship in their honor after a bequest by daughter Josephine Kaszuba-Locke.

Pictured are (first row, l. to r.): Helen, Josephine, Theresa, Julia, and Mary Kazuba. Second row: Charles, Jr., Stanley, Alexander, Valentine, and Joseph.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Anatomy of an Unforgivable Atrocity

SURVIVING KATYŃ

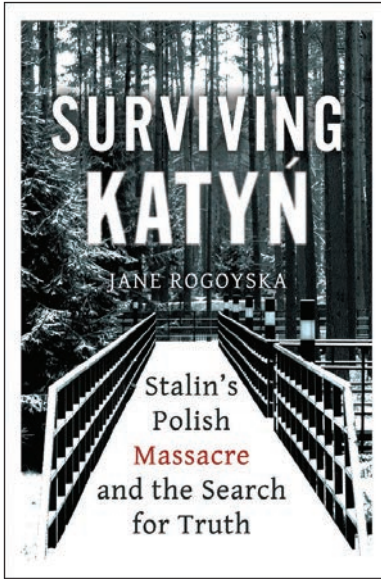
by Jane Rogoyska

June 2021

OneWorld/Simon & Schuster

370 pp

reviewed by David Trawinski



If there is one singular event that haunts the souls of the Polish People and echoes throughout Polonia across the globe, it must be the Massacre at Katyń. Numerically, far greater numbers of Poles were lost to the Nazi concentration and death camps, but the roughly 22,000 Polish military officers shot in the back of the head, their hands bound, their bodies dumped into forested mass graves evokes an instant reaction because of the way Stalin's Russia denied the heinous crime. Katyń, in many ways, represents the long-standing battle for cultural truth between Poland and Russia across the ages, and Stalin's unmitigated and sinister attempt to control that narrative.

Historian and biographer Jane Rogoyska is a London-based author who has produced what I consider to be the definitive work on the massacres at Katyń. She goes far beyond the atrocity itself and follows several of the survivors (totaling only 395 souls) from the POW camps through their captivity in Lubyanka Prison in Moscow, and onto other camps throughout the Soviet Union. She informs us that the Katyń Massacre is really a collective name to represent the murder of 21,857 Polish military officers at not one forest site, but three - Katyń near Smolensk, Mednoye near Kalinin (now Tver), and a site near Kharkov in the Eastern Ukraine. These fields full of the remains of human tragedy were fed by three POW camps, each former orthodox monasteries converted by the Soviet NKVD (predecessor to the KGB) with Kozelsk being liquidated at Katyń, Ostashkov at Mednoye, and Starobelsk at Kharkov. The NKVD even had the gall to place its agency's rest homes atop these sites, as if to complete the insult of their lies. The reason the name Katyń is used to represent all three sites is that it was in this forest outside Smolensk that the battle over the truth of the massacre emerged in the Spring of 1943.

In mid-1941, Hitler changed his strategy in consuming what was left of Europe not then under Nazi control. Having been stymied in his conquest of subduing Great Britain through aerial attacks (with a very significant and dominant role played by Polish fighter pilots and their ground crews), Hitler launched his Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union, on June 22 of that year. By April 1943, the Nazis had pushed far into Russia, reached Stalingrad, where the Red Army had begun its counter-offensive beginning its drive to that would ultimately end up in Berlin. But the Nazis still controlled the area around Smolensk and discovered the mass graves at Katyń. The Minister of Nazi Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, was anxious to use this finding to drive a wedge between his allied enemies. Rogoyska does an amazing job of documenting her sources, and in this case even includes a self-congratulatory entry from the journal of the narcissist Goebbels.

The effectiveness of Goebbels' strategy was that while it factually

documented the Spring 1940 Massacre at Katyń by the Soviets, the accusation came at a time when General Władysław Sikorski, prime minister of the Polish Government-in-Exile, had been pressing Stalin on the fate of his missing officers numbering in the tens of thousands. Up until that point, the Soviets had insisted they were no longer prisoners left in the Soviet Union who had not been released. When the atrocity at Katyń was uncovered, the Soviets simply post-dated it to late 1941 and laid its responsibility at the feet of the Nazi invaders. The then-already fragile reconstituted alliance between Poland and the Soviet-Union was shattered when Sikorski's Government backed the international medical teams welcomed to the mass gravesite at Katyń by the Nazis. By May 1943, Stalin cut all ties to the Poles over Sikorski's belief, and rightly so, that this had been a massive NKVD crime. In July 1943, General Sikorski died, along with his daughter and nine others, in a controversial plane crash after taking off from Gibraltar's airport. Rogoyska is impressive in providing the details of this period, in the persons of the survivors of Katyń who lived to be part of this eventful period.

So, you might ask yourself, "Why were there any survivors at all?" Rogoyska carefully addresses that as well, explaining that the list of 395 persons was prepared in advance of the liquidation of the three converted monastery camps. Even in 1940, the NKVD strongly anticipated that a war with Hitler's Germany loomed in their future. While some of the 395 had little to do with this, several select leaders of the Polish Army were taken to what is described as a "Villa of Bliss" where they were graciously received and gently interrogated with

the intent of leading a Polish Brigade within the Red Army. All but a handful of the officers declined and were eventually given amnesty when General Anders II Corps was allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1942, after the massacres but before the 1943 split in Soviet-Polish relations. The tale of one officer, who was on the list of 395 but had already been shipped to Katyń for execution, tells that he witnessed from his boxcar that his fellow officers were being driven away in "Black Raven" shuttles (Black vans with jail cells in their rear) into the forest. He was taken by the NKVD and delivered to Moscow, and eventually was smuggled out of the country into Iran by the then Polish Ambassador to Moscow.

This book reads like a mystery, more than a historical documentation of facts. The author employs a captivating narrative to tell the tale from the capture of the Polish officers in 1939 all the way through to the release of critical documents in the early 1990s, irrevocably painting the heinous crime as a part of Stalin's dark legacy. Rogoyska even produces the secret directive that Stalin signed off on March 5, 1940, sealing the fate of the 2,857 POWs.

While the author only touches on it in her text, I am always amazed at the links between the Soviet Union and the Marian Apparitions at Fatima. These nearly all took place on the 13th day of the month (with one exception). The Blessed Virgin mentioned the need for the "Conversion of Russia". I was amazed during my reading of *Surviving Katyń* at how many critical events took place on the 13th day of the month. To that end, with Stalin signing the execution order on March 5, 1940, it would be exactly 13 years later, to the day, when he died in 1953. He may have obstructed the truth well beyond his own death, but thanks to the erstwhile efforts of Jane Rogoyska, among others, the truth lives today, documented in undeniable detail and strength of conviction.



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Michałek Given Emerita Status

PITTSBURGH — Carnegie Mellon University has awarded faculty emerita status to Gabrielle V. Michałek, director of connected scholarship in the University Libraries. In her 35 years with the university, Michałek established and developed the University Archives, laying a foundation from which the Archives continues to build and expand.

Michałek, a native of Lackawanna, N.Y., began her career at Carnegie Mellon University Libraries in 1986 by organizing the architectural collections that eventually became the Architecture Archives. That year, she conducted research for the fourth volume of the history of the university. As a result of her work on that project, Michałek identified the urgent need to archive official and unofficial university records. Working with President Cyert, she helped draft the Policy on Historic Records that founded the Carnegie Mellon Archives. In 1987, she was appointed University Archivist.

As Head of the Archives from 1987 to 1999, Michałek built the Archives and appraised, preserved, classified, described, and catalogued university records and artifacts, senatorial papers, historical documents, art and antiques, and audio and video collections including the University's Artistic Properties Program. She acquired significant collections, including the papers of Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon, Nobel Laureate Clifford Shull, Allen Newell, Joseph Traub and Pamela McCordick, and the papers of Mellon Institute. She was responsible for conserving major works of art on campus including Peaceable Kingdom, and the portraits of Andrew Carnegie, Margaret Morrison Carnegie and Mary Bidwell Breed.

In 1991, Michałek oversaw the acquisition of the H. John Heinz III Congressional Archives and began working as part of a team to develop the HELIOS system, a seminal system that supported some of the first standards for making archival materials available on the web. The HELIOS project was the first



Michałek

large scale digitization project for an archival collection, providing full-text searchable access to the digitized papers of the late Senator Heinz. Under her leadership, the University Archives joined the MetaArchive, and the LOCKSS Network to help ensure the preservation of CMU's digital archives and digital library journal collections.

As Head of the Archives and Digital Initiatives from 2000 to 2014, Michałek also directed the University's institutional repository and worked to make more information freely available via open access. She directed the Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project where she helped preserve the identity of the Pittsburgh Jewish community through the digitization of historic journals published within that community.

Michałek has spent the last several years as Director of Connected Scholarship working with the Office of Graduate Education to develop teaching materials and lead workshops on good data hygiene skills.

Throughout her career, Michałek has supported and guided the careers of numerous graduate students and staff members and served as a partner on national and international collaborations, including the Million Book project and the creation of standards for digital data through the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

DID YOU KNOW? Five million Poles wished America a Happy Birthday? But that was back in 1926 when the United States was celebrating its 150th birthday. A Pole named Leopold Kotnowski personally presented the "card" signed by five million Poles to the White House. It actually took the form of notebooks totaling some 30,000 pages containing art, photos, poems and pressed flowers. Volumes 14 to 110 have been digitized by the Library of Congress, and some are available online.

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GENEALOGY

An Easy and Effective Method to Organize Genealogy Research

by Stephen M. Szabados

After the initial surge to find genealogical documents and data, our next step is to get organized. We need to use a system that makes it easy to refer to our data as quickly as possible when we want to do the next search. Our system also needs to have a logical format to quickly understand what we have. The following is a description of my method that has made my research very effective and efficient. A by-product is the readability of the material as a typical narrative. This format allows non-genealogist or family members to read and understand the material quickly. They are not confused by a genealogy form. Its raw format doubles as a family history that can be copied and shared at any time. Also, note that sharing my research with family usually generates more stories to add to my research. Getting organized by using this method has tremendous benefits.

MY INITIAL EFFORTS to share my research with family members were frustrating. I had collected personal papers, photos, and stories and then added the names and dates to the genealogy forms, such as family trees and group sheets. Next, I added information from census records and other documents from online collections and archives. I was excited because I was filling out my family tree. However, when I tried to share this information with family members, they were usually confused and reluctant to read the documents. They were not excited about my research like I was. Their reluctance made me rethink my approach, and I realized that the sto-

ries were more important than the documents.

