

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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CULTURE-IN-EXILE LEGEND  
NINA POLAN PASSES  
PAGE 27

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

## Wesołego Alleluja! Happy Easter!

### NEWSMARK

**TARGET SHOOTER INCITES INVESTIGATION.** There was foul play in Sochi, says Polish biathlete Krystyna Palka, who says her brand new rifle had been “tampered with.” The Polish team had been on track for a medal and Palka did indeed win the first leg of the biathlon relay. Palka’s shooting had always been her strongest suit, but she missed all five targets plus two out of three of the penalty targets, shutting off all hope of a medal win for the Polish team.

Palka remains adamant in saying that someone tampered with her rifle sights.

The Polish biathlete represented Poland at the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics and won the silver medal at the 2013 World championships.

The Polish Biathlon Association is proceeding with an investigation in a dedicated attempt to ferret out the truth in the Sochi matter.

**JUST THE TICKET.** 53-year-old Jerry Kajfasz went to the Depew, N.Y. One Stop, his normal day-off haunt, where he bought some cigars and his favorite scratch-off New York Lottery tickets. The clerk mistakenly started to hand Kajfasz a \$20 Win for Life Spectacular ticket. Kajfasz corrected the clerk, got the tickets he wanted and left the store.

That mistake set up a series of events that led Kajfasz to win a guaranteed minimum of \$10 million total, or \$10,000 a week for life.

The father of four, from the Buffalo suburb of Lancaster, said he kept winning on the scratch-off tickets.

“I won like seven in a row. I just got lucky, until I hit the big one,” he said.

With about \$25 in hand and feeling lucky, Kajfasz asked the clerk for the ticket he almost took by accident. He scratched off the ticket, finding the winning numbers.

“I just sat there and couldn’t believe it,” he said. “Shocked. I probably looked over the ticket half a dozen times.”

Kajfasz already has retired from his printing job, plans to take care of his family, including keeping a promise to take his mother to visit family in her native Poland.

**BRIGHT STUDENT.** 15-year-old Ann Makosinski of Victoria, British Columbia, designed what she calls a “hollow flashlight,” which transforms the heat from your hand into a source of energy, thus eliminating the need for batteries.

In order for the flashlight to be powered by body energy, Makosinski used Peltier tiles — a device that produces energy when one side is heated and another side is cooled. Once charged, the light can last for about 20 minutes.

Makosinski won first place in the 15-16 age category in the Google Science Fair finals, one of three winners of fifteen semi-finalists from 120 countries.

“I’m really interested in harvesting surplus energy, energy that surrounds us but we never really use,” said Makosinski.

**MARGINAL STUDY.** Experts studying the handwriting of Copernicus are attempting to discern if the notes written in the margins of a book from the Seminary of Warmia Metropolis “Hosianum” in Olsztyn, Poland were written by the famed Polish scientist, who once owned the book.

The notes were discovered by researching scholars, Professor Teresa Borawska of Torun’s Nicolaus Copernicus University and Professor Zoia Jaroszewicz-Piereslawcew of the University of Warmia and Mazury.

The two professors together with library director Fr. Thomas Garwolinski, are studying the handwritten notes and say that the tedious work of comparing the writing with extant handwritten notes known to be those of Copernicus will be ongoing for several months.

Born in 1473, Mikołaj Kopernik, Copernicus was a Renaissance astronomer and mathematician who formulated the heliocentric model of the universe which proposed that the sun was stationary in the center of the universe and that the earth revolved around it.

### Biden Travels to Warsaw in Show of Support

#### Russian Aggression in Ukraine Puts West on Alert

WARSAW (Polskie Radio) — U.S. vice-president Joe Biden has said that further sanctions will be imposed by the United States and European Union after President Putin signs a treaty to bring Crimea into the Russian Federation.

“We stand shoulder to shoulder with Poland and the international community in condemning the assault on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine,” Joe Biden said after talks with Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Warsaw and promised further action against Russia following asset freezes and travel bans imposed by the United States and EU.

Biden met with members See “Russian ...” page 2

### Time-Honored Handiwork



PHOTO: MARIAN DZMINIŁ

**KRESY EASTER ICONS.** Women in the once-Polish city of Wilno — today Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania — prepare *waleczi*, palms braided together from natural and dyed dried flowers. This art form has been practiced for centuries. Just one of several styles, Easter palms are now often braided from wicker and juniper, sometimes decorated with different kinds of paper flowers. See page 17 for stories about Easter customs in Poland’s former Eastern territories.

#### Karol Wojtyła - Poland's Greatest Son

## Blessed John Paul II Ascends the Altar on April 27

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — A survey conducted in Poland shortly after the death of Pope John Paul II showed that a majority of Poles regarded Karol Wojtyła as the greatest Poles that ever lived. He was therefore ranked ahead of Copernicus, Madam Curie, Kościuszko, prominent kings such as Casimir the Great, Jagiełło and Sobieski and internationally acclaimed composer Fryderyk Chopin and Poland’s national bards Mickiewicz, Słowacki, and Norwid. But unlike any of the above-mentioned, many Poles considered him to be a saint already during his lifetime. And not only Poles. Banners and chants of “Santo subito” were already seen and heard at his funeral in St. Peter’s Square in 2004. And it was mainly young Italians calling for his immediate canonization.

Thanks to his successor, German-born Pope Benedict XVI, those demands have been met. Pope John Paul II was beatified in May 2011 and is due to be canonized on April 27, 2014. The present Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis has added his signature to the saint-making procedure. By the standards of the Roman Catholic Church, whose mills grind slowly but surely, that is indeed

fast-track sainthood. It has been far more typical for candidates to wait for many decades or even centuries before achieving canonization.

#### CONTINUITY, DYNAMISM, INTELLECTUAL BRILLIANCE.

It is no wonder that Pope Francis decided to co-canonize John Paul II on April 27th with John XXIII. It was his Italian predecessor who launched the Second Vatican Council which helped modernize various facets of Catholic worship, and Cardinal Karol Wojtyła was among its leading contributors. The two churchmen were also both known for their people-friendly approach and never lost their common touch despite all the Vatican pomp, pageantry and celebrity treatment surrounding them. John Paul II also shared and developed the pro-ecumenical line of another predecessor, Paul VI, and he took the name of his short-lived immediate predecessor, John Paul I.

But, continuity notwithstanding, the Polish-born Pontiff created a powerful new presence at the Vatican. The handsome 58-year-old pope added a new dynamic dimension to the papacy, radiating infectious Christian joy which others were eager to become part of. The loss of all his loved ones by age 21, war-time poverty and Nazi bombardment, as well as life in See “Blessed John Paul II,” page 13

### Longest-Serving Congressman Dingell to Retire

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Michigan Democratic Rep. John Dingell, who was first

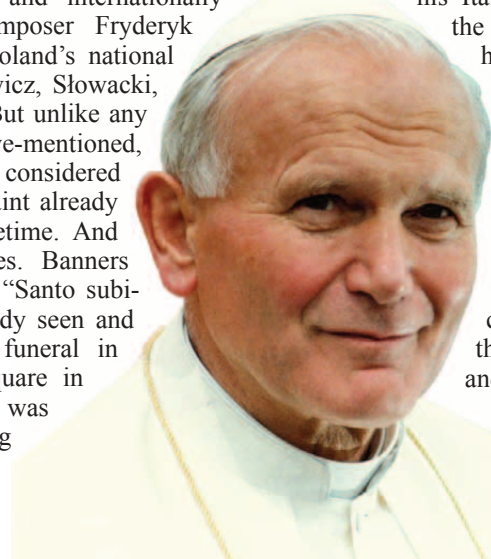
elected to Congress in 1955 to fill a seat his father had held, says he will not seek reelection later this year.

He will leave office having served in Congress longer than anyone else in history. Last June, Dingell passed the previous record holder, the late Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W. Va.

Dingell, who turns 88 in July, told the *Detroit News* that “I’m not going to be carried out feet first ... I don’t want people to say I stayed too long.”

Dingell is best known for his tireless championing of the Detroit auto industry, which sometimes brought him to odds with environmentalists.

He also played a major role in civil rights legislation, including the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and health care legislation, including the creation of Medicare in 1965.



KAROL JÓZEF WOJTYŁA ❖ 18 MAY 1920 – 2 APRIL 2005



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April ❁ **Kwiecień**

"The true Christian can nurture a trustful optimism, because he is certain of not walking alone. In sending us Jesus, the eternal Son made man, God has drawn near to each of us. In Christ he has become our travelling companion."  
—Pope John Paul II

1 **APRIL FOOL'S DAY**

1967. Death of three-time world wrestling champ Zbyszko Cyganiewicz.

2 2005. Death of Saint John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, 84. He is considered the most influential person of the 20th century, credited with bringing an end to Communism.

4 1804. Birth of Vincent S. Dziewanowski, Wisconsin pioneer credited with establishing the city of Pulaski.

7 1909. Death of international actress Helena (Modrzejewska) Modjeska, in Newport, California. (b. 1840)

11 2010. A plane carrying a contingent of Polish leaders, including President Lech Kaczyński, crashes out Smolensk, Russia, on route memorial services marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre. Kaczyński and 95 others are all killed in the crash.

13 **PALM SUNDAY**

**Niedziela Palmowa.** This feastday, commemorating Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem, marks the start of Holy Week (Wielki Tydzień) and palms are blessed at church on the occasion. In Poland, the "palms" are usually pussywillows intertwined with evergreens and various rod-type bouquets woven from dried herbs and wildflowers.

16 1897. First issue of *Straz* (The Guard), official publication of the Polish National Union of America, Scranton, Pa.

17 **HOLY THURSDAY**

18 **GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Wielki Piątek,** commemorating the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ, is the most somber occasion in the Church calendar.

19 **HOLY SATURDAY**

**Wielka Sobota** is associated by most Poles with the traditional blessing of Easter food. After the blessing, it is customary to stop and say a prayer at the tableau of Christ's Tomb. New fire and fresh Holy Water are also blessed on this day.

20 **EASTER SUNDAY**

He is Risen! Alleluia!

21 **DYNGUS DAY**

**Wet Easter Monday (Lany Poniedziałek)** is celebrated with an old folk custom called śmigus-dyngus in which boys try to catch girls off guard and drench them with water. The girls respond in kind and things often turn into a very wet free-for-all.

23 **ST. ADALBERT**

1989. Beatification of Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Frances Siedliska), founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

25 **ST. MARK**

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.

29 1863. Birth of Maria Teresa Ledochowski, founder of the Sisters of St. Peter Claver.

This paper mailed on or before **March 28.** The May edition will be mailed on or before **May 2.**

## Stay with Us

## Blessed John Paul II's Last Easter Message

*Editor's note: In honor of the upcoming canonization of Blessed John Paul II, we wish to share with our readers his final Easter blessing, delivered from the Vatican, March 27, 2005.*

*Mane nobiscum,  
Domine!  
Stay with us, Lord!  
(cf. Lk 24:29)*

With these words, the disciples on the road to Emmaus invited the mysterious Wayfarer to stay with them, as the sun was setting on that first day of the week when the incredible had occurred.

According to his promise, *Christ had risen*; but they did not yet know this. Nevertheless, the words spoken by the Wayfarer along the road made their hearts *burn within them*. So they said to him: "Stay with us."

Seated around the supper table, *they recognized him* in the "breaking of bread" — and suddenly he *vanished*. There remained in front of them *the broken bread*, There echoed in their hearts the gentle sound of *his words*.

Dear brothers and sisters, the *Word* and the *Bread* of the Eucharist, the mystery and the gift of Easter, remain down the centuries as a constant memorial of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ!

On this Easter Day, together with all Christians throughout the world, we too repeat those words: Jesus, crucified and risen, *stay with us!*

Stay with us, faithful friend and sure support for hu-

manity on its journey through history!

*Living Word of the Father*, give hope and trust to all who are searching for the true meaning of their lives.

*Bread of eternal life*, nourish those who hunger for truth, freedom, justice and peace.



Stay with us, *Living Word of the Father*, and teach us words and deeds of peace: peace for our world consecrated by your blood and drenched in the blood of so many innocent victims: peace for the countries of the Middle East and Africa, where so much blood continues to be shed; peace for all of humanity, still threatened by fratricidal wars.

Stay with us, *Bread of eternal life*, broken and distributed to those at table: give also to us the strength to show generous solidarity towards the multitudes who are even today suffering and dying from poverty and hunger, decimated by fatal epidemics or devastated by immense natural disasters.

By the power of your Resurrection, may they too become sharers in new life.

We, the men and women of the third millennium, we too need you, Risen Lord! Stay with us now, and until the end of time. Grant that the material progress of peoples may never obscure the spiritual values which are the soul of their civilization.

Sustain us, we pray, on our journey. In you do we believe, in you do we hope, for you alone have the words of eternal life (cf. *Jn 6:68*).

*Mane nobiscum, Domine! Alleluia!*

— Libreria Editrice Vaticana

## Mary Lanham Named Polish American Journal Book Review Editor

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Journal announces the appointment of **Mary E. Lanham** as its new Book Review Editor.

Lanham was born in the Hudson Valley and raised in Western New York. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Bachelor's in History. As an undergraduate, her focus of study was Immigrant and European history. Lanham also attained a Master of Library Science degree from the University at Buffalo with an emphasis on research and reference. While attending the University she was responsible for arranging the archives of the library's Polish collection.

In June of 2010, Lanham was appointed librarian of the Adam Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle with the task of reorganizing and cataloging the collection. In the fall of 2011 she formally reopened the library which had previously been closed for 17 years. Because of this



accomplishment she was named the *Am-Pol Eagle* "Citizen of the Year - Community Leader" in 2012. In addition to her work in libraries, Lanham has also edited the book, *Adorned in Light: The Stained Glass of Corpus Christi Church, Buffalo, N.Y.* and numerous newspaper and journal articles.

Her professional memberships

include the Polish American Librarians Association, the New York Library Association and the Western New York Library Resources Council among others.

Lanham is successor to long-time PAJ Book Review Editor Florence Waszkelewicz-Clowes, who passed away this winter. Clowes held that position since 1984.

In her spare time Lanham enjoys reading, writing and painting very small pictures.

We welcome Mary to our staff!

## May's Paper Will Be Delivered Late

Because John Paul II's canonization takes place April 27, we are delaying delivery of the May edition in order to provide coverage of the ceremonies in Rome. The paper will be mailed on May 2.

Readers and advertisers who wish to place congratulatory patron advertising can submit copy by April 17.

