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TRAVELOGUE
— ADVENTURES IN
POLAND — PAGE 23

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

BEATIFICATION FOR JOHN PAUL II NEXT APRIL? • CHURCH CLOSURES BRINGS REPERCUSSIONS
A POLONIAN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE • FOOD BLESSING — A FAVORITE EASTER CUSTOM • EASTER TREATS MADE EASY
DYNGUS DAY DIRECTORY • A NEW HOME FOR THE PIAST INSTITUTE • AMBER MINING IN POLAND TODAY

“He is not here; for he has risen, as he said.”



Wesołego Alleluja!
Happy Easter

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Matthew 28:1-8

Traditions of a Polish Easter

by Staś Kmieć

Easter is one of the prominent religious observances in Poland and throughout Polonia abroad. While religious ceremonies follow the rituals of the Christian church, Easter celebrations have embedded the rich heritage of native Polish culture.

Growing up Polish in America during the prime of the Polish church – the center of the community and its culture, was a wonderful experience, rich in tradition. Like many ethnic groups, lives and customs were connected to the church and how a particular ethnicity uniquely intertwined its traditions with religion.

Easter is called *Wielkanoc*, which means “Great Night,” having only a religious connotation, unlike its English equivalent which originates from *Ēostre*, the pagan goddess of dawn, spring and fertility. In Polish tradition this is a religious holiday and there is no place for secular fantasies of chocolate and bunnies.

Easter is special with its cherished old customs. From *pączki* and *chruściki* on Shrove Tuesday, to the fragrant yeast dough for Easter *babka*, the aroma that came from the kitchen was magnificent.

But church services, through song and prayer, were at the forefront. Parents instilled the importance of participation and attendance of church worship during Lent: weekly *Stations of the Cross* and Bitter Lamentations – *Gorzkie Żale*.

The uniquely Polish ceremony of *Gorzkie Żale* consists of chanting and texts reflecting on the mystery of Christian redemption and the Passion and death of the Christ. With repetitive motifs, the service consists of evocative hymns focusing on the suffering of Christ, the soul's lament and the dialogue of Mary with the soul.

Holy week customs date back at least 1000 years. On Holy Thursday in Poland it is the custom to visit seven churches; while in the United States the number is three. The Monstrance holding the sacred host stands prominently on the altar, and the altar boy's church bells are replaced with the clip-clop nail-hammering sound of wooden *kolatki* and *terkotki*.

Good Friday (*Wielki Piątek*) is a solemn day of prayer and reflection. Some limit themselves to bread and water, and silence during a portion of the day is required. At the conclusion of the mass, the ritual of homage to Christ on the cross is enacted. A fast occurs from midnight until after the Easter basket has been blessed.

A sepulcher is often built in Polish churches and grottos, where a lifelike figure of Christ is displayed lying in the grave. Soldiers, *harczerze* (boy-scouts) or attendants take turns in guarding the “tomb,” which is elaborately decorated on Easter Sunday, as a remembrance of the Resurrection. In Garfield, N.J., the *górale* from the Podhalan Society traditionally take watch.

On Holy Saturday (*Wielka Sobota*) the sternness of Lent is broken. The women of the household prepare the Easter basket and feast. All preparations had to be completed, so that the women would be free from work for the Easter celebration.

See “Easter Traditions ... page 10



PISANKI AND WYCINANKI MAKING, KURPIE REGION.

Obama Makes Offer to Russia in “Secret” Letter

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The NEW YORK TIMES reported President Obama sent a secret letter to Russia's president in February, suggesting the United States would back off deploying a new missile defense system in Eastern Europe if Moscow would help stop Iran from developing long-range weapons.

The letter to President Dmitri A. Medvedev was hand-delivered in Moscow by top administration officials. It said the United States would not need to proceed with the interceptor system, which has been vehemently opposed by Russia since it was proposed by the Bush administration, if Iran halted any efforts to build nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles.

The officials who described the contents of the message requested anonymity because it has not been made public. While they said it did not offer a direct quid pro quo, the letter was intended to give Moscow an incentive to join the United States in a common front against Iran.

Natalya Timakova, press secretary for Dmitri A. Medvedev, told the Interfax news agency that the letter did not contain any “specific proposals or mutually binding initiatives.” She said the letter was a reply to one sent by Medvedev shortly after Obama was elected.

Obama and Medvedev will meet for the first time on April 2 in London.

See “Offer ...” page 9

Wanda Wilk, Polish Music Patron, Passes

LOS ANGELES—Wanda Wilk, a great patron of Polish music, philanthropist and educator, died in her Los Angeles home, Feb. 18, 2009 after a long illness.

Wilk's extraordinary vision for the promotion of Polish music led to the creation of the Polish Music Center (PMC) at her alma mater, University of Southern California (USC).

Thanks to the endowment jointly made with her husband, Dr. Stefan P.

Wilk (1917-2008), the Polish Music Center has operated on the USC campus under the auspices of the Thornton School of Music since 1985.



WANDA P. WILK
1921-2009

Appointed by the USC Dean of Music, Wilk served as Director of the Polish Music Center for the first ten years of its operations. After retiring in 1996, she continued as the Center's Honorary Director, lending advice and support to the two subsequent PMC directors and

See “Wilk ...” page 10

ALMANAC

April • Kwiecień

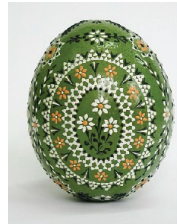
- "Let no one be afraid of the light of Christ!"
— **Pope John Paul II**, Easter 1996
- 2 **2005.** Death of **Pope John Paul II**, 84, born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland.
1880. **Broadway Market**, famed Buffalo Polonia fresh produce and meat market, established.
- 4 1794. Polish forces under **Tadeusz Kosciuszko** are victorious in the battle of Raclawice.
- 5 **NIEDZIELA PALMOWA**
PALM SUNDAY
1804. Birth of **Vincent S. Dziewanowski**, Wisconsin pioneer credited with establishing the city of Pulaski.
- 6 1953. Birth of champion figure skater **Janet (Nowicki) Lynn**.
- 7 1884. Birth of Polish ethnographer and anthropologist **Bronisław Malinowski** (d. 1942), considered the founder of the Science of Social Anthropology.
- 8 1909. Death of international actress **Helena (Modrzejewska) Modjeska**, in Newport, California. (b. 1840)
1943. Mass graves of Polish officers murdered by Soviet security forces are discovered at Katyn. The discovery was announced five days later.
- 9 **WIELKI CWARTEK**
HOLY THURSDAY
- 10 **WIELKI PIĄTEK**
GOOD FRIDAY
*Deszcz w Wielki Piątek, zapełnia każdy kątek
Rain on Good Friday,
brings a good harvest*
- 11 **WIELKA SOBOTA**
HOLY SATURDAY
- 12 **WIELKANOC**
EASTER SUNDAY
Wesołego Alleluja!
He Has Risen!
- 13 **DYNGUS DAY**
WET EASTER MONDAY
1909. Birth of **Stanisław Ulan**, Polish American mathematician who assisted in the development of the hydrogen bomb.
1986. Pope John Paul II meets with Rabbi Elio Toaff, chief rabbi of Rome, at the Synagogue of Rome, the first pope to do so.
- 16 1935. Birth of Polish American singer **Bobby Vinton** ("Blue Roses," "Red Velvet," "Melody of Love.")
1897. First issue of **Straz** (The Guard), official publication of the Polish National Union of America, Scranton, Pa.
- 18 1993. Beatification of **Mother Mary Truszkowska**, founder of the Felician Sisters.
1882. Birth of conductor and composer **Leopold Stokowski**.
- 19 1943. Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins.
- 21 1978. **Krzyszyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz**, born in Warsaw, becomes the first woman to sail around the world alone. The trip took two years and 24 days to complete
- 22 1947. Birth of Massachusetts musician, DJ and vocalist **Billy Belina**.
- 23 **ST. ADALBERT**
*Na święty Wojciech
zniesie jajko bociek.
On St Wojciech's
a stork lays an egg.*
1889. Beatification of Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd **Frances Siedliska**.
- 25 1333. **Casimir the Great** crowned King of Poland.
- 26 1941. No. 307 Polish Squadron of the Royal Air Force arrives in Exeter, England and defends that region for almost two years.
- 28 1925. Birth of panorama painter **Adam Styka**.

This paper was mailed on or before **April 3, 2009**.
The May 2009 edition of the paper will be mailed on or before **May 2, 2009**.

Grace Before
Święcone

Modlitwa przed święconem

Panie Boże Wszchemogący, w dniu dzisiejszym dokonana została śmierć i otworzone zostały bramy wieczności przez Twojego Jednorodzonego Syna. Pobłogosław nas tu zebranych i to święcone, które spożywać będziemy na pamiątkę Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego, abyśmy zasiedli kiedyś do uczty niebieskiej w Twoim Królestwie. Przez Jezusa Chrystusa, Pana Naszego, który żyjesz i królujesz na wieki wieków. Amen.



Lord God Almighty, on this day death has been conquered and the gates of eternity have been opened by your only-begotten Son. Bless us who have gathered here and this hallowfare which we are about to consume in memory of the Lord's Resurrection, that we might someday take part in the heavenly feast in Your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
—*Courtesy Robert Strybel*

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Beatification Next April for John Paul II?

According to reports in the Italian and Polish press, Pope John Paul II will be beatified in April 2010. The reports—citing sources in the Congregation for the Causes of Saints—say that the beatification ceremony could take place on the 5th anniversary of the Pontiff's death: April 2, 2010. At PAJ press time, the Vatican has not announced any such plans, but Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz of Krakow, who served for years as secretary to Pope John Paul II, recently asserted that the investigation of the late Pontiff's cause was nearly complete.

AGAIN: NO "POLISH" CAMPS. Hats off to Alex Strozynski, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, who addressed THE WASHINGTON POST for use of its term "Polish camps" when referring to German concentration camps in Poland. The Post printed an article by Richard Cohen, who when writing about the Holocaust perpetuated a common misstatement in calling Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec and Majdanek "Polish camps."

"No Polish Joke" read the headline of an article in Pakistan's THE NEWS INTERNATIONAL, Thursday, February 12, 2009. And what was

the story about?: The beheading of Polish national Piotr Stanczak in Islamabad by the Taliban.

The next time someone tells you Poles overreact to or are oversensitive to jokes about their ethnicity, ask them what's funny about that headline.

THANK YOU to all our patrons and advertisers who made this special edition possible. We could not have done it without you!

WHAT'S COOKING? Plans for the year include revamping our recipes page on the PAJ's website. In addition to the classics we have posted, we hope to include recipes from our readers. We are especially interested in recipes that have been used in your family for generations (but if it is your creation, please share that, too!).

For the time being, we can only accept recipes that are submitted via e-mail. Now's your chance to share babcia's placek with the world. Send recipes along with your name and address to us at info@polamjournal.com.

ROOTS IN POLAND? President Barack Obama named Julius Genachowski as his nominee for FCC Chairman. Genachowski is a former Harvard Law classmate of Obama's, and was previously the President-Elect's technology adviser. He's credited with assisting Obama's team with their innovative use of the Internet while campaigning last year. His biography says Genachowski is the son of Eastern European Jews who fled during the Holocaust, but do not say which country they lived in.

LAPSUS CALAMI. In last month's "Did You Know," Robert Strybel accidentally said legend has it St. Matthew painted the sacred icon of the Madonna and Child on the table of the Holy Family. It is St. Luke who is said to be the artist.

Apologies to Krystyna Grell, the Polish Museum of America's Associate Librarian. She was accidentally identified her as Justina Siegel in a photograph in Geraldine Balut Coleman's column.

American Council for
Polish Culture

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) extends hearty wishes for a Joyous Easter to all Polonians across the United States

Wesołego Alleluja!

Please join us at an exciting 61st Annual ACPC Convention, Aug. 4-8, 2009 in Hartford, Conn. For info about our dynamic booth at the 2008 Annual Conference for the Social Studies; our scholarship and grants programs; and membership, please see www.polishcultureacpc.org

Thaddeus Mirecki, President Bernadette Wiermanski, 1st V.P.
Peter Obst, 2nd V.P. Gregory Biestek, Treasurer
Marcia Lewandowski, Recording Sec'y

Ninth Annual
Katyn Remembrance

Sunday April 26, 2009



10:30 am *Mass at Holy Rosary Church
408 S. Chester St., Baltimore, MD 21231
(off the 2100 block of Eastern Ave.)*

11:45 am *Coffee/Pastry Reception in Church Undercroft*

1:00 pm *Ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial
Baltimore Inner Harbor East
600 block of President St. (at Aliceanna St.)
Baltimore, MD 21202*

'SHOULD I FORGET THEM, MAY GOD IN HEAVEN FORGET ME.'
ADAM MICKIEWICZ

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**Chrystus zmartwychwstał!
Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!**

Christ is risen! He is truly risen!
We wish all our readers, their families, and their friends a most joyous Easter. May the Good Lord bless you and your family — and may your swieconka be tasty!

We consider you, our subscribers, members of our extended family. Your dedication to our heritage and traditions is proven by your willingness to subscribe to one of Polonia's last independent newspapers. Given today's economic climate, that says a lot.

Like family members, we may not always agree on all issues, but even our disagreements serve to make our family stronger.

Sadly, as generations pass, so do many of our customs. Too often, we willingly give up the practices which define us as Polish Americans. We abandon a hearty identity, only to foolishly begin searching for a new one. We at the Journal urge you not to surrender! You are the children and grandchildren of great people, men and women who sacrificed much to better themselves and their families. Celebrate your heritage and all that is great about it.

Easter is a perfect time to do so. Resurrect the traditions which define us, both collectively and individually as Polish Americans.

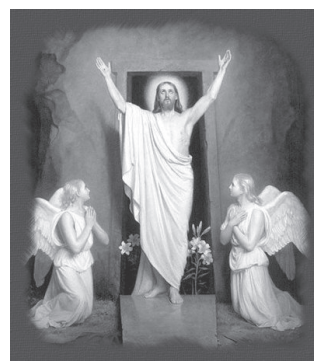
It has been said "God is in the details," and this is never more true than at Easter. Make time to prepare the foods your mother and grandmother made for the Easter basket. Then gather the family and take it for swieconka blessing on Holy Saturday. If it's still possible, celebrate the Resurrection at the Church that holds so many memories for you. These traditions have lasted centuries because they were heartfelt. Do not be the one who forsakes them as little more than "an inconvenience." You owe it to those who came before you as well as to those who will follow.

Wesołego Alleluja!

**Szczęśliwej
Wielkanocy**



MOST REV. EDWARD U. KMIEC
AND THE FAITHFUL OF
THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO



Wesołego Alleluja!
He is Risen!

**REV. JOSEPH
KOZLOWSKI**
St. Hyacinth Church
319 Cedar Swamp Rd.
Glen Head, NY 11545

*Happy Easter from "Echoes of Poland" Radio Program
Featuring the Customs and Traditions of the
Polish People and a Word of Inspiration with*

FR. DENNIS A. BOGUSZ


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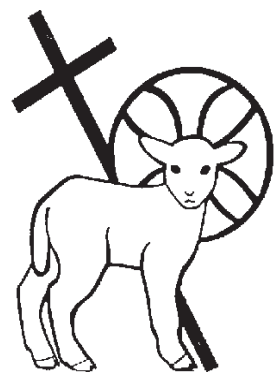
This program features good Polkas, Obereks, and Waltzes



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Oto Baranek Boży
Wesołego Alleluja!



**REV. CANON
JOSEPH L.
SREDZINSKI**

National Chaplain PFA
1001 Harvey Ave.
Greensburg, PA 15601



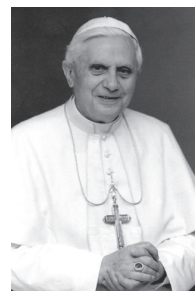
*Pan Prawdziwie
Zmartwychstał
Alleluja!*

**KS. KANONIK
GERALD J.
BORAWSKI**

*Our Lady of the Lakes
R.C. Church
Monticello, Indiana*

Wesoły nam dzień dziś nastał,
którego z nas każdy żądał.
Tego dnia Chrystus zmartwychwstał.
Alleluja! Alleluja!

Our bells ring out in joyous Easter praise!
Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!
He is truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!



May the Risen Christ give you His abundant blessings of Easter joy ... love ... peace ... to you and your loved ones. Blessed Easter Days to All! Jezu ufam tobie!



"... this deep gratitude for a gift of Divine Mercy is uppermost in my heart in spite of all."
—POPE BENEDICT XVI

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"The Lord is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!"
*May the Risen Lord fill your hearts and lives
with Faith, Hope and Love!*



"Chrystus zmartwychwstał! Alleluja, Alleluja!"
*Niech zmartwychwstały Pan oświeca Was
światłem wiary, nadziei i miłości!*



2009 EASTER SCHEDULE

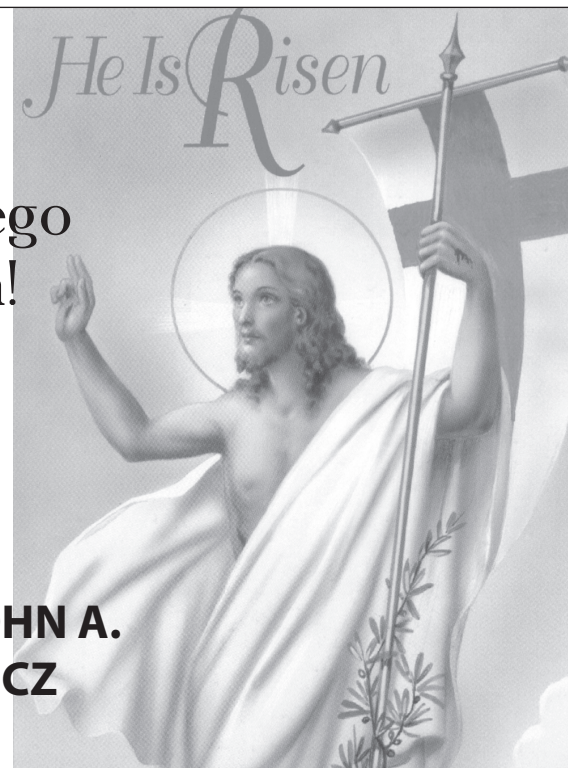
- APRIL 5: PASSION SUNDAY** - Blessing of Palms at each Mass.
- APRIL 9: HOLY THURSDAY** - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM.
- APRIL 10: GOOD FRIDAY** - Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 3:00 PM. Stations of the Cross in English & Polish at 7:00 PM.
- APRIL 11: HOLY SATURDAY** - Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:30 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Tomb, Confession & Blessing of food all day. Divine Mercy Novena begins.
- APRIL 12: EASTER SUNDAY** - Resurrection Procession and Mass at 8:30 AM in Polish. 12:30 PM Mass in Polish. Masses in English at 10:30 AM, 2:30 and 5:00 PM.
- MARCH 30: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** - Celebration begins at 2:30 PM with Mass.

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Wesołego
Alleluja!

Happy
Easter

**MSGR. JOHN A.
ABUCEWICZ**
Retired



VIEWPOINTS / Rev. Dr. Czeslaw M. Krysa, SLD

A Polonian Examination of Conscience

Czyli o podaniu się katolickiej polonii

"This isn't really different from our get-togethers!" exclaimed a Texan-born, Methodist convert at one of Polonia's most popular *Wigilia* celebrations.

Not much different? Five years ago, I was surprised. Not today. Most of my parishioners who break wafers don't know that sharing means forgiveness.

Take this: except for a Canadian appearance at a local Dyngus Day extravaganza, most gatherings resemble honky-tonks with vodka and kielbasa replacing beer and nachos.

Media hype over the annual Broadway Market pilgrimages for *placek* and horseradish is presided over by the spring rodent (known as "bunny" by some) and *chruściki* girls with long fuzzy ears. Last Holy Week I asked a twenty-something, crumbed *babka* and kielbasa-bearing couple, if they ever blessed their food. They answered, "What?"

At least there's a Butter Lamb photo op.

Pol Ams that brag in newspapers about eating smoked pork on Good

Friday, pre-Dyngus Day celebrations on that same high-fast day, *Święconka* during Lent, make me think that the only thing the Broadway-Fillmore market lacks is a beer license. Pussy willows have become "Sadie Hawkins" switches, rather than Palm Sunday branches.

Parishioners, who shout at me publicly, saying, "Your Polish, we're American!" make me think why my two parishes weren't merged with the local Anglo church. Perhaps we're Polish-American?

A recent Dunkirk visit of the Polish Genealogical Society revealed that a small handful of participants — in this 90% Polish-sounding surname/maiden name parish — was interested in little or nothing beyond the Great Lake shores.

Others complain that one or two sentences in another language make a liturgy "unwelcoming." As pastor of one of the only two restructured parishes with exclusively Polonia origin, this is mind-boggling. I often think of trying Italian, or — God help us — Latin! Some

ethnic churches now gingerly function as "generic brands," raising the flag of "sensitivity to all." A product a Greek wedding movie may have called, "bland as toast."

Is Easter — and in particular our Polish Easter — giving way to fallaciousness?

Western New York's Polonia's more valued events are, however, welcome outside the confines of the Roman Catholicism: St. John's Eve in a farmer's field, *Szopka* caroling at an art gallery, Summer heritage games Cheektowaga's Town Park, *Wigilia* at an opera house, to mention some. Perhaps this is considered mainstreaming.

Two exceptions are the Polish (now) National Church's *Dożynki* Mass and festival, as well as the Pauline Fathers heroic efforts at Corpus Christi. A Senior's Organization and Contemporary Liturgical Ensemble has found a warm welcome at one Western New York National Parish.

Perhaps it's time to do an old fashioned examination of conscience? As Holy Week draws near, ask yourselves these questions:

- If you are going to down a *kielbasa* with a beer this Dyngus Day, did you take your family to church and have your basket blessed?
- If you are going to dance a wild *oberek* on Easter Monday, did you and/or your family kneel and pray before the Lord's Tomb or venerate his Cross on Holy Saturday?
- If you enjoy all those *placki* and *babki*, did you and/or your family go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion on Easter?
- If you planning on "hootin' n hollerin'" at the bar on Dyngus Day, did you teach someone or learn an Easter hymn in Polish?
- If you enjoy that ham and *boczek* (bacon and eggs) on Easter Sunday morning, did you also collect what you saved in your Lenten sacrifice and fasting and donate it to the poor?
- If you usually plan an egg hunt, did you ever consider adding the Resurrection egg cracking game?
- If you plan on squirting some gal with water or perfume, did you sprinkle your nieces and nephews with holy water on Easter Sun-

day?