Now, I start my organization by writing down everything I have found for one ancestor onto a summary or quick-reference sheet for that ancestor. I sort all the information in chronological order, so it flows as a quick biography of someone's life. Initially, I use bullet points to separate the entries from each document or story. Later, I expand the entries into complete sentences and then paragraphs. Photos and maps are embedded next to the pertinent information. This step helps illustrate the facts and bring the information to life. The narrative includes statements of where I found the information. I embed the documents at the end of the individual summary, labeling them with the proper source citation. Next, I expand the details and descriptions of people, jobs, homes, and places as I find accounts or pictures related to these details.

My research efforts have many starts and stops, and this format enables me to restart my research faster. Putting all the information for an individual in one document is a significant benefit that allows me to quickly review what I have when I need input information for that next search for the individual. With the data for an individual in one place, the format helps me correlate and analyze my research more efficiently, which helps me be more accurate. The format gives me the freedom to include notes to myself for specific future research when time allows. I highlight these notes in red type.

The stories begin to emerge from the gathered information, and the readable summaries increase the

interest of family members. They suddenly started asking questions and freely offered what they knew. The format also reminded them of many stories found deep in their memories. The exchange of information was amazing, and the family history grew.

- I enjoy several benefits from my organizational method:
- I can quickly focus on what to do next
- I can quickly find the facts needed for the next search
- The format helps stories to emerge
- The summaries are readable documents that increase the interest of family members
- Summaries can easily be used to

publish a family history

GENEALOGY IS NOT JUST the collection of names. Our ancestors were living human beings who interacted with the people around them. The documents and information we find, contain stories about our ancestors. Our challenge is to review the information, see the stories hidden in the facts, and share them with our family. It is critical to organize our data in a format that can be easily read by all your family members, both current and future.

Go beyond the names and dates and find the stories buried in the documents. Get organized. Please find a way to write the stories and save them for future generations.

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

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SPORTS

Team Poland Leaves Tokyo with 14 Medals

by Tom Tarapacki

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics didn't start out well for Poland but ended up being one of the country's most successful Summer Games. Team Poland took home 14 medals, including four gold, five silver, and five bronze. Among the highlights were: **Anita Włodarczyk** becoming an Olympic champion for the third successive time, the Polish team winning the first-ever mixed 4 x 400m relay, and unheralded **Dawid Tomala** winning a surprise gold in the Olympic men's 50km race walk.

Even before the Games started there was controversy, as six Polish swimmers had to return home after the country's swimming federation put 23 athletes on the plane to Japan instead of 17. **Alicja Tchorz**, an Olympian at the 2012 London Games and 2016 Rio Games, took to social media to voice her frustration over missing her third Olympics because of an apparent administrative bungle. "Imagine dedicating five years of your life and striving for another start at the most important sporting event ... giving up your private life and work, sacrificing your family etc.," she wrote in a Facebook post.



Dawid Tomala took gold in the Olympic men's 50km race walk.

A statement signed by members of the swimming team demanded the resignation of the president of the Polish Swimming Federation, **Paweł Słomiński**, and the management board.

In a four-page statement explaining the error, Słomiński expressed "regret, sadness and bitterness" about the athletes' situation.

He said he did not receive clear direction from the country's Olympic committee or the international federation that sets the qualifying rules until late. Słomiński added that many of the team's Olympic preparations were carried out during a "very difficult period of the pandemic" with the country's swimming pools closed.

When the competition started, Poland's hopes that one or more of their rising young tennis stars would medal were soon dashed. Poland's **Łukasz Kubot** and **Iga Świątek** each lost in the singles competition and then together lost in the mixed doubles competition.

UPSET IN MIXED RELAY. However, those setbacks were put aside when Poland captured its first gold of the Games, scoring an upset win in the inaugural Olympic 4 x 400 meters mixed relay, with Dominican Republic picking up silver and the United States taking bronze.

The Polish team, comprised of **Karol Zalewski**, **Natalia Kacz-**



Anita Włodarczyk became an Olympic champion for the third successive time in the hammer throw.

marek, **Justyna Świety-Ersetic** and **Kajetan Duszyński** set a new European and Olympic record in a time of 3:09.87. Duszyński, the 26-year-old anchor, got the baton in third place but charged into the lead. It was the first Olympic medal for all four runners. "I can't believe it. It is a dream since childhood. It has come true," Duszyński said.

Poland's first medal in Tokyo was silver in women's quadruple sculls team rowing competition. The Polish team of **Agnieszka Kobus-Zawojka**, **Marta Wieliczko**, **Maria Sajdak** and **Katarzyna Zillmann** finished second in their Olympic final, 6.23 seconds behind winners China.

Afterwards, Zillman thanked her girlfriend, which drew the notice of the media. Some controversy ensued, but the Olympian explained that she has been open about being in a same-sex relationship. She had even talked to the media about it, but it had never been reported.

HAMMER TIME! Poland's amazing **Anita Włodarczyk** became an Olympic champion for the third successive time in the hammer throw. Fellow Pole **Malwina Kopron** captured the bronze.

Włodarczyk won with a 78.48-meter throw, while Kopron had a best throw of 75.49m for third, while another Pole, **Joanna Fiodorow**, finished seventh with 73.83m.

Włodarczyk, who is approaching her 36th birthday, is considered the greatest women's hammer thrower, having dominated the sport for a decade. Along with her three Olympic golds she has four world championships and four European titles to her name. She was first woman in history to throw the hammer over 80 m. and currently holds the women's world record of 82.98 m.

Hammer throwers **Wojciech Nowicki** and **Paweł Fajdek** added a gold and bronze. The 32-year-old Nowicki produced a best throw of 82.52 meters to win the men's hammer throw, while Fajdek, a fellow 32-year-old, threw 81.53.

Nowicki, who won bronze in 2016, dominated from the start. Fajdek, who failed to qualify for the finals in the last two Olympics, was thrilled with third place. "For me this bronze medal is like a gold," he said.

It was only the second time that one country has won both the men's and women's hammer throw event in a single Games.

ON THE WATER. **Karolina Naja** and **Anna Puławska** won the silver

in the women's kayak double 500 meters competition. Later **Naja**, **Puławska**, **Justyna Iskrzycka** and **Helena Wiśniewska** took the bronze in the women's K-4 500 meters sprint canoeing event.

Agnieszka Skrzypulec and **Jolanta Ogar** won silver in the women's 470 sailing class, as Britain won gold and France won bronze. After, the French team filed a protest saying that the gold medalists "team-raced" to deliberately benefit the Poles. The protest was dismissed.



Poland took the top spot in the first-ever mixed 4 x 400m relay.

MORE MEDALS. Polish wrestler **Tadeusz Michalik** took the bronze in the men's 97 kg Greco-Roman. His older sister, **Monika**, had won bronze in wrestling at the 2016 Games. **Patryk Dobek** won bronze in the men's 800m athletics event.

The Polish team of **Natalia Kaczmarek**, **Iga Baumgart-Witan**, **Małgorzata Holub-Kowalik**, and **Justyna Świety-Ersetic** won silver in the women's 4 x 400m relay.

Maria Andrejczyk won the silver in the women's javelin throw with a best throw of 64.61m on her second attempt. She is the second Polish female javelin thrower to win an Olympic medal, after **Maria Kwaśniewska**, who claimed bronze at the Berlin Games in 1936.

WALK ON. **Dawid Tomala** won a surprise gold in the Olympic men's 50km race walk to bag his country's 11th medal of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

The unheralded Tomala took the lead after the 30km mark and didn't look back. The 31-year-old from Tychy finished 36 seconds ahead of Germany's **Jonathan Hilbert**, whose time was 3:50:44.

While race walking is not a glamorous sport, one of Poland's most revered athletes is four-time race walk gold medal winner **Robert Korzeniowski**.

POLISH VISA. Politics entered the Olympics — no surprise there. Belarusian sprinter **Kristina Timanovskaya** was ordered by sports authorities to return to her native country, and she feared arrest. Timanovskaya was set to compete in the women's 200 meters at the Tokyo Olympics but said representatives of the Belarus national team tried to forcibly send her back to her home country. The move was in retaliation for her criticism of national sporting authorities for putting her into the 4 x 400 meter relay without her consent.

Soon afterwards Timanovskaya received a humanitarian visa from Poland. Poland's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Marcin Przydacz**, announced on Twitter that Timanovskaya had been granted the visa. "Poland will do whatever is necessary to help her to continue her sporting career. [Poland] always stands for solidarity." Timanovskaya traveled to Warsaw where she was joined by her husband, **Arseni Zhdanevich**, who had fled Belarus. Belarus' authoritarian President **Alexander Lukashenko** later claimed that Timanovskaya was "manipulated" by outside forces from Poland and elsewhere.

bronze.

OLYMPIC NOTES. Pitcher **Scott Kazmir** and catcher **Tim Federowicz** were members of the USA baseball team that won gold. Kazmir got a win against Dominican Republic, allowing just two hits in five innings ... in his third Olympics, gymnast **Sam Mikulak** finished fifth on parallel bars and 12th in all-around ... Polish-born fencer **Dagmara Wozniak** finished sixth in women's team sabre and 25th in women's individual sabre... **Chase Kalisz** won the USA's first medal in Tokyo, taking gold in the 400m individual swim medley ... Polish-born kayaker **Michał Smolen** finished fifth in the men's K-1 Slalom ... **Kenny Bednarek**, the adopted son of **Mary Bednarek** of Rice Lake, Wisc., won silver in the 200-meter race for the U.S. ... **Olivia Smoliga** was a member of the U.S. women's 400-meter freestyle relay team that won bronze... Canadian swimmer **Peggy Oleksiak** won silver and bronze.... Officials announced that Polish mountain biker **Maja Włoszczowska**, a two-time Olympic silver medalist, has been elected to the Athletes' Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Włoszczowska's election means she becomes a member of the IOC, and a second Pole, after the late **Irena Szewińska**, to take the prestigious role at the international Olympic body.

Krzyzewski is leaving, but ...

Filipowski is on his way! Top-20 rising senior **Kyle Filipowski** (inset, left) committed to Duke, giving **Jon Scheyer** his first recruit since being named the Blue Devils' coach-in-waiting.



Filipowski chose Duke after previous visits to Syracuse, Ohio State, Indiana, Iowa, and UConn. "At the end of the day, they just checked all of the boxes for me," Filipowski told ESPN. "They are a national-level team, my academics were very important to me, and I had a good feel for the environment and campus."