## PAJ Offices Closed for Easter Holiday

Our offices will be closed from Holy Thursday, April 17, until Wednesday, April 23 so staff may enjoy the holiday with family and friends.

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## Russian Aggression Puts West on Alert

continued from cover

of the Polish government and the Estonian president in the Polish capital following a referendum in Crimea which voted 97 percent for leaving Ukraine and joining Russia.

The United States, EU, and interim Ukrainian government have declared the vote illegal.

"The annexation of Crimea is unacceptable to Poland and the international community," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. The change in geo-political borders "increases risks to central and eastern Europe," he said.

The "unprecedented annexation and Russia's campaign in Ukraine is not just a problem for Ukraine but for the whole world," Tusk said.

Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin signed a treaty making Crimea part of Russia, March 18, but said he did not plan to seize any other regions of Ukraine.

Putin told the Russian parliament that the ousting of pro-Moscow president Viktor Yanukovich in February was by people that included "neo-Nazis, Russophobes and anti-Semites."

"Western partners, led by the United States, prefer not to be guided by international law in their practical policies, but by the rule of the gun," Putin told members of Russian parliament. "They have come to believe in their exceptionalism and their sense of being the chosen ones. That they can decide the destiny of the world, that it is only them who can be right."

The Russian foreign ministry said US and EU sanctions imposed on Russia March 17 were counterproductive.

"Attempts to speak to Russia in the language of force and threaten Russian citizens with sanctions will lead nowhere," a foreign ministry statement said.

Responding to Russia's takeover of Crimea, former President of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski offered this perspective:

"Putin takes Crimea because many Russians live there. I don't understand why Chicago is still part of the United States."



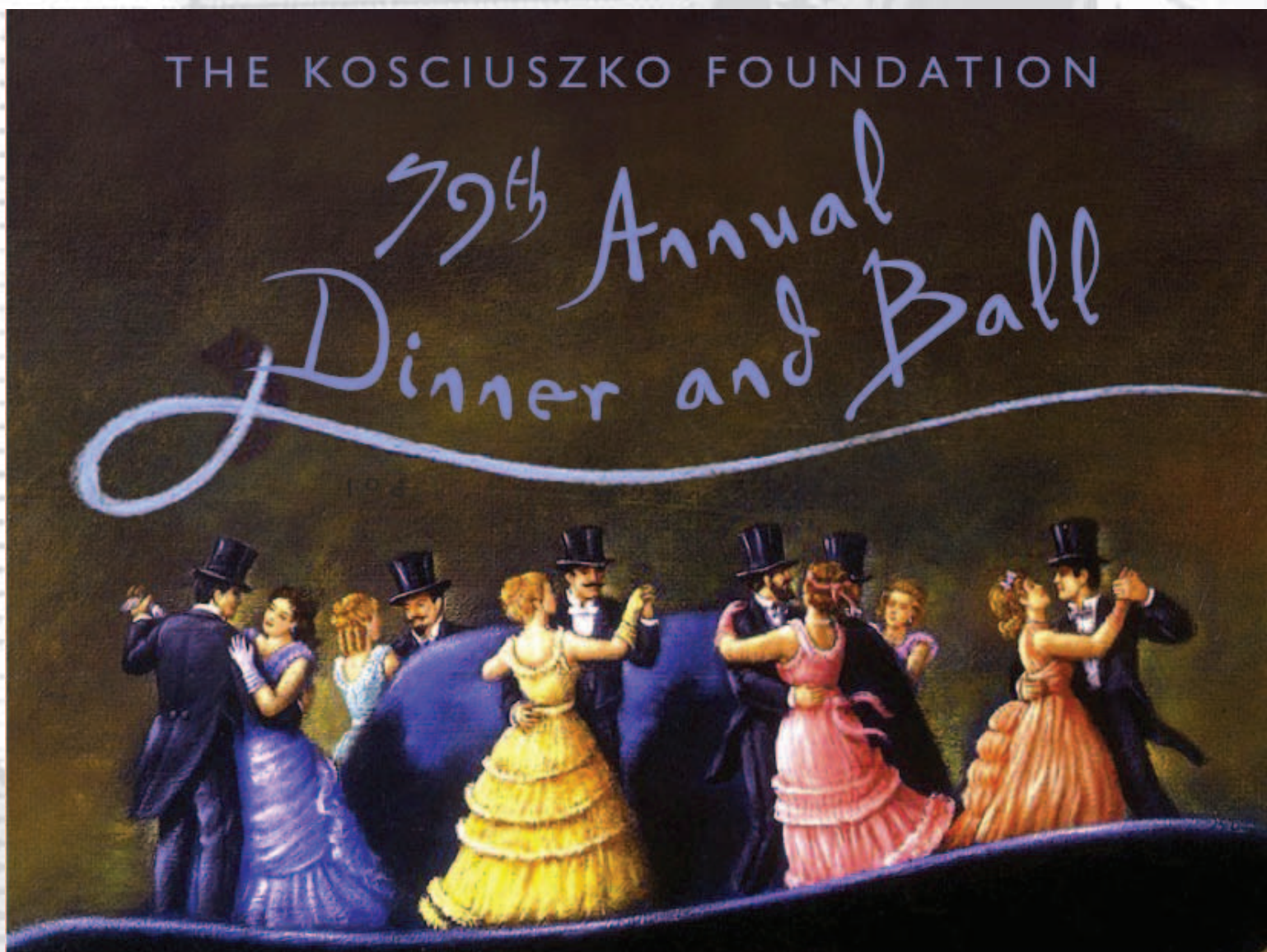
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## UK Prime Minister Creates Fracas Over Benefits for Children of Migrant Workers

WARSAW — Poland's foreign minister has accused UK Prime Minister David Cameron of stigmatizing Poles working in Britain in a row over child benefits.

Cameron wants a change in European law to allow his government to stop child welfare benefits being paid to EU migrants working in Britain who have children overseas.

But Radoslaw Sikorski believes withdrawing the benefits would mean Poles working in the UK would effectively be subsidizing British children.

"If Britain gets our taxpayers, shouldn't it also pay their benefits? Why should Polish taxpayers subsidize British taxpayers' children?" asked Sikorski.

"UK social security rules apply to all resident EU citizens. No need to stigmatize Poles. What about British children abroad?"

Cameron thinks it is "wrong" that child benefits leave Britain, and singled out Poland when giving his view on benefits going to youngsters who live abroad.

"I don't think that is right and that is something I want to change,"

he said. "It's wrong that someone from Poland, who comes here, who works hard — and I am absolutely all in favor of that — but I don't think we should be paying child benefit, to their family back at home in Poland."

Since 2002 almost 1.2 million Poles have been issued with National Insurance numbers in Britain. This enables them to work and pay full taxes in Britain, but also means they are entitled to the same level of child and other welfare benefits as British workers.

Child benefit in the UK is up to four times higher than the equivalent benefits in Poland.

### Mini-Interview: Those Polish Workers ...

Dr. Barbara Cieslińska teaches sociology at the University of Bialystok in Poland and has written about emigrants from the Podlaskie region (an area long associated with economic emigration and high unemployment) to America, England, and Germany. She spoke with the *Polish American Journal* about

British Prime Minister David Cameron's controversial comments on the theme of "Polish workers."

*You once wrote that the decision of Britain and Ireland to open their borders early to Polish workers after Poland's EU accession was a strategically smart move that benefited those two countries. Starting in the middle of the last decade, both of those countries' economies starting having problems: the UK as part of the worldwide recession, Ireland as a result of the defanging of the Celtic Tiger. Do you still stand by your original view?*

Their economic crises were not caused by immigrants. In 2008, when the crisis began and a wave of layoffs followed, the first to be fired in countries like the UK and Ireland were immigrants, including Poles. Therefore, it seems that immigrants buffered the consequences of the economic crisis to some extent. Perhaps without immigrants, the crisis would be more prolonged and more severe.

*What do you think of recent comments by British PM Cameron about Polish workers and their impact on British welfare/social services?*

Immigrants from Poland work legally and pay taxes in the UK. They pay much more in taxes than they take social benefits. Therefore, there is no reason to discriminate them in relation to other taxpayers. By the way, the UK benefits by receiving young, well-educated people. The costs of education were covered by Poland and Polish families. One has an impression that receiving countries would like only to get benefits from immigrants, forgetting that now they become a new homeland for them, and that immigrants expect to be treated as other citizens.

Of course, immigrants cause more competition on the labor market, so a part of native population has more problems with getting a job. Immigrants, in general, are an easy target to blame. Therefore, Cameron's comments were certainly addressed to a part of British electorate before the approaching elections.

*Americans likewise are divided: on the one hand, there's a large population of illegal immigrants — mostly Mexicans — living in and benefitting from America. On the other hand, long-term unemployment in the U.S. is stubbornly high. What do you think is a country's responsibility towards its citizens and immigrants in tough economic times?*

It is sad that unemployment problems in the United States are also increasing. I always thought that in the States, everybody who wants to work and earn his living can do so, that it is a friendly country to hard-working people. In some countries, like Poland, legal work is burdened with high overheads (taxes, compulsory insurance) and work becomes a luxury good. This generates unemployment and promotes the development of illegal forms of employment. I am not an expert in economy, but common sense tells me that every time labor costs rise (an additional fiscal burden), unemployment also rises.



Wesołego Alleluja!  
Happy Easter

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**HELEN NOWAKOWSKI**  
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A Blessed Easter to All Polonia!

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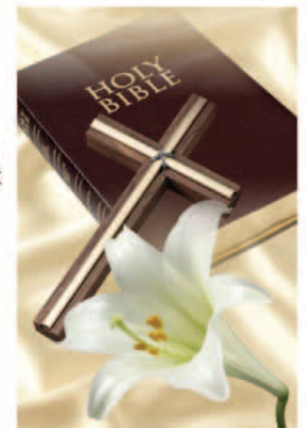
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**GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados**

# Why You Need to Write Your Family History

We all have family stories that give insights into the lives of our ancestors. Some are entertaining, others are celebrations of our cultural heritage and others are more historical in nature. They all should be saved for future generations.

You may find it hard to believe that your family history is important to save. You should consider all of our immigrant ancestors contributed to America's history and their stories should be saved for our grandchildren. The farmers and the factory workers contributed their efforts to the growth of America alongside all of the names listed in the history books. Our family histories should give clues of their roles and this will help us understand our roots.

Your collection of family oral histories, photos and documents are incomplete unless someone writes an explanation of how they are related. This creates your unique family history and is the core of why someone needs to write them down for the enjoyment of your children and grandchildren. You may be reluctant to capture these stories because you do not consider yourself a writer. This can seem to be a very challenging project for many people. If you feel you do not have the skills to do this, who in your family can? If you like to do the research, is there someone that can work with you to write it? It is important to understand that someone in your family should capture and save the oral histories now before the stories are further diluted or lost completely.

I also find it difficult to write. However, I began creating summaries for the individuals that I was researching and I used these as quick reference pages. When I discovered that these short summaries could easily be read by other family mem-

bers, the summaries were slowly expanded to create my family history.

If you are interested in telling your family stories, please try to overcome your fears of writing and try to commit your family story to the written word. Using summaries as a starting point is a simple method for organizing your information that can stand alone and then later be combined into larger documents that become your family history. Include oral history, family pictures and genealogical documents and you will create a readable and interesting document that suddenly becomes your family history.

Don't be afraid to begin. Concentrate on finding one story and then another by doing the research. Finding the small pieces will make the task easier and will be fun. Eventually the small pieces will begin to fit together and the overall story that is your family history will appear.



*Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist and author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."*

**HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS.** The New York State Office for New Americans Hotline, a multi-lingual information center providing live assistance on general questions about immigration and naturalization, has opened. It provides assistance in more than 200 languages, and offers referrals to the State Office for New Americans (ONA) Opportunity Centers. It also provides information on all state programs serving refugees and immigrants, other immigrant-related public and private programs, and not-for-profit immigrant service providers.

**SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel**

# For the Birds!

A large group of Polish last names were derived from the names of common household objects, tools, crops, livestock and wildlife. Quite a few came from the names of different birds, including:

- BOCIAN.....stork
- CZAPLA.....heron
- CZYŻYK.....green finch, siskin
- GAŚSIOR.....gander
- GOŁĄB.....pigeon
- JASKÓŁKA.....swallow
- KACZOR.....drake
- KAWKA.....jackdaw
- KOGUT.....rooster

- KRUK.....raven
- KUKUŁKA.....cuckoo
- ŁABĘDŹ.....swan
- RUDZIK.....robin
- PRZEPIÓRKA.....quail
- SIKORA.....coal tit
- SKOWRON.....skylark
- SOWA.....owl
- SZCZYGIĘŁ.....goldfinch
- WRONA.....crow
- WRÓBEL.....sparrow
- ZIĘBA.....finch

To learn all about your Polish last name, what it means, how it came about, how many people use it,

where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also get a useful genealogical contact chart which can help you track down your family records in Poland and possibly even turn up long-lost relations. Please contact research60@gmail.com for more information.

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The American Council for Polish Culture, together with all of its Affiliate organizations across the United States, extend their hearty wishes for a Joyous Easter to all of Polonia.

*Wesołego Alleluja! Smacznego Jajka!*

Please visit our website [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) for information about our scholarships - applications are pouring in now for the \$5,000 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies; our dynamic partnership role with U.S. school teachers at the National Conference for the Social Studies; Affiliate Grants Program; and our 66th Annual ACPC Convention **Proud Americans, Polish Roots** July 30 - August 2 in Buffalo, NY.

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**Family and records research** in Poland by Kasia Rutkowska. ▶ Located in Warsaw but will travel. ▶ Also translations, photographing of ancestral villages; tour guide and interpreter. ▶ Bilingual. ▶ References available. email: [k.rut@wp.pl](mailto:k.rut@wp.pl) ▶ [www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/](http://www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/)

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## Conference and Commemoration at West Point to Honor Kościuszko

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY — On May 2-3, the American Association of Friends of Kościuszko at West Point will hold the 11th conference and 186th commemoration in honor of Tadeusz Kościuszko.

The conference on Friday will be held in the Eisenhower Room of the Thayer Hotel starting at 9:30 a.m.



and ending at 5:30 p.m. Panelists will include, among others, noted scholars: M.B. Biskupski, of Central Connecticut State University; James S. Pula of Purdue University in Indiana; and Thaddeus Buczko of the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts.