- If you plan on switching someone with a pussy willow, did you at least have it blessed on Palm Sunday?
- If you're going out to the market to get some pussy willows, did you ever tap one of your toddlers with one to remind them to be good or have them consider how Jesus was scourged?
- If you going to the Dyngus dance, do you have and play any CDs with Polish Lenten music or Easter Hymns? If not could you find some online?
- If you've been out with the guys during Lent, did you get your kids together to color eggs or make and smoke some *kielbasa*?
- Did you ever "Google" "Polish Easter/eggs," "swienconka," "swiencone," "pisanki," "palm weaving," "Gorzkie Zale," or the like?
- Did you ever tell your grand/children some old-time Easter stories at a fish-fry dinner?
- Did you stop into church after a fish fry at least once during Lent?
- Are you attending a Polish Sunrise Service or Resurrection Mass on Easter Sunday Morning?
- Do you know what *Gorzkie Zale* means?
- Is there a butter Lamb in your Blessed Basket and in the center of your Easter table? Does it sit on a bed greens around it (parsley or spring lettuce)?
- Did you ever encourage your kids to taste some horseradish in memory of Jesus' bitter passion on Easter morning, before they gorge themselves with chocolate?
- Do you plan on visiting one of the Polish American Churches in the old neighborhoods during Holy Week?
- Did you ask a grand/parent what's important about Easter to them?
- Does anyone in your family know how to write a Polish Easter egg (*pisanka*) or weave a palm?
- Did you ever give a toddler a painted egg from Poland?
- Does your family share blessed eggs with/out horseradish before



Easter breakfast/meal?

If you answered "yes" to one-third or more of the above "examination," you are on the way to inspiring meaning in your family. People who inspire meaning live longer than most. If your answers were below one-third, select a few of the above that you can work on yourself and as a family.

Especially as economic times get tough, we really benefit by investing in our heritage. This happens by knowing, celebrating, and not forgetting the value-filled traditions most of us consider "holy." After all, isn't that why we call the week before Easter "Holy Week?" Make it just that for your family. Don't forget to thank *babcia* and/or *dziadek*, *ciocia* or *wujek* for passing this Polish life-style on to you. And give them a big hug from me.



Rev. Dr. Czeslaw M. Krysa, SLD, is an internationally-known scholar and author on Polish customs and traditions. He currently serves as pastor of St. Hyacinth & Hedwig in Dunkirk, N.Y., and is president of the Association of Priests for Polish Affairs of Western New York.



Wesołego Alleluja

MSGR. WALTER J. ZIEMBA

Orchard Lake, Michigan



Happy Easter to all the Kanty Eagles!

REV. MSGR. BERNARD E. WITKOWSKI

Maternity BVM Rectory
9220 Old Bustleton Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Wesołego Alleluja

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FATHER JUSTIN ROSARY HOUR
extends Warm Holiday Wishes to All of Polonia!



Wesołego Alleluja!
Happy Easter!



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Food-blessing – A Favorite Polish Easter Custom

by Robert Strybel

The blessing of Easter food has been practiced in Poland since the 15th century. At Easter time, the Polish soldiers fighting under Napoleon in Samosierra, Spain in the early 19th century, insisted that their holiday foods be blessed. Unfortunately, the Spanish priests back then lacked the proper prayers for the occasion. This is undoubtedly the most popular Polish Easter custom, practiced by some 95 percent of all families in Poland. That is roughly the same percentage that share *opłatek* on Christmas Eve. Both customs were also brought to America by our immigrant ancestors.

Each of the food items in the *święconka* (Easter basket) have a symbolic meaning. You can tell your youngsters about it when assembling the Easter basket they are helping you prepare:

- The white linen or lace napkin that lines the wicker basket may be perceived as the shroud the enclosed the lifeless body of Christ;
- The *Baranek* (Easter Lamb), made of butter or sugar (rock candy), but also of dough, wood, plaster, fleece or even plastic, symbolizes the sacrificial Paschal lamb, in other words Jesus himself, whose banner proclaims the victory of life over death.
- Easter eggs signify new life; just as a chick pecks its way out of its shell, so too Christ rose from His tomb to bring us the promise of eternal life.
- Bread, either a slice of ordinary rye bread or a special small round loaf imprinted with a cross, symbolizes “the bread of life” – a metaphor for God’s grace that



BLESSING EASTER FOOD (*święcenie pokarmów wielkanocnych*): A beloved custom practiced by Polish people everywhere is the blessing of Easter baskets on Holy Saturday.

sustains us.

- Meat and sausage are symbols of the Paschal lamb or Christ resurrected, His victory over death and His promise of eternal life.
- Horseradish is one of the bitter herbs of the Passover which foretold the suffering of Christ on the Cross. It is also symbolic of life in which one must accept the bitter with the sweet.
- Vinegar symbolizes the sour wine (our English word “vinegar” comes from the French “vin aigre” – sour wine) which Jesus was given on a sponge to drink while hanging on the cross.
- Salt symbolizes that which preserves us from corruption and adds zest to daily life.
- Cakes and sweets suggest the sweetness of eternal life: following week’s of Lenten self-denial, they can now be freely enjoyed in

celebration of Christ’s Resurrection.

Over the years, I have noticed how many baskets brought to Warsaw parishes for the blessing have become progressively smaller and more symbolic. Some *święconkas* are tiny wicker baskets that barely fit two or three eggs, a little sugar (rock-candy) lamb, a two-inch piece

of sausage, a slice of *babka* and not much else. But in the Polish countryside, much larger baskets are common.


A similar phenomenon has also occurred in my home state of Michigan. Medium-sized baskets accommodating perhaps half a dozen Easter eggs and a similar quantity of other delicacies were typical in the Detroit area of my childhood. But I was in for a surprise in the late 1970s, when my family spent a couple of years in Bay City, Michigan, a hundred miles to the north.

There, some of the old Polish families, tracing their roots to 19th century immigrants from the Poznań region, took the food-blessing custom quite literally, bringing to church most everything they planned to serve on Easter Sunday. I vividly recall one family that came with a large wicker laundry basket that included a whole ham, loads of *kielbasa*, a few dozen eggs, several coffee cakes and jars of beet horseradish as well as wine whisky and even a case of beer!

The blessed food or hallowfare is known in Polish as “*święcone*”

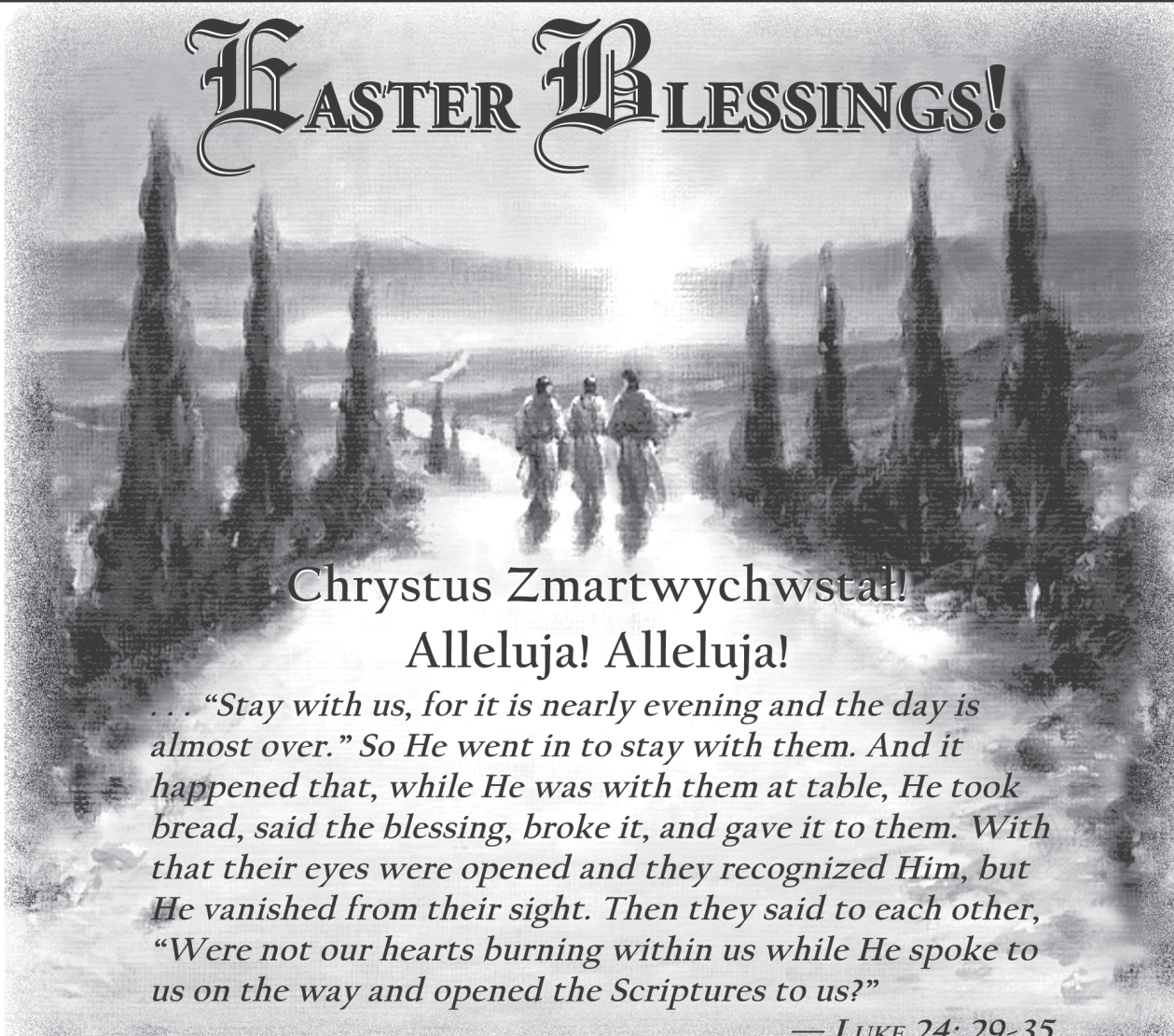
(the consecrated things). The custom itself is known as “*święcenie pokarmów wielkanocnych*” (blessing Easter food) or “*święcenie święconego*” (blessing hallowfare). *Święcone* is also the name given to Easter breakfast which often turns into an all-day affair. In some cases, a *Święconka* table is set up in a private home and neighbors bring their hallowfare there to be blessed.

Nowadays the blessing is usually performed in churches. In nice weather, a table may be set up for that purpose outside the church. Traditional Easter foods – eggs, sausage, ham, bread, a butter lamb in Polonia and a sugar one in Poland, *babka* and such condiments as horseradish, salt, pepper and perhaps a cruet of vinegar – are brought to church for the ritual blessing. The officiating priest prays over the baskets and sprinkles them with Holy Water. It is customary to pray at the Lord’s Tomb (above) and take home a bottle a freshly blessed Holy Water for the family’s home use, like when the priest pays his annual pastoral “*kolęda*” visit the following new year.

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... “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So He went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while He was with them at table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but He vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”

— LUKE 24: 29-35

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Easter Treats — Many Made Easy

SHARING BLESSED EASTER EGGS (dzielenie się poświęconym jajkiem). Family Easter breakfast as well as your club or parish Świąconka or Dyngus Day festivities should begin with the sharing of the Easter eggs blessed in church on Holy Saturday. The shelled eggs should be cut into four quarters (wedges). Either a plate with the eggs is passed around and everyone impales a wedge with their fork or the host or hostess brings the plate around the each of the dinner guests. When all have impaled their wedge, they are eaten simultaneously amid wishes of "Wesołego Alleluja!"

EASTER SOUP STOCK (wywar do zup wielkanocnych). In soup pot combine 8 c water, 1 quartered onion, 1 bay leaf, 6 peppercorns, 3 grains allspice and 1 lb fresh kielbasa, bring to boil and cook

covered gently 60 min. Remove from heat and cool to room temp. If possible, refrigerate overnight. Next day, remove sausage and slice into thin rounds. Remove and discard excess congealed fat from stock and proceed as follows. Variation. Easter soup stock may also be prepared by cooking 1-2 c skinned smoked kielbasa, ham, thick-sliced bacon — all diced — in plain water with onion and seasoning as above.

WHITE EASTER BARSZCZ (biały barszcz wielkanocny). Bring 8 c of above kielbasa stock to boil and remove from heat. Fork-blend 1 c sour cream with 2-3 T flour until smooth, gradually adding 1 c hot stock a T at a time and stirring well. Slowly stir sour-cream & flour mixture into stock and heat several min without boiling. Add 1-2 buds crushed garlic and 1-2 T prepared

horseradish and 2-3 T cider vinegar. salt & pepper if required, but the kielbasa stock may already be sufficiently seasoned. Provide sliced kielbasa rounds, sliced hard-boiled eggs, cubed farmer cheese and stale rye-bread cubes for guests to add to their barszcz.

EASTER BEETROOT BARSZCZ (czerwony barszcz wielkanocny). Heat kielbasa stock to boiling and add 3 c sliced canned beets and their liquid. Add 1-2 buds crushed garlic, 1/4 of a mushroom-bouillon cube and salt & pepper to taste. Remove from heat. Fork-blend 1/2 c sour cream with 2-3 T flour until smooth, gradually adding 1 c hot soup a T at a time and stirring well. Slowly stir sour-cream & flour mixture into stock and heat several min without boiling. Sour to taste with 2-3 T cider vinegar, add 1 t marjoram and salt & pepper as required. Serve over sliced kielbasa rounds and hard-cooked eggs.

BEET & HORSERADISH RELISH (ćwikła z chrzanem). Drain a can of beets or pickled beets (reserving liquid for some other use). Dice, grate coarsely or slice thin (preferably on slicer blade of hand-held grater). Stir in about 1 heaping T prepared horseradish per 1 c beets, toss to blend and refrigerate covered until needed. Optional. The ćwikła may be seasoned with salt & pepper, a little caraway seed, lemon juice or vinegar and a bit of sugar. Variation. For a mellow, rounded taste, stir in some apple sauce.

CREAMY CRANBERRY SAUCE (sos żurawinowy). Combine 1 c cranberry jam (imported Łowicz brand żurawiny are excellent!), 1 c sour cream, 1/2 c prepared horseradish and 1/2 t salt. Mix well and stir in a little lemon juice for just the right tang. Great with cold Easter meats.

EASTER SAUCE (sos do święconego). Fork-blend 1/2 c dairy sour cream with 1/2 c mayonnaise, add 1-2 chopped hard-cooked eggs and 1/2-3/4 c mixed finely chopped greens and crunchies. dill pickle, pickled mushroom, radish, chives, green onion, parsley and dill. Stir in 1 heaping t prepared horseradish and season to taste with salt, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar.

MIXED VEGETABLE SALAD (salatka jarzynowa). In salad bowl combine 3-4 c cold, cooked, diced potatoes, 2 12-14 oz cans drained peas & carrots, 2 cans drained navy beans, 4 diced dill pickles, 1 bunch chopped green onions, 1 bunch diced radishes, 2-3 peeled, cored, diced apples and 4-6 diced hard-cooked eggs. Toss ingredients gently, season with salt & pepper and garnish with 3 T chopped fresh parsley. Note. Feel free to add, delete or vary ingredients and quantities to taste. Lace with just enough sauce to thinly coat ingredients. For 1 c, fork-blend 1/2 sour cream, 1/2 c mayonnaise and 1 slightly heaped t sharp brown mustard. Season to taste with a little salt, pepper, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar.



Enhance the taste of your eggs with Easter Sauce or by topping with a bit of grated horseradish. Another favorite is to mix the eggs with freshly shaved horseradish root and a splash of vinegar.

POTATO SALAD (salatka kartoflana). Peel and cook 2-1/4 lbs firm, salad-type potatoes in lightly salted water until cooked but still firm. Drain, set aside to cool and refrigerate. Dice potatoes and combine in salad bowl with 3 finely diced dill pickles, 1-2 onions and 2 peeled, cored cooking apples. Toss ingredients. For the sauce, combine 1 c mayonnaise with 1/2 c sour cream, 2 T vinegar, 2 buds crushed garlic and 1 T chopped fresh parsley. Fork-blend, pour over salad and toss to coat evenly. Season to taste with salt, pepper and sweet paprika.

DEVILED EGGS (jajka faszerowane). Shell 8 hard-boiled eggs, cut in half lengthwise, remove yolks and set aside whites. Mash yolks with fork, combine with just under 1/4 lb skinned, ground smoked kielbasa, 3 T finely chopped chives and stir in 3-4 T mayonnaise, mixing to blend ingredients and salt & pepper to taste. Fill egg-white halves with mixture, rounding out filling to resemble a whole egg, arrange and

continued on next page



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Easter Treats — Many Made Easy

continued from previous page

platter and drench with 1/2 cup mayonnaise fork-blended with 2 T prepared horseradish and arrange on lettuce-lined platter. Drench eggs with 1/2 c mayonnaise fork-blended with 2 T prepared horseradish and dust with paprika.

BOILED FRESH KIELBASA (biała kielbasa gotowana). Place 3 lbs fresh home-made or store-bought kielbasa in pot of cold water which should cover it by at least 1". Add 1 bay leaf and 1 large quartered onion and cook on low to a gentle boil. Simmer on low covered 30-40 min from the time boiling starts. Let stand in hot liquid another 10 min before serving. Pork must be fully cooked so make sure it is no longer pink inside. The kielbasa stock make a nice soup base.

OLD POLISH KIELBASA (kielbasa zapiekana po staropolsku). Place 3 lbs fresh kielbasa in single layer in baking pan. Drench with 2 c beer and enough water to barely cover the sausage. Bake in pre-heated 375° oven 30 min. Turn kielbasa over. Scatter 4 thinly sliced onions all over the kielbasa, sprinkle with caraway seeds and bake another 30 min.

BAKED HAM EN CROÛTE (szynka pieczona w cieście). Soak a 4.5-5 lb traditionally cured, smoked ham in cold water 12 hrs, changing water twice. Dry ham, place in container with lid, sprinkle all over with pepper and powdered bay leaf, surround with onion slices, cover and refrigerate overnight, turning ham over once or twice. Next day, discard onions and wipe ham dry. Combine 5 c rye flour with 2 cakes mashed fresh yeast, 1/4 c salad oil, 1 egg white and a little hot water — enough to knead ingredients into

a medium-soft dough. Cover dough and set aside for 1 hr. Roll dough out finger-thick and wrap the ham in it, sealing edges well. Transfer to floured baking sheet and bake in preheated 400° oven 10 min. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 20 min per lb. When completed, remove and discard bread crust and serve ham hot or cold.

ROAST PORK LOIN (schab pieczony). Mince and mash 2-3 cloves garlic into a paste with 1 t salt and rub into 3 lb boneless pork loin. Place in roasting pan, cover and let stand at room temp 2 hrs. Remove loin, dust with flour (through sieve) and brown in hot fat on all sides to seal in juices. Place in loin in roaster fat side up on rack and sprinkle with caraway seeds, pepper and marjoram. Roast uncovered at 450° 15 min, then reduce heat to 350°. Add 1 c water to pan and baste occasionally with drippings that form. Roast about 90 min or until liquid that comes out of meat when pricked is no longer pinkish. Serve hot or cold.

EASTER LAMB CAKE (baranek z ciasta). Not the taste but the presentation is what counts with the Easter Lamb cake which serves as an Easter centerpiece, so feel free to make it with bread, babka or placek dough or even use a cake-mix. You will need a two-part lamb-cake mold. The cake can be left as is or covered with a white frosting to resemble fleece. But remember, it is not an Easter Lamb unless it sports the Banner of Resurrection — usually a red cross on a white background or gold cross on a red background.

SMALL EASTER BABKA (mała babka wielkanocna). Dissolve 1 packet active dry yeast in 1/2 warm coffee cream. Stir in 2-1/2 T sugar and 1 cup flour mix well and let

stand in warm place until doubled. Stir in 3 T sugar, 1 c flour, 3 beaten eggs, 1 t lemon zest, 1/2 t vanilla extract and 1 T melted butter. Work ingredients into a dough by hand and knead until smooth and elastic (8-10 min) or have a dough-hook mixer do the job. Work 1/4 c raisins into dough. Fill greased, floured, fluted babka, brioche or Bundt pan, which should be no more than 1/3 full, cover with tea towel and let stand in warm place until doubled in bulk. Bake in preheated 350° oven about 40 min. When cool remove from pan and glaze with icing made by fork-blending 1/2 confectioner's sugar with 1 T lemon juice or Amaretto (almond liqueur).

APPLE CHEESECAKE (sernik z jabłkami). Peel and coarsely grate 5-6 cooking apples and sprinkle with juice of 1 lemon and 1 T sugar. Sieve or process to a powder 1-1/5 lbs full-cream curd cheese (twaróg pełnotłusty) and beat with 4 egg yolks and 7 T sugar. Mix 4 T uncooked cream of wheat with 2 t baking powder and add to cheese mixture. Stir in apples, 1/2 raisins and fold in 4 stiffly beaten egg whites, gently combining ingredients. Transfer mixture to greased baking pan, dot top with 4 T butter shaving and bake in preheated 360° oven about 1 hr or until nicely browned.



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Chet Luty (left) and friend Richard Mikołajczyk prepare for Świeconka — the blessing of foods at St. Hyacinth's Church in Cleveland, Ohio, about 1940.



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Easter Memories

Last year, the PRESS & SUN BULLETIN (Binghamton, N.Y.) asked its readers to share their memories of Easter. One person to respond was PAJ subscriber Rosemary (Chitka) Piecuch, a native of Horseheads, N.Y. We are sure you will enjoy her account.

Easter was all about smells and timing, especially if you were of Polish/Ukrainian descent growing up in the First Ward. The season officially began in church on Ash Wednesday with the priest's blessing, "Thou are dust and unto dust thou shall return." I don't know about dust, but return? We did: Wednesdays, choir practice; Fridays, Stations of the Cross; Sundays, Gorzkie Zale (Lamentations).

Lent meant absence of some smells — like fresh popcorn. Movies and dances were taboo during Lent, as Mom retold the legend of a young girl who foolishly went dancing on Good Friday. It was said she smelled brimstone as she, in horror, watched her partner's feet transform to hoofs. She was indeed dancing with the devil!

Lent was a time of cleansing and anticipation, for our bodies and souls, and also for our homes. The odor of freshly mixed laundry starch heralded crisp curtains, sparkling windows, and white dress shirts readied for Easter.

Laundry smelled fresh of the outdoors, where it had been hung to dry.