"Coach K retiring didn't change how I felt about Duke," he told ESPN. "I've been building this relationship with Coach Scheyer for over six months now, and the vision he has, not just for me but for my class, is something that I can envision myself in. I believe in him and what he is planning."

A 6-foot-11 big man from New York who attends Wilbraham & Monson Academy (Massachusetts), Filipowski is ranked No. 20 overall in the ESPN 100 for the 2022 class. He becomes the first commit of the Blue Devils' 2022 class, which will be Scheyer's first recruiting class as the program's head coach.

"He rebounds what seems like almost every ball," his coach **Mike Mannix**. "He can handle it, he can shoot it, he can post up. He was darn close to being a 40 percent three-point shooter this year. Averaged 21 points a game, 13 rebounds a game."

HAPPENINGS CHICAGO STYLE

A Night on Milwaukee Ave - Krzysztof Krawczyk Tribute

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On July 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., a free “Moods + Foods” concert, “A Night on Milwaukee Avenue,” sponsored by The Polish Arts Club of Chicago, the Northwest Arts Connection, the Avondale Neighborhood Association, and the Milwaukee Avenue Alliance, was held, part of its outdoor concert series. Located on Chicago’s Northwest Side, the Avondale area has a park called Woodward Plaza where the concert was held to honor the late **Krzysztof Krawczyk**, a popular Polish musician. Because, this is a very busy intersection, crowds gathered along curbs or just stood and listened to the concert. They all had the opportunity to enjoy the best of Krzysztof Krawczyk and popular American acoustic-style folk music performed by **Dallas Doyle** and **Joe Leppek**, members of the Milwaukee Avenue Players, along with a poetic commemoration of Krawczyk’s life. **Pawel Pospieszalski**’s band played some of Pawel’s originals works and sang some of Krawczyk’s hits, such as “*Rysunek na Szkle*,” (“Drawing on the Glass”). The band also performed a few world hits for the English-speaking mu-



Krzysztof Krawczyk

sic lovers. At the end of the concert Pospieszalski sang “Come Back to Me” as the closing song. The band was composed of **Peter Klepacki** on drums, **Jan Barczuk** on bass guitar, **Johnny Amato** on guitar, and Pospieszalski singing and playing on guitar and organ.

The area where the concert was held had been the center of the North Side of the Polish-speaking community with many Polish clubs, taverns, and shops. Even in the 1970s this was still considered part of *Jackowo*, the St. Hyacinth neighborhood. It was here that Krzysztof Krawczyk came to from Poland and



Monica Lebensztejn and Daniel Pogorzelski

became an almost inseparable part of Chicago’s Polish cultural life.

His performances at clubs, churches, and even Polish picnics brought hundreds of Polish-speaking fans to these gatherings. According to **Daniel Pogorzelski**, the event organizer and local historian, during the 1980s and 1990s, Krawczyk was a fixture at Polish nightclubs along Milwaukee Avenue in Avondale, when the neighborhood’s Polish arts and culture flourished.

If Krawczyk struggled financially, he didn’t hesitate to do man-

ual labor, such as roofing jobs. Unfortunately, he died on April 5, 2021, in Łódź, Poland, from COVID complications.

Krawczyk was a Polish baritone pop singer, guitarist, and composer. He was the vocalist of a popular Polish band, *Trubadurzy* (“the Troubadours”) from 1963 until 1973 when he started his solo career. His cre-

ative music was characterized by a combination of various musical genres such as rock and roll, Polish folk music, country music, and rhythm & blues. His album *To Co w Życiu Ważne* (“What’s Important in Life”), reached number one on the Polish Music Charts.

Three Historic Polish Parishes to End Polish Masses

After numerous closings and consolidations of Polish parishes with non-Polish parishes, the Arch-

diocese of Chicago has inflicted another disappointment on the city’s Polish-speaking faithful. Three of Chicago’s historic Polish parishes in the Wicker Park, Ukrainian Village, and West Town areas, St. Helen, Holy Innocents, and St. Mary of the Angels, will no longer include Polish Masses in their schedules.

According to the Archdiocese of Chicago, Polish Masses officially end on August 26, 2021, with the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa. The faithful wishing to celebrate Mass in the Polish vernacular will have to travel to nearby Holy Trinity, St. Stanisław Kostka, or St. Hyacinth Basilica. According to Father Marek Mólka, Polish pastoral coordinator, Bishop Roberto Lombardo, and Fr. Jason Malave, Cardinal Cupich’s delegate of the Renew My Church program, “Although changes are never easy, they are necessary in order to make the best use of the resources of our priests and to build as efficiently as possible the living structure of all our Eucharistic celebrations.”

The clergy of all these three parishes assure parishioners that Polish priests will still, whenever possible, perform Polish-language weddings and funerals, along with Christmas and Easter celebrations.

TRAVELER’S NOTEBOOK

Visiting St. Stanislaus Kostka in St. Louis, Missouri

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

photos by the author

St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Catholic Church
1413 North 20th Street
St. Louis, Missouri

There are many good reasons to visit St. Louis, Missouri. Perhaps to explore one of its top



St. Stanislaus Kostka Church

universities, to attend a Cardinals baseball game at Busch Stadium, or to stand under St. Louis’s Gateway Arch, the monumental doorway to the American West. Whatever your reason, you might consider also visiting **St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Catholic Church**. Not only does it have an interesting architectural history, but it also has a compelling history of political and religious intrigue.

St. Stanislaus Kostka is considered, by some, to be an independent

Catholic church, no longer affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. The parish was founded in 1878, but it was not until 1880 that the Archdiocese of St. Louis authorized the construction of a new church building to fulfill the needs of the fast-growing Polish-speaking Catholic community. Located just north of the St. Louis downtown area, St. Stanislaus was administered by Franciscan priests and designated at the “mother” church for three other Polish

popular Romanesque Revival style, quite typical of Polish churches in those days. The large stately edifice, designed by Wessbecher & Hummel, was dedicated in 1892. The church stood strong until 1928, when a fire destroyed the dome, and most of the delicate interior motifs. A decision was made to not rebuild the dome,

St. Louis’s Archbishop Raymond Burke coveted.

The situation became intense, controversial, and complicated as ultra-conservative Burke had issues with St. Stanislaus’s liberal pastor, **Father Marek Bożek**. In 2005, Burke excommunicated Fr. Bożek and some members of the church’s lay board for their refusal to relinquish the church’s assets and land and give financial control of the parish over to the Archdiocese. Burke announced his intention to disband the parish with the likelihood that the properties would be sold. The loyal parishioners responded by holding a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve attended by 1,500-2,000 people. Fearing that Burke would close the parish and use its assets to cover sexual abuse scandal payouts, the congregation said “No!”

The Archdiocese did not dispute the fact that the deed to the church property belonged to the parish corporation and not to the Archdiocese. What was disputed instead was the membership of that corporation, and how the members were to be chosen. In interpreting the bylaws on these issues, the District Court ruled against the Archdiocese and affirmed St. Stanislaus’ ownership of its property and its right to craft bylaws that limit the authority of the Roman Catholic Archbishop.

Today, Bożek continues to preside over the holy sacraments at St.

Stanislaus Kostka. The parish continues to be maintained and managed by its parishioners as a not-for-profit corporation, calling itself simply “Catholic.”



Interior of church.

Now, the church celebrates two masses on each Sunday, one in Polish and the other in English, along with a Saturday afternoon English mass. Additionally, it offers a Latin mass on Wednesday. For those interested, adult Polish languages classes are offered, its parish bulletin is bilingual, and a food pantry is maintained for the needy. The parish also has the Polish Heritage Center on its grounds for church and non-parish activities and has an excellent Polish heritage library.

Its motto is “When Guests Arrive, God Arrives.”

Gdy nadejdzie wrzesień, wieśniak ma zawsze pełną stodołę i kieszeń.

September always brings the farmer full barns and pockets.

MINNESOTA VOICE

Priest-Engineer helps St. Mary of Czestochowa Avoid Merger

by Mark Dillon

Rev. Paul Kubista now has a multi-generational connection with the Black Madonna.

His Polish parents' Wisconsin parish was St. Mary of Czestochowa in Stanley, a small, historically Polish town in Chippewa County, some 20 miles from Chippewa Falls.

On August 8, Fr. Paul was installed as pastor of St. Mary of Czestochowa – a parish of the same name in Delano, Minn., equally rural and Polish.

For parishioners in Minnesota, Fr. Paul's arrival is the answer to a prayer. It solves an issue that back in March threatened the 120-household parish with merger with another parish or eventual closure back, if the parish didn't find and fund a new priest, at a cost of \$80,000 annually.

"The Bishop has been kind enough to send him to us. We are very grateful. A wonderful thing has happened," said Paul Depa, St. Mary's informal historian, at a coffee and donut reception after Fr. Paul's installation Mass.

From Big Blue to Marian Blue

In the 52-year-old Fr. Paul, St. Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda, a Columbia University Law School graduate, has appointed an IBM alumnus to lead the parish. Fr. Paul has been serving on Hebda's staff, assisting with an ongoing diocesan-wide synod, a process that some say could lead to



Rev. Paul Kubista takes the oath of installation as pastor of St. Mary of Czestochowa parish in Delano, Minn. on August 8, as administered by Deacon Steven Maier, Director of Parish and Clergy Services at the Diocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

a strategic initiative to cluster and consolidate parishes.

The priesthood is Fr. Paul's second career for the past dozen years. He was a software engineer at IBM's Rochester, Minn. facility before entering the seminary, where he helped design the PlayStation 3 microprocessor. Fr. Paul holds a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota.

"It was God's hand at work" to be selected for St. Mary's now, Fr. Paul says. "It's like a second home here."

Since July 1, Fr. Paul has moved into the 1,250 sq. ft red brick rec-

tory that adjoins St. Mary's and overlooks the parish cemetery. A horse ranch is one of the parish's nearby neighbors, along with several corn fields. An organic gardener, Fr. Paul, grew up in Eagan, Minn., once labeled the onion-growing capital of the U.S., now home to industrial parks, as well as UPS and USPS distribution hubs. Fr. Paul's father Francis was an engineer at Unisys. Fr. Paul grew up the fourth child in a family of 10.

Fr. Paul said his call to the priesthood came as he was working at IBM and became a volunteer for religious education projects after hours. He also served as an elected

town clerk for a small town near Rochester.

"I've always enjoyed working with people," he says "The most important thing in life is our relationship with God. I want to help people draw closer to Him."