The theme is "Kościuszko, Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791, and the Political, Social and Security Climate in Europe from 1791 through the Congress of Vienna."

Participants are invited to continue discussion at dinner afterwards.

On Saturday, beginning with 9:45

a.m. Mass at the Catholic Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity, the U.S. Military Academy and public will honor Kościuszko for the 186th time. After Mass, attendees can observe the Cadet Review on The Plain from a reserved section and then join members of the Academy, the AAFKWP, Liga Morska/Sea League, Harcerzy/Boy and Girl Scouts, Polish Singers Alliance of America, Polish American Congress, other Polish American organizations and the general public in tribute at the Kościuszko Monument. The keynote speaker will be Thaddeus Buczko.

After the ceremony, participants can attend the luncheon in the George Washington Room of the Thayer Hotel, tour the grounds of the academy, sit in Kościuszko's own garden, and/or visit the museum and library.

For information about access to the U. S. Military Academy grounds, costs for the conference and/or meals, please check the AAFKWP site at [www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org](http://www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org) or make contact with F. X. Gates at (917) 913-3133, (718) 852-6812, [fxgates2@aol.com](mailto:fxgates2@aol.com) or Anthony Bajdek at (603) (718) 1351, [a.j.bajdek@comcast.net](mailto:a.j.bajdek@comcast.net).

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Understanding Pope Francis

Author and director of faith formation at St. Pius X RC Church in Getzville, N.Y., **Michael Ruzala** has published "Pope Francis, Pastor of Mercy." He brings to his readers a sense of walking through the struggles and joys of a life journey that the pope experienced. From his life growing up in Argentina, to his Jesuit training and ministry, to his work as pastor of souls and cardinal for the poor, Ruzala develops a comprehensive picture of the current pope. The book was published by Wyatt North and is available as an e-book download or softcover book and can be found on Amazon and Apple's iTunes.

**CATHOLICS AND ORTHODOX COOPERATE.** In Białystok, Poland, Divine Missionary **Fr. Edward Konkol**, SVD established a center where alcohol or drug addicted young people can find welcome and help to detoxify themselves. He then opened a home where whole families could come to turn their lives around. A job center was added, and scholarship money was found to help 12 children each year in his Angels' Home. Many of his collaborators and supporters come from the Orthodox community in Białystok (about 30% of the population). In Siberia, Divine Word missionaries who, with the descendants of Catholic Polish, Latvian and Byelorussian deportees in Blagoveshchensk, received word from the new Orthodox bishop that the Orthodox Church would return to the Catholics their church, Transfiguration of Christ, taken from them

by the communists in 1932.

**GROUP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.** **Joe Grosek**, who runs the Glenmary Home Missioners Group Volunteer Program, steers volunteers to projects in Grainger County, Tenn., and has had to turn volunteers away because the projects were fully staffed. Over the years, some 20,000 volunteer young people have worked in different parts of Appalachia on building projects for poor people while at the same time learning Appalachian culture, immersing themselves in prayer and reflection, participating in community building, and enjoying an environment of simple living. For information: contact [jgrosek@glenamry.org](mailto:jgrosek@glenamry.org)

**AMBASSADOR OPENS FILM FESTIVAL.** **Ambassador of Poland Ryszard Schnepf** delivered introductory remarks before the screening of the controversial Polish thriller "Aftermath," a film inspired by the real-life mass killings in the town of Jedwabne during World War II. Other films in the "Spotlight on Polish Cinema" series, supported by the Polish embassy to the United States are: "Ida" set in Poland in 1962; "Mamele" in Yiddish with English subtitles; "The Jewish Cardinal" based on the life of France's Polish-Jewish Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger; "The Man Who Made Angels Fly" a documentary about a puppeteer.

**BIKER ARCHBISHOP IN FUNDRAISER.** **Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski** joined some 150 other motorcyclists in the second annual Archbishop's Poker Run to support Miami Catholic Charities-based programming for drug and alcohol rehabilitation. The ride started with Mass at Mary Help of Christians Church and aimed to support St. Luke's Addiction Recovery Center.

**NEW CHAPEL DEDICATED.** **Bishop Richard Malone** of Buffalo, N.Y., dedicated a new chapel at St. Casi-

mir's RC Church where the various worldwide households (Catholic, Muslim, Hindu, Orthodox, Buddhist) are celebrated. These cultures represent the people who have recently moved into the neighborhood of the church. Prayer and festivals of the new immigration to Western New York, along with those of their European neighbors are represented. "I want the immigrants of Buffalo and generations of their families to find something of their own in this family Chapel, something familiar and permanent that makes them feel welcome, accepted and honored," said pastor **Fr. Czeslaw Krysa**.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...** Priests of the Buffalo RC diocese celebrating 55 years of priesthood: **Msgr. Matthew S. Wendzikowski**; **Fr. Seweryn J. Koszyk, SAC**; **Fr. Marcel Sokalski, OFM Conv**; 50 years: **Fr. Theodore C. Rog**; **Fr. Eugene S. Slomba**; 25 years: **Fr. Michael H. Burzynski**; and 50 years in religious life/40 years of priesthood: **Fr. Benjamin Fiore, S.J.**

**STO LATTO...** **Fr. Leon Biernat** as he assumes the position of pastor of St. Gregory the Great RC Parish in Williamsville, N.Y. A former director of vocations for the diocese, Fr. Biernat has served in several parishes in the Buffalo Diocese, most recently Our Lady of Pompeii in Lancaster, N.Y. ... Bishop-elect **Jerzy Zglejszewski**, appointed by Pope Francis to be auxiliary bishop of the RC Diocese of Rockville Center, LI, N.Y. Born in Czarny Białystocka in 1961, Bishop Zglejszewski did his first seminary studies in Białystok, Poland and, after completing his studies in the seminary in Huntington, N.Y., he was ordained in 1990. He is currently co-chancellor of the diocese and director of the office of worship ... Retired RC **Bishop of Buffalo Edward Kmiec** on being honored with the Bishop's medal in recognition of his support for Catholic education.

Wstał Pan Chrystus, Alleluja!

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### MODLITWY

**PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS.** The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES.** In thanks for favor granted, I share this prayer with others who seek your mercy. Oh ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfortess of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look upon me with mercy. When you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where you dispense your favors, and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. My loving Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your virtues so that I may one day share your company and bless you in eternity. Amen. **R.F.S.**



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THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

# Lenten Meditation

As this is written, the country's second largest Mardi Gras celebration is in full swing. I'm watching the parade and observing the young people around me, with delight and envy. I am positive that when I was in that perfect wheelhouse of age (25 to 35), strength, and beauty, I did not have near the confidence and boldness that I witnessed that day. My wish for the young people is that they will appreciate and cherish these days of frivolity and mirth but at one point understand that along with life's parades come responsibility, opportunity, challenges, and sometimes a string of beads across the forehead. Thank you, dad.

So I am watching these exceptional young people flit around and my thoughts turn to what is exceptional, who has it, and where do you get it. We hear about exceptionalism as it applies to the United States, talked about in liberal as well as in conservative circles. There are companies that have mission statements that include the word exceptional pertaining to service or products.

Exceptionalism for country or company means going that extra length to satisfy or doing something in an extra special way. Businesses spend a lot of money on surveys, employee development, and benefits to achieve an edge in the market place. The Piast Institute conducts surveys of Polonia to gauge how the Polish community is fairing. Can we say that there is Polish exceptionalism? We have exceptional people and there have been examples of exceptional acts or behavior throughout Polish and Polish American history. Is there any thought given to how Polish can be above the rest in all the ways they present to others?

Cultures and cultural expression make it hard to be exceptional; rather it is expected and sufficient to just be. In that sense, all cultures are exceptional. Tradition by definition is steadfast and I like the idea that we sufficiently present what we are, but I also like to think we can be sensitive to how we are thought of as individuals and as a group. The American experience is unique because there is so much mixing of peoples and traditions and whether apparent or not, the comparisons are there. I don't want to be selling Polish as outstanding all of the time, but I hope we are trying to be exceptional every time we are Polish.

**PĄCZKI, EXCEPTIONAL FOOD.** Mark Klose, a well-known and popular DJ in St. Louis described pączki as "jelly donuts on steroids." Yes, that is so true and my addiction to these drug-like Polish pastries is exacerbated during Lent when they are so good and prevalent. Back to the parade, a question that has crossed my mind for many years is why we don't: 1) have a Polish float associating Zapusty with the French *Laissez le bon temps rouler* (Let the good times roll!), while 2) advertising pączki (perhaps even handing them out rather than the beads) or other parts of Polonia.

If not a float then how about a pączki and coffee/hot coco stand? That would be an excellent choice for a cool or brisk March morning before or during the festivities especially for those not slurping down beer or bourbon (though you could offer a coffee and bourbon option for those that prefer the royale). What is your pączki promotion? If you have a Fat Tuesday event in your city, you need to include the pączki, *mon ami*, any way you can!

**POLISH OR NOT?** Cross off **John Candy**, comedian and actor, on the Polish or not list! (I knew it!) According to Ethnic Celebs, (ethniccelebs.com/john-candy) he is Polish and Ukrainian on his mother's side, though by the look of the maternal lineage he most likely is all Polish just from places located in Ukraine.

On the 2014 Academy Awards "In Memoriam" list was **Stefan Kudelski**, inventor. From Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefan\\_Kudelski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefan_Kudelski)) he was born in Warsaw and is "known for creating the Nagra audio (tape) recorders." Kudelski won the Oscar for Scientific or Technical award in 1965, 1977, and 1978.



**JOHN CANDY.** Late comedian's mother is Polish and Ukrainian.

Wesołego Alleluja to all! If you have a thought about this month's topics, a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com). Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, [ponderingpole.blogspot.com](http://ponderingpole.blogspot.com). If you send email, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line.

## Celebrating a Milestone



**JOSEPH PAWLIK** and his wife Maria, married for 63 years, are pictured with grandson Michael McKenna and daughter Josephine Pawlik McKenna. Joe celebrated his 90th birthday, February 27. He has been active in the PNA for over 50 years, the Holy Name of Jesus Church, the Holy Name Athletic Club in Stamford, Conn., and many other Polish American organizations.

At the annual meeting of the Holy Name Athletic Club, the membership honored Joe by singing "sto lat."



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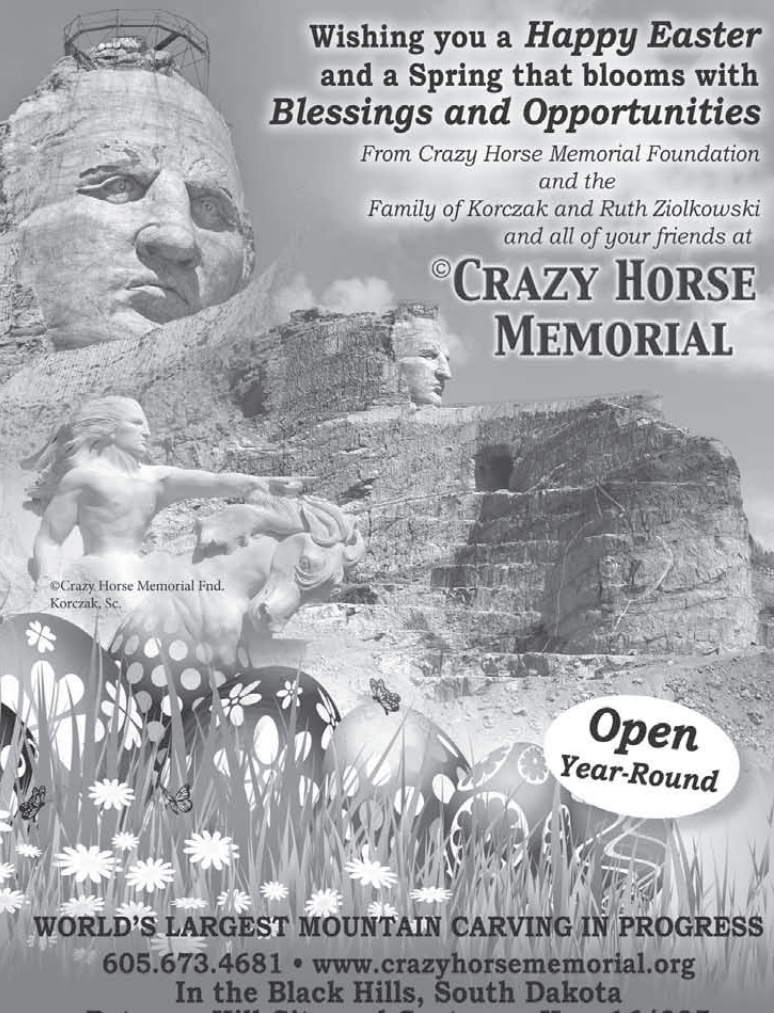


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Donations to the PAJ Press Fund will be acknowledged in the paper unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Eugene Golomb, Rochester, N.Y.; Irena Krzywinska Lane, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Dr. John Nizioł, Clifton, N.J.; V. Sokolowski, North Bay, Ontario, Canada; Richard & Pearl Wilgosz, Hollywood, Fla.; Regina Wnukowski, Philadelphia; and one Friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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Greetings and Happy Easter to All!

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## PMA's Pulaski Day Celebration

CHICAGO - The Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) was filled to capacity on March 3 to pay tribute to **Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski**, an American Revolutionary War Hero and the Father of the American Cavalry. This year's Pulaski Day celebration took on a different tone among members of the Polish American community.

Illinois and Chicago political leaders spoke out on the crisis in the Ukraine, the visa waiver issue for Polish visitors, and immigration reform. Speakers related their comments to Casimir Pulaski and his commitment to independence and freedom.

Among the guests attending were **Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon**, **U.S. Senator Richard "Dick" Durbin**, **U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley**, **Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka**, **Judge Aurelia Pucinski**, **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel**, **Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas**, **Dorothy Brown**, **Clerk of Circuit Court of Cook County**, and **Ariel Reboyras**, **alderman of Chicago's 30th Ward**. Additional guests included **Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk**, **Defense, Military, Naval, and Air Attaché of the Republic of Poland**, and **Robert Rusiecki**, **Deputy Counsel General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago**.

Masters of ceremonies for this event were **Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.**, Chair of the PMA, and **Maria Ciesla**, the PMA's President. The **Most Rev. Andrew Wypych**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, gave the invocation and the benediction.