Much time was spent preparing for swieconka, the blessing of the Easter food baskets. A quest for the world's best smoked kielbasa was a given. My sister once returned from Buffalo's Broadway Market with kielbasa and the declaration that her car/clothing now reeked of a fragrance aptly dubbed "Kielbasa No. 5." Henceforth, sensible kielbasa hunters were armed with insulated coolers. Excellent fresh kielbasa was available at local mom-and-pop

stores.

By midday on Good Friday, the smell of paczki, paskas and buchti infused Babci's (Grandma's) kitchen. Later that evening, you'd smell melted wax as she magically created pysanky (decorated eggs).

My sister once returned from ... Market with ... the declaration that her car/clothing now reeked of a fragrance aptly dubbed "Kielbasa No. 5."

Visiting Uncle Roman's was risky. He might be grating horseradish and the fumes could take you out. But it was a chance to see my aunt's paska with its braiding and cross adornment. For some, this was a time for viewing and critiquing artistic culinary expressions versus smelling them.

Holy Saturday I'd awaken to the smell of sulfur, at least that's what

a dozen peeled hard-cooked eggs smelled like to me. Mom was preparing our basket for blessing. For large families like the Jachimowiczs, the priest would drop in to bless the food. A Pascal lamb of butter or cake and candles served as table decorations. In later years Adele (Jachimowicz) Litwin and her husband Steve would go to church for Swieconka. I'd travel in from Horseheads. When my sister and her family arrived, it was a chance for friends and family to share memories.

I still remember dziadzi (grandfather) greeting us with blessed horseradish root on Easter Sunday. He made us eat a piece as a reminder of Christ's passion. If you'd been naughty, your piece was large; if nice, you received a sliver. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church is now closed, but my heart holds its memories. Easter in Binghamton was, in a word, "scent-sational."



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Missile Offer Later Denied by Obama

continued from cover

Attending a NATO meeting in Krakow, Poland, on Feb. 20, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said, "I told the Russians a year ago that if there were no Iranian missile program, there would be no need for the missile sites." Obama's inauguration, he added, offered the chance for a fresh start. "My hope is that now, with the new administration, the prospects for that kind of cooperation might have improved," he said.

The idea has distressed Poland and the Czech Republic, where leaders invested political capital in signing missile defense cooperation treaties with the United States despite domestic opposition. If the United States were to slow or halt deployment of the systems, Warsaw and Prague might insist on other incentives.

For example, the deal with Poland included a side agreement that an American Patriot air defense battery would be moved from Germany to Poland, where it would be operated by a crew of about 100 American service members. The administration might have to proceed with that to reassure Warsaw.

Obama denied floating any "quid pro quo" with Russia over junking a missile defense shield Moscow opposes in exchange for Russia's help in stopping Iran from building nuclear weapons.

The president said that his re-

cent letter to Moscow expressed his stance that reducing the threat of a nuclear Iran in turn reduces the need for a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe.

"It was simply a statement of fact that I've made previously," he said, stressing that the defense shield would be aimed at Iran, not Russia.

—from reports in the *New York Times*, *Fox News*, and other news sources.

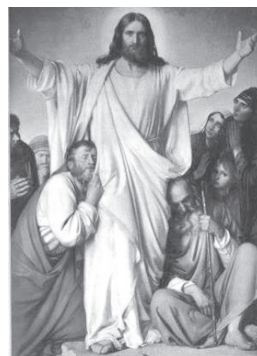
Wesołego Alleluja

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ADELAIDE PETROZAK**

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Relatives and Friends
This Easter Season.
Wesołego Alleluja!*

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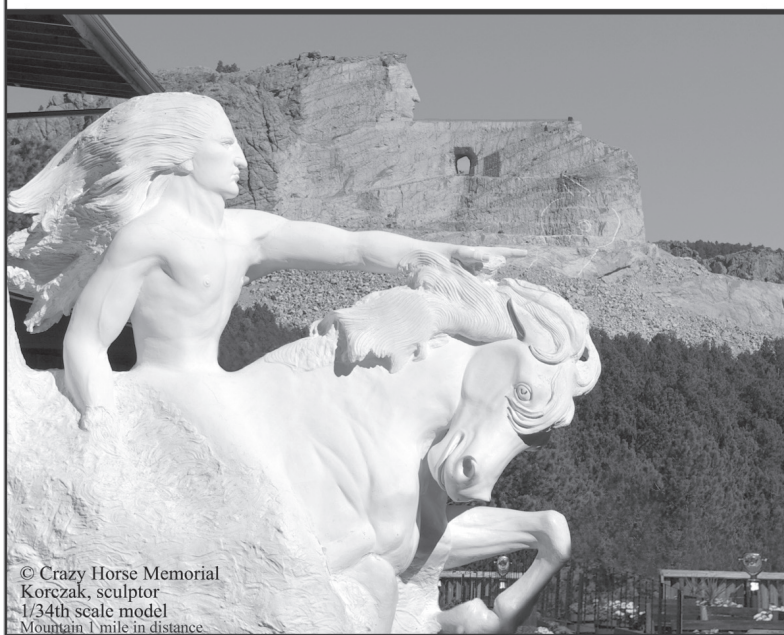
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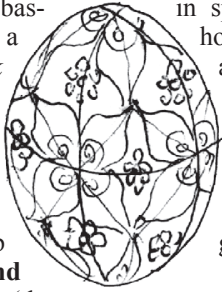
Traditions of a Polish Easter

continued from cover

Święconka

With the ancient custom of *Święconka*, the food is blessed with holy water by a priest, who would either come to the house, or samplings of dishes would be taken to church for a communal blessing.

A basket is decorated with green parsley, flowers, and sprigs of pussy willow or boxwood (*bukszpan*), with a ribbon woven through the handle, and covered with a lace or embroidered doily. The basket traditionally contains: a **Paschal lamb** — *baranek wielkanocny* made of butter, cake or sugar and carrying in a cross-balanced position, a small banner sometimes with the letters IHS (representing the lamb of God); **hand painted and decorated eggs** — *pisanki* (the symbol of new life); **meat** (signifying prosperity); **horseradish** (a bitter herb, signifying the suffering of Christ); **salt** (a Polish tradition of welcome and hospitality); **greenery** (the awakening of the earth); and



bread/babka (a symbol of communion and the Last Supper). This would ensure a good harvest and sufficient amount of food for coming year.

Pisanki

Although the ancient European art of *Pisanki* has become very closely associated with Easter, it first came about more than 2000 years ago when people realized the connection between the egg and spring (chickens lay more eggs in spring, when the daylight hours are long, than in fall and winter).

Decorative motifs include: the chicken and rooster (symbols of fertility), grain (good harvest), sun (light and life) and a green bough or bloom.

To produce the colors, natural dyes are used. Onion skins, buckwheat husks, campion, bark of the wild apple, leaves of birch or alder, and the flower of the lilac create *yellow*. For *red* cochineal (a female insect), deer horn, sandalwood, or beets are used. *Green* come

from sunflower seeds and wild alder berries. Hollyhock blooms are used for certain shades, as well as various other blooms, leaves and moss. Carrots make orange, fruit of blackthorn for blue and different grasses and nettle for green.

Easter

On Saturday evening's Easter Vigil, a fire is lit outside the church, while parishioners begin the service holding lit-candles in the darkness. The church bells are rung again following 40 days of silence. Out of the solemnity of Lent, the joyous, culturally distinctive Easter songs burst forth. Holy Water is made available to bring home.

Easter morning mass is rich in procession, incense and ritual. Under a canopy the priest, dressed in gold and white robes carries the monstrance. In many churches, young girls sprinkle rose petals along the path, and the church is overflowing.

Following Mass, the Easter breakfast takes place. Before the start of the meal, the head of the house cuts a blessed hard boiled egg into slivered segments, and offers it to each of those present at the breakfast with wishes for a long life of happiness and joy and "Wesołego Alleluja."

While the breakfast is traditionally a cold collation of already prepared foods, the meal may have a variety of other dishes. Many Polish families make a firm "Easter Cheese," which is a combination including farmer's cheese and sour cream. This mixture is placed in a linen bag and tied up to dry.

The traditional *biały* (white) *barszcz* — *Żur/Żurek* is distinctively one of the most common soups. Thinly sliced or cubed *kielbasa* sausage, ham, hard-boiled eggs, horseradish root, and bread are often added to this soup commonly made with fermented rye meal.

Many Polish churches host a traditional Polish *Święconka* dinner in the weeks following Easter. Like *Oplatek* Christmas dinners it is a time to celebrate with the extended family of the Polish community. The *Syrena Dancers* of Milwaukee continue this tradition each year, by holding a *Święcone* buffet dinner on Palm Sunday at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall.

Wesołego Alleluja i smacznego jajka!

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Wilk: Awarded for her Service

continued from cover

the staff. Wilk's extensive contacts with many of the most prominent Polish musicians of the twentieth century led to numerous concerts she organized at USC and throughout Southern California. Thanks to her generous support and outreach, artists like Witold Lutosławski, Henryk Górecki, Stanisław Skrowaczewski, Krystian Zimerman, and Piotr Anderszewski, performed and lectured for local audiences.

THE EXTENSIVE HOLDINGS of the PMC library, initiated by the Wilks' own donations and those of their contacts, include Polish music scores, books, periodicals, sound recordings, and other reference materials. With the initial gift of five manuscripts of large-scale orchestral works from Lutosławski and three manuscripts from Skrowaczewski in 1985, the Polish Music Center's Manuscript Collection grew to currently include well over 100 manuscripts by such composers as Grażyna Bacewicz, Tadeusz Baird, Joanna Bruzdowicz, Krzesimir Dębski, Zygmunt Krauze, Hanna Kulenty, Szymon Laks, Krzysztof Meyer, Roman Palester, Krzysztof Penderecki, Marta Ptaszyńska, Bogusław Schaeffer, Romuald Twardowski, and Lidia Zelińska, among others. In recent years the Polish Music Center has received several important collections of manuscripts, correspondence and memorabilia of Zygmunt Stojowski, Henry Vars, and Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

The Polish Music History Series, a cycle of books on Polish music published by the PMC, was introduced with Wilk's concise volume commemorating Karol Szymanowski's centenary in 1982. Since then the series has grown to include ten volumes on such composers as Grażyna Bacewicz, Frederic Chopin, two more volumes on Karol Szymanowski, as well as mono-

graphs on Józef Koffler, Maria Szymanowska, and Zygmunt Stojowski. Wilk served as Editor-in-Chief for the first six volumes of the series and also authored numerous articles about Polish women composers and other subjects pertaining to the history of Polish music for various Polish-American media.

AN EARLY PIONEER and believer in disseminating information over the Internet, Wilk launched the Polish Music Center Website, which offers comprehensive information on composers, history of concert and folk music, competitions, festivals, and other items of interest to the countless visitors of the site. An online Newsletter—another project that Wilk initiated in 1994—has appeared on the Polish Music Center website on a monthly basis for the past fifteen years.

In 1992, together with her husband, Wilk established *Ars Musica Poloniae*, a charitable foundation that facilitates a variety of projects in Polish music from publishing and recording to scholarships for Polish students in Los Angeles.

For her extraordinary service to Polish music Wilk was awarded the highest state award of Poland, the *Polonia Restituta* medal, in 1996. Her enthusiasm and far-reaching achievements have encouraged the awareness and appreciation of Polish music throughout the world, and will continue to be an inspiration for generations.



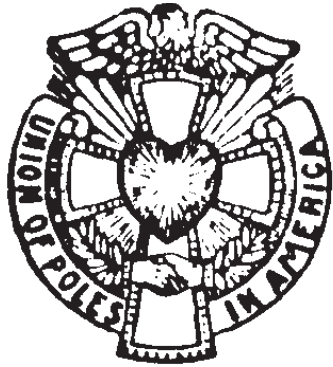
Chrystus zmartwychwstał!
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JERRY MAZUCHOWSKI
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Wishing you and your families Peace and Joy
 this Easter Season. Wesołego Alleluja!

Virginia Sikora

National President
 Polish Women's Alliance of America



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Church Closures Bring Repercussions

Bishop Edward Kmiec of the RC Diocese of Buffalo, in a letter to the former parishioners of the recently closed Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Brant, N.Y., informed them that they would be excommunicated if they joined the Polish National Catholic Church and opened a PNCC parish in the former parish building.

Excommunication would exclude the former Catholics from the sacramental life of the Church, even from the occasional participation currently allowed to members of the PNCC.

Church properties of closed parishes, some of them traditional Polish churches, have been entered onto the tax rolls of their local municipalities of Buffalo, Lackawanna, Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Bethlehem, and Carbon and Schuylkill counties in Pennsylvania.

While the sit-in at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Adams, Mass. continues, parishioners occupying two former RC churches (not Polish) in New Orleans were cleared out by police and two of the occupiers were taken away under arrest. A court ruling denying the lawsuit of the protesters is now under appeal.

NEW POLISH SAINT. Blessed Zygmunt Szczepny Feliński, former archbishop of Warsaw and founder of the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary, will be canonized along with nine other blessed, including Blessed Jozef Damien de Veuster, a Belgian priest who lived out his life ministering to the lepers on the island of Molokai in Hawaii.

LETTERS FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II PUBLISHED. Wanda Poltawska, an 87-year-old psychiatrist and Nazi concentration camp survivor published a book in Poland recollecting her family's relationship and vacations with the late pontiff, including letters from him. She noted that the relationship started in the 1950s when she sought out a priest for spiritual support as she struggled to overcome the trauma suffered during almost four years at Ravensbrück concentration camp. There are no immediate plans for non-Polish editions of the 570-page book.

MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088.

PRAYERTOTHEBLESSEDVIRGIN. (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank you for your help. A.D.

PRAYERTOTHEBLESSEDVIRGIN. (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of

TIBETAN MONKS VISIT POLAND. A group of five monks from Ganden monastery in Tibet spent few days at the 1000 year-old Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec near Krakow in February.

Father Bernard Sawicki, the Abbot of Tyniec, said he hopes for more meetings in the future. "We want to learn a lot from them in such areas as meditation and Tibetan medicine," he said.

Polish Benedictines see the visit also as a manifestation of their solidarity with Tibet, occupied by China. "We don't get involved in politics but there is a need to protect the values that are being destroyed in Tibet," they say.

The visit of the monks, who had to leave Tibet for political reasons and currently live in India, is part of the project "Time for Tibet," which will include open meetings in Kraków. The monks created a sand mandala in the city's Museum of Japanese Art and Technology.

STO LAT TO... Fr. Jacek Orzechowski on his installation as pastor of Our Saviour's PNCC Parish in Woonsocket, R.I. **Bishop Thomas J. Gnat** celebrated the installation service.

Fr. Adam Egan on his ordination to the priesthood in the PNCC at a Mass celebrated by **Prime Bishop Robert M. Nemkovich** in St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, Pa.

Fr. Anzelm Chalupka, pastor of Buffalo's Corpus Christi Church, on being named Am-Pol Eagle "Citizen of the Year" in the category of religion. Fr. Chalupka, a Polish Bernardine father, has tirelessly worked to restore the inner city church and surrounding complex of buildings while at the same time offering a wide range of services to the people in the area. The church recently introduced a new website to extend its message of spiritual renewal to a worldwide audience. The address is: <http://corpuschristibuffalo.org/site/>

MOVIE HONORING FR. POPIELUSZKOTOBERELEASED. A feature film on the life, pastoral work and the murder of Solidarity chaplain **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko** is slated to be released in Poland. Directed by **Rafal Wiczynski**, with

Adam Woronowicz in the main role, the film took seven months to complete. **Józef Cardinal Glemp** plays himself in the filmed scenes re-enacting conversations he had with the assassinated priest. Pope Benedict XVI recently acceded to requests from the Polish bishops to speed up the case for the martyred Fr. Popieluszko's beatification.

The film, entitled "Popieluszko. Freedom Is Within Us," itself is surrounded by controversy with allegations from several of those involved in the making of the film that they were not paid for their work. The film producer gave assurances that once the work on the film has been completed, payment to all would be forthcoming.

JEWISH-CATHOLIC DIALOGUE. "Jewish-Catholic Dialogue and the Legacy of Pope John Paul II" was the subject of a presentation at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., under the sponsorship of Canisius' Conversations in Christ and Culture Series and the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture. The presenter was **Rabbi David Novak** of the University of Toronto.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... Fr. Senior Stanley Skrzypek, pastor of St. Peter & Paul PNCC parish in Passaic, N.J., on his fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Before coming to Passaic, Fr. Senior Skrzypek served in Albany and New York Mills, N.Y.

Villa Maria Chorale, celebrating its 25th anniversary under the directorship of **Ireneusz Lukaszewski**. The chorale takes its name from the Felician-run Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga, N.Y., where it has just been named "Choir in residence" by college president **Sr. Marcella Garus**. The chorale's repertoire ranges from the historic Polish composers **Grzycki** and **Gomolka** to the contemporary works of **Górecki** and **Koszewski**.

The Chopin Singing Society in Cheektowaga, N.Y., led a musical tribute to Frederic Chopin on the 199th anniversary of his birth. Society president **Hon. Ann Mikoll** opened the program with a tribute to Chopin, whom she named the "poet of the piano." The program featured selections of his compositions.

God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank you for your help. J.S.

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.D.

ST. JUDE NOVENA. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. B.J.W., New Jersey

for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. M.A.R.

THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. M.M.

ST. JUDE NOVENA. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. B.J.W., New Jersey

New PGSGC Officers



CLEVELAND—The **POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND** recently held its election of officers for the year 2009. Elected were (l. to r.): John F. Szuch to his 17th term as president; former treasurer Ben Kman as newly-elected treasurer; Sonia Chapnick (sec.), and Ron Marec (v.p.). The latter two were also re-elected. Not back this year is Richarda Jambroz (treas.) due to health reasons. The officers pray for her recovery and thank her for her many years of service.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month (September thru June) at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's PNC Church, 5375 Broadway Rd., corner of Wexford Ave. in Parma. Guests are welcome.

For more information please contact President Szuch at pulaskipro@aol.com or (330) 769-4603; www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/.

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. thanks our generous supporters, who, for over 30 years have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. We are able to bring many children who needed life-saving surgery or procedures to the United States. This past year, 14 children have been operated on by Dr. Edward Malec, who has relocated to Munich, Germany, from Poland. We purchased needed equipment requested by Pediatric Hospitals in Poland. Once again, thank to you, we were able to fill some of these heart-rendering requests received from orphanages throughout Poland. This list for aid is long, but with your continued support, we will be able to provide Polish children with the precious "Gift of Life." For more information, please call (516) 746-1532.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Community Leaders Honored

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the Advocates Society held its 27th annual Installation and Awards Dinner at Chicago's Hotel Monaco. The Society is an association of Illinois attorneys, which was established 78 years ago, to serve the legal profession and Chicago's Polish American community. The evening's program included the installation of new executive officers and the honoring of Maria and Richard Ciesla for their leadership in service to Chicago's Polish community.

The Society's new officers are Joanna Kielczewski Kellogg, President; Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro, First Vice President; Robert Groszek, Second Vice President; Regina Rathnau, Third Vice President; Dan Josephs, Treasurer; Michelle Fynn Hendrickson, Secretary; and Alexander Fiedotjew, Historian.

Honorees Richard and Maria Ciesla have distinguished themselves during a combined 80-years volunteer service career. Their volunteer years have included working with the Heritage Banquet Committee of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division and during the formative years of the Copernicus Foundation, with Richard serving on the Foundation's Board of Directors. Additionally, Richard twice served as President of the Chicago Society of the PNA, and the Chicago Society Foundation's President. Currently he serves on the Society's Board as a Director and as its Foundation's Secretary. Maria has been an active member of the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) for over 40 years, having served as its president and twice chairing the LYPW's White and Red Ball. Maria currently serves as the President of The Polish Museum of America.

In addition to her service to Chicago Polonia, Maria holds the distinction of being the past-presidents of both the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and the Coalition's Illinois Division.



COMMUNITY LEADERS HONORED. (standing, back row, l. to r.): Michelle Hendrickson, Alexander Fiedotjew, Robert Groszek, Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro. Front Row: l. to r.: Daniel Josephs, Joanna Kielczewski Kellogg; Maria Ciesla, Richard Ciesla, Regina Rathnau.

Pulaski Day Observance at PMA

Once again, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) had a standing-room-only crowd as Chicago and the State of Illinois celebrated George Washington's favorite general, Casimir Pulaski. Many dignitaries attended this event including Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn, Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General, Republic of Poland; Cook County Treasurer, Maria Pappas; Cook County State's Attorney, Anita Alvarez; Illinois State Representative; Sara Feigenholtz; Frank Spula, President of the Polish National Alliance; Virginia Sikora, President of the Polish Woman's Alliance of America; and others. The "Father of the American Calvary" was honored by Polish Americans and non-Polish Americans alike for his commitment to freedom, independence and democracy.

In addition to the traditional salutations, and timely remarks about



Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn

Polonia's importance in Illinois, scholarships were presented, by the Jewel-Osco, the grocery/pharmacy chain in the amount of \$1,000 each to Jessica Biestak, Jakub Misterka, Jonathan Krysinski, Claudia Liszek, and Evita Predki. The PMA received \$5,000 donations from both Jewel-Osco and National City Bank.

The Honorable Aurelia Pucinski, judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, said it best, as she incorporated her remarks about Pulaski, Polonia and the community-at-large. "This is the message we share with everyone as we honor Pulaski who died for our freedom: that we are a people with great ideas, that we are men and women who believe in an organized society, bound by the principals of freedom, liberty, and human dignity, and working together under the rule of just and equal laws, and that participating actively in the political life our community,

we can make a difference...We must live as Pulaski lived: for the goal, for the purpose, for the good." On September 13, 1977, the Illinois General Assembly declared that the first Monday of March would be a state holiday honoring Pulaski.