St. Mary's is the second Victor Cordella-designed church where Fr. Paul has worked. His first assignment as a new priest was St. John the Baptist parish in Vermillion, Minn., a building the Polish architect designed in 1913, a year before designing St. Mary's.

Fr. Paul has also had multiple pastoral roles at small rural parishes prior to working at diocesan offices. He served as sacramental minister at St. Joseph parish in Miesville, as chaplain at the Regina Senior Living center in Hastings. He has also ministered at St. Mathias in Hampton, and St. Mary in New Trier (2010-2011), St. Hubert in Chanhausen (2011-2013), St. Columbkil in Goodhue and St. Mary in Bellechester (2013), Holy Trinity in Goodhue (2013-2015), Immaculate Conception of Marysburg in Madison Lake and Nativity in Cleveland, Minn. (2015-2016), Epiphany in Coon Rapids (2016-2017) and St. Jude of the Lake in Mahtomedi (2017-2019).

While Kubista has discerned his faith, he has yet to explore his personal roots – a combination of three-quarters of Polish based on grandparents (Nowak, Wincek and Stachowiak) from Poznan and other areas and one quarter Czech on his

father's side from Dlouha Trebova in Bohemia in the Czech Republic. His family emigrated to Chicago more than a century ago before moving to Wisconsin.

Kubista is an historically Czech surname, and a derivative of Kuba, a nickname for Jacob. In fact, the most recent deputy consul general of the Czech Republic in Chicago is Jan Kubista, while a former Olympic runner from the Czech Republic also has the same surname. Fr. Paul hasn't found any overseas relatives yet, or visited Poland, or the Czech Republic.

However, he has worked in Venezuela. In 2008, during the Hugo Chavez regime, Fr. Paul served in the St. Paul-Minneapolis diocesan mission there and said the depth of the poverty and suffering he witnessed at the time made a strong impression.

St. Mary's is one of the Minnesota's oldest Polish parishes, and in relatively strong financial shape. Descendants of the original founding Motzko, Lyrek and other families, who generally have Silesian area roots, are still active in the life of the community.

At a parish-wide meeting this past spring, parish leaders told St. Mary's faithful that the Archdiocesan Finance Council is operating under a premise that it takes 1,000 households to financially support a full-time priest and restructuring Twin Cities area parishes around that concept.

Fire-scarred Church Raises \$110K at its Festival

by Mark Dillon

At one point, the line for meal tickets for platters of kielbasa, golabki and pierogi was more than 100 persons deep on a hot Saturday July 17 afternoon in drought-parched Northeast Minneapolis. Those waiting didn't mind a communist-era size queue that stretched two blocks long. Pole and non-Pole stood together.

This year's Polish Festival had a special purpose: to raise \$75,000 to demolish the ruins of Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church, badly damaged in an April 19 arson-suspected fire.

With the help of an anonymous donor who matched the first \$50,000 raised from parish meal and beverage sales and a silent auction, and smaller donations, the parish collected more than \$110,000 from the one-day event. The festival also included children's games, and performances from a small polka band and an accordion player.

For code compliance and safety reasons, the City of Minneapolis is requiring the church to demolish what is left from the fire rather than attempt to restore the original 1914 structure. The city will collect a \$1,250 demolition permit fee.

Sacred Heart has about 40 households as registered parishioners. Yet volunteers from among that group — working from an apartment-size, 1970s-style kitchen adjacent to the parish's Pulaski Hall gathering space — fed about 1,200 festival attendees over a period of several hours. Volunteers also filled drink orders while folks were in line.

"We want to show our support after what's happened" said one suburban couple of German



STANDING IN SOLIDARITY: Patrons wait patiently for meal tickets at Sacred Heart of Jesus' Polish Festival fund-raiser in Minneapolis on a hot summer Saturday in July. City officials are requiring the damaged church in the background to be torn down.

and Swedish heritage.

"The response gives us great hope," said Rev. John Kutek, Sacred Heart's pastor. Funds in excess of the demolition cost will be set aside as seed capital to design either a new chapel next to the hall or a new church building.

Sacred Heart achieved success this summer even while large Minneapolis ethnic festivals have remained shuttered, including both the Twin Cities Polish Festival (TCPF) and the Slavic Experience, a new event that originally had been slated for a Mississippi riverfront park down river from the site of the TCPF.

High costs for headline entertainment and rent have been a factor for such Minnesota events even before the coronavirus. The TCPF reported a \$10,113 loss in 2018 on \$66,083 in revenue for a three-day August event on its most recently available federal form 990 tax filing, the year of Poland's centennial of independence, amid \$45,335 in municipal park fees, rental fees and taxes.

Sacred Heart believes it can overcome the challenges it faces.

In a recent interview with a Minneapolis television station, Rev. Kutek said "We will resurrect from the ashes, and we will live. We have been here for 107 years, and we will still be here. We are not giving up."

Mia Receives Gift of Roszak Collection

by Cassie Packard

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) received a gift of 727 drawings, 63 prints, and three photographs by Polish American artist Theodore Roszak, who is perhaps best known

for his postwar pivot from balanced, geometric Constructivism to jagged, cosmic biomorphism more aligned with Surrealism. The nearly 800 works on paper, which were donated by the artist's daughter Sara Roszak, encompass stylistic shifts across the artist's long career: the works span from 1920, well before Roszak completed his studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, to 1980, a year before he died from heart failure at the age of 74.

Rozzak (May 1, 1907 – Sept. 2, 1981) was born in Posen, Prussia (German Empire), now Poznań, Poland, as a son of Polish parents, and emigrated to the United States at the age of two. From 1925 to 1926 he studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1930 he won the Logan Medal of the Arts, then moved to New York City to take classes at the National Academy of Design with George Luks and at Columbia University, where he studied logic and philosophy.

Rozzak established a studio in New York City in 1932 and worked as an artist for the Works Progress Administration during the depression before going back to

Chicago to teach at the Art Institute. He taught at Sarah Lawrence College throughout the 1940s and 1950s and at Columbia University from 1970 to 1973. He was a participating artist at the *documenta II* in Kassel 1959 and at the *Venice Biennale* in 1960. Roszak's sculpture, at first closer to



Theodore Roszak, "The Furies of Folly Cove" (1952), black and sepia ink and wash on paper, 38x60 in., Gift of the estate of Theodore Roszak, Minneapolis Institute of Art (all images courtesy the Minneapolis Institute of Art; © Estate of Theodore Roszak; Courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York, NY)

Constructivism and displaying an industrial aesthetic, changed after around 1946 to a more expressionistic style.

Rozzak was affiliated with the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the American Academy in Rome, and the National

Academy of Design. He served on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 1963 to 1969. He received the Logan Medal of the Arts (1930), a Tiffany Foundation Fellowship (1931), and the Eisendrath Award of the Art Institute of Chicago (1934). Roszak was also an accomplished violinist and liked to use musical references in his artworks. Roszak died in New York City, where he lived.

DID YOU KNOW? Some 10 million people of Polish ancestry live in America, although different estimates range from nine to 12 million. Of that number, no more than 10 percent speak Polish at home. Americans of Polish ancestry have been variously referred to as Polish Americans, American Polonians, Ampolonians, Am-Pols, PolAms or even American Poles.

Out of the Polish Kitchen and Into America

Flavor of Poland is a new culinary travel series about Poland which first premiered on public television channels across the United States in January 2020. The series is the first of its kind by virtue of its exclusive focus on Poland, allowing viewers to immerse themselves into the country's history, culture, and, most importantly, its culinary heritage.

The series presents Poland as an open and welcoming country with European class and style, focused on its modernity and progression, while honoring its rich culture and national legacy. The program portrays a positive image of Poland and was created to celebrate the estimated 10 million Polish Americans currently living in the United States.

In *Flavor of Poland*, host Aleksandra August, an American actress of Polish descent, returns to her native country to discover her roots and to answer all of the questions her friends in the United States have asked about her homeland. In every episode, she takes viewers to a new area of the country, where she uncovers the charm of the local culture while revealing the secrets of each region's cuisine.

Tell us about yourself.

I am a Polish American actress, writer and producer. I was born in Poland in a small town called, Tuchów, just about an hour east of Kraków. I emigrated to the States with my family when I was three years old and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. I am a graduate of Northwestern University, where I received my acting training. I've been working in the world of theater, television, film and marketing here in Chicago and Los Angeles since my time at school.

You were born in Poland. How does the country and its traditions figure into your life?

I left Poland at a very young age (before I was old enough to even remember it well), but its traditions and culture remained a big part of my life.

My parents, grandparents and relatives took great care to instill Polish customs, the language, the history and the cuisine into my life. Spending time with family I was always expected to speak Polish (thanks to that I



Flavor of Poland host Aleksandra August.

can still speak it fluently today!). I attended Polish school on Saturdays where I learned grammar, literature and history. At home I was my mom's right hand in the kitchen for all holidays and special occasions – it was a great way to learn about Polish food traditions... and learn how to cook!

How did *Flavor of Poland* come about?

We noticed there was a great lack of understanding about true Polish cuisine and culture in the United States. At the same time, it's safe to say that Americans know Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, and many other cuisines. We wanted to change the perception of our Polish cuisine in the States and create a better understanding of what it truly is. The producers of the show at Independent Film Factory are all native Poles.

Our cuisine is more than just pierogi, kielbasa, and vodka. Our history is very long and very interesting, and we have so many beautiful traditions that we haven't promoted around the world yet.

With *Flavor of Poland*, we've created a platform where American TV audiences can travel across the various regions of Poland and learn about that history and those traditions, while at the same time learn about Po-

land's real flavors – both old and new.

Besides cuisine, what is the show's objective?

We want to paint a real picture of Poland, a rich and beautiful nation that has not only survived a difficult history, but also flourished.

The show is focused on food and travel on an almost 50/50 split because, in order to truly understand the flavor of a cuisine, you have to understand its background too. That is why we take our audiences on a tour of each region of Poland that we focus on in the series before we go back to the kitchen to show them how to recreate its dishes.

How do Americans perceive Polish cuisine?

Most Americans have not been exposed to most of Polish cuisine. The food most associated with the country are just the surface level sampling of our cuisine. Polish cuisine is a lot lighter, more nutritious and older in its traditions than people in the United States realize.

Poland has been characterized as the 'heart of Europe' and the 'crossroads of cultures' because of the many traditions which

to the country of her ancestors to uncover its beauty, history, traditions and cuisine. As she learns about Poland so does the audience. This is my true story.

What assistance has *Flavor of Poland* received which made producing the show possible?