Senator Durbin made mention of the fact that Pulaski is one of only seven individuals, who received honorary United States citizenship. He, along with Deputy Consul General Rusiecki, spoke of the importance of Poland's accession into NATO. Judy Baar Topinka mentioned that Ukraine now needs a Pulaski. She openly stated that one cannot believe the so-called good intentions of Putin. "You cannot believe a scorpion," she said. As Mayor Rahm Emmanuel stated regarding the visa waiver issue, "You do not treat a first-class friend like a second class citizen," as the Great Hall filled with applause. Frank Spula, President of the Polish American Congress, pointed out the importance and privilege that comes with voting.

During this celebration, Mrs. Ciesla thanked PNC Bank and **Jerry Furby**, Executive Vice President, for the PNC's generous \$5,000 donation to the PMA. Also, the Museum presented scholarships to two outstanding college students for their splendid interpretational analysis of paintings from the PMA's art collection. **Joanna Jaros** analyzed the painting, "In Deep Thought" by Roman Kramsztyk, and **Beata Staszewski** interpreted the painting "Girl with the Polish Eagle" by Wladyslaw Benda.

The State of Illinois designates the first Monday in March as Pulaski Day, a state holiday, and has done so since 1978.



Mayor Emanuel, Joanna Jaros, Beata Staszewski, Lt. Gov. Simon, Senator Durbin



Andrzej Lubowski

**BREZEZINSKI'S BIOGRAPHER VISITS CHICAGO.** Andrzej Lubowski, noted Polish economist, journalist, and author of Zbigniew Brzezinski's biography "Zbig. The Man who cracked the Kremlin," and "The Year 2040: Is the West Destined to Lose?" visited Chicago at the invitation of Paulina Kapuscinska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland. He spoke at a press conference at the Polish Consulate, on February 20. The moderator was **Daniel Bociaga**, journalist-reporter from Polish Radio 1030AM and Polvision.

Lubowski discussed his book on Zbigniew Brzezinski, United States National Security Advisor under President Jimmy Carter, as well as the role of the United States in fighting communism. During the meeting, guests from the Polonia community had an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Lubowski. That same evening, he attended a "Business After Hours" event hosted by the Polish American Chamber of Commerce.

The day before the press conference, Lubowski met with American history students of Professor Marek Suszko at Loyola University Chicago. He discussed the impact of 1980s events in Poland as they affected Europe and the world, as well as the U.S. role in the changes in Central and Eastern Europe. His topics included Poland's economic issues and its achievements.

#### CHICAGO SIBERIA SURVIVORS COMMEMORATE DEPORTATION.

On February 10, 1940, Polish citizens were crammed into cattle cars with only small bundles of belongings and were transported to Kolyma and other destinations in Siberia. The Poles who survived inhuman transport conditions were destined to work in mines, quarries, and even felling timber. Often a slice of bread seemed like a miracle. Sometime in 1942, some of the male survivors were able to join General Anders' Polish Army travelling to Iran, India, Palestine, then off to Italy and England, and some eventually to the Americas. As history will note, after World War II, many



Polish citizens were survivors found living in Siberia.

At the White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Illinois, over 120 guests commemorated this tragic event. As Eugene Chmielowski, President of the Association of Siberian Deportees, mentioned after 74 years most survivors have passed away, but is hopeful that a 75th commemoration will take place in 2015.

#### POLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES.

Congratulations to Chicago area Polish language schools for their excellence and sustainability. This past month, the **Fryderyk Chopin Language School** celebrated its 35th anniversary. Victor Barczyk, a member of Anders' Army, and his wife, Sophia, a participant of the Warsaw Uprising, the co-founders of the Chopin School, were on hand to celebrate this milestone. Mr. Barczyk viewed Polish language, history, and culture as an essential element of the Polish American heritage. Today, the Chopin Schools in Palatine and Buffalo Grove have approximately 1500 students and 83 teachers. They are fully accredited by the State of Illinois, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Barczyk. Attending the celebration were Eva Koch, President of the Polish American Teachers Association, Teresa Abick, Vice-President of the Polish National Alliance, and Konrad Zielinski, Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland. Mr. and Mrs. Barczyk are proud that their six children attended and grandchildren now attend Polish language schools.

Another school celebration took place on Chicago's Southside. The **Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School** celebrated its 40th year of teaching Polish American students the language, history, and culture of their ancestral home. This school originally started in the classrooms of Five Holy Martyrs School, thanks to the efforts of the late Bishop Alfred Abramowicz. At its peak, this school had nearly 900 students. Today, it has almost 400 students from grades kindergarten through the senior year of high school. Among the guests were Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., President of the Roman Catholic Union (PRCUA), Anna

Sokolowski, Vice-President of the PRCUA, and Robert Rusiecki, Deputy Consul. Naturally, no Polish event would be complete without entertainment. The Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Ensemble presented a lively

ally ridden. Two other pieces from the program's repertoire were *Lotus Land* by Cyril Scott and *Magnificat in G Major* by Charles V. Stanford. This was definitely a concert worth attending.

Joanna Turska is a graduate of the Warsaw Academy of Music and studied in France and the Netherlands. Locally, she has performed with Music of the Baroque, Chicago Chamber Ensemble, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, and many



PALA attendees

program of folk dancing.

#### PALA HELD 4TH ANNUAL MEETING.

The **Polish American Librarians Association (PALA)** held its 4th Annual Meeting and Career Development Day, on February 23, 2014. This year, PALA held its meeting in small-group settings at Loyola University Chicago's Lake Shore Campus. This also gave PALA an opportunity to showcase Loyola's Polish Studies Program, along with the Information Commons and the Cudahy Library with emphasis on its Polish Collection. **Keith Michael Fiels**, Executive Director of the American Library Association and one of the county's top library leaders, was the keynote speaker and addressed the attendees on the topic of "A Spectacular Career and How to Have One!" Other presenters were **Bozena Nowicka McLees**, Director of Interdisciplinary Polish Studies, and **Ron Stoch**, President of PALA, who spoke on "Getting to Know PALA."

#### LUNCH TIME CONCERT.

Almost 100 music-lovers had a great opportunity to hear **Joanna Turska**, flutist, and **Jaroslaw Malanowicz**, world renowned organist, perform a noon-time concert on Friday, March 7, at the Fourth Presbyterian Church on Chicago's Magnificent Mile. Part of the program consisted of *Sonata in E Minor* by František Benda and *Witraz* by Marian Sawa, an ultra-contemporary organ solo, which, at times, had the church rafters vibrating. The beautifully soothing *Morceau de Concours* by Gabriel Fauré and Alain Beney's *Petits Concerts Recreatifs* were welcome additions to the program. But hearing *Vocalise* by Wojciech Kilar was worth the visit. It was somber, yet passionate, melodic, and emotion-

others. She has performed extensively throughout Europe and has appeared as soloist with the Festival Estival in Paris, the Warsaw Autumn Festival, and the National Philharmonic Orchestra in Warsaw. Ms. Turska is a flute teacher and an adjunct faculty member at the College of Lake County.

Jaroslaw Malanowicz is a graduate of the Chopin Academy of Music and the winner of numerous international organ competitions. He performs and records internationally, especially with the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Concerto Avenna, the National Philharmonic Orchestra, and Sinfonia Varsovia.

This performance was co-sponsored by this church and the Musicians Club of Women (MCW). Established in 1875, the MCW is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting both emerging and established women musicians. It hosts an annual scholarship competition, awards prizes totaling \$80,000, and offers free concerts at the Chicago Cultural Center and Fourth Presbyterian Church.

**SAVE THE DATE.** The Polish Museum of America (PMA) will hold its 34th Annual Summer Ball on Friday, June 7, 2014 at the Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie Street, Chicago. This year, the Museum will be presenting its Polish Spirit Award to **Mrs. Joann Ozog**, former first lady of the Polish Roman Catholic Union and a very active life member of the PMA. This black-tie event is the Museum's major annual fundraiser. The cost of this event is \$200 per person. For further information, contact **Virginia Cudecki**, Summer Ball Chair, or **Maria Ciesla**, President of the PMA, at 773.384.3352, Ext. 104.

## POLISH PROFESSIONALS!



We invite you to join other Polish-American doctors, dentists, and lawyers who make up the **National Medical and Dental Association** and the **National Advocates Society**. These organizations present an annual conference in which you will find a warm and friendly atmosphere, stimulating presentations, and discussions on contemporary medical, legal, and cultural topics, with the opportunity to both relax and see the local sights on your own. This is a family-friendly event, and activities for children are available. Do yourself and your

family a favor while honoring your parents — join our organization and attend our summer meeting.

The 2014 conference will take place from July 30th-August 3rd at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center at National Harbor, D.C., next to Washington, D.C., just off exit 2A of I-95 of Maryland, and a short drive from Reagan Airport.

We encourage you to contact us about attending the upcoming conference — you'll be glad you did. Please communicate with Dr. Leon M. Mielcarek, Jr., at 104 Juniper Court, Glen Milles, PA 19342, or call (484) 431-0111.



TRAVELOGUE: Five Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

## The Jan Kiepura Musical Theater Awards

Part VII

After a delicious lunch at *Mazowsze's* Karczma restaurant, I slipped away to my room for a short power nap in preparation for the big Gala evening. My suit was hanging in the bathroom – spritzed with water from a spray bottle to relax any travel wrinkles and all the other clothing pieces pressed and set to go. I rehearsed the officially worded text for my stage presentation a few times before settling down in my goose-downed bed with my sleep mask in place.



"Kukuleczka kuka, chłopiec panny szuka..."

I began drifting into a dream zone when I heard an odd sound – "Hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo." Was this an owl disturbing my rest? I floated back into slumber. Again with the disruption! Was it the famed "Kukuleczka" that *Mazowsze* keeps singing about? "Cuckoo-cuckoo?" I began hearing imaginary voices singing Tadeusz Sygietyński's arrangement of this folk tune. Like "counting sheep," I focused on the rhythmic words to lull myself to sleep – "Kukuleczka kuka, chłopiec panny szuka... Kuku, Kuku, aha, aha, uoj-diridi, uoj-dirididyna, uoj-dirididyna, uha!" The alarm went off; I rolled out of bed refreshed, and was focused on the role I would now play – "Awards Show presenter."

I entered on the red carpet of the lobby of the Matecznik theater. The atmosphere was abuzz with activity and well-dressed attendees. Wiola cornered me for some photos and with ticket in hand I proceeded into the hall. At the entrance I felt a tap on my shoulder and heard a familiar voice; it was Witek - Witold Zapala, the master choreographer responsible for much of *Mazowsze's* allure and magic. He had recently retired from the spotlight and the grind of activities with the company. He was surprised to see me in Poland. He introduced me to his lovely wife Danuta – a former dancer, and we had a brief chat. Witek asked about a few of his dear Polonia friends in the United States, and told me to inform everyone that knows him that

with this transition he is at last "psychologically calm and at peace" – no longer does he need to worry about the workings and activity of *Mazowsze* on a daily basis.

We entered into the theater and separated to take our seats. I quickly pulled out my notebook and jotted down notes of our conversation. I picked up the program to see the order, and began looking around to see who I might know. Krzysiek came to take the seat next to me and proceeded to introduce me to some of the presenters in attendance – Poland's artistic elite.

First up – the Polish film actor Olgierd Lukaszewicz who has appeared in over 60 films. I've seen his work in *Wesele*, *Noce i dnie*, *Seksmisja*, *Decalogue*, *Karol: A Man Who Became Pope* as Karol Wojtyła's father, and even as a voice actor in Tim Burton's 3D stop-motion animated film *Frankenweenie* as "Mr. Rzykruski." He asked how things were on the artistic scene in New York and I related to him about the current Broadway season. Krzysiek informed me that Lukaszewicz had been the President of the Union of Polish Stage Artists (*Związek Artystów Scen Polskich*), so we had a few points of conversation with relation to my role as a Councilor of the governing body at Actors' Equity Association. He ended with a few words in perfect English.

I knew of Wiesław Ochman, the celebrated Polish tenor who had performed at the Teatr Wielki in Warsaw – I had listened to his records as a child. He sang the lead role of Jontek in the opera *Halka* for the opening performance in the reconstructed Grand Theatre in 1965. His international career took him to the stages of the Opera in Berlin, Paris Opera, and New York's Metropolitan Opera. Having danced there, we had a few items about opera that we could discuss.

What a thrill it was to meet artists whose work I have admired through my lifetime! Who next am

I introduced to? "First Lady of Polish Song" Irena Santor – the original soprano of "Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek," who left *Mazowsze* in 1959 to embark on an immensely successful solo singing career. She recorded many pop hits of that era – composed exclusively for her. Our exchange was interrupted by the bell



Irena Santor (left) presented the award for "Best Female Vocalist" to Anna Sroka-Hryń for her portrayal of Edith Piaf in the original musical sensation *Édith i Marlene*.

tones signaling the beginning of the program.

As the lights dimmed I kept in mind the rehearsal instructions: advance to the stage; go to the center microphone; be handed an envelope; read the name of the recipient and present the winner with the award.

Anna Matusiak of RDC-Polskie Radio and Ochman were the evening's emcees. Włodzimierz Izban, who in addition to being the director of *Mazowsze*, is the General and Artistic Director of The *Mazowiecki Music Theatre* greeted the audience as the Chapter Chairman of the Kiepura Awards. After Mozart's Overture from the opera *Don Giovanni* was played by the orchestra of The *Mazowiecki Teatr Muzyczny* under the baton of conductor Jacek Boniecki, the evening proceeded to the first award. A couple of dancers from *Mazowsze* – Magdalena Zalipska and Łukasz Neter entered from the wings carrying the winning envelope, the Kiepura Award statuette, a framed award certificate, and a single white rose.

The first presenter approached and stood in front of the onstage orchestra at the center of the stage area... he didn't go to the center standing mic. He was given a handheld microphone and balanced holding the envelope in one hand



After I presented the Jan Kiepura award for "Best Choreographer" to Artur Żymelka (right), I was finally able to relax.

with the microphone in the other and announced the recipient of "The lifetime achievement award" – choreographer and dancer Krystyna Mazurówna. Mazurówna was given the statuette and the certificate, only to hand both back to the presenter to take the microphone to speak. Seizing up the situation I accessed how I could do it perhaps smoother. The colorful 74-year old Mazurówna in accepting the award said "my career is not over; I still have much to create." A former soloist with the Grand Theatre in Warsaw, she now makes Paris her home.