Navy Pier's "Celebrate Poland"

On Sun., March 1, Illinois's top-rated tourist attraction, Chicago's Navy Pier hosted "Celebrate Poland," a six-hour event featuring continuous free entertainment, including various styles of spirited Polish songs, dances and music. Entertainment from Chopin to jazz, by some of Chicago's top Polish American entertainers, with both adults and children dressed in colorful Polish costumes, took center stage in Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens Pavilion. The Polish Consulate



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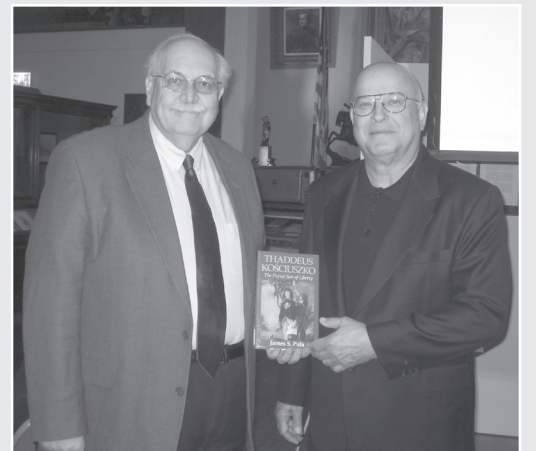
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A Lincoln - Kościuszko Soirée

The Polish Museum of America, on February 21, hosted a wonderfully informative evening with guest lecturer, James Pula, Ph.D., a professor of History at Purdue University — North Central. He gave a presentation comparing America's heroes: Abraham Lincoln and Tadeusz Kościuszko, pointing out many interesting facts concerning the lives, political



James Pula, Ph.D. (left), and Robert Dutka, DDS.

philosophies and humanitarian accomplishments of Kościuszko and Lincoln. In addition to sharing a February 12 birthday, they both were defenders of freedom, and believed in equal rights for all men. Attendees learned that the statue of Thomas Jefferson at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. is unique, in that Jefferson is wearing a fur coat given to him by Kościuszko. This being the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, it was fitting to bring back this Lincoln-Kościuszko celebration traditionally held in American Polonia during the 1930s through the 1960s. This soirée ended with piano selections from both Kościuszko's and Lincoln's eras performed by Robert Dutka, DDS.

and The Polish Museum of America provided free brochures about Poland and Polish culture.

The afternoon events began with the raising of the flags of Poland and the United States. Performers included the Lira Ensemble, artists-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago, jazz singer Grazyna Auguscik and the Eastern Bloc, the Lechici Dancers of the Polish Scouting Organization, the Wici Song and Dance Company of the Polish National Alliance, children's storyteller Barbara Kozuchowska, the Pytlík Brothers Polish Folk Band, the Little Stars Children's Theatre Workshop, and Agnieszka Iwanska and Her Quartet. There was an opportunity to purchase Polish folk art, books, CDs, and, naturally, Polish food.

The entire program was narrated in English by Mistress of Ceremonies Lucyna Migala of WCEV Radio-Chicago and director of the Lira Ensemble. This event's Guest of Honor was Sławomir Skzypek, president of the National Bank of Poland.

Magnetic Poles!

TIME OUT CHICAGO, an upscale weekly magazine geared to the under-40 crowd, featured a 10 page "spread" in its Feb. 26-March 4, 2009, issue, entitled "Magnetic Poles." This issue featured young Chicago Poles, such as fashion designers, metal rockers, film makers, and social networkers, and how these immigrants are adding to Chicago's cultural scene. Also, featured was the night life, music (no polka style music allowed), and the world of fashion and film making along with "the real Polish culture." However, many of those interviewed ranked immigration issues as a top priority. A number of the magazine's writers and photographers combined their efforts and contributed a series of one-page articles about Chicago's young Polonia. TOC listed its "What's In" and "What's Out" categories. "What's In" are The Polish Museum of America, Chopin Theater, and Andy's Deli. TOC provided a pictorial primer on kielbasa and guidelines on how to act when patronizing a Polish bar.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruzka

Supervisor Bylewski's Professionalism Shines



BYLEWSKI

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Clarence Town Supervisor **Scott Bylewski** distinguished himself in his efforts to deal with the tragic crash of Continental flight 3407 in February.

Though the media frenzy has subsided, residents of Clarence Center continue to relive the tumultuous evening when Flight 3407 crashed into a Long Street residence, killing 50 people.

Bylewski says that the healing process is an ongoing process for his town's residents. Casual conversations frequently return to the tragic evening that touched almost everyone in the community.

In an interview with WNED News, Bylewski said he believes the events and the recovery will produce a tight-knit community made closer by the tragedy.

ISKIERKI. The **Polish American Historical Association** recently announced that its Civic Achievement Award will now be known as the "Skalny Civic Achievement Award" in honor of the support and numerous contributions of the Skalny family of Rochester to Polonia causes ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** elected the following officers for 2009: Robert Synakowski (president), Zygmunt Bakowski (first vice-president), Stephen Synakowski (second vice-president), Brad O'Connor (treasurer), Theresa Kociencki (financial secretary), Nancy Trojnar Cummings (recording secretary) and Marian Poczobutt (sgt.-at-arms).

On March 1, **Scott Cleveland** unveiled his "Polka Jamboree" radio show on WXRL. This new polka program replaces Greg Chwojda's "Polkamotion" ... The Cardinal O'Hara Performing Arts Center presented **Tom Dudzick's** "Over the Tavern" during March ... The WNY Chapter of the **Kosciuszko Foundation** elected the following leadership for the coming year: Christopher Golinski (president), Mark Peszko (vice-president), Craig Bucki (secretary) and John Medwid (treasurer). Wiesia Abczynski, Rob-

ert Ciesielski, Dr. Peter Gessner, Eileen Koterak-Elibol, Hon Ann Mikoll, Ewa Nowak, Mark Rivard and Theresa Rivard serve as the group's board of directors.

Carlene Sluberski of Fredonia High School recently became the first female wrestler to advance to the NYS PHSAA championship semi-finals ... The General Pulaski Association held its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo and its installation banquet at the Protocol Restaurant on March 6 ... The **Felician Sisters** celebrated the completion of renovations to their Villa Maria Provincial House in Cheektowaga on the 8th ... **Jenn Stuczynski** of Fredonia set a new record in the pole vault (15 feet, 10 inches) at the USA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston ... The **Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies** at the University of Rochester presented the following programs in March: "Concert of Baroque Music" which featured Polish harpsichordist Anna Parkitna on March 8, "Political Party System Development in Post-Communist Poland" by Dr. Daniel Epstein on March 25 and a "Concert of Polish Music" featuring the works of Chopin, Szymanowski, Moniuszko, Wieniawski, Penderecki and Panufnik on the 29th.

Casimir Mruczek of Batavia was a winner of the Polish Falcons of America's 2009 Essay Contest. This year's topic was: "Why is it important to learn about your ethnic heritage?" ... The **Professional and Businessmen's Association** elected Ralph Maraszek as its new president, Dennis Oniszczak as the new vice-president, Richard Stepien as treasurer, Walter Stepien as secretary and Gregory Mazurowski as financial secretary. The new officers hit the ground running at the group's general membership meeting held on March 10 at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew ... A choir from Nazareth College in Rochester, under the direction of Dr. Granat, performed in Buffalo's **Sister City of Rzeszow** in March ... Hamburg Town Clerk **Cathy Rybczynski** was named Erie County's 2009 Town Clerk of the Year ... The **Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City** group held a reorganizational meeting at St. Stanislaus Church on March 15.

The **Broadway Market** hosted "Stare Miasto: An Evening in the Old Town", featuring Polish food, drink and fun, on March 20 ... **Polish Sea shanties** and sailor songs were the featured genres at various ven-

ues across the Toronto area in late March ... The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College marked its 50th anniversary with a concert featuring the Ars Nova Musicians Chamber Orchestra, soprano Emily Tworek-Helenbrook and French hornist Jacek Muzyk at the Montante Cultural Center on the 27th ... The Grant-Amherst Business Association honored **Lou Ruszczyk** of Wegman's and **Roman Zabinski** of the Kolano Funeral Home at its 2009 awards dinner held at the Niagara Frontier American Legion Post 1041 on March 28 ... **Kabaret "Pod Banka"** marked its anniversary with two performances at Mississauga, Ontario's John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre on the 27th and 28th.

Members of the **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** participated in the Henry Hudson School 28 "Reading Around the World" program, sharing information about Polish history, culture, tradition and legends with Rochester's young people at the end of March ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** will honor Henry Maziarczyk, Wanda Slawinska and Cmdr. Janusz Nieduzak at its "Swieconka" on April 25 ... Polonia activist **Anthony Bajdek** of Massachusetts has been chosen as the AM-POL EAGLE 2008 National Citizen of the Year. The Citizen of the Year awards will be distributed at a luncheon on May 3 at Kloc's Grove ... The **Polish Scholarship Fund of Syracuse** announced that its 55th Annual Polish Festival will be held in Clinton Square the weekend of June 19 through 21 ... Professor **Marek Konarzewski**, the Science and Technology Affairs Minister Counselor of the Polish Embassy in Washington, has agreed to participate in the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester's 90th Anniversary Dinner in October.

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have any item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. April 6 for the May edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is pietruzka@verizon.net.

For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: <http://www.polegl.org>.

Bednarz Elected to Board of National Polish Center



Marilyn Piurek, Vice Chairman (left), Damian Bednarz, (center), and Patricia Koproski - Chairman.

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On February 6, 2009, at its quarterly meeting the Board of the National Polish Center (The American Center of Polish Culture Inc.) elected Damian M. Bednarz to serve as a director of the organization.

Bednarz earned a Master of Arts in International Relations from the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University in New Jersey in 2007. He was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar affiliated with the University of Warsaw Institute of Journalism and Political Science. Bednarz received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, *cum laude*, in May 2004 from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, with a Minor in Global Studies. In 2002, he was in the U.K. Hansard Scholars Program at the London School of Economics & Political Science. During this period, he served as an intern in the House of Commons in London and as a research assistant to a Member of Parliament.

Bednarz brings considerable new media skills to the Board. Since 2007 he served as the Regional New Media Director with Obama for America. Based in Chicago, he managed new media resources for thirteen states during the general election; edited feature content for state websites; implemented online voter contact strategies per each state's field plan; and served as a state New Media Director during four primary elections.

Bednarz has served as a Project Manager and Research Associate with the Hall Institute of Public Policy in his home state of New Jersey, where he managed New Jersey's first ever Virtual Debate for the 2006 U.S. Senate election. He has also served as Director of Public Relations/Spokesperson (2005-06)

for the New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress, in which capacity he helped promote political and cultural initiatives and drafted bilingual articles and press releases for domestic and international media.

The National Polish Center is located at 2025 O Street NW in the nation's capital.

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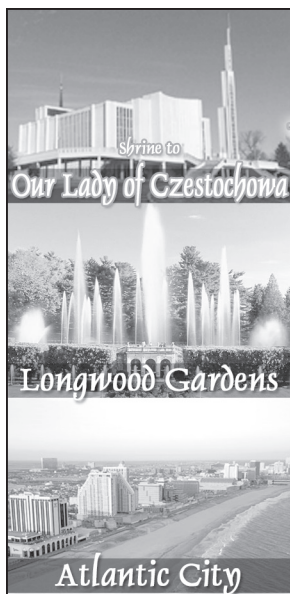
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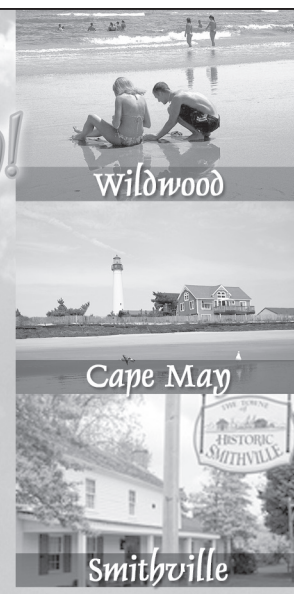


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NEWSWIRE

World Stage Plays in Poland

WARSAW—French President Nicolas Sarkozy's meeting with the Tibetan leader Dalai Lama in Poland brought about a new surge of anti-French sentiment in China. A second boycott of French products by the Chinese is expected to continue as over 1.2 million angry Chinese have signed a petition to boycott French products. Businesses in France have reported Chinese protesters camping outside their establishments. The current uproar began as the Dalai Lama began his six-day tour of Poland with a meeting with French President Sarkozy in Gdansk. Sarkozy currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency. The 73-year-old monk attended celebrations there marking the 25th anniversary of Lech Walesa's winning the Nobel Peace prize.

Later in Krakow, the Dalai Lama said: "The global economic crisis is serious, and it also impacts China, also India. I think for India, for democratic countries, it is sometimes easier to handle these problems..." When speaking of the advent of democracy in ex-communist countries such as Poland, he said: "The free world is the majority."

He shrugged off China's protests, maintaining that such outcries often precede his meetings with foreign leaders.

Zawacka, World War II Heroine, Laid to Rest

TORUN, Poland — General Elzbieta Zawacka passed away two months before her 100th birthday. One of two female generals in the Polish Army, she was a courier between the Home Army, the underground Polish army in Nazi-occupied Poland and the Polish government-in-exile in London. She was parachuted into Poland where she organized the resistance movement and fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. She held the highest Polish military and state honors, including the Order of the White Eagle and the Virtuti Militari. Her funeral was attended by representatives of the Polish President and Prime Minister and the British Embassy.



Nuclear Plant to Ease Dependence on Russian Oil

WARSAW—Poland will build its first nuclear plant to insure Poland's

energy security and will have two plants by the year 2020. A dispute between Russia and Ukraine which has interfered with gas supplies to Europe is a major catalyst for Poland's decision to develop nuclear energy. Construction of a liquefied natural gas terminal in the Baltic seaport of Swinoujscie will proceed soon. Qatar is one of the potential suppliers of LNG.

Germany to Contribute to Auschwitz Renovation

BERLIN—Germany is ready to make a contribution towards renovation work at the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz in Poland, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said the government was in contact with Polish authorities about what was required. "We consider it a core duty of Germany to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive," she said.

The camp, built in 1940, is badly in need of repair.

Without foreign assistance it faces falling into decay, according to the director of the Auschwitz memorial center, Piotr Cywinski, who sought international funding last summer.

The center requires around \$160 million for urgently needed restorations. The Polish government provides it with the equivalent of \$3.3 million annually.

In the 1990s, Germany contributed \$19 million towards renovation work.

Pirates Free Poles

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Two Poles freed by Somali pirates returned to Poland. They were among the crew of twenty-five on board when their ship, the Saudi super tanker SIRIUS STAR, was hijacked in mid-November for a three million dollar ransom. The ship was carrying a 100 million dollar cargo. The pirates had demanded a greater sum but finally agreed to the three million.

Case May Set Precedent

GDANSK, Poland — A 62-year-old woman from Gdansk filed a lawsuit against the construction company Skanska, placing blame for her lung cancer on passive smoke. She maintains that her cancer was caused from working over thirty years in the company's smoke-filled room where she was the only non-smoker. The case will set a judicial precedent in Poland.

Plastic Artists Canvassed

JERUSALEM — The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, together with the Esfira Maiman Rescuers Research Commission is calling upon Polish plastic artists to dedicate an artistic creation to the rescuers of victims of the Holocaust.

Esfira Maiman, 94, is a Holocaust survivor who owes her life to the late Stanislaw Slawinska, a Polish Catholic woman who, in the years of the Holocaust, hid Esfira and other persecuted Jews at her own home in Grodzisk Mazowiecki.

If you are a plastic artist and wish to donate such a dedicated artistic creation, contact the rescuers' commission at esfira.maiman@gmail.com with your proposed artistic idea in maximum detail.

More Power to Him

WARSAW—A 44-year-old Polish man came up with a better use for the speed camera that had constantly flashed outside his home in Mragowo, a town north of Warsaw:

The man, identified by Warminko-Mazurska police only as Piotr W., admitted to burying an extension cord two feet underground to tap into the automated ticketing machine's power supply.

Between December 2007 and January 2009, the camera powered not only the man's home, but that of a neighbor. It took more than a year before officials noticed that the electricity bill for the police was unusually high. On January 27, an officer who was sent out to investigate found the buried cord and followed it to Piotr's home.

Upon being confronted, Piotr W. And girlfriend Anna M. immediately confessed to taking the power. In light of their cooperation, a judge suspended a jail sentence and ordered the man to repair the damage, pay a fine of roughly \$225, and pay back the city for the \$1200 in electricity.

Move to Save Dell Money

LIMERICK, Ireland—Dell Computer is moving from Ireland to Poland, adding a second Dell production plant in Poland. The first facility began production in Lodz in 2005. The new facility will employ three thousand. The relocation from Limerick will proceed gradually throughout 2009. Dell expects to save three billion dollars by the move. Dell is a global supplier of computers and is 34th on the fortune 500 list.

PASS IT ON! When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe.



How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.**

The National Polish Center, Inc.

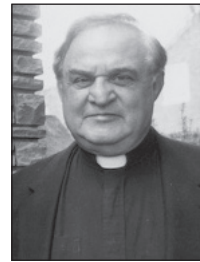
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HAMTRAMCK BEAT /Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

Ambassador's Ball Most Elegant

HAMTRAMCK, Mich.—One of the most elegant fund-raisers for the Orchard Lake Schools is held annually in January. This year, the Ambassadors Ball was held at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Michigan, Jan. 17. Before the banquet, the OLS Chancellor Rev. Timothy Whalen said, "There are a lot of challenges in running Orchard Lake, but what makes it doable is when you feel the prayers and support of hundreds of people behind you. One



BLASZCZYK

of those people whose love and support have boosted me up recently was Fr. Ted Blaszczyk, the long-time pastor at Queen of Apostles in Hamtramck, when we received a contribution from his estate.

I knew Ted loved OL. I just didn't know that he loved us that much.

"And, in turn, I would have to say that I loved him too, for a couple reasons.

First, almost from the time I first met him, I was so impressed by him because he was such a great priest. He was so human and so approachable, you immediately felt comfortable in his presence. Fr. Ted loved being a priest and he loved the people he was with. He was the type of pastor that any young priest would love to be assigned with and when you were with him, you were just inspired to be a better priest and a better human being. He was the type of person you would just feel naturally drawn to for advice or counsel.

"And the second reason I loved him is because I knew he loved Orchard Lake. His story is pretty impressive, about how he gave up a pro-baseball career to study for the priesthood at Orchard Lake, and it was the beginning of a long and loving relationship he had with us. He

was always truly interested in how things were going, and this created a real connection between us. You always felt good that you had someone like Ted Blaszczyk behind you.

"And I like to think that this room is full of people who are just like him." Next year's ball will be held at Detroit's Westin Book Cadillac Hotel. For more information, visit www.orchardlakeschools.com.

POLISH VARIETIES' ANNIVERSARY.

The POLISH VARIETIES RADIO-SHOW hosted its 30th annual radio ball Jan. 31 at the San Marino Club in Troy, Michigan. Broadcast over WNZK 680/690 AM, the program celebrates its 80th year of service to the Polish American and Polish Canadian communities. Program hosts are Jerzy Rozalski and Mariusz Szajnert. A Polish Mass celebrated by the priests at the Orchard Lake Schools can be heard at 9 a.m. broadcast over the program. For more information, e-mail jerzyrozalski@yahoo.com or mszajnert@wideopenwest.com.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY.

Peoples State Bank in Hamtramck celebrates its centennial this year. It has the distinction of being the oldest business in the city, according to Greg Kowalski of the Hamtramck Historical Commission.

FURNITURE DESIGNERS.

Hamtramck was represented in a show at the Detroit Artists Market in January. Gina Reichert and Mitch Cope, owners of Design 99 in town, were among the chair designers for the exhibit that spotlighted chair and jewelry designs.

PERSONAL MUSINGS. It's election year in 2009 for Hamtramck officials. As usual, it will be a lively interplay to observe.

Until my next column, Happy trails to you from Hamtown!

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PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt. Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$30.00.



I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

MAIL TO: PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050

Pork Chops and Polkas

WARE, Mass. — It will be pork chops and polkas, Saturday May 9, 2009, at St. Mary's Parish Hall, South Street in Ware. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for a cash bar and a home-cooked sit-down pork chop dinner and music for dancing by at Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push until 10:30 p.m.

St. Mary's offers a 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass for those who would like to fulfill their Sunday obligation just before the dance. Get those tickets early and call Janie today at (413) 596-8443 while the supply lasts. A sellout is expected.

City Side Teams with Auslanders

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Saturday, April 18, 2009 is the date when City Side of Buffalo teams up with the Auslanders for the 5th Annual Spring Dance at the beautiful Club Lorelei 55895 Southwestern Blvd, Hamburg, NY. Dance to two of Buffalo's Most Popular Ethnic Bands with traditional German and Austrian music by the Auslanders and Polish Style Polka Music by the City Side Band.

Music and dancing starts at 6:00 p.m. and goes until 10:30 p.m. Delicious German and Polish Dinners will be served from 5:00 p.m.

Admission is \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door. For information and table reservations call Frank (716) 674-9245 or Ron at 675-6588.

Benefit for Saratoga Bridges

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — A Polka Benefit, with proceeds aiding the Saratoga Bridges (formerly the ARC) will take place, Sunday, April 5, 2009 at the Saratoga Knights of Columbus, Pine Road and Route 29 in Saratoga Springs. Music by the Polka Country Musicians will be from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. A celebrity roast honoring Eddie Grzyb will take place at 1:00 p.m.

This event will provide the K of C kitchen and bar with doors opening at 1:00 p.m. For ticket or seating information, contact Steve or Cathy Coblisch at scoblisch@nycap.rr.com or call: (518) 899-3061.



Full Circle Announces its "Polka Cruise with the Stars III"

NEWPORT, R.I. — Full Circle and "A Dream Trip 4 U" are proud to announce the details of their next tropical polka adventure in paradise, their "Polka Cruise with the Stars III."

Carnival's newest, and largest vessel (it's still being built!), the luxurious, state-of-the-art Carnival Dream will serve as the floating resort for this exploration of the Eastern Caribbean. The trip sails from Port Canaveral, Fla. on January 30-February 6, 2010 and visits three of the Caribbean's most popular ports, Nassau (home of Atlantis), St. Thomas, and St. Maarten. Visiting these exotic destinations is especially convenient since they all have modern piers so there's no need for time-consuming tendering and no chance of missing a port due to inclement weather.

The hosts have pulled together an incredible lineup of polka entertainers to guarantee a week's worth of



stellar polka music. In addition to your host band Full Circle starring Lenny Gomulka, Jimmy Weber, Al Piątkowski, Mike Stapinski, and yours truly Mike Matousek, the legendary Boys (from Baltimore) will assemble to perform for this special sailing. And to top it off, special guest star and Polka Hall of Famer Ray Jay will be onboard to sing and play his well-loved signature tunes. Six Polka Hall of Famers in all will be onboard to entertain you! As a bonus, DJ Kenny Olowin returns for the third time to conduct his fun-filled polka parties and the libations will be flowing at those great private cocktail parties.

Since there's far too much to mention here, please contact Helga Leonard of "A Dream Trip 4 U" at (724) 234-2033 or helga@adreamtrip4u.com. There's lots of information at www.gonefullcircle.com as well.

Chambersburg Charities Plans Annual Party

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — The Chambersburg Polka Charities Committee is planning an evening of homemade ethnic food and polka music for its 23rd annual Polka Party, April 25, 2009 at the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department's Social Hall in Fayetteville, Pa.