There is a very long list of individuals who have contributed to the success and the magic of this series. From chefs, restaurateurs, city and government officials around Poland, tour guides, history experts, and everyday citizens who came forward to tell us about the charm of their part of Poland, all have contributed to making *Flavor of Poland* a story that people love and enjoy.

That said, we obviously wouldn't be able to move forward with production had it not been for a few incredible sponsors who believed in our team and backed this project financially. Our biggest thanks go out to the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union as well as Baron Chocolatier. We also thank Lot Polish Airlines and Ernest Rust. As the saying goes – "Teamwork makes the dream work."

"Our cuisine is more than just pierogi, kielbasa, and vodka. Our history is very long and very interesting, and we have so many beautiful traditions that we haven't promoted around the world yet."

collide here. How has that influenced the way you share Polish cooking with your audience?

The foods of Poland are a melting pot of influences from ethnic groups which have settled there, such as the Lithuanians, Russians, Macedonians, Germans, Jews, and more! Its border nations have this same mix of influences.

How did you end up as our guide through Poland and Polish cuisine in *Flavor of Poland*?

I am a professional actress. When the Independent Film Factory came up with the concept for a culinary travel show, I auditioned and got the part. The show's concept is also my story. *Flavor of Poland* tells the story of an American girl who travels back

How can we watch the program?

Flavor of Poland is an American Public Television series. It is co-produced by Chicago's, WTTW, one of the major public television stations in the United States. The American Public TV (APT) network has individual stations in all U.S. cities that run their own, individual programming based on local viewer preferences; however, there is one channel that airs the same schedule almost nationwide called Create TV.

Flavor of Poland airs on Create TV every Monday at noon and 4:00 p.m. EST. For those who don't have access to public television, the series is also available for viewing online within U.S. territory via the PBS website.

THE POLISH CHEF

Late Summer Treats for the Grill or Frying Pan

by Robert Strybel

It is around this time of the year that the parade of picnic food starts to wear thin. Here are some classic late summer recipes to slowly start bringing you back into cooler-weather cooking. Smaczne!

GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z rusztu): Cut smoked kielbasa into 3"-4" serving-sized pieces or use the smaller grillers (wiener-size Polish sausage) available in some places. Cook on charcoal or electric grill well away from flame, turning frequently, until evenly browned on all sides. These can also be cooked on a rotisserie. They can be kept warm and ready to serve in an electric roaster. Go-togethers include; prepared horseradish, Polish-style Sarepska or similar German-style Düsseldorf brown mustard, dill pickle and rye bread.

FRIED KISZKA (kaszanka smażona): Slice kiszka 1/2" – 3/4" thick and fry in a little lard, butter or oil until heated through and crusty-browned on both sides. Go-togethers include brown mustard, horseradish, fried onions, dill pickles and sliced tomato. Provide brown mustard and/or horseradish and rye bread.

POLISH GROUND CUTLET (kot-

let mielony): Soak 2 stale bread rolls (app. 1/4 lb) in water or milk until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run drained soaked bread and onions through meat-grinder or process briefly. Combine with 2-1/4 lbs ground meat (pork, pork & beef or pork, beef & veal mixture), add 2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients, season with salt & pepper, a bit of garlic powder and a pinch of marjoram. Form thick oblong patties and brown to a nice golden-brown on both sides in hot fat, then reduce heat, cover and simmer on low another 10 min or so until fully cooked. Serve as a main course or in a crusty bun with mustard, mayonnaise, dill pickle, or tomato slice.

BREADED PORK CUTLET (kotlet schabowy): Cut bones away from center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" – 1/3" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets and. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil until fully cooked, drain on paper towel. These can be kept warm until needed in an elec-

tric roaster. Serve as a main course with dilled new potatoes salad or in a crusty bun or between slices or rye bread with mustard, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato or sliced dill pickle.

BREADED CHICKEN-BREAST CUTLET (kotlet z piersi kurczaka): Pound chicken half-breast thin with meat mallet, sprinkle with salt, pepper and a faint pinch of marjoram, dredge in flour dip in egg wash (egg beaten with equal amount of water) and roll in plain dry breadcrumbs, pressing in breading and shaking off loose, excess crumbs. Fry in butter, lard or oil to a nice golden brown on both sides, drain on paper towel and serve as a main course with dilled whole potatoes and mizeria (see below). These can also be served fast-food-style on a bun.

CUCUMBERS & SOURCREAM (mizeria): Peel cucumbers and slice thin. Toss with thinly sliced onion (roughly 1 small onion to 2-3 cucumbers). Salt & pepper, sprinkle lightly with vinegar and sugar and toss. Since cucumbers and sour cream turn very soupy, it's best to dish out portions with slotted spoon (to drain off excess liquid) and spoon some liquefied sour cream over each portion as needed. Garnish with some fresh finely chopped dill if desired.

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PONDERING POLE

About sausage “the way they used to” make it.

by Ed Poniewaz

I made another trip (pilgrimage) to Pulaski Polka Days in Pulaski, Wisconsin this past July, and it was just great. Green Bay, the state of Wisconsin, the town of Pulaski, the Assumption Blessed Mary Virgin Church, the hopping polka music, dancing, food, and activities were all excellent. The festival brought loads of folks not only from the immediate area but from many other parts of the country as well. My wife Sue and I hooked up with our friends Andy and Liz from California.

If you weren't there this year, please try to go in 2022. One thought that kept popping (hopping) into my mind was how much a part of Americana this festival is even while incorporating the “foreign” elements. Americana. It is us; I love it.

I had a conversation the other day about how many long-time favorite establishments in the St. Louis metro area have closed and how many are still going strong. Dwelling on the latter, it just happens that I was sent a story written by Stephen Jendryk of *The Republican* newspaper out of Springfield, Massachusetts about the **Blue Seal** brand of

kielbasa that is still being made in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Continuing for over 100 years, “Chicopee’s flagship product is back in the stores. The Chicopee Provision Co. survived a massive water line break, a factory reconstruction, and the COVID-19 crisis.”

From the very beginning, it was the enterprising Stanislaw Sitarz who came up with the formula for making the Blue Seal kielbasa.

The pure pork, lean beef, and the delicate blend of spices, the nonpareil recipe was a stroke of pure genius, a new kind of sausage – lean, not greasy, catering to the American taste. It was a product to tempt the palate of all Western Massachusetts.

In 1920, Sitarz went from a mere sausage shop and partnered with his brother Jacob and Bartomiej Partyka to create the Sitarz Manufacturing Co. Through a series of name changes, expansions, marketing and financial strategies, and additional investors, Sitarz Manu-

facturing persevered. Now called the Chicopee Provision Company, they weathered depressions, recessions, a variety of competitors, and other challenges throughout the '30s, '40s, and '50s to “stay the course” and survive to this day still providing the same, first-rate, and delicious product. As summed up by Stephen Jendryk:

“How many times have you heard people remark that they don’t make things the way they used to? There is a place they still do.”

Sto lat to you, Blue Seal!

If you want to order some online, here is the link bluesealkielbasa.com or check out the website for a store near you that carries it. I’m going to order some, and I hope you do too.

ANOTHER PLACE THEY STILL “MAKE THINGS THE WAY THEY USED TO.” I would be remiss if I did not mention our hometown sausage king, **Piekutowski’s European Style Sausage**. I have mentioned them before and I’m having

a plate of it now while finishing this column.

Piekutowski’s, owned and operated by the family’s fourth generation, is 75-plus years in business and in St. Louis it is billed as “hand-made artisan” sausage because it is done with care and quality that cannot be replicated. That, I believe. From their website:

There are ways to make our sausage faster or cheaper, but we are committed to using the finest cuts of meat, natural casings, quality spices and a slow hickory smoke. Because we are unwilling to sacrifice our heritage by cutting corners, our sausage has a difference you can taste.

If you would like to order some of the smoked kielbasa (the *krakowska* is outstanding as well), the website is www.piekutowskis.com. My recipe for the best experience: take it out of the vacuum pack, peel off the casing, cut it in half inch sections, and boil in water for about ten to fifteen minutes. Drain and savor. None other than Saint John Paul II asked for some on his second visit to the city as pope. It is heavenly, trust me.

Polish or not?

A tale of two Borowiaks, Tony and Jeff.

Tony Borowiak is one of the members of the American pop music group All4One. You might remember All4One’s singles “I Swear” and “I Can Love You Like That” played frequently during the mid-1990s. The melodies are in my head right now. Great songs, Grammy winning group, and Borowiak is Polish and German on his father’s side according to Ethnicelebs.com.

Jeff Borowiak was part of the mighty UCLA tennis program that included Jimmy Connors and Haroon Rahim. Jeff was an NCAA Champion for the Bruins, is an accomplished musician, won five titles in his professional tennis career, and (this is the one I find most fascinating) was also indirectly involved in the formation of the rock group Metallica. The story is, Borowiak invested in his friend and Danish tennis player Torben Ulrich’s son’s band called Lars Rocket, which later evolved into what we know as Metallica. Jeff Borowiak, Polish or not?

DEMI MOORE is an American actress who made it to the top despite what she went through in her youth. Suffice it to say she had a rough childhood and adolescence, but in her teen years it was a Polish connection that pushed her onto a path of stardom and fame. In an article on *The List* website, when Demi was sixteen, her goal was to become an actress and her neighbor was Natasha Kinski.

Though she is German by nationality, Natassia Kinski, according to ethnicelebs.com is Polish and German.

THE ACADEMY missed it on this one for Best International Feature Film. I watched and recommend a Romance/Thriller movie I found on Amazon Prime, made in The Peoples Republic of China, called *Touch*. Released in 2020, it is about a western woman named Fei Fei, who is married to a rich and important Chinese man. They throw lavish parties and live in a very large

and exquisitely furnished home. After a strange meeting, she starts getting regular massages from a masseuse named Bai Yu, who is blind. As described in the plot summary on imbd.com, “when they come together in an intense love affair, they find demons they’ve created implode in a clash of violent impulses.”

You can make your own determination on the story leading up to and around the demons and impulses, but it was the acting, script, cinematography, and direction that was the most satisfying for me. The main character Fei Fei is played by **Aleksandra Szczepanowska** who also wrote, directed, and produced the film. She has “been the only western woman to make an independent film in the People’s Republic of China.” What delighted and intrigued me most was seeing this European woman speaking in Chinese. Never seen anything like it.

In an interview from the Film Daily website (filmdaily.com), Szczepanowska discusses her life before becoming a film maker, what inspired her to get into the film industry, what are her favorite directors, favorite movies, and what creative processes she employs. To get more insight on her, I recommend you read the whole interview.