I was keeping track with my program to know when I was up next. The program was divided in three separate sections – a list of winners, musical selections, and presenters. With the second award I noticed that it was not following a matching chronological order. The second winner was listed in the ninth position. Luckily in my category the winner and presenter lists corresponded as the 13th.

The following award jumped back to the third, so I soon realized I would have to just "go with the flow." The award for "Best Musical" was given to "Korczak," written by the English writing team of Nick Stimson and Chris Williams, which was presented by the Podlasie Opera and Philharmonic.

Irena Santor presented the award for "Best Female Vocalist" to Anna Sroka-Hryń for her portrayal of Edith Piaf in the original musical sensation *Édith i Marlene*. "Best Set/Costume Design" went to the legendary Barbara Ptak who has worked on stage and in film with such directors as Andrzej Wajda; four films, for which she designed the costumes, have been nominated for an Oscar. Jacek Boniecki received "Best Conductor."

As most of the presenters were coming from out-of-town, I don't believe anyone except me attended

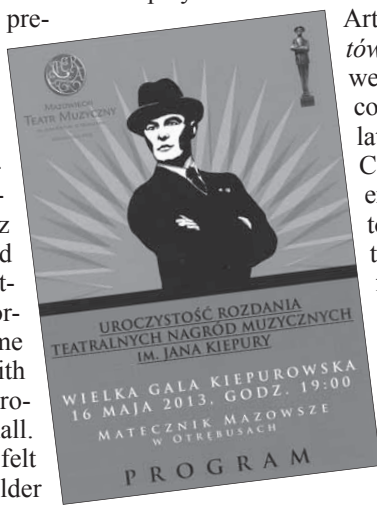
that afternoon rehearsal, everyone seemed to be juggling the hand microphones. I've seen enough award shows to know that the presenter is always elegant, at ease ... and does not hold a mic.

Unlike American televised awards programs, there were no time allotments or swelling music to cut off a speech. After what would have been the fourth award, but in actuality was the eighth, the "Best Choreographer" category was announced – a surprise to me.

As my artistic credentials were read by an offstage announcer, I walked calmly up the side stairs; received the envelope from Magda; and went to the standing microphone at the foot of the stage – as I was instructed to do during the rehearsal. Łukasz rushed forward to give me the handheld which I held down by my side. Poised, I began to speak and sound came from the center microphone that no one else wanted to use – "Teatralną Nagrodę Muzyczną imienia Jana Kiepury w kategorii najlepsza choreograf otrzymuje Pan Artur Żymelka."

I turned to the back and exchanged the envelope and handheld for the statuette. Presented the Award to Mr. Żymelka and motioned him to the center position, but he reached out for the handheld instead. I guess our cultures are a bit different. Żymelka of the Music Theatre in Łódź won for his work on the production of Leonard Bernstein's American musical "Wonderful Town." I gave the additional items to the winner, and I was able to settle back in my seat and finally breathe.

... to be continued



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## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## General Pulaski Remembered at Wreath-Laying Ceremony

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The General Pulaski Association held its annual commemoration of the life of General Casimir Pulaski and wreath laying at the Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo on February 28. The year's ceremony was attended by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge for the Western District of New York Carl Bucki, NYS Senator Tim Kennedy, former Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski, NYS Supreme Court Justices Hank Nowak and Deborah Chimes, Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw, Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard, Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs, Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka and Cheektowaga Supervisor Mary Holt, as well as representatives of various

Polish veterans' groups and members of the Pulaski family.

After the ceremony at the statue, the group retired to the Millennium Hotel for its installation banquet. WKBW-TV Channel 7 meteorologist Aaron Mentkowski served as the Master of Ceremonies at the dinner. Cheektowaga Town Justice Paul Piotrowski administered the oath of office to the organization's officers. President Brian Rusk presented this year's Karamanoukian Scholarships to Katherine Metzler, Nicole Komin, and Lawrence Strosser. Polish World War II veteran Janusz Nieduzak received special recognition. NYS Supreme Court Justice Donna Siwek and Dennis Gorski delivered the keynote addresses.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** "Ostatki" celebrations were held on March 1 at Our Lady, Queen of Poland Church in Scarborough, Ontario; Polish Legion Post 315 in Hamilton, Ontario; the Polish Hall in Burlington, Ontario; and John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... Local attorney Craig Bucki was recently elected the president of the WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation ... The Toronto District of the Canadian Polish Congress (KPK) is continuing its efforts to keep Art Spiegelman's comic book, "Maus," out of Ontario classrooms ... The Euro-Cafe, which has many traditional Polish foods on its menu, opened on Main Street in Geneseo the first weekend of March ... The results of the Broadway

Market/Adam Mickiewicz Library "Best Pączki Competition" were as follows: Tombak's Bakery (First Place), Mazurek's and Chruschiki Bakeries (tied for Second Place) and White Eagle Bakery (Third Place).

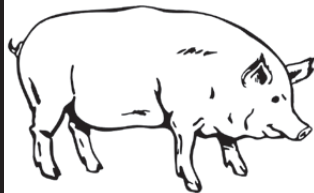
On March 2, the Rochester Polonia Community marked "Doomed Soldiers' Day," a remembrance honoring the underground army of freedom fighters killed by Poland's Soviet occupiers, at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church ... The Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY hosted their 17th annual "Pączki Day Celebration" featuring the music of Special Delivery on March 2 at the Hearstone Manor in Depew. It was one of the last events held at that venue before its closure ... Also on the 2nd, the "Pączki Day Polka Party"

featuring the music of New Direction took place at the Polish Nook Restaurant in Niagara Falls; and the Syracuse Polish Home sponsored an excursion to the Syracuse Silver Knights indoor soccer game ... On March 3, St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga held a candle light ceremony, "Angels, Alleluias and Pączki," dedicating new adoring angels in the church's sanctuary; and the Polish Canadian Women's Federation hosted its Third Young Talent's Concert at the Beverley Street SPK Hall in Toronto.

Buffalo native Tom Dudzick's play, "King o' the Moon: Over the Tavern II," completed a successful run at the Lancaster Opera House in mid-March ... The Am-Pol Eagle, WNY's Weekly Polish newspaper, announced its 2013 Citizens of the Year: Anna Gabryszak (Arts and Drama), Michael Kucinski (Business), Dr. Andrew Wise (Community Leader/Non-Pole), Broadway Market 125th Anniversary Committee (Community Organization), Kathleen Rumfola (Culture), Ashli Skura Dreher (Education) Pulaski Police Association (Fraternal), Gerald Chwalinski (Government), Jean Waclawski-Wende (Health/Medicine), Amy Smardz (Heritage), Charles Peszynski (Individual in Organization), Robert Ciesielski (Law), Christopher Parker (Media), Michelle Cofield (Music), Steven Walters (Politics), Rev. Richard Jdrzejewski (Religion) and Stan Figiel (Sports).

## BUFFALO'S BEST KIEŁBASA CONTEST

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Pisanki Decorating  
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CARLSTADT, N.J. — A free workshop in learning to make batik-dyed eggs — pisanki — will be given in the conference room of the Association of the Sons of Poland at 333 Hackensack Street in Carlstadt.

The workshops will be Saturday, April 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Dorothy Kostecka-Wieczerek, Secretary of the Association of the Sons of Poland will provide directions and instructions. Participants are requested to bring with them two hard-boiled room temperature eggs. Other supplies will be made available.

Due to limited space, reservations must be made by calling the Association at (201) 935-2807 no later than Friday, April 11.

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BOOK REVIEW / The Rev. Dr. Zygmunt Zieliński

## Clear in Detail but Lacking in Context

**GERMANS TO POLES: Communism, Nationalism and Ethnic Cleansing after the Second World War** by Hugo Service  
New York: Cambridge University Press 2013  
HB, pp. 387, \$99.00

After World War II ended, approximately 3.1 million Germans were expelled from what is now Poland and resettled in what was then West Germany. Those expulsions were decided by the Big Three — Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin — and reconfirmed at Potsdam. Among the reasons for the expulsions were: recognition of the Germans' brutal atrocities perpetrated against Poles, including Poland's civilian population; fear of reprisals; concern about German "Fifth Column" destabilization; and the dirty little secret of needing to compensate Poland for lands seized and peoples expelled (about 2,000,000) by the Soviets who — now as Allies — had to be appeased. It would be absurd, after all, if Poland — the *casus belli* of World War II — came out on the winning side as a total loser.

Those Germans expelled from Poland have long been active, and still play a vocal role in German politics. In recent years, especially since German unification in 1990, their demands for recognition of their suffering (and for compensation for their "victimization") have intensified.

With the collapse of the Iron Curtain, historians have scrambled to make up for lots of neglected work. Hugo Service, who teaches at Oxford, examines the postwar situation in Upper and Lower Silesia, concentrating on the expulsion of the Germans and other social phenomena there.

**THE BOOK'S FUNDAMENTAL** problem is context, and for a historian, context is everything. Everything that took place in the period 1939-50 in the narrow geographic sphere of Central Europe occurred amidst a very broad spectrum of causes in a very long prehistory. Given the way Service divides up his book, that context is lost amidst his proportional imbalance.

To study "communism, nationalism and ethnic cleansing" involves taking account not just of Poland's "recovered territories" but also of the eastern lands Poland lost. Chapters one and two do that to some degree, while chapter three covers the end of the War in Silesia (omitting the siege of Wrocław, the initial period of peace and Soviet/Polish Communist policy in the area). Chapters 4-10 are devoted exclusively to Silesia, the expulsion of the Germans and settlement of Poles, ethnic relations, the fate of Jewish Holocaust survivors, assimilation and other social phenomena. In his summary, the author surprises us by expanding his reflections to the whole of Central Europe.

Service paints a picture that is very clear and oftentimes very de-

tailed in its particulars, but lacking in context. Some of his sources are also problematic, e.g., he bases most of his details about the expulsion of Germans from Silesia on the *Fragenbogenberichte zur Dokumentation der Vertreibung der Deutschen aus Ostmitteleuropa*, whose questionnaires were already formulated in such a way as to contribute to one-sided responses.

**DID GERMANS SUFFER** from disease and want after World War II? Yes, but those twin scourges equally affected Poles, and probably affected Poles uprooted from their homes in what became the USSR even more. Was the expulsion of Germans from Silesia sometimes brutal? Yes, but the brutality of Polish soldiers was also motivated by memories of the bestial atrocities Germans perpetrated for the preceding six years, e.g., the expulsion of children from the Zamość region, many of whom froze to death on the trains. Were German goods left behind in Silesia plundered? Yes, but the Germans had done the same thing during their more than half decade occupation of Poland, and their looting was not a Nazi-only affair. Losing a war has consequences.

On the other hand, when speaking of the Poles who settled in Silesia, he fails to comment on the insecurity of their hold on the land and property, a serious deterrent to investment and improvement there for decades after the War. (Remember that West Germany did not acknowledge Poland's western border until 1970).

**When speaking of the Poles who settled in Silesia, he fails to comment on the insecurity of their hold on the land and property ...**

Service's analysis can be superficial. He writes, for example, in the Preface (p. 9) that Polish communists assumed nationalist elements of interwar National Democrat ideology, which the Reds supposedly used to eliminate ethnic minorities. One should also note that it was the Allies' idea to expel the Germans; the Polish communists played a role only because they ruled Poland at Moscow's sufferance. But expulsion of those Germans was also what the Polish government-in-exile and society at large wanted, recalling their Fifth Column role in interwar Poland (something else Service forgets to mention).

The author also presents postwar attacks on Jews simply as anti-Semitic ethnic cleansing. His use of anti-Semitism is imprecise: the estrangement towards Jews by Poles — especially those from territories seized in 1939 by the Soviets — was not racial but political. In those areas, a significant number of Jews — people with Polish citizenship — agreed to work for the Soviets and persecuted their fellow citizens. Likewise, attacks on post-

war communist functionaries (in the period 1944-57, of 447 supervisory positions in the communist security services, 29% — 131 — were held by Jews) cannot be written off just as simple anti-Semitism.

While similar lacunae and imprecision can be found elsewhere in the book, this does not however mean that the author is one-sided. He tries to paint a picture on the basis of the sources (including Polish ones) that he used. One problem is context. Another is balance of sources. The influence of post-1990 studies — when German historians and writers began to pay greater attention to the postwar suffering of Germans, the cause of which they assigned to expulsion—is evident in the book. One can even suggest that various ideological elements have infiltrated interpretations of the historical events. German unification, the loss of lived historical memory, the ascendance of "Europeanization" and the dominant influence of the expellees' movement in German politics, all play roles and their influence in turn is mirrored in the book.

### THESE ARE ALSO MISSING

**LINKS.** Service completely omits the supremely important role that the Catholic Church played in the Recovered Territories. Cardinal Hlond—Poland's Primate—is mentioned but once, and Bishop Kominek (critical to the life of the Church in both Opole and later Wrocław) thrice. The most important issue for Service from an ecclesiastical viewpoint seems to be Communist leader Aleksander Zawadzki's ban on use of German in church services (pp. 285-88), a prohibition not always carried out. Omission of the Church's religious and supra-religious role in Silesia is a serious defect.

For an American looking for basic facts about those events, Service's book is serviceable, albeit incomplete. For European readers more familiar with those events, his gaps leave much more room in discussing the book's merits.



The Rev. Dr. Zygmunt Zieliński is emeritus professor of modern Church history at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

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## Szyk Exhibit Opens April 20

NEW CANNAN, Conn. — The works of famous Polish Jewish artist **Arthur Szyk** will be displayed at the New Cannan Library, Thursday, April 20, 2014, starting at 6:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford, and the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Szyk was born in Lodz, Poland in June of 1894 and died in September, 1951 at his home in New Cannan. His stellar career was highlighted during World War II with his caricatures denouncing Hitler and the Anti-Semitism of the time. A Polish edition of Szyk's biography was published in 2005.

In the Jewish community he is well known for his "Haggadah," which is considered to be his *magnum opus* and is read every year during the Passover Seder.

The last big presentation of Szyk's works before World War II was twenty paintings exhibited at the Polish Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair. Most recently Szyk's artistry was presented at the Holocaust Museum, New York City, and last year at the Kosciuszko Founda-



**SZYK'S RENDITION** of Kościuszko and other Polish patriots demonstrates his pride in his Polish heritage.

tion in New York.

Thanks go to the Kosciuszko Foundation for loaning 20 reproductions of Szyk's artwork for this exhibit. Szyk was proud to be Polish, American, and Jewish.

For more information on the exhibit contact Al Koproski at (203) 323-9944.