With a menu of pierogi, kielbasa, gołąbki, polish casserole, freshly baked Polish rye bread, beet horse-radish, and a variety of desserts, all homemade, it is sure to please everyone. John Stevens Double Shot Band will be providing the polkas, waltzes and other dance music.

The dance night came into being many years ago as "Polish Knight" at the Knights of Columbus in Chambersburg. When the capacity of the K of C hall became too small, the "Polish Night" moved to the hall at Corpus Christi Church. Since that

time, a new organization, Chambersburg Polka Charities, was formed, becoming an International Group, holding the event at various places for various charitable organizations. This year's event will accommodate 360 in the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department's social hall.

Originally started by second-generation Polish residents of Franklin County who had grown up in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, the group has expanded to include more than 25 people of a dozen nationalities including Bulgarian, Croatian, English, German, Greek, Jewish, Polish, Slovak, Hungarian and Ukrainian.

Past recipients of the Polka Charities (a not-for-profit group) have included Corpus Christi Church, St. Mark's Church, Hospice, Chambersburg Hospital, Hometown Shield,

and the Salvation Army. Since 1985, \$30,053 has been donated to various organizations. Last year's recipients were Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department, Cumberland Valley Breast Care Alliance, and Helping Hands with Hearts.

Members of the committee provide many door prizes for a raffle drawing. Some of these items include a gift basket of Mary Kay products, season tickets to Totem Pole Playhouse, baskets of international food, large loaves of Polish rye bread, baskets of cheer and floral arrangements.

For reservations, call Diana Alexiou (717) 263-3673. Tickets are only \$25.00 per person. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. with dancing following the presentation of the donations and drawing for the door prizes.

Polka Fireworks Band Schedule

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. — The daily band schedule for the 2009 Polka Fireworks has been released. Thursday, July 2, will feature Polka Family and Andy Fenus & the Trel-Tones. Friday, July 3rd, will be Pan Franek & the Polkatowners, The Maestro's Men, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Mon Valley Push, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Big Lou & Her Polka Casserole, and Buffalo Concertina All-Stars in the halls. Henny & the Versa Js will play at poolside with the "After Jam" featuring Party Time. Saturday, July 4, lists Polka Family, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, The Knewz, The Boys, Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, The Maestro's Men, and Stephanie & Her Honky Band. The Dynabass will be at the pool and Mon Valley Push will play the After Jam. Sunday, July 5, will feature a Polka Mass with The Touch of Brass. In the hall will be The Dynabass, Ray Jay & the Carousels, and The Touch of Brass.

The 35th annual Polka Fireworks Festival will take place Wednesday through Sunday, July 1-5, 2009 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort. For more information contact: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, 7208 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL 60455, phone: (815) 254-7624.

Versatones on the Road

CHICAGO — Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones hit the road in April with an appearance at the Lily of the Valley Banquet Center, 2379 Union Road, Cheektowaga, N.Y. on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Joining them on stage will be The Nickel City Notes. Music is scheduled from 7:30 p.m. until midnight. For more information call (716) 348-8849 or 472-7370.

On Sunday, April 26, the Versatones will be at St. Cecilia's in Whitney, Pa. with music from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Call (724) 423-4361 or 423-5840 for details. Limited tickets are available for this event so you are urged to call ahead for reservations.

Click on the polka button at www.polamjournal.com for more polkas news

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Who, What, When, Where, Why and How

"Please put our dance in your newspaper, it is Saturday at the church hall and starts at 8 p.m."

That is a sentence taken from a recently received press release.

Perhaps it is time to again restate some facts and issue some reminders about press releases.

If you are a bandleader, promoter, organizer of a dance or event, you should be using the power of the press to tell everyone about your product.

The Polish American Journal/Polka Magazine is more than happy to accept your advertising and we even encourage it. However, we also are interested in your press releases with news of your product, whether it be a new recording, dance, church festival, or anything of interest to our readers.

A few items to think about when composing your press release: Saturday needs a "date." Saturday could be next Saturday or a Saturday "next month. The church hall must have a name and hopefully a street address. Tell everywhere exactly where this event is taking place. If it's a dance (and assuming

people won't be dancing to a jukebox), mention the band's name. List a contact, either a mailing address or telephone number and don't forget the area code.

The PAJ receives hundreds of press releases every week. The most effective press releases are those that are brief, complete, directed to the right department and sent using email, which then eliminates re-typing.

To receive the quickest attention, e-mail polka information to: pajpolka@verizon.net. Put "Press Release—PAJ News" in the subject line and **do not send attachments**. Copy and paste your announcement directly into an e-mail message. Items can be submitted via e-mail through our web site by clicking the proper e-mail address for each department. www.polamjournal.com

HERE'S A SHORT GUIDE TO WRITING A PRESS RELEASE:

- If you're sending it by mail, print or type the information on your organization's letterhead paper if available. E-mail is really a better venue, however, and we urge you to use it.

- Generally, it should take just a few short sentences to say what the press release is announcing. (In journalese, that's "Who, What, When, Where, Why" and — if necessary — "How"). Be sure to list the time, date and place of the event. In addition, include any ticket information and a phone number people can call for further information. The person sending the press release should include his name and contact information.
- Press releases that are longer than one page and scatter the important details throughout the text, are difficult to condense and edit. If you need to send more than one page, please group the crucial information at the beginning. Whether or not your press release information is used may depend on available print space, so brevity is the way to go.
- An important fact to remember is that the Polish American Journal is a monthly newspaper. Deadlines for information are generally the first of the month before publication. (May 1 for the June issue) Do not send information on a dance that will take place in two weeks — it needs to be in our

hands at least five to six weeks before the event.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR RELEASE:

- If you mail polka information, address it to: Steve Litwin - Polish American Journal, 39 Adams St. Binghamton, NY 13905. Non-polka information should be mailed to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025-0328.
- To receive the quickest attention, e-mail polka information to: pajpolka@verizon.net. Put "Press Release — PAJ News" in the subject line and, again, Do not send attachments. Copy and paste your announcement directly into an e-mail message. Items can be submitted via e-mail through our Web site by clicking the proper e-mail address for each department at www.polamjournal.com.

Please do not send more than two copies of a press release. It's better to send one or two to the right people than send five to the wrong ones.

Publicity is the key to success. Use it wisely! You tell us and we'll tell the polka world.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

It's Good to be Back



THE BARSTANDERS came to the Hard Times Dance to say goodbye and good luck to Greg and Lynn Chwojdak, who left the Buffalo area to resettle in Cleveland.



THE CONCERTINA ALL STARS played at the Hard Times Dance. From left: Dale Wojdyla, Ray Barsukiewicz, Joe Ryndak, and D. "Slapshot" Miesowicz.



EDDIE WOJTULSKI, surrounded by his grandchildren.

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Hi Everyone! It's good to be back after being on sick leave. I had foot surgery, which kept me from getting around. It is a long road to recovery for this type of surgery, but slowly I'm getting there. I want to thank you all for your get well cards, phone calls, and good wishes. They sure did cheer me up when I needed it.

CONGRATULATIONS. I would like to congratulate **Kim Potts** on her recent engagement. Kim is the daughter of Danny Potts, who has a restaurant, catering business and hall where many polka doings are held.

STO LAT. Happy birthday wishes to **Eddie Wojtowski**, whose 70th birthday was celebrated with a surprise party at St. Claire's Hall on Feb. 28. Over 100 people attended the event.

Belated happy birthday wishes go out to **Ted Szymanski** who turned 60 on Feb. 26. Ted is the leader of the Cityside Band.

Birthday wishes also to **Tony Rozek**, **Antoinette Rozek**, **Dale Wojdyla**, and **Ricky Pijanowski**, who celebrating their special days in March.

GET WELL WISHES ... go out to **Delphine Gempka** who has been homebound for some time due to back surgery ... I hope that **Jim Kazmierczak** is all better now after his open heart surgery ... I heard **Ricky Pijanowski** had a short stay in the hospital, too. I hope all the people who have had some sickness or surgery will heal fast and be out among us soon.

SPECIAL HELLOS ... to **Jane and Benny Kaukus**, who cannot get out as often as they could before and sure do miss it. And, best wishes go out to **Eleanor Nowicki**, a faithful reader of the PAJ. With better weather approaching, I hope to see them soon ... In addition, I would like to say a special hello to **Mary**

Ann Urbanski and **Bill Lawicki** who moved to Nevada several years ago but still have many friends and family here. It was nice to hear from them and hope to see them next time they come to town.

IN SYMPATHY ... I got a call from Matt Yaninas from Corning, N.Y. to inform me that his aunt, **Ann Stavins** passed away on Feb. 7. Ann, was from Niagara Falls, and for many years she attended various polka dances. Also, our condolences go out to Dolly Handzlik and family on the passing of her sister, **Eleanor Kohl** in January.

I also was saddened to learn of the recent passing of **Judy Spitak** from the Daisytown, Pa. Her late husband, Allen, played a vital role in the USPA Conventions. He passed away a few years ago as did their son Steven. Let us remember them all in our prayers. May they rest in peace.

SHINING HOUR. It was an honor for **Jerry Darlak** and the **Touch** to be nominated for the Grammy award for the third time, this time for CD entitled "Back to Back Hall of Fame Polkas." The band members and wives made the trip to Los Angeles and did enjoy the activities in connection with the awards show. Even though they did not win, they were pleased to be a part of this. We are proud that they received this nomination again. The Buffalo News did an interesting story about Darlak and the band, complete with a great photo. That was nice and a pleasure to read.

Also, the band was named "Citizen of the Year" award in the Music category by the AM-POL EAGLE. Congratulations to all those who received this honor. A luncheon to honor all the winners will be held on May 3 at the Kloc Grove.

BUSY, INDEED! It was quite a busy weekend for **Greg and Lynn Chwojdak**. On Feb. 14, Greg's daughter Stacey got married. Then, on Feb.

15, after 32 years in the business, Greg aired his last "Polkamotion" radio show on WXRL as he and his wife are moving to the Cleveland, Ohio area to take on new jobs.

That was quite an interesting show as many polka personalities showed up in the studio to wish Greg and wife Lynn well. Greg was presented was a flag that flew over the Capitol through the efforts of Robin Pegg and Brian Higgins. Lady Bea, Greg's mother, was on the final show giving her useful household hints. And, of course, Accordion Bill Malczewski, got to say goodbye, too.

The listeners were assured by WXRL station owner Ramblin' Lou that polka music would still be heard during the noon to 3:00 p.m. time slot. That is good news. Without a Polish Program on Sunday afternoon, it just wouldn't be the same. For many of us, this has been a household staple throughout the years growing up at home with our parents.

HARD TIMES. On Feb. 15, the **Concertina All Stars** played at the Potts Hall for the 3rd Annual Hard Times Dance. I am so pleased to report that this was a huge success. Many people enjoyed the great music and delicious baloney and onion sandwiches that were the specialty of the day. Also, there were lots of hugs for Greg and Lynn at the end of the dance as everyone wanted to say goodbye and wish them the best. Greg said that he still will be play-

ing with the Concertina All Stars so that is good news.

GOOD TIMES.

On Feb. 21, the **Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble** hosted the Zabawa Maskowa at the Lily of the Valley Hall with music by Cityside. Mania Pawlak-Metzler informed me that this event was a huge success-sold out. Lots of New Orleans style merriment and fun with super music, lively dancing, delicious food and refreshments.

The **Polish Heritage Dancers** held their annual Paczki Day party with music by Phocus at the Hearstone Manor on Feb. 22. Michelle Kisluk informed me that a nice crowd came to hear the great polka music, enjoy the homemade Polish food and paczki, and watch the various dances performed by the Polish Heritage Dancers.

It is good to hear that these dance groups are going strong and keeping our Polish heritage alive and well. Thank you to all who organize, teach, attend and support these folk dance classes.

BEST WISHES ... to all for a very Happy Easter. Enjoy the swienconka and the Dyngus day festivities, I hope to see you soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3. Jerry Darlak & the Touch are at the Polish Villa II on Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Music is from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

April 4. USPA Spring Fling with the Polka Country Musicians at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music is from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Call Denise at 984-1726, Chris at 892-7977 or Jennifer at 374-4392

April 5. Music is back once a month on Sundays from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with Cityside at Potts Banquet Hall, South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y.

For a listing of Dyngus Day events (Easter Monday, April 13), please check our "Dyngus Day Directory" on page 17.

April 16. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Short meeting, music, refreshments. New members always welcome. Call Chris as 892-7977

April 18. German-Polish Night at the Club Lorelei on S5895 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, N.Y. Music by the Auslanders and Cityside from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more information, call Frank at 674-9245

April 25. Post Dyngus Day dance with Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones and the Nickel City Band. Music begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. You can bring your own snacks but no BYOB. Call Mike at 348-8849.

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DYNGUS DAY DIRECTORY 2009

Śmigus-dyngus — Celebrating the End of Lent

This year April 13 will mark one of Polonia's most visible and enjoyable community celebrations — Dyngus Day.

For those not familiar with this holiday, Dyngus Day celebrates the end of the restrictive observance of Lent. Over the decades, Dyngus Day has become an opportunity to celebrate Polish-American culture and heritage, while celebrating the coming of Spring and having some fun. Tradition says that the custom goes back to the Middle Ages when men doused women with water to symbolize a renewed Baptism, but a more likely scenario involves young men who wanted to attract the notice of young ladies as the snows of Winter began to melt. The young men threw water and hit the women on the legs with pussy willows to get their attention. At modern Dyngus Day parties it is common practice for both men and women to splash and switch each other with water and pussywillows equally.

EASTER SUNDAY

- 17th Annual Pre-Dyngus Celebration (featuring Lenny Gomulka's "Chicago Push" and Jeff Mleczko & "Dynabrass"). 6:00PM. **LEONARD POST VFW HALL**, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. \$10.00. Jackie (444-8693)

EASTER MONDAY BUFFALO, N.Y.

Dyngus Day festivities on Buffalo's East Side will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the **CORPUS CHRISTI ATHLETIC CENTER**, 165 Sears St., with a Dyngus Day Luncheon immediately following an 11:30 a.m. Easter Monday Mass given by Fr. Anzelm Chalupka. Polish lunch of kielbasa, pierogi, ham, and kapusta. Musical performance by Bruce Woody, and a local polka artist. \$20.00 per person in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Seating is limited. Proceeds from the Luncheon will benefit the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle and Corpus Christi Church. For tickets Call Aniela Baj at (716) 479-2342

Other events around Western New York include (Area code 716):

- 2nd Annual Dyngus Day Brunch at the **LILY OF THE VALLEY HALL**, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Music by Jerry Darlak & the Touch and the Nickel City Band. Call Mike at 348-8849 or Jan at 348-9675.
- Dance at the **LEONARD POST** with music by Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push and The Knewz. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and music from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (see advertisement).
- The **POLISH FALCONS HALL**, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. has Phocus playing from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Rare Vintage is on stage from 6:00 p.m. until ? Food available at reasonable prices. For information call Ed at 984-1160 or Tom 651-9195. (see advertisement).
- Phocus and Ethnic Jazz play at **POTTS**, South Ogden St., Buffalo, NY starting at 8:00 p.m.
- Cityside plays at the **FAIRGROUNDS GAMING** in Hamburg, NY from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free Admission.
- Chopin's Party at the **HEARTHSTONE MANOR**, 333 Dick Rd., Depew, N.Y. with music by Cityside and the Dynabrass from 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. (see advertisement).
- **IV STALLIONS BAR** on William St. in Cheektowaga, N.Y. John Gora from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. 897-1935.
- **ST. STANISLAUS PARISH** has the Concertina All Stars and Stephanie & her Honky Band on stage at the Msgr. Adamski Social Center on Peckham and Wilson Sts. in Buffalo, N.Y. from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Free Polish Sausage sandwich with admission. For table reservations, call Terry at 893-3627.
- Polish Union of American Dyngus

Day BUS TOUR (includes Trip to the Seneca Niagara Casino and Dinner at the Wheatfield American Legion). 12:00. Southgate Plaza, Union Road, West Seneca. \$40.00. (677-0220)

- Dyngus Day Party featuring the Knewz. **AMHERST SENIOR CENTER**, 370 John James Audubon Pkwy., Amherst. (636-3070)
- Third Annual **DYNGUS DAY PARADE**. 5:00 p.m. Brodway Market, 999 Brodway, Buffalo. (833-5211)
- Dyngus Day Party. 5:00 p.m. **BUFFALO CENTRAL TERMINAL**, 495 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo. (954-2225)
- Jerry Darlak and the Piatkowski Brothers Orchestra, **POLISH VILLA II**, Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- Those Idiots and the Greg Docenko Band. Starts at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. Official Title: "Buffalo's Most Authentic Dyngus Day Party & Celebration." **ADAM MICKIEWICZ LIBRARY**, 612 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo. (479-2342)
- **POLISH CADETS OF BUFFALO**. Polish Cadets Hall, Grant and Amherst Streets, Buffalo. Wendy Higgins. (873-1174)
- Mon Valley Push. 6:00 p.m. **POLO-NIA HALL**, 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo. (855-2124)
- For more information on Dyngus Day in Western New York, check out www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com/.

SYRACUSE, N.Y.

- Second Annual Dyngus Day Celebration. **SYRACUSE POLISH HOME**, 915 Park Avenue, Syracuse. \$12.00.

(315) 471-9348.

ARIZONA

- Varitones at the **PULASKI CLUB**, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

CONNECTICUT.

- Eddie Forman Orchestra at the **Polish Home**, Bristol, Conn., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

FLORIDA.

- John Stevens & Doubleshot. **LAKE SUMTER STAGE**, The Villages, Fla., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

INDIANA

- **CRUMSTOWN CONSERVATION CLUB**, 59440 Crumstown Hwy., North Liberty, IN 46554. Music starts at 9:00 a.m. provided by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones.

MICHIGAN

- New Brass Express at the **American Polish Century Club**, 33204 Maple Ln., Sterling Heights, Mich., 5:30-11:00 p.m., food and drinks included. \$25.

OHIO

- Second Annual Dyngus Day Celebration at **ST. ADALBERT PARISH HALL** in Toledo, Ohio's Historical Polish Village. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Music, food, and fun. St. Adalbert's is located at 3233 Lagrange St. (419) 241-4179.
- Duane Malinowski at the **DISTILLERY LOUNGE**, Toledo, Ohio, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

DEPEW POLISH FALCONS CLUB
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MON., APRIL 13, 2009
 2:00 p.m.-?? • Doors open at 1:00 p.m.
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When: Easter Monday, April 13th
 Includes Dyngus Day Favors

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 48th Annual

DYNGUS DAY

Buffalo's First and Original Dyngus Day

Easter Monday,
April 13, 2009
 Hearthstone Manor
 333 Dick Road, Depew, NY

General Admission: \$8.00
 With Buffet • \$16.00
 SMOKING IN KING'S LOUNGE ONLY
 After 6:00 p.m., admission is limited to age 21 or over.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.
 Noon Blessing of the Easter Table
 Afternoon Buffet noon to 2:30 p.m.
 EVENING BUFFET WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE
 Followed by an artistic program
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Polka Music
 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Rare Vintage
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DYNABRASS

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 Music 7:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
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& THE CHICAGO PUSH

Sunday, April 12, 2009

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Celebration
 Cash Bar & Kitchen Available!

BUFFALO'S OWN
THE KNEWZ

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.
 Music 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
 \$10.00 Per Person (Non-Refundable)

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LENNY GOMULKA
& THE CHICAGO PUSH

Monday, April 13, 2009

NO Squirt Guns • Reserved Tables of 10 or more only, NO EXCEPTIONS
 A ticket does NOT guarantee a seat • NO BYOB
 NO bringing in of food or any type of beverage. Bags will be checked!

MPA Anniversary Dance

FRIDLEY, Minn.—The Midwest Polka Association will hold its 6th Anniversary Dance at the North Air Event Center (former Fridley KC Hall), 6831 Central Ave., Sat. April 18.

One of Chicago's finest bands, Danny Mateja & Downtown Sound,

will provide music for dancing and listening from 7:00-11:00 pm. There will be door prizes, cake and coffee. Admission is \$10 per person. For more information, e-mail Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call (651) 426-1079. For location directions, call (763) 784-3077.

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Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall
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Music from 8:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.

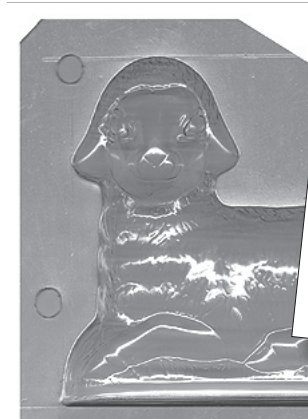
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POLKA PARADE / distributed by the Polonia Media Network

MIKE Surratt of the Continentals was awarded a "Wammie" by WAMA, the Washington (D.C.) Area Music Association, as 2008's "Best World Music Vocalist."

MAGGIE, the 7-year-old niece of polka promoter Roger Kemp has type 1 childhood diabetes. So it was natural for him to arrange a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The event features the Steve Drzewicki Band and takes place at the Bangor, Michigan, Township Hall on March 29, 2009.

A COMPUTER CRASH took the Polka Jammer Network off the air on February 18, 2009, but it took only a half hour to get things back in order. "Mary Lou's Polka Party" was a "victim" of the crash, so the show was archived for fans to tune in at their convenience.

RAY AND MARY ELLEN SZYMANSKI of the "Polka-Jam Show on WCNI (90.9 FM) in New London, Conn., used two weeks in February to raise enough funds to keep polka programming at the station.

Being a DJ at the station is a work of love, so they don't profit from their efforts and costs are paid by means of an annual appeal.

DUANE MALINOWSKI rarely appears in the east, but he and his band will be playing September 25-27, 2009, at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson, New York, with Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra, the Maestro's Men, Tony Blazonczyk, Polka Naturals and Ray Jay & the Carousels. For those from Michigan and Ohio, a chartered bus will be leaving from Toledo on September 24. More information can be found at www.duanemichaels.com.

BLOB'S PARK in Jessup, Maryland, a longtime place for polkas in the Washington/Baltimore corridor, experienced capacity crowds nearing 1,000 on several Saturday nights in February. It appears there has been a resurgence of attendance since its rebirth on New Year's Eve following a year of darkness. The large crowds and mix of ages may be attributable to the mix of music genres, which can change from polka, to Latin, to swing, to contemporary rock, all within the course of a 4-hour Saturday night.

ALL POLKA PEOPLE remember Ryan Ogradny as the cute little kid with the fiddle playing with Henny & the Versa Js. He's not little anymore and is now concentrating his efforts in another, though related, musical form. You can find a free country and western song of Ogradny's at www.rhapsody.com/ryanogrodny.

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www.visitjohnstownpa.com/polkafest

It's a Boy!