Nowhere in that piece or anywhere else can I find what is her ethnicity or nationality. One of her favorite films is *Ida* (written and directed by Pawel Pawlikowski) and she enjoys listening to Jan Garbarek (well-known Norwegian jazz musician whose father is Polish). She has the look and name, but is Aleksandra Szczepanowska, Polish or not?

AND NOW, in my attempt to find Polish roots in everyone, here is a projected conversation with Heaven’s Gatekeeper:

St. Peter: I see you wrote a book.
Pondering Pole: Yeah, I did. Whad’ya think?

St. Peter: I read it, I liked it. A few typos, grammatical errors, and some of the months are missing ... but overall, it is full of information, optimism, and spirit and it is evident you had a wonderful group of interested and supportive people helping you and encouraging you along the way.

Pondering Pole: That’s true. Thanks. By the way, are you Polish, or not?

THINKING AHEAD. This month especially, God bless all those that labor and — apparently, — we need even more laboring. For that matter, if you are young and energetic and looking for another career, something different, perhaps there is an old favorite establishment in your area with thoughts about turning over the keys to someone else. That someone can be you. Think about it.

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.

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



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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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IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Teodor "Ted" Polak, Defended the good name of Poland, Polonia and Poles

by Robert Strybel

As Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent, it has been my good fortune to personally meet many outstanding Poles visiting Poland. Dr. Teodor Polak, who passed away recently in his California home, was foremost amongst them. In addition to working as a surgeon and raising a beautiful family, he devoted considerable time, energy and his own money to defend the good name of Polish people everywhere.

Dr. Polak belonged to several PolAm organizations including the Southern California Division of the Polish American Congress. In 1976, he persuaded it to set up a Polish American Anti-Defamation Committee 1978 and became its chairman.

After Jews complained that only they had the right to use the term "anti-defamation," Dr. Polak's group renamed itself the Polish-American Defense Committee.

In those early days, the group had to deal with insulting "Polish jokes" being openly peddled by TV comedians. There were books of anti-Polish "humor," and some school teachers actually repeated such jokes in the classroom. It's no wonder that many young people dreaded admitting they were Polish so as not to evoke snickers amongst classmates.

Dr. Polak deplored the fact that the average American had heard about the Jewish Holocaust but knew nothing about the Polish genocide. In 1987, he launched a campaign to add the Polish Genocide to the California Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide. After over a year of effort, the State Board of Education recognized the German murder of 3 million Polish Christians as a genocide and added two-page summary of the persecution of Poles.

The committee then tackled the term "Polish concentration camp," which regularly appeared in the

press and other media. Thanks to Dr. Polak's efforts, 30 years ago, *The Los Angeles Times* warned against using "Polish concentration camp" and said the camps should be referred to as "German." It took the Associated Press and *New York Times* another 20 years to update their style guides to read "death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland."

As a boy, Polak belonged to the patriotic youth group Orleńta (Eaglets), and after the war broke out served the AK (Polish underground) as a liaison boy. He later fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, war-time Europe's biggest anti-German insurrection.

Dr. Polak served as the committee chairman for 38 years, and his efforts were acknowledged by Poland which decorated him with the Commodore's Cross of the Order of Merit. He was one of a kind, always ready and willing to help, advise and act in defense of our heritage and will be sorely missed by our Polonia.

Leon Waszak, Polish Air Force Veteran

LOS ANGELES — Until his death on May 27, Leon Waszak was among a handful of participants of the Second World War surviving into our times, giving testament to a generation that sacrificed themselves not only for Poland but for the freedom of others.

Waszak contributed by serving in the Polish Air Forces (based in England) during that conflict. He was receiving his training as a fighter pilot when the war came to a close in the Spring of 1945. His service in England, which began in 1944, continued until all Polish military formations in England were eventually disbanded in 1948.

During that time, he met his wife Kazimiera, who was also serving in the Polish Air Force; this led to their marriage soon afterward. After entering civilian life, they briefly lived in London before immigrating to the United States and Southern California, and becoming U.S. citizens. He became a fixture locally as

an active member of the Polish Air Force Association (Pacific Wing), a veteran's organization for over 60 years, serving as its treasurer.

Waszak joined a Polish Underground unit in 1943, which was active in Belgium and Northern France. Together with his father and brother, and supported by a few close friends, they operated behind enemy lines and contributed to the war effort, as did many Poles throughout Europe in one of the lesser-known (or more shadowy) episodes of the war.

Although Waszak was born in France, he was always a Polish national (French birth did not confer citizen status when he was born in 1926); hence his identity as a Pole was constant. When he enlisted in the Polish military in the city of Lille in October of 1944, he was accepted on that basis. Although Poland's exile government based in London lost its support from the British government and other West-

ern entities (the Polish Communist government was firmly in control back in the homeland), Leon's service in the Air Force continued. Technically under British high command, the Polish units operated independently of the regime in Poland until they eventually disbanded in 1948.

Like many Poles serving in England, he chose to stay there rather than being repatriated back to Poland as many ex-military did during that time. Years later, he would accompany the still-alive members of the former Polish government-in-exile and a contingent of other invited veterans to witness a ceremony in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw. The occasion was the return of the old military standards (regimental flags) to Poland after being kept away in exile, signifying recognition that Poland broke away with its Communist past.

Mary J. Mycek, Award-Winning Pharmacologist

Dr. Mary J. Mycek passed away on Wednesday June 2, 2021 at Bishop Wicke Nursing Home in Shelton, Conn. She was born in Shelton December 19, 1926, to the late John and Joanna (Dziuba) Mycek.

Mycek received an Artium Baccalaureus Degree in Chemistry from Brown University in 1948, and in 1955, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Yale University. After spending two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Rockefeller University in New York City, she took a position at the New York State Psychiatric Institute of Columbia University in the laboratory of Dr. Heinrich Waelsch. It was there that she identified and named the enzyme, transglutaminase, and characterized the reaction it catalyzed. Transglutaminase is now recognized to be a family of enzymes that includes Factor XIII in blood coagulation.

In 1961, she accepted a position in the Department of Pharmacology at the Seton Hall College of Medicine, which became the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - New Jersey Medical School

(Newark Campus). As of July, 2013 it is a part of Rutgers University. She rose to the rank of professor and, after retiring in 1991, continued in an adjunct capacity for thirteen years. Her research centered on the mechanism of tolerance to barbiturates in the brain. She was the mentor for two Ph.D. students.

Professionally, Dr. Mycek authored many publications among them three editions of the widely used *Lippincott* review text, Pharmacology, which has been translated into many languages. She served on several study sections at the National Institutes of Health, and chaired the Committee on Pharmacological Sciences in 1980-82. She was the secretary of the Biochemical Pharmacology Discussion Group at the New York Academy of Sciences from 1961-71. In addition, she was an *emeritus* member of the honorary science fraternity, Sigma Xi, the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, chairing its Sub-committee on Women in Pharmacology, and

the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

In 1994, she was presented with the Outstanding Woman in Science Award from the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Women in Science. She was a member of The Yale Club of New York, Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America and the Kosciuszko Foundation. Among her other activities she particularly enjoyed her association with the Derby Historical Society, where she was a Life Member, serving on its board of directors and editing its Newsletter for 10 years. The Society honored her with its Dorothy Larson Award in 2004.

At various times Dr. Mycek volunteered in the cardiac rehabilitation unit of Griffin Hospital, in the Vertebrate Paleontology Section of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale and Recording for the Blind in New Haven.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael's Church, 75 Derby Ave. Derby, CT 06418, or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

Former Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Dennis T. Gorski, the former Erie County Executive, known for being hard working, knowledgeable and independent, died at his home in Cheektowaga on July 4, 2021, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He was 76.

"I am very saddened to learn of the passing of former three-term Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski. County Executive Gorski set the standard of leadership and good government all county executives following aspire to attain. A Marine who served in Vietnam, county legislator, NYS assemblymember, and later in life, Cheektowaga Town Justice, he led a life of public service that is unmatched locally," said current Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz.

Running as an independent, Gorski was the first Democrat to be Erie County Executive, 27 years after the office was created. He was sworn in January 1988.

In 1998, Gorski was named County Leader of the Year by *American City & County* magazine.

Prior to that, Gorski was a N.Y. state assemblyman in the 146th District. The son of former Buffalo Common Council President Chester Gorski, Dennis first entered politics when he was elected to the Erie County Legislature in the 3rd District.

Gorski has been credited with bringing the Empire State Games to Buffalo in 1985 and 1986.

He participated in many organizations including the Professional Businessmen's Assn., Ss. Peter & Paul Athletic Club, Chopin Singing Society, VFW Cheektowaga Post 2429, the Pett-Toomey Post of the Marine Corps League, and the 1st Marine Division Assn.

He had arranged for the appropriation of funds for the Casimir Pulaski Cultural and Performing Arts Center in Cheektowaga Town Park.

In 1992, Gorski ran against and lost to Republican Jack Quinn for Henry Nowak's seat in the United States House of Representatives to serve in the 103rd United States Congress.

In 2009, Gorski lost the County Executive race to Joel Giambra. He went on to work in the healthcare industry before announcing his candidacy for Cheektowaga Town Justice in 2014. He won the race and served a four-year term deciding not to run again in 2018.

"I once called Dennis Gorski the 'gold standard' of public service," said Erie County Democratic Party Chairman Jeremy Zellner. "... (he) was devoted to ideals above ideology, and believed in government that was at once fiscally responsible and compassionate."