## Little lexicon of Polish Easter Symbols, Customs and Concepts

by Robert Strybel

**Alleluja** = This is the Polish spelling of Alleluia, a term which in Hebrew means "praise God". In Polish tradition it is closely associated with Easter and is frequently written with icing on the mazurek, a traditional Easter cake. It is also found in the traditional Easter greeting: "Wesołego Alleluja."

**Baranek** = Easter lamb made of cake, butter, sugar, white chocolate, wood, fleece, plaster or plastic and placed in Easter basket and on the Easter table as the main centerpiece.

**Chrystus zmartwychwstał!** = Christ has risen (old-fashion Easter greeting), to which the person being greeted replies: Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał! (Truly He has risen!) Dziady śmigustne = Easter trick-or-treaters wearing hats and cloaks made of straw who start their house-to-house rounds on Easter Sunday night.

**Dzielenie się jajkiem** = The sharing of wedges of blessed hard-cook eggs begins the family breakfast or brunch served after Easter morning Mass; this symbolically ends the 40-day Lenten fast (although some start nibbling the treats right after the Holy Saturday food blessing).

**Kraszanki** = solid-colored Easter eggs; before the era of store-

bought dyes, these were made by placing dyes in water in which onion skins, spinach, certain tree barks, beets, etc. had been boiled.

**Niedziela Palmowa** = Palm Sunday; the day "palmy" (see below) are blessed in church; formerly also known as Kwietna Niedziela (Floral Sunday) and Wierzbną Niedziela (Willow Sunday).

**Pisanki** = patterned Easter eggs made by applying designs with a special stylus or pin dipped in molten beeswax and then dyeing the eggs; to get multicolored eggs the procedure could be repeated a number of times.

**Rezurekcja** = Early morning Easter Mass that begins at day-break with a procession which thrice encircles the church.

**Święconka** = in Poland — the wicker basket in which Easter food is blessed or the custom itself; in Polonia — also an Easter party (dinner-dance) usually held during Easter week.

**Wesołego Alleluja** = Happy Easter (traditional holiday greeting)

**Wesołych Świąt** (Wielkanocnych) = Happy Easter (a more secular version)

**Wielkanoc** = Easter; literally: the Great Night.



**ED DYBICZ**  
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As a reporter, I had the honor to meet  
Pope John Paul II  
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## Rochester Polonia Shows Support for Ukraine



**MEMBERS OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.'s** Ukrainian community reached out to the city's Polonia for a show of support for the protesters in Kiev, who seek to end Russian control of their country.

Gathered at the altar of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rochester are (l. to r.): President Ukrainian Women's Alliance; Father Roman Sydorovych, pastor of Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Epiphany; (with American Flag) George Homa, past president of Rochester's Polish National Alliance "Wolna Polska" Lodge 512; Father Igor Krekovetsky, pastor, St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church; (Ukrainian Flag) Bogdan Zakharchishin, board of directors, Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union; Pastor Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Philip Weiner, St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church; (Polish Flag) Steve Flor, vice president Rochester Polonia Civic Centre, national director Polish American Congress WNY.

The Polish American Congress drafted a statement of support, which was then broadcast on the local Polish radio station. Ukrainian community leaders thanked the Polish Americans for their support, and said they were grateful for all the medical aid that Poland contributed. Others expressed great thanks for the Polish media, saying it played a role in the outcome, as it was the only source of truth that they could find.

As a show of appreciation, the Polish American contingency was escorted to the beginning of the procession. At the end of the service, the pastor invited PAC director Steve Flor to address the crowded church.

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Baltimore Harbor East at Katyn Circle  
600 block of President St. (at Aliceanna St.)  
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**"SHOULD I FORGET THEM, MAY GOD IN HEAVEN FORGET ME."**  
ADAM MICKIEWICZ

Wesołego Alleluja!

### POLISH PEDDLER

**CHET and VIRGINIA LUTY**

Medina, Ohio

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



Wesołych Świąt!

**REGINA WNUKOWSKI**

Philadelphia

**"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!*



### 2014 EASTER SCHEDULE

*During LENT: Lenten Lamentations (in Polish) every Sunday after the 12:30pm Mass; Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm in Polish & 7:00pm in English every Friday.*

- **APRIL 13: PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)**- Blessing of Palms at each Mass. **Easter Bazaar.**
- **APRIL 17: HOLY THURSDAY** - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm.
- **APRIL 18: GOOD FRIDAY** - Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 3:00pm. Stations of the Cross in English & Polish at 7:00pm. Divine Mercy Novena begins.
- **APRIL 19: HOLY SATURDAY** - Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:30pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Tomb, Confession & Blessing of food 9am to 6pm.
- **APRIL 20: EASTER SUNDAY** - Resurrection Procession and Mass at 8:30 AM in Polish. Polish Masses: 10am & 12:30pm. English Masses: 11am, 2:30pm & 5pm.
- **APRIL 27: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** - Divine Mercy Celebration begins with Holy Mass at 2:30pm. **Canonization of Blessed John Paul II.**

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## Blessed John Paul II Ascends the Altar on April 27

*continued from cover*

an officially atheistic state were among the personal challenges which enabled him to closely identify with the world's poor, oppressed, downtrodden and war-weary.

John Paul also overturned stereotypes eagerly peddled by left-leaning, agnostic academics and media types trying to equate religious belief with simple, superstitious peasants. But the Pope from Poland was a brilliant intellectual, a profound philosopher whose university lectures attracted throngs of students who latched onto his every word. His struggle for religious freedom against his country's godless communist regime had helped hone both his debating skills and strategic thinking. His acting experience taught him self-discipline and how to interact with the audience. And his fluency in many different languages also facilitated his mission of spreading the Word of God.

**A MAN OF FIRSTS AND SUPERLATIVES.** Although he was never interested in setting any Guinness records, as pope the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyła did score a number of memorable milestones. He was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years since the reign of Dutchman Adrian VI who died in 1523. Not counting the first pope, St Peter, believed to have reigned up to 37 years, John Paul II (1978-2005) was the second longest serving pontiff who led the world's 1.2 billion Catholics for 26 years, five months and 18 days. The longest serving was Pius XI (1846-1878) who reigned for more 31 years.

Ranked among the most influential leaders of the 20th century, John Paul II not only journeyed for Christ more than any previous pope but was also one of the most traveled world leaders. During his pontificate he visited 129 different countries, logging 725,000 miles. During those pilgrimages he was seen in person by millions – probably more than any other figure in history. The Polish Pilgrim Pope travels included eight visits to France, seven to the United State (including two stop-overs in Alaska) and five each to Spain and Mexico.

The Holy Father from Poland also spoke more languages than any of his predecessors. Besides his native Polish and Church Latin, he was fluent in English, Italian, French, German, Spanish Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian and Slovak. He had a working knowledge of at least that many other languages and was known to extend Christmas and Easter greetings in several dozen different tongues. Wojtyła was the first pope ever to have been a Nazi slave laborer as well as an actor, playwright, poet and underground

seminarian and one of the few who loved soccer, swimming, skiing, camping and kayaking.

The saint-making efforts of John Paul II were another distinguishing feature of his papacy. During his 26 years as pontiff he beatified 1,340 saintly men and women and canonized 483 saints – more than all the popes of the last five centuries combined. Among them were his compatriots Jadwiga (Hedwig) Queen of Poland, Sister Mary Faustyna, Albert Chmielowski, Rafał Kalinowski and Father Maksymilian Kolbe. Some critics voiced misgivings over such “wholesale sanctity”, but the Holy Father patiently explained that our materialistic, de-Christianized times needed such positive role models more than ever.

**ECUMENISM – THAT THEY MAY BE ONE.** John Paul II once said that the world's three great monotheistic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – were all moving towards one and the same God but along slightly different roads. He was also a major force for ecumenism – the movement to draw estranged Christians closer together.

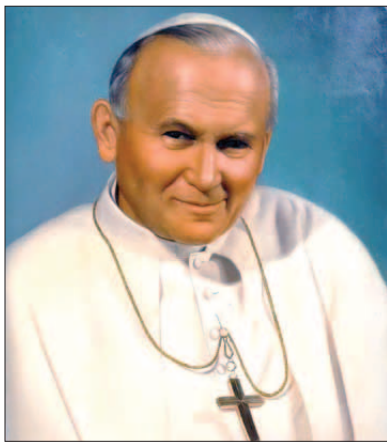
The Holy Father did a great deal to heal the wounds of yesterday's mutual recrimination and bridge age-old religious rifts. He took major strides to make peace with the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as Protestant denominations and even “erased” the excommunication once imposed on Bishop Franciszek Hodur, the organizer of Polonia's own Polish National Catholic Church. John Paul also publicly apologized and asked God's forgiveness for the harm that Christians had done over the ages to Jews and Muslims. And he was the first pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue and the first ever to set foot in a mosque.

But in an unprecedented move that transcended the monotheistic faiths, in 1986 John Paul II held the first World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi, Italy. Some 160 Christian and non-Christian religious leaders from around the globe gathered for the first time in history to pray – each in his own way – for the gift of peace. Included along them were Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, Shintoists and representatives of Animist religions.

**THE POPE OF LIFE.** John Paul II was among the few who consistently championed life as a gift of God from conception to natural death. And simultaneously, he opposed the killing of the unborn, the death and suffering caused by war, capital punishment and euthanasia.

The taking of human life for whatever reason reflected what he called “the culture of death” which was contrary to God's plan. Manipulating life and death in the pursuit of selfish goals violates the sanctity and dignity of the human person. He therefore defended Catholic tradition regarding family life and sexual morality, emphasizing “the whole

human person” – a physical, spiritual, cultural, social and psychological entity. In the light of John Paul's teachings, the “culture of death” went beyond the physical liquidation of those regarded by some as “undesirables.” Rampant materialism, consumerism and the unbridled “fun ethic” being forcefully promoted by the big-money powers can also destroy the human spirit if they replace all higher values.



**ST JOHN PAUL II'S LEGACY.** The admiration and respect he commanded was exemplified by what was probably the biggest funeral in recorded history. It was attended by crowned heads, presidents, prime ministers and other international dignitaries, nearly 3,000 Catholic churchmen, representatives of all the world's religions and some three million faithful. Over a billion people around the world followed the requiem liturgy on television.

During his first papal homecoming in 1979, John Paul uttered prophetic words to the huge throngs packing a central Warsaw square: “May Your Spirit descend and renew the face of the earth (...) this earth.” More people all over the country turned out to welcome their “Papież Polak” than had ever greeted any Soviet or Polish communist ruler. Poles were able to stand up, be counted and realize that Catholic Poland, not the oppressive, Soviet-installed regime, was their true homeland. That realization in turn gave them the courage and self-confidence to stand up for their rights.

The pope's unswerving moral support for Poland's freedom and independence enabled Solidarity to survive General Jaruzelski's martial-law crackdown and emerge triumphant in 1989. That led to the collapse of communist rule across Europe, ending arms race and the cold war.

The great following John Paul II had among young people, who flocked by the thousands to World Youth Days and wanted him declared a saint at once, prompted some to speak of a “JP2 Generation.” For many that was more than just a passing media buzz-word.

The Polish Pope's charisma and influence led to an upsurge of priestly vocations in his homeland, and many in other countries also heard God's call. Pilgrims who received the Holy Eucharist from John Paul, or who were married or had their children baptized by him have been positively marked for life. The same holds for most of the many thousands who met him at general Vatican audiences and elsewhere. And photos with John Paul II are proud family keepsakes in homes across Poland and Polonia and around the globe.

**HIGH STANDARDS OR “OUT OF SYNC”?** In the purely religious sphere, John Paul II was criticized by some for upholding priestly celibacy and not allowing the ordination of women to the priesthood. The sexual abuse scandal erupted towards the end of his papacy when his health was rapidly deteriorating and it was unknown how much input his Vatican entourage provided him with. It is a fact, however, that he did order an investigation into priestly pedophilia charges and just months before his death ordered the closure of an Austrian seminary, where homosexual activity had been reported.

In the broader area of general human interaction, he was attacked for allegedly being not in tune and out of step with the modern world and its “anything goes” lifestyles. The Holy Father did not deny the existence of the sexual revolution and the counterculture of the 20th century's final decades. But unlike those who had promoted it for financial gain and brainwashed a part of public into believing moral decay was somehow “progressive,” he saw the bitter fruits it had produced and where it was all leading.

The “modern” lifestyles created a society of confused and unhappy kids. Youngsters were and continue to be the main victims of selfish adults, youthful promiscuity, fatherless homes or otherwise dysfunctional families, not to mention easy divorce, custody battles, parental abductions and other “advancements.”

Was John Paul II “out of sync” with modern times, as some detractors contended, or did he simply remain true to the high standards he himself had always epitomized?

He saw that replacing such basic values as altruism, patience, restraint and modesty with self-indulgence, and other forms of egoism was a blueprint for disaster. If the present trend of moral unraveling continues, sooner or later many people will probably come to realize that its promoters were the ones who were “out of sync.”

## The life, work and trials of the World's Greatest Pole

John Paul II timeline: from boyhood to sainthood

Compiled by Robert Strybel

**MAY 18, 1920:** Emilia née Kaczorowska Wojtyła gives birth to a baby boy against the advice of her doctor who said the infant didn't have a chance to survive and should be aborted.

**JUNE 20, 1920:** The Wojtyła baby is baptized at the Wadowice parish church and receives the name Karol (the Polish equivalent of Carl or Charles).

**APRIL 19, 1929:** Karol suffered his first major tragedy at the age of nine, when his mother died. Right after the funeral, his father Lieutenant Karol Wojtyła senior, an army administrative official and devout Catholic, took him and his elder brother to the Marian shrine in nearby Kalwaria Zebrzydowska to pray for the repose of her soul.

**SEPTEMBER 1930:** Karol, known to his friends and classmates as Lolek, enrolled in the Wadowice middle school. He did well in his studies, was good at sports and was goalkeeper in school soccer matches between Catholic and Jewish students. It was there that his literary and acting inclinations began emerging. He also stood out for his piety and served as an altar boy.

**DECEMBER 5, 1932:** A mere three years after his mother's death, tragedy struck again, when his 26-year-old brother Edmund, an MD, died of the scarlet fever he had contracted from a patient he was treating.

**MAY 14, 1938:** Karol Wojtyła passed his secondary-school-leaving exam with flying colors and decided to study Polish Language and Literature at Kraków's Jagiellonian University. He and his father moved to Kraków to facilitate his academic studies and lived in a two-room rented basement apartment.