YANKTON, S.D. — Congratulations to The Polka Connection's Chuck Stastny and wife on the birth of their son Joseph. This tiger weighed in at 9 lb. and 12 oz.! The Stastnys also have a daughter, Mary, who is 2.

The Polka Connection stock a collection of polka music from labels all over the world. To log on, visit www.polkaconnection.com, or call (866) 901-6138.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MINNESOTA

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS — The Columbia Heights/Lomianki, Poland Third Annual Sister Cities **International Young Artist Showcase Exhibition** will be held on April 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street. For more information, call Dolores Strand (763) 571-1709.

MINNEAPOLIS — Holy Saturday, April 11, is the day for the **blessing of swieconka baskets**. Here are a few churches in Minneapolis where locals can get their baskets blessed: St. Anthony's, 9:30 a.m., after morning prayer; 11:00 a.m.; Holy Cross 11:00 a.m., (in English); noon; Holy Cross noon, (in Polish); 1:00 p.m.; Holy Cross (English), St. Clement, and Ss. Cyril & Methodius, all at 1:00 p.m.; Holy Cross (2:00 p.m. in Polish); and St. Hedwig in 2:00 p.m.; and All Saints at 3:00 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS — On April 30 to May 3, the International Institute of Minnesota will present the **76th Annual Festival of Nations**, which celebrates the richness of 96 diverse cultures at RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul.

If you work in the café or cultural booth for four hours, admission is free. Volunteer for the café by emailing Jowita at jowita23@yahoo.com or the culture booth by calling Renata at (651) 428-9625 or rstachowicz@msn.com.

MINNEAPOLIS — The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota is running a **Polish Constitution Day Trip** to Chicago, May 1 to May 3, 2009. Preliminary highlights include: march or ride in the Constitution Day Parade in downtown

Chicago; visit the Polish Museum of America; dine in traditional Polish restaurants; shop in the Polish districts for gifts, books, and food to bring back, including a stop at a pierogi store; and attend Polish Mass at St. Hyacinth Basilica. For information, call Judith Blanchard at (763) 571-9602.

NEW YORK

PORT WASHINGTON — The Polish American Museum announces applications for the **Third Annual Founders Scholarship** are now available. This scholarship is available to high school students of Polish heritage residing in Nassau and Suffolk County and citizens of the United States. Applications are upon request available to students entering college in the Fall 2009.

The deadline is April 12. For additional information contact the museum at (516) 883-6542.

This Scholarship was established on the 30th Anniversary of the museum to honor its founders Chester Wrobel, Dr. Raymond Adameczak, and Julian Jurus. Today the museum continues to serve the community with many historical exhibits as well as other exhibits featuring the contributions of the Poles.

Last year's recipient was Teresa Wierzbicki, who is attending the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland. Our past recipient was Bartholomew Johnson of Port Washington currently attending the Notre Dame University.

A concert will be held at the museum, 16 Belleview Avenue, Port Washington on Sunday, May 3 when the Scholarship will be awarded.

OHIO

TOLEDO—St. Adalbert Parish at 3233 Lagrange St., (419) 241-4179, will hold a **Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration**, April 19 at 2:00 p.m. with a Solemn Mass and Procession. A Polish Easter Brunch will be served in the church hall from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PENNSYLVANIA

CHESTER—**St. Hedwig's Parish**, 4th & Hayes Streets, (610) 623-0409, announces its schedule of services for Easter: Niedziela Meki Panskiej Palmowa (Palm Sunday) 9:30 a.m. Mass; Wielki Czwartek (Holy Thursday) 7:00 p.m. Service; Wielki Piatek (Good Friday) 3:00 p.m. Service; Wielki Sobota (Holy Saturday) 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Food Baskets, and 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil; Wielkanoc (Easter) 9:30 a.m.

St. Hedwig's is celebrating 106 years of Polish tradition at in Chester.

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia announces its **42nd Annual Chopin Concert**, Friday, April 17, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Settlement Music School-Mary Louise Carter Branch, 416 Queen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. The featured artist is pianist Julia Kociuban. Tickets are \$25 each; students, \$15, and may be purchased at the door. A reception follows the recital.

Winner of the 2008 National Chopin Piano Competition of Poland, Kociuban, was born in 1992 in Krakow, Poland. Since 1998, she has been a student of the Mieczyslaw Karłowicz State Music School in

Krakow.

Kociuban has won several important national and international piano competitions and has performed in Poland, France, Germany, Russia, Estonia, Canada, Austria and Lithuania.

The sponsor, the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), is dedicated to fostering interest in the culture, history and customs of Poland and her people as well as disseminating information regarding the accomplishments of Poles and Polish-Americans. The Society also offers scholarship grants and sponsors lectures on Polish and Polish-American topics. For more information, phone JoAnn Chernis, Membership Chair (215) 483-7652.

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

POLAND NOT ON OBAMA'S ITINERARY (thenews.pl) — Washington has announced the European travel schedule for President Barack Obama's first trip overseas as head of state — and Poland is not in his plans.

President Obama will visit Great Britain, France, Germany and Czech Republic, the White House has announced.

The visit will start on April 3 and last for two days. Obama will meet with Prime Minister Brown, President Sarkozy and Chancellor Angela Merkel and he will attend the NATO summit in Strasburg, and round off his trip with a visit to Prague — the current seat of the EU's rotating presidency — on April 5.

PIAST INSTITUTE FINDS NEW HOME. Hamtramck, Michigan-based Piast Institute, an independent organization dedicated to Polish and Polish American affairs, will be running operations out of the old Pieronek photography studio on Jos. Campau Blvd.

Dr. Joann Pieronek and her chil-

dren donated the building to the institute last year.

Virginia Skrzyziarz, executive vice president, says that the Pieroneks wanted to keep the building part of the social fabric of Hamtramck.

"Pieronek opened in 1923 and it chronicled the history of Hamtramck," she said.

Pieronek Studio operated for nearly 80 years, closing in 2002.

"Everyone in the city came here to get their pictures taken, weddings, families, children. And Dr. Pieronek wanted to keep it part of the city."

Piast President Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, who grew up in Hamtramck, got his school pictures taken at Pieronek.

The Piast Institute is a national organization. It is the only one like it in the United States and most of the funding comes from national sources. Piast actually could have moved anywhere but, Skrzyziarz said, they decided to stay here in Hamtramck.

"We want to contribute back to the city," she said.

The institute offers services to not just the Polish and Polish Americans but to any of those who need it. Hamtramckans can apply for Medicaid or check Medicaid availability at the Piast, they've organized immunizations, and they are also the only Census Information Center in the state and an official assistant site for immigration. Radzilowski said the Piast brokers a lot of services.

VETERAN GIVES BACK. Richard Borkowski, 77, of Parma, Ohio, was honored as the Joint Veteran's Commission of Cuyahoga County's 2008 Veteran of the Year. He served with the Army's 7th Infantry Division in 1950, the opening year of the Korean War.

He served with an 81-mm mortar unit and suffered frostbite during a drive by China to push U.S. troops back into South Korea.

"I don't know how I withstood the cold, the bitter cold," he said. "It was 35 below."

Over the past 16 years, he has devoted more than 5,000 hours to volunteering at the Stokes Cleveland

VA Medical Center. Each Sunday he wheels vets to religious services at the medical center and takes snacks and treats to patients.

"I enjoy doing it," he said. "It's very enlightening. I always realize that, while I can walk out of there, some of these patients can't."

PNCC TOPIC OF ESSAY. A research essay by Jeffrey Jozefski of Rochester, was published in the Autumn 2008 edition of POLISH AMERICAN STUDIES. The title of his essay is "The Role of Polish and American Identities in the Future of the Polish National Catholic Church." Jozefski's research advisor was Kathleen Urbanic, a Polish community historian in Rochester, N.Y.; and Professor Francis Kilcoyne of Boston College. He received a Tomaszkiwicz-Florio Scholarship from the Kosciuszko Foundation in 2007, and a scholarship from the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester in 2004. Jozefski works in affordable housing development for an affiliate of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rochester

Happy Easter
Wesołego Alleluja



**DAVID
FRANCZYK**

Commom Council President
Buffalo, New York

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Worth the Wait

THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE

by David Wroblewski
Ecco Press, \$25.95

Wroblewski's hard ten years in creating this first book has paid off nicely; it has been on the best seller's list for the past 31 weeks. While the book is about a mute boy and his relationship to animals, it is also a story of family and feelings.

Perhaps his 25 years as a professional software designer and making complex technology understandable has aided him in creating the deeply moving story.

SONATA FOR MIRIAM

by Linda Olsson
Penguin books, 2009 \$15.00

Adam Anker mourns the death of his daughter and loss of family. He visits a War Memorial Museum in New Zealand and discovers a man with the same name as his. After a year mourning the loss of his daughter, Adam, alone now, decides to search for his long-buried past. When he visits Krakow he meets an elderly Jewish man, Moische Spiewak, who knew his father. As their friendship deepens, he discovers secrets and learns what happened to his family.

But before he can start up his new life, he needs to visit his ex wife, whom he hasn't spoken to in twenty years and try to understand what when wrong.

FOUNDERS ON THE FOUNDERS

Word Portraits from the American Revolutionary Era edited by John P. Kaminski
University of Virginia Press, 2008
bibliography, index, illustrations, 589 pp, \$29.95

Oh, if only our present day politicians had the same attitude as these founding fathers, concerned with creating a free country. They were dedicated to serving their country, not raising money for the next election.

This is a fascinating look into the private thoughts of our Founding Fathers and their contemporaries. A short biographical sketch and chronological series of quotes were taken from their correspondence and diaries. Ka-

minski avoids providing references to political issues, rather intending to reveal the character, mannerisms, as well as physical and intellectual descriptions, a kind of portrait in words.

He includes thirty people, four U.S. presidents, five, U.S. vice-presidents, five justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, eleven state governors, and others in public office or the public limelight. Abigail Adams and Martha Washington are also included.

Some quotes are a short paragraph, others a page and half long. John Adams writes to his wife, Abigail—"I never wanted your advice and assistance more in my life." And again the following month—"The Times are critical and dangerous, and I must have you here to assist me." She responds—"My ambition will extend no further than Reigning in the Heart of my Husband. That is my throne and there I will aspire to be absolute."

Julian Niemcewicz writes in his book, *Travels Through America*: "Abigail Adams, short, small and squat has been accused of a horrible crime ... it is said she puts on rouge."

There are many delightful revelations of the people of Revolutionary time, entertaining and informing the reader at the same time.

FAKERS

Hoaxes, Con Artists, Counterfeiters, and Great Pretenders

by Paul Maliszewski, New Press, 256 pp, \$23.95

The author admits to his many hoaxes in letters to the editor and other journalistic deceptions. He explains the difference between hoaxes, cons and outright lies. There are many interviews with con men and how a lie quickly becomes the truth when repeated often enough. One of his examples is the memoir of James Frey, *A Million Little Pieces*.

But is this really a fraud or faker? Who is to tell what in your memory, or mine, is true?

Maliszewski fares better when he discusses his own newspaper hoaxes.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Sophia Horbacz, Author of "Sophia, My Life's Journey"

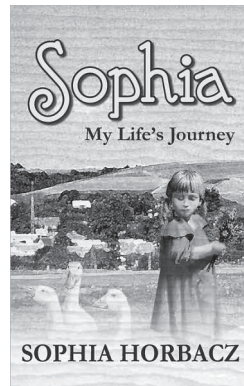
My name is Sophia Horbacz. I am an author of my first book "Sophia, My Life's Journey."

I was born in Poland during World War II in the little village Ruszelczyce, about twenty kilometers from Przemysl, located in southeastern part of Poland. In 1961 my family was lucky to be able to come to the United States. We lived in Jersey City, N.J. I finished High School and worked in New York City on Wall Street as a teletype operator at F.I. DuPont brokerage house. Later, I worked at KDI Electronic Co. as Senior Production Planner for twenty three years. In the year 2000 I retired and moved from New Jersey to Sarasota, Florida. My husband and I have three children, two sons and one daughter. We also have two granddaughters.

"Sophia, My Life's Journey" was published on December, 2008. This book is about my life starting at three years old, to the present. I write about my painful memories when my father was killed and my mother was left with five small children. My family's struggles were tremendous.

I write what it was like to live in the United States, in the Polish community of Jersey City, N.J. After I

got married, my husband developed bipolar disorder. I talk about how I dealt with it, not knowing why he was acting the way he was. Finally the book has a happy ending. My husband is taking the right medication and he is OK.



SOPHIA HORBACZ

We moved to live in Sarasota Florida where life is peaceful. We are enjoying beautiful sunny days and the most beautiful beaches in the world, especially Siesta Key Beach. Life is good.

This book is about faith, hope, forgiveness, determination and inspiration.

"Sophia, My Life's Journey" is available at amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, BookAMillion.com, and at Barnes & Noble stores. If it is not in stock, please ask them to order it for you. You can also obtain it from the publisher, PeppertreePublishing.com.

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NEW BOOKS

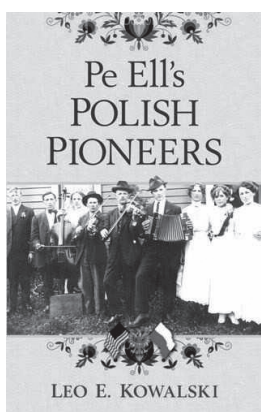
A Look at Polonia in Pe Ell and Insight to a Fulbright Scholar

SAN PEDRO, Calif. — Two new books about the Polish immigrants who came to this small Washington State community over 100 years ago are now available. Their stories are told by the author, a grandson of 1891 homesteaders, as well as stories told by other descendants of these early pioneers in the unsettled west. In them we can read about the experiences of our immigrant ancestors leaving their homes and loved ones, crossing an ocean and a continent to make a new life for themselves and their families. We learn about their hardships, their joys, their sorrows; how they worked hard to assimilate into the new world and become American citizens.

We also learn about the enduring customs they brought with them, enjoyed by succeeding generations. We learn about the curious name of this small Washington

state town, in the past referred to locally as "the Polish town." Other stories tell about why they celebrated the Polish constitution of 1791, over 100 years later, the first European constitution almost never used; the working conditions in the sawmills and logging camps together with many deaths and serious injuries; the Polish children who spoke Japanese; the deaf mute baseball player who rose to be a catcher in the old Pacific Coast League; the high climber who fell from the top of a spar tree and overcame paralysis to become a civic leader; the Polish lady who never saw a black man and thought he was "dirty;" why the Holy Cross church became an his-

torical landmark; and many others. "Pe Ell's Polish Pioneers," \$20 postpaid, and "Pe Ell's Polish Heritage," \$30 postpaid, are available from Leo Kowalski, 1700 Miracosta Street, San Pedro, California 90732. The books are beautifully bound in hard cover and include historical photographs.



LEO E. KOWALSKI

Classrooms and Barrooms

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — In *Classrooms and Barrooms*, David

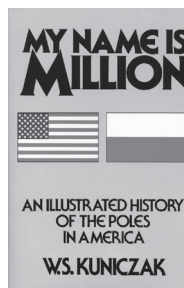
J. Jackson recounts his experiences during a semester-long Fulbright Fellowship in Poland where he taught classes at the university level and learned more about Poland and himself than he expected. From the trepidation associated with learning, he was assigned to teach in a city considered by most to be an unpleasant wasteland, to meeting American and Polish colleagues for the first time.

Jackson's worries vanished as he quickly learned to accept the challenges Poland presented. Halfway through his time in Poland he stumbled into a bar populated with an ever-changing cast of eccentric locals who welcomed him into their world. Each visit led him to another

revelation about Polish history and culture. Alternating among hilarious, somber, and uplifting, Jackson's experiences in the classrooms and barrooms of Poland aim both to inform and entertain.

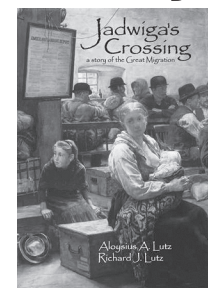
The author is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. From October 2007 to February 2008, he was a Fulbright Fellow in the Department of American Studies and Mass Media at the University of Łódź in Poland. Jackson is also the author of *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Pop Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization* and numerous articles in scholarly journals.

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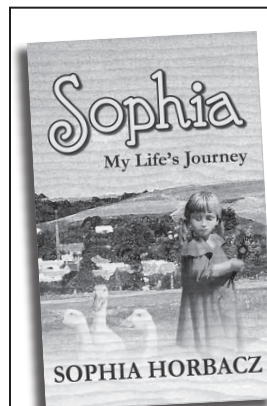
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SOPHIA

Sophia is Sophia Horbacz's life story, from three years old to the present. She was born in the little village of Ruszelczyce, Poland during World War II. Her father was killed and her mother was left with five small children. Family struggles during that time were tremendous. In 1961 they were lucky to be able to come to the United States.

The toughest time in her life was when she struggled with her husband's drinking problem and his bipolar disorder. She thanks God for helping her through that time of her life. Paperback. 164 pages. ISBN-13: 9780982254080

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Roman Pucinski Exhibit at PMA



James Keithley, Aurelia Pucinski, and Henriette Rocks.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO—Over 300 guests attended the opening of an outstanding historical exhibit on the life of Roman Pucinski and his outstanding contributions to our country. Chicago public school educated, a graduate of Northwestern University and Chicago's John Marshall Law School, Pucinski served his country honorably as a bombardier and navigator during World War II, flying 49 missions over Japan and lead his bomber group on the first B-29 Superfortress bombing raid over Tokyo in 1944. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with Clusters.

For over 20 years, Pucinski worked as a journalist and reporter for the former DAILY TIMES and then the CHICAGO SUN TIMES. As a well-respected investigative reporter, Pucinski uncovered horrid conditions in Chicago's jail and shocking conditions in its juvenile detention center, as well as exposing driver's license fraud, and corruption within the city's housing market.

In 1952, Pucinski left journalism to accept the position of chief investigator of the Congressional Committee investigating the Katyn Forest Massacre. From 1959 to 1973, he represented the 11th Congressional District. A hard working congress-

men, Pucinski was instrumental in sponsoring legislation to improve airline safety by requiring passenger airlines to be equipped with the flight data recorder, the "black box"; to promote education, such as Head Start and the Ethnic Heritage Studies Act, created to further scholarly studies of ethnic and immigrant issues; and to share information (National Information Storage and Retrieval Act), the forerunner of the Internet; and to promote peace in the Middle East by helping Israel. He also supported legislature to regulate the dumping of waste material into oceans, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

With the redistricting of the 11th US Congressional District, Pucinski chose not to run for the congressional seat he held for 14 years. Instead, he sought the Illinois U.S. Senate seat against Republican Charles Percy and lost. He successfully ran for Chicago's 41st Ward alderman, a position he held from 1973 to 1991. "Pooch," as he was affectionately called, is generally acknowledged as the political leader of Chicago's Polish American community. A Polish American who devoted his life to servicing his country and a champion of "Polish freedom during the Cold War," died on September 25, 2002.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

A Dog's Life?

Sports Illustrated recently published a comprehensive article by Jim Gorant about the Bad Newz Kennels, the dogfighting operation owned by football star Michael Vick. When authorities raided the operation in April 2007, 51 pit bulls that were trained to fight were seized.

"A pit bull is like a Porsche. It's a finely tuned, highly muscled athlete," said Stephen Zawistowski, a certified applied animal behaviorist and an executive vice president of the ASPCA. "And just like you wouldn't give a Porsche to a 16-year-old, you don't want just anyone to own a pit bull."

The dogs certainly weren't treated well under Vick, but even after they were taken to six animal-control facilities in Virginia they weren't given a lot of attention. Workers there feared that they were dangerous, and assumed that the dogs would be put down after Vick's trial.

However, Judge Henry E. Hudson and Assistant US Attorney Mike Gill reached out to, among others, Zawistowski. U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson ordered each dog to be evaluated individually, and ordered Vick to pay nearly \$1 million care for the dogs over their lifetimes. "Dr. Z" put together a team that agreed on a protocol for testing the dogs that would show their level of socialization and aggressiveness. Among other things, the dogs were presented with people, toys, food and other dogs. Their reactions and their overall demeanor were evaluated. In those three days the team assessed 49 dogs at six sites.

Team members were surprised at how little aggression the dogs showed. Many just cowered in the corners of their kennels. In the end, 47 of the 51 Vick dogs were saved. (Two died while in the shelters; one was destroyed because it was too violent; and another was euthanized for medical reasons.) Twenty-five were placed directly in foster homes, and a handful have been or are being adopted. Twenty-two were deemed potentially aggressive toward other dogs and were sent to an animal sanctuary in Utah. Some, after intensive retraining, are expected to move on to foster care and eventual adoption.

"KILLER SPULNIK?" What's in a name? A lot, if you're a professional wrestler. Many wrestlers adopted "ring names" for a variety of reasons. Often they were used to create a character or gimmick for a performer, or to appeal to a certain audience. Sometimes they picked up a name that was used by another wrestler in order to build on an established following.

There have been professions in which it was a disadvantage to have a Polish name, and even in sports, athletes were often encouraged to "anglicize" their names during the first half of the 20th century. Baseball Hall of Famer Al Simmons was born Aloysius Szymanski, but was convinced to shorten his name "so it could fit in a box score." But



IVAN PUTSKI was born in Poland as Jozef Bednarski.

professional wrestling frequently liked having headliners with ethnic sounding names that could appeal to various ethnic groups.

Although Polish names drew Polish audiences, that didn't prevent wrestling promoters from changing their Polish names. In fact, some Polish wrestlers had their Polish names changed — to different Polish names. One of the greatest of all wrestlers, Killer Kowalski, was actually born Edward Walter Spulnik (Could you imagine Killer Spulnik?). Kowalski is not only one of the most common surnames in Poland, but was the name of the main character in Tennessee Williams' 1947 play *Streetcar Named Desire*. Another all-time great, Ivan "Polish Power" Putski was actually born Josef Bednarski (Evidently no one told them that "Ivan" wasn't a Polish name). Putski was a very popular wrestler, especially in the Polish community, and was so strong that he competed in the 1978 World's Strongest Man competition. His son, Scott Bednarski, was an outstanding college football player before entering the ring as — you guessed it — Scott Putski.

Even wrestling legend Zbyszko, who dominated the sport in the early 1900s, was born Stanislaw Jan Cyganiewicz. He adopted the name Zbyszko after a legendary medieval Polish knight. Many years later a Polish American wrestler named Lawrence Whistler decided to rename himself Larry Zbyszko.