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Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$40.00. (\$25.00 for students) made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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

POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

- SEPT. 2**
 - The Burgh Boys — Elks. Cranberry Twp., Pa. 7-11 (412) 260-9725
- SEPT. 3**
 - Lenny Gomulka / Energy / Steve Meisner / Kosmix — Hilton Doubletree. Mars, Pa. 1:30-1:00 a.m. (800) 867-6552
 - Eddie Forman — Town Gazebo. Westbrook, Conn. 5-7
- SEPT. 4**
 - Dennis Polisky / Swingmasters / Golden Tones — Czestochowa Shrine. Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
 - IPA Tribute Band / Polka Family / Mon Valley Push / Klancnik & Friends — Hilton Doubletree. Mars, Pa. 11a.m.-1a.m. (800) 867-6552
- SEPT 5**
 - Kosmix / The Beat / The Boys / John Gora / Polka Country Musicians / Ray Jay — Hilton Doubletree Mars, Pa. 11 a.m.-1:30 a.m. (800) 867-6552
 - Jimmy Sturr — PLAV Pine Island, N.Y. 2-5 (845) 258-4168
 - Eddie Forman / John Stevens — Czestochowa Shrine Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
- SEPT. 6**
 - DynaBrass — St. Savas Grove. Parma, Ohio. 3-7 (216) 496-0223
 - John Gora — Czestochowa Shrine. Doylestown, Pa. 12-4 (215) 345-0600
 - Lenny Gomulka — Gateway Clipper. Pittsburg, Pa. 12:30-4 (412) 355-7980
 - Polka Family / John Gora / Robbie Lawrence — Czestochowa Shrine Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
- SEPT. 11**
 - Heroes / DynaBrass — Czestochowa Shrine Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
 - Special Delivery — Explore Art! Festival. Seymour Place, Batavia, N.Y. 1:45-2:45.
 - Special Delivery — Dozynki (Polish Harvest) Festival, Corpus Christi Church, Buffalo, N.Y. 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- SEPT. 12**
 - Polish American String Band / TKO — Czestowchowa Shrine Doylestown, Pa. 12:45-8 (215) 345-0600

- John Stevens — Epiphany of Our Lord Annandale, Virg. (703) 573-3986
- Polish Connection — Pacelli Panacea. Stevens Point, Wisc. 11-5 (715) 252-1149
- Joe Stanky — VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 650-0436
- Doctor Kielbasa — Oktoberfest St. Paul, Miin.
- Eddie Forman — Polanka Picnic Grounds. Adams, Mass. 1-5 (413) 743-0577
- SEPT. 18**
 - John Stevens — WVIA TV. Pittston, Pa. show taping (570) 826-6144
 - Live Wire — State Fairgrounds. Chipewewa Falls, Wisc. 7-11 (715) 723-0331
- SEPT. 19**
 - George Tarasek — VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 650-0436
- SEPT. 23**
 - Special Delivery. Polka Buzz TV show recording. Pott's Banquet Hall. Buffalo, N.Y. 7:00 p.m. (716) 826-6575
- SEPT. 24**
 - Eddie Forman — St. Stan's. Fall River, Mass. 5-9 (508) 672-0423
- SEPT. 25**
 - Polka Family — American Legion. Hackettstown, N.J. 1-5 (908) 852-9878
 - DynaBrass — PACC. Uniontown, Pa. 6-10 (724) 438-0292
 - John Stevens — Mountain Creek Resort. Vernon, N.J. (973) 827-2000
 - Doctor Kielbasa — Klockow Brewing. Grand Rapids, Mich. 3-7 (218) 999-7224
 - Kosmix — Penn Brewery. Pittsburgh, Pa. 8:30-11:30 (412) 237-9400
- SEPT. 26**
 - John Stevens — Mountain Creek Resort. Vernon, N.J. (973) 827-2000
 - Golden Tones — VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 650-046
 - DynaBrass — St. Benedict's Grove. Mohnton, Pa. 2-6 (610) 856-1006
- SEPT. 30**
 - Mike Surratt — Leiderkranz. Reading, Pa. 6-10 (610) 373-3982
- OCT. 1**
 - John Stevens — VFW. Mifflingburg, Pa. (570) 966-9254
 - Live Wire — Bridge Up Brewing. Fish Creek, Wisc. (920) 743-2300
- OCT 2**
 - John Stevens — Liederkranz. Reading, Pa. (610) 373-3982
 - Live Wire — Grand Lake Grille St. Cloud, Minn. 6-10 (320) 654-1811

SEPTEMBER POLKA BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-noon, and on the web at www.987jack.fm. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

1	Gil Ziemski	1939	5-9-15	Polka Promoter	Md.
1	Bobby Calvert	1951		Musician (Original TBC)	Pa.
1	Dave Miesowicz	1956		Musician (Special Delivery, Bedrock Boys)	Buffalo, N.Y.
1	Don Ptak	1937		Musician / Vocalist (Casinos)	Chicago
2	Ed (Whitey) Pawola	1931	6-29-81	Musician / Vocalist (Naturals)	Chicago
3	Jimmy Weber	1956		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Sounds)	N.J.
3	Polka Patrick			Polka I.J.	
4	Joe Fedorchak	1935	8-28-12	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
5	Eddie Skinger	1926	3-17-15	Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
6	Rich Zebrowski	1960		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee / Composer	Pa.
7	Andy Bozzarelli	1956	5-29-13	Musician (Accordion) Sounds	Pa.
8	Brad Turk			Musician (Drums)	Fla.
9	Joe Swiderski	1928		Musician (Accordion) Naturals	Chicago
9	Johnny Mikos	1971		Musician / Vocalist (Concertina)	Ohio
12	Rich (Sudsy) Cerajewski	1947		Bel-Aire Studio Musician / Bandleader	Chicago
12	Jimmy Mieszala	1952	11-7-11	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
12	Greg Guzevich			Musician (Drummer) / Vocalist	Calif.
13	Ania Piwowarczyk			Musician / Vocalist / Composer	Canada
14	Joe (Zip) Lubovinski	1950	12-10-00	Polka Promoter (Fiedor's Grove)	Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
14	Butch Jasiewicz	1971		Musician / Vocalist / Versa Js	Pa.
15	Robbie Piatkowski	1958		Musician / Vocalist	N.Y.
16	Lenny Gomulka	1950		Bandleader / Musician / Composer / Vocalist	Mass.
18	Danny Mateja	1963		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
19	Rich Kois	1963		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
19	Jack Beachly, Jr.	1946		Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pa.
19	Matt Rosinski			Musician	Mass..
21	Steve Drzewich	1956		Musician	Wisc.
22	Jerry Darlak	1946	9-8-10	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
23	Gary Wawrzyniak	1951	1-25-09	Musician / D.J.	Erie, Pa.
24	Denny Dominick			Musician (Polish-All-Stars)	Pa.
24	Eddie Sienkowski	1948		Musician (E-Z Tones)	Indiana
25	Jimmy Sturr	1941		Bandleader / Musician / DJ / Promoter	Florida N.Y.
27	Roger Lichwala	1945	6-19-13	Musician (Drums) (Golden & New Brass)	Mass.
27	Rich Kurdziel	1946		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.Y., Fla.
27	Vince Aleandri	1941		Musician (Accordionist)	Ga.
28	Walt Solek	1911	4-1-05	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / D.J.	Conn.

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DANCE TIME

Celebrating 50 Years with “Jimmy K” Krzeszewski

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Down-time during COVID did offer polka lovers one wonderful blessing, the opportunity for Jimmy Krzeszewski to record and release a compilation of music celebrating his 50th anniversary in polka music.

It has been 13 years since Krzeszewski has had the time to record, so this gem is far overdue. The CD, titled “Celebrating 50 years of Polka Music,” features Richie Kois, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr, Jack Beachly, and Matt Gury accompanying Krzeszewski for a fantastic variety of polkas. My personal favorite cut is “Put Up Your Dukes Medley” that showcases many Dan Gury & the Dyna Dukes favorites in a trib-



Jimmy K.

ute to the band. The CD presents many familiar songs, both Polish and English lyrics along with a few surprises. One of selected originals “I Don’t Wanna Be” is a nod back to a recording from 1980. Krzeszewski’s history in the world of polkas



Amanda, Christine, Anne, and Jerry Holchuck — Buffalo Polka Booster Picnic

huge variety of polka CDs at events and via his website supporting all genres of polka music.

If you have not gotten your copy of this incredible CD, visit www.jimmykpolkas.com to order yours; you will not regret it. Congratulations, Jimmy, for 50 years in the business and we look forward to seeing you perform some of these tunes live soon.

AND 51 FOR THE BPB. Fontana’s Grove was bursting at the seams as three hundred attendees joined Buffalo Polka Boosters to celebrate a one-year belated 50th anniversary at its annual picnic and celebrate the return of one of Buffalo’s premier polka social clubs for the first time in 17 months.

Special Delivery provided the music for the event and fans were exciting to hear cuts from their most recent release *Lock, Stock, and Barrel*. Although this CD was released in July 2020, COVID restrictions prevented fans from seeing the band over the past year. Many of the tunes from this recent CD have gotten well-deserved air time via DJs across the country and



Ryan, Logan, and Chase Stanczewski of the Concertina Club — Buffalo Polka Booster Picnic

falo polka lovers had their first true get together of 2021. And, the attendance spanned far beyond just members, as we welcomed Mary Ann and Neil Makatenas from New Jersey and the Holchuck family from Elmira, N.Y., along with several other out-of-towners. Neil and Mary Ann, who are DJs on the Polka Jammer, took a few days sightseeing around Western New York as well as attending the picnic. It was a pleasure to chat with them and catch up.

While selling 50/50 tickets, I was lucky enough to meet the Holchuck family who had been in town for a family reunion and made it a point to attend our picnic before they headed out of Buffalo. Christine filled me in on her love of polka music, telling me that she and her father had both spent some time playing with bands in their local area. Christine was a member of Polka Magic while her dad Jerry played with The Joey Augustine Orchestra. We had some fun chats about Lil’ Wally and their love for polka music was absolutely infectious. I look forward to keeping in touch and seeing the Holchucks at

would want their interest and joy of playing the concertina to continue. The group did a fantastic job, and we are so grateful that they shared their talents with us. Members of the Concertina Club are: Logan (14 years old); Chase (13); Ryan (10) Stanczewski; Jason & Benjamin Meder; Casey Kliszak; Matt Durka; and Frank Zeczak. Western New York is lucky to have this eager group of musicians bringing the excitement of polka music to a younger generation.



The Mroz Family — Buffalo Polka Booster Picnic

PUBSKI’S PUB

opened less than a year ago and is already becoming a favorite spot. The Buffalo Touch entertained an overflowing tavern crowd for a Sunday evening of music, laughs, and friendship. Walking into Pubski’s is almost like you are entering a scene from *Cheers* — if you don’t know someone when you enter, you definitely will before you leave. It is a friendly corner bar with drinks and food that will satisfy any appetite. Fans danced, clapped, and requested songs from the long list of hits from the Buffalo Touch.

The band is celebrating more than 25 years in the polka field and recently released *Buffalo Touch*:

2021 so a mini festival has been organized.

This weekend event will take place Nov. 5-6, 2021. Friday night features DynaVersaStickToneAires and Energy, while Saturday showcases Polka Country Musicians, Lenny Gomulka, and Polka Family. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn Rockside, 6001 Rockside Rd., Independence, Ohio. A special room rate of \$88.00 has been secured for this event and you can take advantage of this offer by calling (216) 524-8050 and mentioning USPA Mini Fest to receive your special rate. Make plans now before it’s sold out.