**1939:** Karol readily absorbs the intellectual and artistic climate of the Jagiellonian and the city of Kraków in general. He makes new friends and joins a student theater group.

**SEPTEMBER 1, 1939:** World War II begins with Hitler's attack on Poland.

**SEPTEMBER 6, 1939:** German troops march into Kraków. Nazi Governor General sets up his headquarters in Poland's historic Wawel Castle.

**NOVEMBER 6, 1939:** The Germans close down Jagiellonian University and sends its professors to a concentration camp. To help shore up his and his father's deteriorating financial situation, Karol finds work in the limestone quarry of the Solvay Chemical Works..

**FEBRUARY 18, 1941:** One day, when he brings home dinner, Karol finds his father dead. The loss of his last family member comes as a devastating blow to the 20-year-old who moves in with the friendly and supportive Kydryński family.

**SPRING 1941:** Karol is promoted to the job of blaster's assistant at the quarry under head blaster Franciszek Łabuś, a devout Catholic. Łabuś is believed to have suggested that Karol study for the priesthood. Karol attends a religious retreat where he meets tailor Jan Tyranowski, an expert on the teachings of St John of Avila, who helps him find his religious vocation. Karol takes part in the activities of the now underground Rhapsodic Theater.

**1942:** Karol surprises his fellow student actors when he decides to enter a clandestine seminary to study for the priesthood. In the early morning he serves mass for Metropolitan Archbishop Prince Adam Sapieha before going to work at the Solvay; at night he studies.

**FEBRUARY 29, 1944:** Karol is struck

See “Timeline ....” page 15

Zmartwychwstał z grobu Pan, Alleluja!  
Niebo i ziemia się cieszą. Alleluja! Alleluja!  
Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Truly He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
What Joy the Easter Message gives!  
And at this time of great prayer and praise  
at the Canonization of Pope Saint John Paul II  
May you and all of Polonia  
be blessed in many ways.  
Happy Easter! Jezu Ufam Tobie!



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## Blessed John Paul II on Ethnic Identity

by Rev. Leonard Chrobot, Ph.D.

The television phenomenon of the 60s, Alex Halley's "Roots," made many people aware of the importance of knowledge of one's ethnic identity in establishing one's character, personality, and value system. People without an awareness of their origins, the place they came from and the price their ancestors paid for them to be here, are subject to the most destructive ideologies and fads of our consumer and materialistic culture — drugs, gangs, crime.

A Black student in my class in sociology at Notre Dame several years ago decided to write his final research paper on his ethnic background. He did some preliminary work on Africa but found that he had little knowledge of where his ancestors came from, nor any way of finding out. I suggested that his background had more to do with Mississippi where his parents and grandparents came from than it did with Africa. There is a big cultural difference between people who come from Africa and those who lived through the slave experience of America in the south. His final paper proved my point.

In 1976, after the International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, a delegation of some twenty Polish bishops, led by the then Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla, came to Orchard Lake, Michigan, for a workshop before setting out on visits to various Polish American centers in the United States. The first day the College and Seminary faculty lectured the bishops on the Church in America; the second day the bishops lectured us on the conditions of the Church in Poland.

I delivered a talk in which I stated that third, fourth, and subsequent generations of Polish Americans do not consider themselves "Poles living in America," as many Bishops considered them. They are Americans, of Polish heritage, proud of their ancestry but more concerned with American problems of poverty and race than Polish problems with communism. Several weeks later, Cardinal Wojtyla made reference to the distinction at a talk in New York at the Kosciuszko Foundation. Although he recognized that we are Americans, he reminded us that we have a twofold obligation: to know the price our ancestors paid for us to be here, and to tell the story of Poland to Americans. When I and my mother met with our Holy Father on a pilgrimage to Rome in 1979, he remembered "that young Polish American priest sociologist from Orchard Lake."

Awareness of identity for Polish Americans has not always been easy. When Karol Wojtyla was elected Supreme Pontiff in 1978, I was so moved I wrote an article titled: "It Has Not Been Fun to be Polish in the American Catholic Church," published on the front page of the National Catholic Reporter, (November 24, 1978). It was a summary of our "bolaczki" (hurts) by the German and Irish hierarchy which little understood the importance of language to Polish Catholics.

In most other countries one's national identity is based on religion and language. In Poland, for example, if one speaks the Polish language one is considered to be a member of the "narod," or nation. In the United States to be an American does not depend on religion and/or language but on the acceptance of certain ideas contained in the Constitution. It has always tolerated many languages and religions. Belonging to the American "nation" has a different connotation and feeling than it does in other countries.

One cannot understand Poland without understanding the experience of the partitions (1795-1918), which left such a deep scar on its psyche and imprint on its culture. The political revolutions of the 18th century especially in France, with its bloody reactions against the monarchy, nobility, and upper Catholic hierarchy traumatized the autocratic governments throughout Europe. The French revolution and the Rights of Man, the American Revolution and its Bill of Rights, and the Polish Revolution of the Constitution of Third of May so frightened the monarchs of Germany, Russia, and Austria that they wiped Poland off the map of Europe by dividing it up into their own political states.

Certain attitudes emerged, especially in Prussian Germany. In 1855 there appeared a travelogue titled

*Soll und Haben* by Gustaw Freytag, which depicted the Poles as barbarians—uncivilized, wild, ungovernable, tribal, much like Hollywood viewed native Americans like the Comanche, Sioux, Apache. Western movies portrayed the attitude that the only good Indian was a dead Indian. In Germany this gave origin to a German phrase *Polnische-Wirtschaft*—the Polish way of doing things—somewhat like

was sacrificed at Yalta to the Soviet Union, while Germany and Japan were rebuilt with American aid. We still occasionally see reference in the media to "Polish" death camps.

In its beginning the American Catholic Church came into a profoundly militant Protestant culture, strongly against old world wars and religions. Catholics could not become Democratic or Republican because they gave allegiance to a monarchical papacy. The Ku Klux Klan was violently anti-Catholic. Indiana had the largest percentage of members of all our states.

The hierarchy of the Church was dominated by the Irish and Germans, whose principal aim was to show fidelity to our new country by Americanizing the immigrant. This was done by encouraging (sometimes forcing) people to forget their old world customs and languages. The Sociology Department of the Henry Ford Factory sought to Americanize its workers and their families with a vengeance. For the Poles, the key to their identity was Catholicism and the Polish language. The Irish substituted

Catholicism for their Gaelic language at the insistence of the English. Germans did not emphasize their language because of World War I and II. For the Poles language was especially important in their cathedral-like churches—preaching, catechism, but especially singing. The Polish hymnbook *Spiewnik-zek Koscielny* has 372 separate and multi-verse songs, most known by heart. Long before permission to use the vernacular, Poles sang songs that paralleled the various parts of the Mass, to the dismay of Latin purists and some bishops. Their favorite song was "My Chcemy Boga," essentially saying "We Want God" in our families, books, schools, work, in our courts, military, and politics. It was a spectacular and tearful mo-

ment when the population of Warsaw sang this song gathered around John Paul II in the center of the city on his first visit, as the Kremlin looked on with dismay.

My experience at Notre Dame University reinforced these attitudes. I began teaching a course in the Sociology Department in 1991, SOC 3087 Polish Americans. A course on Irish Americans was already taught. My purpose was to remind the University that it is not Irish, but Catholic. Some did not know the difference. The first written assignment was a brief anecdotal paper on what it means to be a Polish American. Those who were not Polish had to interview another student who was. I have kept the papers, numbering in the 100s, someday to do an article on them.

Virtually all of the papers began negatively, often with Polish jokes. It was not an "in" thing to be Polish at Notre Dame. Those of mixed ancestry with Irish fathers and Polish mothers, hence an Irish surname, never identified themselves as Polish or Irish Polish. It was "in" to be Irish. Yet virtually all of the papers ended on a positive note, especially on the 3-Fs, Faith, Family, and Food. Many discovered that it may be a bad thing to be Polish, until you consider the alternatives.

In his talk to Polonia in Hamtramck in 1987, our Holy Father called for the integration of the Polish heritage with our American identity. He said:

"... the more you are aware of your identity, your spirituality, your history, and the Christian culture out of which your ancestors and parents grew ... the more you will be able to serve your country, the more capable will you be of contributing to the common good of the United States." He then quoted the Polish poet Wyspianski: "There are so many strengths in the nation." He added: "And I wish to pray with him," "Make us feel the strength."

❖ ❖ ❖

Rev. Leonard F. Chrobot, Ph.D. is President Emeritus, Saint Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Mich., Adjunct Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, Coordinator Emeritus, Department of History, American Polish Research Fellowship Program, and pastor Emeritus of the Catholic community of Saints Patrick & Hedwig, South Bend, Ind.

Substantial sections of this paper were delivered as a sermon at a Mass celebrated on May 1, 2011, at Saint Hedwig Parish, South Bend, on the occasion of the beatification of John Paul II in Rome.



**POLAND'S PERFECT SON.** John Paul II's election to the Holy Sea evoked changes in social as well as religious circles.

He understood the importance of ethnic identity, both in defining one's self and — more so in the case of Poles who have traditionally had strong ties to the Church — one's spirituality.

He reminded Poles of this during his 1979 visit to Nowy Targ, when he talked about those who had to leave to find work outside of Poland:

"Let them not forget their country of origin, family, Church, prayer and everything they took from here. Because even though they had to emigrate for lack of material goods, yet they took with them from here a great spiritual heritage. Let them take care that while they become rich materially they do not become spiritually impoverished: neither they, nor their children, nor their grandchildren."

Respect for John Paul II's love of his homeland is evident in the traditional dress worn by pilgrims from Nowy Targ, who visited Rome seventeen years later in 1996.

the Three Stooges. The travelogue again became popular in the 20th Century fed by the Nazi government and became the justification for the eventual enslavement of Poland in World War II.

There is some subtle revisionism of history in some of the documentaries that appear on television these days. A recent one about World War II seeks sympathy for the people of Berlin, Dresden, and Cologne but does not mention Warsaw, London, or Stalingrad. Few know that Poland lost more percentage-wise than any other country: six million Polish citizens—three million Gentiles and three million Jews—one-fifth of the population. Poland was also occupied for the longest time of all other nations. Afterwards, it

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## John Paul II timeline

continued from page 13

by a German truck, but a German officer stops a car and orders its driver to drive to Pole to hospital. He is treated for a brain concussion and lacerations to the head.

**AUGUST 6, 1944:** Startled by Warsaw Uprising on August 1, the Germans seek to prevent a similar outbreak in Kraków by rounding up all young males. Karol and other seminarians take refuge at the Episcopal Palace.

**JANUARY 18, 1945:** Soviet troops march into Kraków – a sign that World War II is winding down. Like people all over Poland, Karol is not sure whether Poland is being liberated or whether one totalitarian occupation will be replaced by another.

**NOVEMBER 1, 1946:** After successfully completing his studies, on All Saints Day Karol Wojtyła is ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Sapieha and celebrates his first mass at St Leonard's Crypt in Wawel Cathedral.

**NOVEMBER 15, 1946:** Father Wojtyła is sent to Rome to study at Angelicum, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. While in Rome, he gets to meet the famous mystic Father Pio who, according to some accounts, predicts that the Polish priest is destined for the papacy.

**JULY 1948:** Father Wojtyła's first assignment is that of vicar at the parish in Niegowic, a village not far from Kraków, where he serves 13 months.

**AUGUST 1949:** Cardinal Sapieha reassigns Father Wojtyła as vicar to St. Florian parish in Kraków. There he has good rapport with the parish youth for whom he organizes excursions, theater outings, discussion circles and Gregorian Chant practice. He also attracts throngs of faithful to his religious retreat.

**1950:** Father Wojtyła begins publishing his poetry in Kraków's Catholic weekly "Tygodnik Powszechny" under the pen-name Andrzej Jawieñ.

**JULY 1951:** Following the death of Cardinal Sapieha, who had looked after Father Wojtyła. Archbishop Eugeniusz Baziak, serving as archdiocesan administrator, urges him to continue his post-graduate studies.

**DECEMBER 12, 1953:** His disserta-

tion is unanimously accepted by the council of the Jagiellonian's Theology Department, but the communist education authorities do not approve the subject until 1957, when he is given the title of docent (assistant professor). He begins lecturing at the Kraków Theological Seminary and Jagiellonian University as well as the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), 170 miles away.

**JULY 28, 1958:** At the age of 38, Father Wojtyła becomes Poland's youngest bishop and is given the post of auxiliary bishop of the Kraków Archdiocese.

**1959:** Bishop Wojtyła heads KUL's Ethics Chair, where his lectures attract crowds of students. He shows he has a way with young people who affectionately call him "Wujek" (uncle) and whom he takes on mountain hikes and canoe trips. During that period he publishes extensively in the Catholic journal "Znak" and "Tygodnik Powszechny."

**1960:** Bishop Wojtyła begins petitioning the communist authorities for permission to build a church in Kraków's new industrial suburb of Nowa Huta; the regime regards it as a model socialist workers' community which should be devoid of religion. His book on marriage "Love and Responsibility" triggers controversy in conservative Catholic circles for its treatment of sexuality.

**1962:** Bishop Wojtyła becomes actively involved in preparations for the Second Vatican Council ordered by Pope John XXIII. He deals with media issues and favors replacing Latin with national languages in the liturgy.

**DECEMBER 30, 1963:** Pope Paul VI appoints Bishop Wojtyła the Metropolitan Archbishop of Kraków, a post that has been vacant since the death of Cardinal Sapieha in 1951.

**1964:** Archbishop Wojtyła helps convince Polish Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyñski to approve a crucial letter to the German Episcopate containing the words: "We forgive you and ask for forgiveness."

**1965:** The letter sent to the German Episcopate infuriates Poland's communist rulers who accuse the Church of meddling in Poland's international affairs; the regime pe-

nalizes bishops by denying them passports for travel to Rome and by drafting their seminarians into the army.

**1966:** The communist regime celebrating the Thousand Years of Polish throws obstacles in the path of the Church celebrating the Millennium of Christian Poland.

**MAY 1967:** Pope Paul VI announces Archbishop Wojtyła's elevation to the rank of cardinal.

**AUTUMN 1967:** Cardinal Wojtyła declines an invitation to attend the First Bishops' Synod in Rome to express his solidarity with Primate Wyszyñski, barred by the regime from traveling outside Poland. But the cardinal does take part in subsequent synods.