Of course, a number of wrestlers with Polish names had to change them. Alan Robert Rogowski adopted the name "Ole Anderson" when he joined a tag team with "brother" Gene Anderson after Lars Anderson left the team in the late 1960s. The great Montreal-based wrestler known as "The Flying Frenchman," Edouard Carpentier, was actually born to Polish parents as Edouard Wicz.

Johnny Valentine (born John Wisniski), was another outstanding Polish American wrestler who was trained by the original Zbyszko. With his long blond hair, tanned, athletic build, and cocky mannerisms, Valentine was one of the most hated men of the '50s, '60s and '70s. Johnny's great career ended prematurely when he suffered serious injuries in a plane crash in 1975. However, his son, Greg Valentine, followed his father into the ring. In the 1990s, when action movie hero Jean-Claude Van Damme was very popular, a Florida promoter decided that Robert Szatkowski should be-

come Rob Van Dam. The Battle Creek Michigan native went on to become one of the sport's most popular stars. Until he retired from the ring a couple of years ago, Chris Nowinski competed as Chris Harvard to play up his unique status in pro wrestling as an alumnus of Harvard University.

There was at least one case where a non-Polish wrestler took on a "Polish" name. "Mighty" Igor Vodic isn't really a Polish name, and neither was the man who portrayed him. In the 1960s Michigan bodybuilder Dick Garza played Mighty Igor as a Polish peasant who sometimes carried a kielbasa into the ring, to the chagrin of many Polish Americans.

SWIMMING SAFETY. A new federal law mandates safer covers on public swimming pool drains, intended to reduce the chance of drain-related problems. But **Thomas Lachocki**, chief executive of the Colorado National Swimming Pool Foundation says the law—for now—will decrease public safety. Pools that are non-compliant will be forced to shut down. Lachocki said most of the 300,000 public pools did not meet deadline, thus disrupting swimming lessons and lifeguard training. The lack water education poses a greater risk to drowning.

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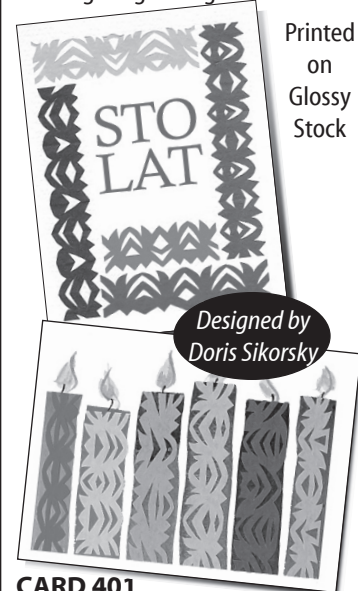
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Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

Part IV

HALLOWED GROUND WITH HISTORY. It was two weeks after All Soul's Day and we made a stop at the beautiful memorial park – Lipowa Cemetery to visit the final resting places of directors Kaniorowa and Wachowiak, and members of the dance troupe.

When studying in Poland I wandered through this hallowed ground frequently to allow myself a perspective of culture and historical reference, and to gaze at the magnificent monuments. Larry Kozlowski, the director of *Alliance College's Kujawiaki* and I visited here, along with one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Poland, and a synagogue set atop a steep hill.

This ancient cemetery is mainly Catholic, but there are largely abandoned sections reserved for Orthodox, Protestants and atheists, as well as many memorials to past rebellions, war heroes and significant figures from Lublin's history. Established in 1809 with the first burials occurring in 1811, it is now almost full.

Divided into lots with wide intersecting paths between, mature trees add to the unique landscape. To visit a cemetery in Poland at this time of the year is to see an amazing sight. The crowds never diminish and at night the site is illuminated with the glimmer of thousands of candles and colored burning lamps. Most graves are tombs consisting of a stone slab with a headstone or cross. Some have monuments of angels or small towers, while others are quite large and elaborate.

A meal at Pani Irena Drelich's home in *Kreżnicka* followed... as Grzegorz's mother said "home cooked is the best!" We retired to Grzegorz's apartment where we watched Poland's version of *Dancing with the Stars*. This reality icon, along with *You Can Dance* have captured the public's imagination.

A MEETING AT UMCS. Lublin has a student population of around 100,000, and is called the "Polish Oxford" for its five public universities and other private higher education establishments.

Having already met at the *Mazowsze* Gala, I set out for a proper gathering of nostalgia and conversation with the founder of *The Folk Dance Ensemble of the University of Marie Curie-Skłodowska*, the head of the *Course for Instructors of Polish Artistic Ensembles*, my professor, and friend – Mgr. Stanisław Leszczyński. I was joined by his wife and one of my instructors, Janina, who is the genius behind the renowned costume wardrobe of the ensemble, their son Lech – a director in his own right, and his wife Beata, the music and vocal director.

We started with *wódka* at 10:30 am, followed by *wiejskie kielbasa* made from wild boar, *paczki* doughnuts and cheese-filled pastries. The dancers were rehearsing in the room next door and I was asked to address



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC

Lipowa Cemetery in Lublin.

them about the worth of their work in the preservation of folk culture.

I was unable to attend the several-day festivities of their recent 55th anniversary and was told by many throughout Poland that it was spectacular. We caught up on six years worth of activity, while Pan Leszczyński peppered the conversation with his famous humorously salty *dowcip*-jokes. We discussed his method in unearthing the songs and dances from the sub-region of Chelm, the situation of Polish dance and Polonia ensembles in the United States, along with inquiries about former students and graduates of the course.

A STROLL TO THE OLD TOWN.

My next stop was a visit with my old-time friend, choreographer Jan Pogonowski, who is well known for his work with many U.S. folk ensembles. The day was capped by a visit to the *Lublin Ensemble* headquarters, and a stroll down *Krakowskie Przedmieście* to the Old Town. Much has changed to restore its original allure, and a portion of the now cobble-stoned street is relegated to pedestrian traffic.

I have always considered Lublin to be my second home. I remember being guided through this enchanting town by Alvin and Mary Pierce, and Regina Laskowska of Boston's *Krakowiak Dancers* many years ago. Despite the presence of *Coffee Heaven* and *Costa Coffee*, there is still the *Chmielewski Cukiernia* confectionery (ul. Krak. Przed. 8, established in 1900) and many traditional cafés and restaurants.

Lublin is the ninth largest city, and the largest city in Poland east of the Wisła River. The city was a target of attacks by Tatars, Ruthenes, Yotvingians, and Lithuanians and was destroyed a number of times. It received a city charter in 1317. Kazimierz the Great, appreciating the strategic importance of the location,

built a masonry castle in 1341 and encircled the city with defensive walls.

The Old Town, with its old, picturesque architecture has a charming, unique ambiance. The newly renovated Lublin Castle houses an ethnographic museum and the incredible Trinity Chapel. The Chapel has been enrolled in the *UNESCO* cultural heritage list and features 15th century Russo-Byzantine frescoes, considered the finest medieval wall paintings in Poland and among the best in Europe.

Lublin now has a number of new shopping centers, such as *Lublin Plaza* and *Galeria Gala*. In 2001 it became a sister city to its only namesake outside Poland – Lublin, Wisconsin.

The Drelich family and I shared a farewell dinner at *Magia Restaurant* (ul. Grodzka 2/Rybna 1). I enjoyed the *zur* soup in a bread bowl with horseradish and mushrooms, and the *pieirogi ruskie*.

LEARNING BROADWAY'S FOSSE STYLE: Staś Kmieć, director Małgorzata Potocka and dancers from Warsaw's *Teatr Sabat*

RETURN TO WARSAW. The next day I was on an express train to Warsaw, which takes around 2 ½ hours. Trains run ten times a day to Warsaw and three times to Kraków, as well as all other major cities.

I arrived on *Dzień Niepodległości*, the national holiday marking the anniversary of regaining independence by Poland. I had just missed the parade where an actor dressed as Marshal Józef Piłsudski rode a horse commemorating when the favorite combat mare *Kasztanka* was ridden for the last time on November 11, 1927, at the Polish Independence Day parade on Warsaw's Sax-

on Square (now Piłsudski Square). I reunited with Krzysiek, his wife Ewa and their children Tomek and Natalia, who were dressed in their *harcerskie*-scout uniforms for the occasion.

I was now staying at the *Metropol Hotel* (Marszałkowska 99A), conveniently situated in the heart of the city, where I had been during my first visit to Poland and then again 6 years ago. As I took an evening walk along the main streets, I received a call from the U.S. that my Uncle Joe had passed away. The rest of the evening was spent in thought and reflection.

TEACHING BROADWAY'S FOSSE STYLE.

The next morning, despite thoughts about canceling an invitation to teach a dance seminar in the Broadway style of the legendary Bob Fosse to the *Teatr Sabat* dancers, I was convinced by manager Konrad Turlejski to reconsider.

The sinewy long lean female dancers and masculine male dancers were a joy to work with, and adept at picking up the nuances of form. I surprised myself to be able to convey the distinctively slinky, sexy subtleties of the Fosse's movement vocabulary in Polish. Following the 2-hour workshop, I met with director Małgorzata Potocka and soloist Anita Klimecka. We discussed my return to Warsaw in the summer to set four Broadway dance suites on the company, and to teach a symposium on theaterdance, which would be open to Poland's dancers.

I would have never thought that one day Poland would be in the position to enlist the talents of American choreographers for their artistic ventures. In the folklore world it was always the reverse.

As a parting gift, I was given a *Chopin Vodka* set and a bottle of the *Soplica Staropolska* – vodka aromatically infused with walnuts, elderflower, jasmine, wild strawberries and enriched with honey.

Warsaw also boasts an ambitious musical theater company – *Roma* (ul. Nowogrodzka 49), which produces in repertory full-length works, such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *Dance of the Vampires*, *My Mother Janis*, and *Crazy for You*, as well as original musicals such as *Piotruś Pan*, and *Akademia Pana Kleksa*. Having attended their production of *Grease* in 2003, I can attest to their cultural worth.

Next month: *Wandering Warsaw, a train to Kraków, and a Zofia Stryjenska Exhibition.*

See Southern Poland with the Lira Ensemble



MIGALA

CHICAGO—The Lira Ensemble of Chicago, known for its spectacular concerts of Polish music, song and dance, is also known for organizing unforgettable tours of Poland. This year, Lira is taking its audience members and supporters on a tour of Southern Poland. The tour is open to anyone, but is especially designed for Polish Americans and their families.

The tour leaves Thursday, June 25 for two weeks in Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Czestochowa, Pope John Paul II's birthplace, Chopin's birthplace, Wroclaw and more.

The Lira Tour is led by Lucyna Migala, co-founder of the company, who is also Lira's artistic director and general manager and an expert on Polish culture — so the tour emphasizes music, folklore, traditions and history and, like Lira concerts, is designed to be very enjoyable as well as informative.

Past Lira Tour members have praised Lira tours as "life changing experiences," and "great fun," because they offer a view of Poland far beyond the scope of usual tours. They also offer personalized service as well as great companionship.

Lira's tours cover all the major attractions as well as concerts, folk performances, and many surprises. Included in the tour price are all transportation and admissions, first class hotels, three meals a day (except for six meals on your own), and an ultra-modern motorcoach with an airline-style bathroom on board.

Since the Lira Ensemble is a federally recognized charity, a portion of the tour cost is tax deductible. Those taking the Lira tour will not only enjoy a very personal and unusual tour of Poland, they will be helping with the work of the Lira Ensemble, America's only professional performing arts company specializing in Polish music, song, and dance.

The Lira tour is for fun-loving people who enjoy the arts, folklore and good company. For more information, call (773) 508-7040 or 1-800-547-LIRA.

See the Treasures of Eastern Poland

NEW YORK — From September 6-19, Jane Shuback will be leading an exciting tour to Eastern Poland, a 14-day trip that includes flights from JFK International Airport, sight-seeing, hotels, deluxe motor coach transportation, an English speaking guide, two meals daily and all taxes.

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Polish, English and Russian – Their Origin, Similarities and Differences

As we mentioned in the previous article, almost all European languages, among them Polish, English, and Russian, stem from the same Indo-European root. Although it is hard for us to believe, at one time, we might have had common ancestors who communicated in the same Proto-Indo-European tongue.

All languages change over time, but very few underwent as many changes as English. English is a unique language in many aspects. People on the British Islands borrowed words from many different cultures. English was originally proto-Germanic, later it was modified by Latin, old-French, Old Norse (Vikings), and especially by the Norman invasion. This borrowing from other languages was so heavy that a regular English speaker, one without knowledge of Old English, cannot understand the famous English heroic poem Beowulf written about a thousand years ago.

There are many interesting examples of the other languages' influence on English. For instance, the nouns for meats — venison, beef, pork, mutton — are French-derived, but the names of animals are still old English in origin: deer, cow, pig and sheep.

This clearly indicates that there was French-speaking elite. They were elite since they were consumers of the meat produced by lower class farmers of Anglo-Saxon origin. In present English 41% of words are of French or Latin origin, while only 33% are of old Germanic origin. But the Germanic words are among the most commonly used. The words of French origin are usually more elegant, more formal and less commonly used than the more familiar old Germanic equivalents. For instance compare: "freedom" versus "liberty" (French) or "sight" versus "vision" (French).

The English language has more words than any other language due to both its borrowing from other languages and because of its popularity. When a new object, like a computer is invented, the word is first created in English and then spreads all over the world to other languages, usually in the same or slightly deflected form. Some cultures still resist English omnipotence. For instance French has its own word for computer: *le ordinateur*.

Each year when I visit Poland, I notice more and more English use in our own language. It worries me that eventually Polish will be forgotten. The advantage though, is that it would be easier for people to communicate in one tongue. English has become the only language of science and is spoken during science conferences already.

As I mentioned in last month's article, Polish and Russian languages belong to the Slavic group. Slavic

languages are commonly divided into three groups. West Slavic (including Polish, Czech and Slovak as well as Sorbian languages still present among old Slavic populations living in Eastern Germany), East Slavic (Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian) and South Slavic (Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian).

Evidence of Sorbs living in Eastern Germany is plentiful, as until recently, the names of many towns in Eastern Germany were of Slavic origin. Examples include Dresden and Chemnitz, whose name was changed during the reign of communism into Karl Marx Stadt. This indicates that the Eastern Germany was settled by Slavic people before Germans took over.

It worries me that eventually Polish will be forgotten.

There is also another division between Slavic languages which is not due to their location but due to religion. Some Slavic people, like Poles, adopted the Latin alphabet since they belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. Russians who belonged to the Eastern, Orthodox Church adopted the Cyrillic alphabet. There are some peculiarities among Slavs. For instance Serbs and Croats (which formed old Yugoslavia) speak the same Serbo-Croatian language, but since Serbs are orthodox, they adopted Cyrillic in written form, while Croats' written language is based on Latin. The division between Serbs and Croats became about much more than just the written language form, as World War II indicates, and the division of Yugoslavia into separate countries bears out.

Cyrillic written language is based on the Glagolitic alphabet derived from Greek. The Glagolitic alphabet was created by two Byzantine Greek brothers, Cyril and Methodius, who were born of a Slavic mother in Thessaloniki in the 9th century. They were Christian missionaries and felt the Glagolitic alphabet was suited to match specific features of Slavic languages. They also translated many Christian texts for Slavs into the language called now Old Church Slavonic, still used in the liturgy of Eastern Orthodox.

Their contribution during the time when the first nations were formed was very important. They are not only celebrated as saints but in 1980 they were declared as co-patrons of Europe by Polish pope, John Paul II.

Languages are fascinating. They give us insight into the way people think and behave. Therefore, the more we know about languages, the more we know about cultures and world history.

For more, visit my website at www.polishsite.us.

Bison Grass Vodka Set to "Stampede" Across America

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — After more than two decades of regulatory resistance, U.S. vodka connoisseurs can now celebrate with authentic Bak's Bison Grass Vodka.

For centuries in eastern Poland, massive buffalo roamed the lush and fertile fields that are full of rich flowers and *zubrowka* or Bison Grass, an herb essential for both virility and survival. Members of High Society would celebrate hunting successes with a special vodka flavored with the grass, believing this would yield grand power, increase stamina and youthful virility. Centuries later it would be banned from American shores.

Until now.

Distillers and chemists have been able to extract the essence from the Bison Grass, allowing vodka enthusiasts and cocktail aficionados to be captivated by this new aromatic vodka with a burst of freshness, bouquet of flavor on the pallet, and silky smooth finish.

"We are extremely pleased to bring a touch of Polish nobility to America," says Adam Bak, CEO of Adamba Imports International and exclusive U.S. importer of Bak's Bison Grass Vodka.

"Our creation is set to redefine the flavored vodka category with its one-of-a-kind vitality and mystical characteristics. We've showcased the aphrodisiac qualities in specialty cocktails at renowned New York City locations such as Tavern on The Green, The Grand Central Oyster Bar, and City Crab, to name

a few.

"Zubrowka Bison Grass Vodka marries the nobility of old-world Eastern European authenticity with 21st century western style, mystique and romanticism. We are certain that mixologists and cocktail fanatics alike will embrace this new addition in the vodka category."

A triple-distilled potato vodka with natural flavors and the essence of the Bison Grass, it is best enjoyed with apple juice or in a signature martini. The vodka, exclusively imported by Adamba Imports International has already secured placement in the renowned Marriott Gold

Standard Beverage Program as well as being available in most major U.S. markets including California, Illinois, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Washington D.C. It has received 4 Stars/Highly Recommended from F. Paul Pacult's Spirit Journal; 92 Points/Outstanding from (BTI) Beverage Testing Institute and 8 Olives/Excellent from the Spirits Review to name a few.

At 41% alcohol by volume, the spirit retails for about \$28.99/1 Liter.

For further information and to find it in a market near you, please visit www.bisonbrandvodka.net.

THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

The Gospel According to Matthew

Ash Wednesday Mass in one of the financial districts of St. Louis was an interesting experience. It was a noon Mass, the church is surrounded by high rises, and I had to park in an "unauthorized vehicles" tow-away lot in one of the medical buildings a block away. My dentist used to be in that building but I had no legal right to be there that day. Even though I was breaking the law, I felt like the Mass and ashes made up for it. I also prayed very, very hard that I wouldn't get ticketed or towed.

The church was packed. Many of the "suits" were lawyers, brokers, analysts, and financial consultants. I remarked to this guy walking out with me that "the church was extra full today, I guess, because even the cold and calculating Wall Street types are praying for mercy and intercession from the Dear Lord with the way things are going with the economy." He laughed.

Part of the gospel reading for Ash Wednesday goes like this:

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others..."

This is one of the most vexing of the Gospels. The instruction is not to make an example of yourself when fasting yet Catholic believers smear black burnt signs of the cross on our foreheads. Literally we are doing something illogical according to the reading but we know it is the spirit of the law that commands us to change our hearts. That is the message we carry throughout the day and hopefully, always.

True sacrifice and support is made without thought to any kind of expected acknowledgement. Religious sacrifice and commitment needs to work that way. The real world doesn't. We need praise and encouragement to succeed. We reward and recognize generously to keep the workers happy and the troops fighting. My thoughts this day turn to and recall the countless Polonians that work the booths, make the pierogi, and donate their time and energy for something that for all practical purposes is important to have but something that is not critical for survival. We don't really need all this culture stuff but it certainly enriches our lives.

These heroes work for a higher cause. It is almost a religious experience to give your time to continuing

a tradition or sharing a custom. We need the leaders; we also need the quiet souls that "do not blow a trumpet ... in the streets to win the praise of others." I thank them for their service and providing something wonderful in my life. If you want to purify the spirit, serve quietly for a cause that lifts up humanity, even in the smallest way.

This month's exercise from the Pondering Pole: think of all the folks that do the work for our heritage, at the clubs, the festivals, the churches, etc., and how much their efforts are appreciated.

A FEW LOOSE ENDS

"Oppressed people come to believe the stereotypes imposed upon them by the dominant society." — Former Senator Fred Harris, Member of the Kerner Commission on Racial Relations.

Thanks to all of the folks who planned, led, and participated in the 15th annual Pulaski Day Polish Festival and parade in Dubois, Illinois on March 1. Everything about the day was great except the weather. My nose was red (and this time primarily from the wind and cold).

Time to order your Polish tomato seeds from the Tomato Growers Supply Company, Fort Myers, Florida www.tomatogrowers.com/.

Some of the Polish "tomajdy" catalogue numbers are #5417 and #5491 (Soldacki). Sorry, #5616 (Zogola) is sold out.

Victor "Brute" Krulak, the "Vietnam Marine Legend," died this year at age 95. In April 2008, the Pondering Pole asked if Krulak was Polish. It is apparent that he is but can someone point to a reference that confirms that General Krulak is Polish? In all of the obituaries I have read, I could not find one that talked about his Polish background.

The Pondering Pole wishes you a happy and blessed Easter.



If you have an answer to a previous month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, Missouri 63139; e-mail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

Please note: if you send e-mail, put a reference in the subject line about the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-mail if I do not recognize the subject.



Easter Greetings and thanks
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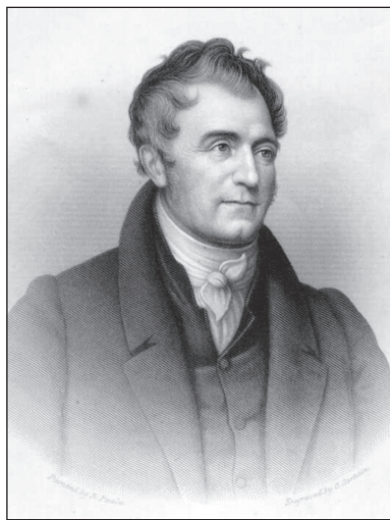


CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Prince Czartoryski Boosted Pierre Samuel Dupont's Fortunes

E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company has been one of the world's largest industrial companies for more than a century. Its beginnings date back more than 200 years when the Dupont family immigrated to America from France. And it was the family patriarch who owed a debt of gratitude to Poland.

PIERRE SAMUEL DUPONT was born in Paris in 1739 into a family neither rich nor poor. He received a decent education and after he left home he lived a hand-to-mouth existence while deciding on his life's calling. He began writing about economics and society and his theories drew the attention of influential people. Soon he was recognized as a serious thinker who could contribute to the betterment of French society.



PIERRE SAMUEL DUPONT

By 1770, Dupont was writing for prestigious journals and began to be hired by the government for certain tasks that could use his expertise. But he did not earn a decent living in this manner. He fell into serious debt as owner of a magazine that was closed by the French government in 1772. He struggled to produce an income by writing reports for foreign officials, and this gained him international recognition.