Carol Kubiak, Elizabeth Hejna, and Gerry Kubiak — Pubski’s Pub.



Kim Kacala, Chris Tanski, and Carol Machelski — waving their masks at Pubski’s Pub.

is vast and the songs chosen for this CD reflect his experience.

Krzeszewski began playing when he was just 11 years old and recorded his very first album in 1975. Soon after, he started doing radio shows and writing a column for the *Michigan Polka News*. He has played with Dynabass, the Polish Kid, Brass Express, Toledo Polkamotion, while also filling in over the course of his career with Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones, Polka County Musicians, John Gora & Gorale, and Stephanie among others. He has been the leader of several groups including Polka Experience, Jimmy K & Power Play, Ethnic Jazz, and most recently Jimmy K’s All-Star Band. A well-deserved induction into the Michigan Hall of Fame in 2017 remains a memorable honor for this long-time polka musician. While we have been blessed by his talent, music, and recordings, many recognize him as the face of Jimmy K’s Polkas, selling a

on the Polka Jammer. “Hej Tam Lod Tater,” “How Do you Do?” and “It’s Good to See You” are some favorites that are repeatedly requested. If you haven’t gotten your copy or the chance to see this band live recently, check out their website www.thespecialdeliveryband.com for updated information.

Special Delivery gave this large crowd powerful music to listen to and plenty of reason to dance on a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon. The weather, camaraderie, and joyful atmosphere abounded as Buf-

events in the near future.

While picnic goers were getting their fill of the unlimited food, and Special Delivery took a break, another local group of musicians entertained the crowd. Casey Kliszak has been working with a group called the Concertina Club Band which showcases three young concertina players. These youngsters were being trained by our dearly missed friend Ron Urbanczyk for several years. After the passing of Ron, Casey decided to continue mentoring these boys; he knew Ron

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CDC guidelines will be followed

- **Sun., Sept. 5.** 2:00-6:00 PM, Polka Paul’s Annual Polka Fest, American Legion Fairmont Post 85, 870 River Street, Woonsocket, RI, Free. Bring lawn chairs.
- **Sun., Sept. 26.** Polish Festival, 1:00-5:00 PM, St. Stanislaus Church, Meriden, CT, Call Ada 203-235-6341.



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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ARIZONA



Jeff Piechura was a retired chief of the Northwest Fire District in Tucson, and had also worked for the Sedona Fire Department. He was working for the Coronado National Forest July 10 when he and wildfire pilot Matthew Milled died in a plane crash while fighting the Cedar Basin Fire near Wikieup.

WIKIEUP — A retired fire chief and a U.S. Forest fire pilot have died after their aircraft crashed while fighting the Cedar Basin Fire near Wikieup, July 10.

Bureau of Land Management officials said in a statement that the accident happened around noon while the two-man crew was working to control the fire from above.

One of the men who died was 62-year-old Jeff Piechura, a retired fire chief with the Northwest Fire Department in the Tucson area.

The pilot was 48-year-old Matthew Miller, a fire pilot with Falcon Executive Aviation, Inc, contracted by the U.S. Forest Service, BLM said.

The Cedar Basin Fire was caused by lightning and has burned about 450 acres, according to officials.

CALIFORNIA

PASADENA — The 50th Anniversary Ball of the **Helena Modjeska Art & Culture Club** in Los Angeles will be held Sun., October 10, at the University Club of Pasadena, 175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena.

Highlights include: a gala dinner; presentation of diplomas for the Club from the City, County, and State of California; presentation of the Helena Modjeska Prizes 2021 for Jan Englert and Beata Poźniak; dancing; champagne, wine, & cash bar.

Seating is limited for the evening-attired (black tie) affair. Tickets purchased before Sept. 9 will be \$90.00 per person for members, \$120.00 for guests. After, the price will be \$120.00 for club members, and \$140.00 for guests. To order via PayPal, send payment to Prezes@modjeska.org, plus \$5 per ticket for transaction costs; via the mail, make checks payable to "Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club," send to Maja Trochimczyk, president, 8644 Le Berthon St., Sunland, CA 91040.

More information: Prezes@modjeska.org.

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD — A "\$100 Committee" has been formed to raise funds to support the operations and full restoration of Polonia's National Historic Landmark, **Polish National Home** of Hartford's 19,000-square-foot restaurant, bar, and banquet facility.

The Polish Home has served Polonia since 1930. Its revival, which began several years ago, was cut short by the COVID pandemic.

Committee members hope to raise \$700,000 by obtaining \$100 donations from 2.5% of the Polish American community (approximately 280,000) who live in Connecticut. The "stretch goal" is to raise \$1.4 million in \$100 donations from 5% of the state's Polonia.

First round solicitations will request \$100. Second round will seek \$50 donations, and final round will seek \$20 donations.

The committee will work hand-in-hand with the PNH elected board of directors.

To join the "\$100 Committee" team, contact Robert Kwasnicki, RKwasnicki@cox.net; (860) 264-5927; or write to Constable Rob Kwasnicki, 60 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

Donations may be made by check to the "Polish National Home of Hartford" to the above address, or via the internet at <https://polish-homect.org/restoration-fund/>.

Making Use of Convent Grounds

DETROIT — Students from Wayne State University near St. Josaphat Church have built an urban garden (right) by the former convent, which is now used as the social hall. Proceeds from the garden go to St. Josaphat Church.



The first building of St. Josaphat, a combination church and school, was dedicated February 2, 1890 to serve the Polish community's Sweetest Heart, which was at the time a Polish Catholic Church unsanctioned by the Diocese. In the next decade, the church grew to over 1,000 families under the leadership of Fr. Razadkowski. In response, Razadkowski raised funds to build the current church. The structure opened in 1901, along with a rectory and janitor's home. A school was built in the 1920s.

By 1960, the Polish community that had once attended the church had scattered to the suburbs. The school was closed and demolished, and St. Josaphat struggled with dwindling membership and the upkeep of the aging church. However, the parish began a building rehabilitation program, and it continues to serve the Polish community.

The church — named after St. Josaphat Kuntsevych, a Greek Catholic priest, who became archbishop of Polotsk, Poland, (now Belarus) in 1617 — was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and received historic recognition from the city of Detroit in 1983, and as a Michigan State Historic Site from the state of Michigan in 1985.

On June 19, 2013, a decree from his excellency Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, created the new Mother of Divine Mercy Parish from the clustered parishes of St. Josaphat, Sweetest Heart of Mary, and St. Joseph. St. Joseph Church was separated from Mother of Divine Mercy Parish in October 2016 to form St. Joseph Oratory.

The University of Norte Dame uses St. Josaphat's former rectory to house teaching students assigned to local Catholic schools.

BE PART OF OUR POLISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH SPECIAL REMEMBERING POLETOWN



Josephine Jakubowski prays at the leveled site of her church, the Immaculate Conception Church, in Detroit, Michigan's Poletown neighborhood. She and many others — including The Rev. Joseph Karasiewicz, who defied his archbishop — protested the demolition, but General Motors and the city of Detroit leveled the neighborhood to build new GM Assembly plant. A 29-day sit-in at Immaculate Conception came to an end on July 14, 1981 when police forcibly evicted 20 people from the church, which was founded by Polish immigrants in 1917. (Detroit Free Press photo).

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the demolition of **Detroit's Poletown neighborhood**, razed to make room for a new General Motors Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly plant. The City claimed eminent domain to relocate 4,200 people, and destroy their 1,300 homes, 140 businesses, six churches, and one hospital.

Our October 2021 **Polish American Heritage Month** edition will focus on this tragic violation enacted by private industry and local, state, and federal government agencies.

Why during Heritage Month, you may ask?

The answer is simple: while it is easy to remind ourselves of the accomplishments made by Poles and Polish Americans, we must remember to respect the sacrifices made by our immigrant ancestors and their children. We must remember how much they forfeited to build churches, homes, and businesses. We must remember their tears as they watched demolition crews erase their — and our — history.

If you care about Poles and their ancestors in America, which of late is disappearing at an exponential rate, you will support our efforts keep events like Poletown in the forefront. We cannot do without your help.

Please Return Today!
Cut at the dotted line and mail by out office by **September 15, 2021** to guarantee your place in our special Heritage Month Edition.

For Your Records

DATE _____

AMOUNT _____

CHECK NO. _____

YES! I wish to participate in the **POLISH HERITAGE MONTH EDITION** of the **POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL**. Enclosed, please find a contribution in the amount of:

PLEASE CHECK:

\$10 \$20 \$25 \$50

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YOUR MESSAGE (Use additional sheet if necessary)

MAIL BY **POL-AM JOURNAL HERITAGE MONTH**
SEPTEMBER 15 **P.O. BOX 271**
to: **N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271**

MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL — The **Chopin Society** and Schubert Club will partner to co-present an all-Chopin recital with pianist Evren Ozel on September 12 before he competes at the prestigious XVIII International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

Works to be performed include: "Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49," "Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62, No. 1," "Mazurkas, Op. 56," "Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61," and others.

The event will be held at Ordway Concert Hall, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. Tickets are \$31.00 per seat general admission. The doors will open 30 minutes before the performance. You may sit anywhere in the hall. They are not selling out, using a COVID procedure. Tickets only from the Schubert Club, <https://schubert.org/event/special-presentation-evren-ozel-piano/> or call (651) 292-3268. Free street parking.

OHIO

CLEVELAND — The **Polish-American Cultural Center** unveiled the "Monument of the Eagles" by the artist Andrzej Pityński on the 20th anniversary of the organization.

The ceremony was held August 7, 2021 at the Center at 6501 Lansing Ave.

Poland's Ambassador to Italy, Anna Maria Anders, was among the dignitaries attending this program, which also included dinner and an artistic program.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Pre-sales for the October 6-17 performance "**Remember This: The Lesson of Jan Karski**" are now open to the general public.

In a solo performance, Academy Award nominee David Strathairn (*Good Night, and Good Luck; Nomadland*) portrays World War II hero and Holocaust witness Jan Karski, a messenger of truth who risked his life to carry his harrowing report from war-torn Poland to the White House, only to be disbelieved.

For tickets, visit <https://www.jankarski.net/en>, and click on "Upcoming Events."

The event will be held at the Michael R. Klein Theatre, 450 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20004

This production was created by The Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics at Georgetown University. It was written by Clark Young and Derek Goldman and is directed by Derek Goldman.

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