Still in debt in 1774 and with a family to feed, an offer of employment came from an unexpected source. Prince Adam Czartoryski, brother-in-law of King Stanislaw of Poland, had read much of Dupont's work and agreed with his ideas. The Prince wanted to hire a tutor for his four year old son Adam Jerzy (who would later be President of the Insurrection of 1830 and "uncrowned king" of Poland) and Pierre Dupont's name came up. An offer was made by Czartoryski of 10,000 francs per year, apartments in his palace, travel expenses to Warsaw, carriages, an official title and a bonus of 100,000 francs after ten years. This was a veritable fortune.

Yet Dupont balked because of a chance to serve as foreign ambassador of the German state of Baden in Paris. The Prince sweetened his offer. He would see the Frenchman was appointed Secretary of the Commission of National Education and Director of the National Academy in Warsaw, and pay a third of the bonus in advance.

This was too enticing to turn down. Only in his dreams could Dupont imagine such a position and income in France. With his 33,000 franc advance, he bought an estate near Nemours in France, with the intention of returning to it with his family after his ten years in Warsaw.

THOUGH RELUCTANT TO LEAVE FRANCE, in late July 1774, he, his wife Marie and two young sons Victor and Eleuthere Irene, packed up and embarked on a long coach ride across the rutted roads of central Europe. They did not arrive in Warsaw until early September. Dupont detested tutoring and probably did little of it. But Prince Czartoryski employed ten tutors for

his children, so Dupont's neglect made little difference. However, he was thoroughly interested in his duties as Secretary of the Commission of Education.

He wrote lengthy reports and recommendations on Polish parochial schools, universities, and the abolition of serfdom. He believed that a solid system of national education would reinvigorate Poland after the demoralizing first partition of the country in 1772.

But Dupont was soon disappointed when he realized the government could not afford to adopt his proposals. He quickly judged the situation in Poland hopeless, what with lack of revenue, foreign interference and a lazy and disinterested nobility.

Dupont's frustrations were to be brief. King Louis XVI had succeeded to the French throne, and now one of Dupont's allies, A.R.J. Turgot, was appointed Controller General of Finances there. Turgot wanted Dupont as his assistant. Arrangements were made between King Louis and Prince Czartoryski allowing the Frenchman to be freed from his obligations in Poland, and he returned to Paris in late December. Pierre Dupont's venture in Poland had lasted less than four months. He was permitted to keep the advance money from Czartoryski, which allowed him to keep his estate at Nemours.

FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, Dupont was in and out of government service depending on the way the chaotic political winds blew. He often found himself in dire financial straits, but at those times he could always rely on income from the Nemours estate that he had purchased with the Czartoryski advance. In time it became profitable enough, along with Dupont's other earnings, to provide the family a second home in Paris, carriages, expensive clothes, and a servant or two. Owning the land also gave him extended voting rights and proof of citizenship.

In 1799, Dupont ran afoul of Napoleon and decided to flee to America with his family. Here, with his wealth intact, he founded a trading brokerage, and he established his two sons in subsidiary companies. He corresponded with Jefferson, and Dupont wrote for him an elaborate treatise on education in America, as he done for Poland decades earlier. He delivered a eulogy to Joel Barlow, the American diplomat who died in Poland while on a mission to Napoleon.

AFTER A FEW YEARS the elder Dupont's company and son Victor's failed. Eleuthere's business, a gunpowder factory, survived, thrived and became today's E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, simply known as DuPont. There is no doubt that the younger Dupont's business acumen made him successful, but the foundation of the company's success can also be traced back to that family estate in Nemours, acquired with the generous payment

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Antarctica



PHOTO: T. JANIEK

THE HENRYK ARCTOWSKI POLISH ANTARCTIC STATION was established on King George Island in 1977.

Henryk's Arctowski (1871-1958) was a world famous explorer and oceanographer in Antarctica. Henryk was born in Warsaw and was educated in Zurich, Liege, and Paris. He was in charge of physical observations on the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-1899. Never before had an expedition spent the winter in Antarctica. History was in the making. Roald Admundsen and Frederick Cook also were members of this expedition.

Henryk is credited with a detailed study of a halo resembling a rainbow. He observed two other partial arcs being symmetrical to the main one they found around the sun as light refracted through ice crystals in the atmosphere.

He also proposed a study of the idea of a wind chill factor. He felt that wind could be as damaging to the human body as cold in extreme temperatures. Today the wind chill

factor is part of many meteorologists' weather forecasts.

Arctowski has been recognized for his scientific work. Named for him in Antarctica is Arctowski Peninsula, Arctowski Nunataks, and Arctowski Peak. In Spitzbergen are Mt. Arctowski and Arctowski Glacier. The Henryk Arctowski Polish Antarctic Station was established on King George Island in 1977. Managed by the Polish Academy of Sciences, its research includes oceanography, geology, ecology and several related areas.

TRIVIA TIME

by Ellye Slusarczyk

- At the man-made ponds at Milicz covering over 18,000 acres, you can enjoy the largest complex of a) swamp lands b) fish ponds c) coal deposits
- Snieznik gets its name from a) fog b) sunlight c) snow
- A *chamois* is a a) beaver b) sure-footed goat antelope c) squirrel
- Punishment at the whipping block was once given if one loitered after a) 9:00 p.m. b) 11:00 p.m. c) 1:00 a.m.
- Pieniawa Chopina is a well-known a) beer b) vodka c) mineral water
- The road from Kudowa Zdroj is known as a) "the longest sandy road" b) "crooked brook road" c) "road of one hundred turns"
- Rocky mushrooms are rocks formed from a) shale b) lava deposits c) limestone
- In the crypt under the chapel in Czeremna are a) catacombs b) 22,000 skulls c) five altars
- A pulpit in the church in Duszniko Zdroj is shaped like a a) whale's open jaw b) crucifix c) lamb's head
- Martha Stewart's was born August 3 a) 1940 b) 1941 c) 1943

ANSWERS. 1.b fishponds 2.c snow 3.b sure-footed goat antelope 4.a 9:00 p.m. 5.c mineral water 6.c "road of 100 turns" 7.c limestone 8.b 22,000 skulls 9.a whale's open jaw 10.b 1941.

POL AM S IN HIGH PLACES. Michael Skarzynski was named president and chief executive of the media and marketing research firm, Arbitron. Skarzynski, 52, was also named to the company's board of directors, and will work out of the firm's office in Columbia, Md. ... HBO has named Diane Tryneski as senior vice president of studio and broadcast operations. She will oversee general management of HBO's operations and engineering centers, including HBO Studios in New York City and Los Angeles, and the HBO Communications Center in Hauppauge, N.Y. (Richard Kozacko).

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IN MEMORIAM

Don Samull, Author, Active in Detroit's Polonia

DETROIT — Don Samull was born and raised in Detroit's Polish lower East side, or the Poletown area of Detroit. He attended St. Albertus School, St. Joseph High, and the Universities of Detroit and Michigan, earning B.A. and M.A. degrees and graduating magna com laude. He taught school in both Crestwood and Bloomfield Hills School Districts for 35 years and served as an elected officer in the Bloomfield Hills Education Association.

Samull was an extremely proud Polish American. He traveled to Poland many times and was to Polish sites on all seven continents. He took graduate classes at the University of California at Berkeley, Syracuse, and at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He attended two summer sessions in Poland with the Kosciuszko Foundation. He lectured on Poland and Polish customs

before various groups in numerous schools and libraries and at various institutions, including the Detroit Historical Association, the International Institute, Detroit's Unitarian Church, and Henry Ford Community College. He gave tours of Detroit's Polish churches and neighborhoods and of Hamtramck. Continuously since 1976, he published his nationally-known Polish American calendar, which was distributed in every state and in many foreign countries.

Samull wrote a guide booklet on Polish-related sites in the U.S. and articles for POLAMERICA magazine and was a correspondent for the national newspaper POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL (Buffalo, N.Y.), and for the local publication POLISH TIMES (Warren, Mich.). He was awarded membership in four chaplains' Halls of Fame at Valley Forge and was awarded the Civic Achieve-

ment Award of the Polish American Historical Association. He helped found the "Polish Heritage Mass" at Detroit's St. Hyacinth Parish and served on committees coordinating parish anniversaries, Polish-theme events, and the Polish-American observance of Detroit's 300th anniversary.

In addition to serving on the board of the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society, Samull was a board member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. He was a member of the Polish American Historical Association, the Friends of Hamtramck Library, the Polish American Historic Site Association, the Polish American Assistance Association, the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Polish Heritage Society, and the Toledo-Poznan Alliance.

Stanley S. Kwiatkowski, a.k.a. Ken Montana

WORCESTER, Mass. — Stanley S. Kwiatkowski, 94, also known as "Ken Montana," a resident of Vernon Hill, passed away Saturday, January 10, 2009, in Holy Trinity Eastern Orthodox Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, due to complications from a fall.

His wife, Anna (Marcinkiewicz) passed away in 1995.

Kwiatkowski was born in Worcester on April 28, 1914 and lived there all his life. He served during World War II, in the U.S. Army European Theatre. Upon returning from the War, he worked at Buehler Brothers Market until it closed. He then worked 25 years as a mail clerk for the U.S. Postal Service until retiring. Upon retirement, Stanley and his wife enjoyed following his passion,



polka music. He was a great fan of Jimmy Sturr and Dick Pillar. He attended the Dick Pillar Polkabratons in New London at Ocean Beach up until 2008.

Kwiatkowski was a life member of the Polish American Veterans of World War II, where he served as a past Commander and officer. He was also a member of the Polish Falcons of America.

In the 1980, Kwiatkowski and his family members organized Cancer Fund Raisers at the PAV and Arcadia Ballroom, which earned him recognition from the Cancer Society

for his generous efforts.

For a brief time in his life, Kwiatkowski spent time in the southern states pursuing his singing (Country Western) career as Ken Montana.

Kwiatkowski was a very familiar face on the streets of Worcester. He took his daily walks in the Vernon Hill/Water Street areas where he would always stop to get bread to feed the birds. WORCESTER MAGAZINE interviewed him in 2008 on one of these occasions.

Kwiatkowski leaves a legacy of Polish tradition to his family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 350 Plantation St., Worcester, MA 01604 or the St. Vincent dePaul Society, 570 Lincoln St., Worcester, MA 01605.

Holocaust Scholar Jan Blonski

WARSAW — Scholar Jan Blonski, a professor of History of Polish Literature at the Jagiellonian University, who touched off a controversy by accusing Poles of indifference toward the extermination of the Jews, died at age 77.

Blonski argued that Poles must accept moral, but not actual, responsibility for the crimes against the Jewish nation which took place on Polish soil. His opinions were published in Tygodnik Powszechny under the title "The Poor Poles Look at the Ghetto." Blonski's article and some of the many responses to it were collected and translated into English in "My Brother's Keeper?: Recent Polish Debates on the Holocaust."

Blonski, who was not Jewish, was a founder of the Judaica Foundation-Center for Jewish Culture in Krakow, and had served as its board chairman.

Franciszek Starowieyski, Renown Artist

WARSAW — Franciszek Starowieyski, a renowned painter, graphic artist, and stage designer, died at age 79. He studied in Warsaw and at Krakow's Academy of Fine Arts and is best known for his work in graphic design, posters, painting, murals, book illustration and stage designing. He was a member of Alliance Graphique International.

Among his major international awards are: Cannes Film Festival, 1974, International Poster award, 1974 and 1978, International Film Festival in Chicago, Film Poster Gold Plaque 1979, Poster competition Silver Hugo, 1982. His original paintings, drawings and posters reside in major museums and collections around the world.

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Kamila Skolimowska, Olympic Champion

WARSAW — Polish Olympic champion Kamila Skolimowska, 26, an Olympic hammer-throwing champion, died suddenly at a Polish national team training camp in Portugal. She won Olympic gold in Sydney in 2000, making her the youngest Olympic hammer champion. She also garnered two medals from the European Championships. Her personal best throw and a Polish record, was a throw of 76.83 meters in May of 2007 in Doha, Qatar. When not training and competing, Skolimowska served in the Warsaw police force.

Skolimowska died from a pulmonary embolism.

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Alcoholic Drinks

- piwo(PEE-woh) n beer
 koniak.....(KOH-nyak) m brandy
 winiak.....(VEE-nyak) m grape brandy
 śliwowica(shlee-voh-VEE-tsah) f plum brandy
 szampan(SHAHM-pahn) m champagne
 likier.....(LEE-kyehr) m liqueur
 krupnik.....(KRUHP-neck) m honey liqueur

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye
 m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

- wódka(VUHT-kah) f vodka
 wiśniówka.....(veesh-NYUHF-kah) f cherry-flavored vodka
 wino(VEE-noh) n wine
 wino czerwone(VEE-noh chehr-VOH-neh) n red wine
 wino biale(VEE-noh BYAH-weh) n white wine
 wino wytrawne(VEE-noh vih-TRAHV-neh) n dry wine
 wino słodkie(VEE-noh SWOHT-kyeh) n sweet wine

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski





Steam locomotive in motion. Rzeszow, Poland, May 20, 1976.


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FINE LIVING

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Amber Mining in Poland Today

by Andzia Chmil

Mostly everyone who visits Poland brings back a piece of amber jewelry to keep or give as a gift. Years ago it was common to hear someone newly returned from Poland to say "I got this piece of amber for three dollars." Of course, people returning today from their trip to Poland now say "I got this in Poland and, "Wow — it wasn't cheap!" "Bardzo drogi!"

Today Baltic amber is in great demand and short supply. The great mines in Sambia, the lone outpost of the Russian Federation in the Kaliningrad Oblast situated on the Baltic Sea between Poland and Lithuania, were flooded in 2004. These mines are said to contain upwards of 85% of the world's supply of Baltic amber. The Russian government has, for the most part, allowed it to stay submerged. Production is rumored to be down to 90 per cent or less of what it was previously. For those of us who have studied relations between Russian and Poland, this comes as no surprise.

Even "suitcase" amber — long a staple of the Polish amber industry has shrunk to such a degree that it is no longer deemed significant. This illegal source typically comes into Poland either directly from the Ukraine or from Russia via Lithuania.

The same is true of other legal sources such as amber gathering from Polish beaches and fishing for amber in the sea. Each of these activities is steeped in history, my-

thology, poetry and art and have been highly romanticized in the Pomeranian region. Both methods are back breaking, labor intensive and generally take place during winter storms when the waves and the wind churns up amber chunks and pieces that can be captured in nets or

rinsing on a dozen or so small plots owned by the city of Gdansk. Bear in mind that most, if not all, of these plots were prospected extensively and legally as far back as 1972, and unlawfully for many years before and after. To put it mildly, results have been less than stellar up to this point.

On the positive side, resuming amber mining in Gdansk, the undisputed amber capitol of the world provides a strong symbol of the Polish domination in the amber jewelry market. The City of Gdansk and the International Amber Association are constantly striving to improve and increase the mining situation and the marketing of Baltic amber. There are active plans to have a working amber mine become a tourist destination which will undoubtedly be a huge draw.

As the supply of raw amber continues to shrink, Polish amber producers have become quite sophisticated with their designs and their marketing strategies. Today's styles incorporate much more sterling silver than amber

and rely on design, craftsmanship and quality amber as major selling points. The days of huge chunks of amber with little or no style and big, bulky amber bead necklaces are relegated to the past. Simply put — it's not your Babcia's amber anymore!

The Polish amber industry is experiencing a renaissance in craftsmanship and integrity that is closely watched and monitored by the International Amber Association in Poland, among other interested groups such as the Gdansk Chamber of Commerce and the office of the Mayor of Gdansk. The International Amber Association in Poland (IAA,) is a group of scientists, producers, experts, publishers, educators, artists and others who not only promote Baltic amber but also keep a close eye on the authenticity and integrity of the amber product offerings. In addition, they are diligently working with amber producers and government officials to open up amber mining in the Gdansk area.

Andzia and Holly Chmil are owners of Andzia's Amber Jewelry, known on the web as amberjewelry.com. Andzia began working with amber in 1995 and her daughter Holly came on board in 2004 as a web developer. The company has been recommended by the prestigious International Amber Society in Poland every year since 2003.



AMBER IS FOSSIL TREE RESIN, which is appreciated for its color and beauty. Good quality amber is used for the manufacture of ornamental objects and jewelry. Although not mineralized, it is often classified as a gemstone. A common misconception is that amber is made of tree sap; it is not. Resin is the semi-solid amorphous organic substance secreted in pockets and canals through epithelial cells of the plant.

thrown onto the beach and quickly retrieved — often a lot of work for a small return.

There are today credible and workable deposits in the Ukraine and in Poland. Stricter environmental regulations in Poland, typical bureaucratic reams of red tape, and the agonizingly long process of granting licenses to producers to rinse amber deposits from under the Vistula River Delta all slow the mining process down. Presently less than 10% of the Polish manufacturing needs are met domestically.

Pawel Adamowicz, the Mayor of Gdansk, signed a decree in July of 2007 allowing licenses for amber



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Special Easter edition

- On Ash Wednesday priests sprinkle the heads of Polish worshippers with ashes obtained from burning the previous year's palms while saying: "Pamiętaj, że z prochu powstałeś i w proch się obrócisz" ("Remember that from dust you are and do dust you will return").
 - The six weeks of Lent were once a period of severe fasting, during which a meatless ryemeal soup known as żur, salt herring, and groat, dumplings, noodles and potatoes flavored only with oil were dietary staples.
 - Bitter Lamentations (Gorzkie Żale) and Stations of the Cross are the two most popular Lenten devotions. Other pious practices include parish retreats and pilgrimages.
 - Palm Sunday (Palmowa Niedziela) was once known as Kwietna Niedziela (Floral Sunday) or (Wierzba Niedziela (Willow Sunday), because it was pussy-willows, often embellished with evergreens and/or boxwood, or rod-type wildflower bouquets that Poles blessed in church on that day rather than real subtropical palms.
 - The bud of a blessed pussywillow swallowed on Palm Sunday was once believed to ward off illness and ensure good fortune.
 - The custom of boys called *pucheroki* making house-to-house rounds on Palm Sunday was common to only a few villages of the Kraków area. Dressed in mock-military uniforms with soot-streaked faces, they recite nonsensical poems in exchange for treats.
 - The *baranek wielkanocny* (Easter lamb) with a little flag is found in Easter baskets and on greeting cards and is the centerpiece of the festive Easter meal. It may be made of dough, butter, sugar, plaster, wood, fleece or plastic.
- compiled by Robert Strybel

Polish Heritage Wood Easter Eggs

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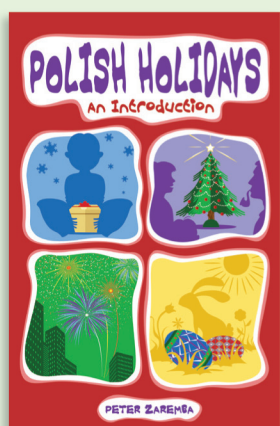
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Polish Holidays: An Introduction

This handy introductory guide to Polish holidays provides just enough factual information to keep you informed, while presenting it all in an easy to digest packet. This guide includes information, recipes, and/or songs for Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Christmas (Boże Narodzenie), Easter (Wielkanoc), and more!. 8.5" x 5.5". #BK2573 \$9.95



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Cross-stitched Easter Bunny Turkey Egg Ornament

This real blown Turkey Egg Ornament beholds on front, created out of hand cross-stitching, the Easter Bunny bearing an egg for the Holiday. Surrounding the bunny and adorning the back is a hand painted, extravagant, gold colored, floral design on a light pastel green background. Measures approx. 2.25" D x 3.5" H. #570307 \$19.95



Rooster Wycinanki Design

These real eggs are decorated in a rooster wycinanki theme by an artist who uses traditional Polish paper-cutting techniques and motifs utilizing vibrantly colored paper. Available in either chicken or turkey sized eggs (Chicken Eggs measure approx. 1.8" D x 2.6" H., Turkey Eggs measure approx. 2.1" D x 3.4" H.) Each package contains one real egg. #250408 Turkey \$19.95
#570307 Chicken \$16.95



Easter Lamb Butter Mold

The molded butter lamb is a Polish tradition, and has become a staple in many homes during Easter celebrations. 5" W x 3" H x 2" D. #KOR101 \$24.95



Wooden Artegg and Brass Stand

Artegg are created by award winning artisans in Poland. Each wooden egg is masterfully and individually decorated with ornate designs and color schemes; no two eggs are the same. Eggs and stands are sold separately. #4353003 Artegg \$14.95 each
#435994 Egg Stand \$6.95 each



Decorative Cube Butter Mold

This decorative cube mold is used to create a beautiful butter cube with elegant designs on five of its sides (the base is left flat for easy display). 2.75" W x 2.75" H. #KOR102 \$29.95



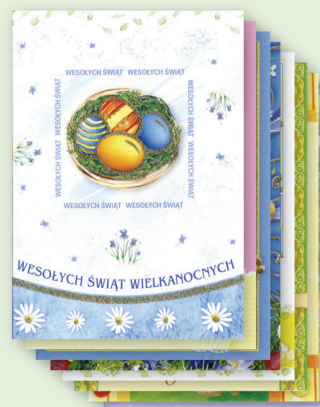
Easter Chick Butter Mold

A cute Spring chick sprouts from this hand-crafted mold. Makes a nice companion piece to the Easter Lamb Butter Mold. 3.75" W x 2.75" H x 2" D. #KOR103 \$14.95



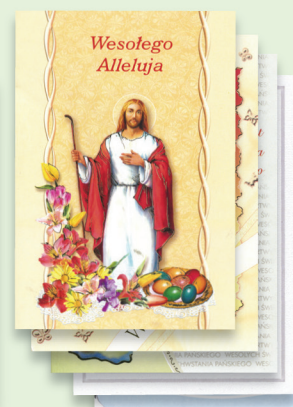
Hand Scratched Chicken Eggs

These eggs are first soaked in a colored dye, and later are carefully engraved to create these precise designs. Every single egg is different in design allowing you to have your own unique collection. Please allow us to pick the design. Stands not included. #4353007 \$19.95



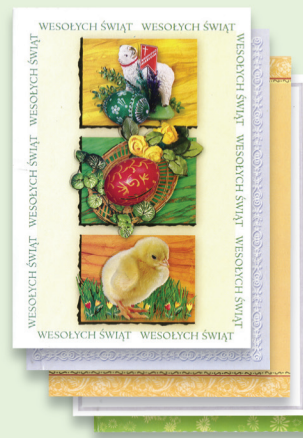
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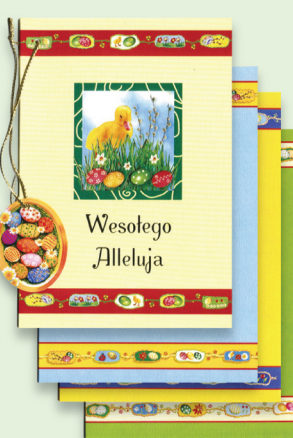
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