**JULY 1968:** Many of Cardinal Wojtyła's views, including his opposition to abortion and contraceptives, are reflected in Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Humane vitae."

**AUGUST 12, 1978:** Polish Cardinals Wyszyñski and Wojtyła travel to Rome to attend the funeral of Pope Paul VI and elect his successor.

**AUGUST 26, 1978:** The Archbishop of Venice Albino Luciani is elected pope, but dies on September 28.

**OCTOBER 4, 1978:** The funeral of Pope John Paul I is held, followed by preparations for the next conclave.

**OCTOBER 16, 1978:** Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyła is elected pope and takes the name John Paul II. He is the first non-Italian elected to the papacy in 455 years. Church bells ring out and a wave of euphoria sweeps Poland and Polonia in celebration of the unprecedented event. Alarm bells ring at the Kremlin and other Soviet bloc capitals as communist leaders deliberate how to react to this new challenge.

**OCTOBER 22, 1978:** The official inauguration of John Paul II is held. It is memorable for the historic embrace of the new pope and his mentor, Cardinal Wyszyñski, as well as the words "Do not be afraid, due to become a key element of the Wojtyła pontificate."

**JANUARY 25, 1979:** The new pope visits Mexico, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas in his first apostolic trip abroad. The most traveled pontiff in history, John Paul visited 129 countries and logged 725,000 miles during his 27-year pontificate, earning the title of "Pilgrim Pope."

**JUNE 2, 1979:** John Paul II arrived in Poland for his first papal home-



coming, and some 10 million Poles turned out to meet him as he toured the country. The rest watched the live TV coverage of his pilgrimage. The highpoint of the trip was the pope's farewell address in Warsaw, when he said: "Let your Spirit descend and renew the land... this land!" Those words instilled new hope in his countrymen. A year later, a strike wave erupted which would snowball into the Solidarity movement, the Soviet bloc's first free labor union. This is the first of his nine visits to his native land.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 1979:** The Polish-born Pontiff makes his first pilgrimage to the United States, drawing record crowds wherever he visits. In New York, he addresses the United Nations General Assembly, appealing for world-wide peace.

**MAY 13, 1981:** John Paul survives an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square, where he is shot in the abdomen and hand by a young Muslim Turk, Mehmet Ali Ağca. His life is saved by prompt medical attention at Rome's Gemelli Clinic, but he will never fully regain his former robust state of health.

**MAY 28, 1981:** In Poland, Cardinal Wyszyñski dies following a long and debilitating bout with cancer. He is succeeded as primate by Archbishop Józef Glemp.

**MAY 12, 1982:** On the first day of the Holy Father's visit to Fatima, Portugal, a deranged Spanish monk lunges at him with a bayonet, but the pope escapes unhurt.

**MAY 28, 1982:** In an attempt to prevent future assassination attempts, an enclosed bullet-proof vehicle known as the Popemobile makes its appearance for John Paul's visit to

Great Britain.

**DECEMBER 27, 1983:** The pope meets and forgives his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Ağca, in a Roman prison.

**MARCH 1983:** The pope visits a Nicaragua torn by civil strife between the communist Sandanista government and US-backed contra rebels. The regime buses in people for all over the country to heckle John Paul and drown out his sermons about "godless communism" with their revolutionary chants and songs.

**AUGUST 16, 1983:** The Polish Pontiff arrives in his homeland for his second papal pilgrimage and uplifts the spirits of his downtrodden countrymen following the regime's 1981 crackdown to crush Solidarity. The pope persuades communist strongman General Wojciech Jaruzelski to lift martial law, a move announced the following month.

**APRIL 13, 1986:** John Paul pays a visit to and prays at Rome's main Synagogue, the first pope since St Peter ever to cross the threshold of a Jewish temple.

**OCTOBER 27, 1986:** John Paul holds the first World Day of Prayer for Peace by inviting 160 Christian and non-Christian religious leaders from around the globe to Assisi, Italy

**JUNE 8, 1987:** The Holy Father arrives for his third pilgrimage to his homeland and takes part in a National Eucharistic Congress.

**DECEMBER 1, 1989:** Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is received by the Pope at the Vatican. Their discussion includes the question of religious freedom in the USSR.

**JANUARY 15, 1991:** In separate letters to US President Bush and Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the pope seeks to avert a war in the Persian Gulf.

**JUNE 1, 1991:** During his first papal pilgrimage to free Poland, John Paul elaborates on the subject of freedom and expresses alarm at the "anything goes" interpretation of that concept. He urges people to guide themselves by the ethical concepts of Christianity and not use the notion of freedom as an excuse to violate the moral order.

**JULY 15, 1992:** The pope is hospitalized for 11 days in connection with a surgical procedure to remove a benign intestinal tumor.

**APRIL 28, 1994:** The Holy Father slips and falls at the Vatican, injuring his hip. Following hip-replacement surgery, he has to walk with a cane and

See "Timeline ..." page 16



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If you have any questions, please call 1 (800) 422-1275, M-F, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Don't be left out!

Note: Because the ceremony in Rome takes place April 27, the May edition will be mailed one week later than usual.



## John Paul II timeline

continued from page 15

appears visibly weakened by the experience.

**MAY 30, 1994:** In a letter to bishops, John Paul reaffirms the Church's opposition to the ordination of priestesses, saying that the Church "has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women." That statement predictably infuriates radical feminists.

**MARCH 25, 1995:** John Paul II issues an encyclical titled "Gospel of Life" containing his strongest denunciation of the "spreading culture of death," which includes abortion, euthanasia and experimentation on human embryos.

**OCTOBER 20, 1994:** The pope's autobiographical book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" is published.

**MAY 22, 1995:** During an Apostolic Visit to the Czech Republic, the pope pays a brief several-hour visit to the neighboring Polish town of Skoczów, where he canonizes St. John Sarkander.

**OCTOBER 8, 1996:** The Holy Father undergoes an appendectomy.

**MAY 31, 1997:** The Polish Pontiff makes another pilgrimage to his homeland, whose theme is "Christ yesterday, today and forever." It includes celebrations of the 1000th anniversary of St. Adalbert's (Wojciech's) martyrdom. Although his age and infirmities have slowed him down, but he still displays much of his former verve and enthusiasm.

**JANUARY 21, 1998:** John Paul II brings hope to the religiously persecuted Catholics of Cuba during a six-day

pilgrimage and meets communist leader Fidel Castro.

**JUNE 5, 1999:** Apparently fearing it may be his last, John Paul II begins what will be his longest pilgrimage to his homeland due to last until June 17. Health issues prevent him from celebrating mass at Kraków's grassy commons, but he manages to visit his hometown of Wadowice.

**MARCH 20, 2000:** Papa Wojtyła, as he is known in many places ("papa" means pope), arrives for a six-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He celebrates mass in Bethlehem and prays at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, where he inserts a note asking God's forgiveness for Christian persecution of Jews.

**MAY 13, 2000:** On his third pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, John Paul beatifies two of the shepherd children who had visions of the Virgin Mary in 1917. The Vatican reveals that the Third Secret of Fatima foretold the 1981 attempt on the pope's life.

**AUGUST 16, 2002:** John Paul II manages to make his ninth and last trip to Poland. Its highpoint is the consecration of Kraków's Church of Divine Providence, a major religious center. The three-day visit to his homeland is also a nostalgic trip down memory lane for the aging and ailing Pontiff.

**MARCH 2003:** "Roman Triptych," John Paul's first book of poetry since becoming pope, is published; it is a three-part meditation on nature, life, and death.

**MAY 17, 2003:** The pope's trembling hand and slurred speech has been noticeable for quite some time, but now for the first time a senior Vatican official announces that the Pontiff suffers from Parkinson's disease.

**AUGUST 15, 2004:** The pope breathes heavily and gasps for air during an open-air mass in Lourdes, France, one of just two foreign pilgrimages in 2004.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2005:** The Holy Father is rushed to a Rome hospital with breathing problems, but released nine days later when his situation stabilizes.

**FEBRUARY 25, 2005:** The pope agrees to a tracheotomy after doctors assure him he will be able to address the faithful following the procedure. Catholics around the globe hold prayer vigils in his intention.

**MARCH 21, 2005:** Recovering from throat surgery John Paul II is unable to address the faithful from his balcony window. He presses his hand to his head and pounds the lectern in apparent frustration at not being able to respond to his congregation in St Peter's Square.



**MARCH 25, 2005:** For the first time in his 27-year papacy a dying 84-year-old John Paul passively participates in the Good Friday Way of the Cross around Rome's ancient Colosseum; he is shown watching the procession on a video link in his apartment while embracing a large crucifix.

**MARCH 27, 2005:** Although his doctors assured him he would be able to speak following his tracheotomy, John Paul, once known as the Great Communicator, is unable to utter the seven Latin words of an Easter Sunday blessing from his win-

dow overlooking St Peter's Square. Instead, he blesses the crowds with the Sign of the Cross made with an unsteady hand.

**MARCH 31, 2005:** The Holy Father's health continues to deteriorate. The medical team attending him at his Vatican apartment issues daily communiqués on his condition to the media.

**APRIL 28, 2005:** For days, thousands of worshipers have been witnessing the dying pope's agony and taking part in prayer vigils below his apartment. At exactly 9:37 PM, the pope's personal physician Dr Renato Buzzonezzi announces the death of John Paul II. It turns out that the pope did not want any exceptional methods to keep him artificially alive and said: "Let me go to the Home of the Father."

**APRIL 8, 2005:** Numerous heads of state and other foreign dignitaries as well as some 3,000,000 worshipers attend the papal funeral in St Peter's Square. Two billion viewers across the globe watch the live televised proceedings. The remains of John Paul II are laid to rest in the crypts of St Peter's Basilica. During the funeral banners and chants of "Santo subito" (immediate sainthood) go up.

**MAY 13, 2005:** The beatification process of John Paul II is officially launched when his successor, German-born Benedict XVI, waives the



five-year waiting period normally required after a candidate's death.

**MAY 28, 2006:** During his visit to Poland, Pope Benedict XVI encourages prayers for the early canonization of his predecessor and expresses the hope it will occur "in the near future."

**DECEMBER 19, 2009:** John Paul II is proclaimed venerable by his successor Benedict XVI – the initial pre-beatification stage in a candidate's road to sainthood.

**MAY 1, 2011:** Following several years of investigation into the life and work of John Paul II as well as the validation of a cure attributed to his intervention, the late Pontiff is beatified and given the title of Blessed. The ceremony is attended by 87 international delegations, including 22 world leaders. Beatification is the penultimate step leading to Catholic sainthood.

**APRIL 27, 2014:** The "fast-track" canonization of a man many have called "John Paul the Great" has been set for Mercy Sunday, a feast day introduced by the Polish-born Pontiff. He will be co-canonized with Pope John XXIII.

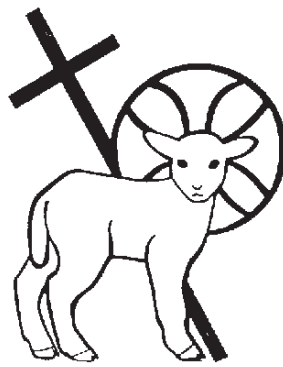


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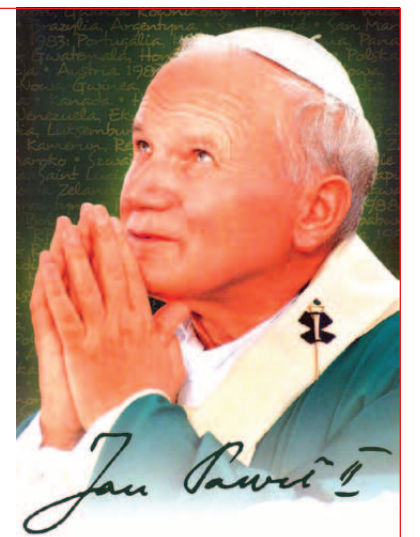
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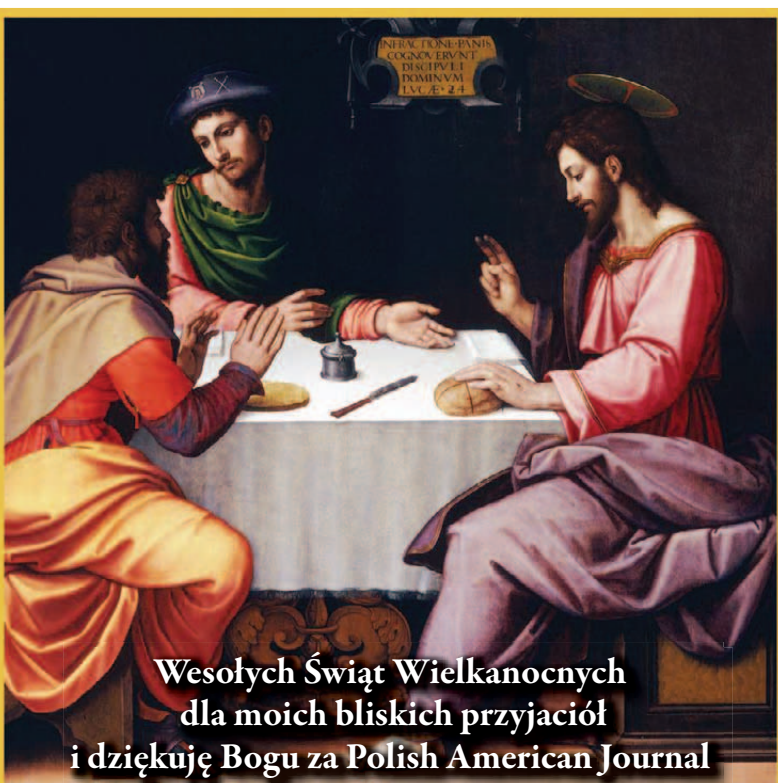
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POLISH EASTER CUSTOMS IN THE KRESY

# Easter in Vilnius: John Paul II Received Vilnius Palm during 1993 Visit

This month, we present a look at Polish Easter customs in Vilnius, Grodno, and Lviv — the *kresy*, three major Polish areas and cities that were Polish before World War II but are now, respectively, Lithu-

anian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian. hills. It is the capital of Divine Mercy. Here is found the icon of Our Lady of Ostra Brama.

Easter — the time of awaiting the Lord's Resurrection — is beautiful throughout Wileńszczyzna. The beauty lies in waiting, just as this year's mild winter yields grudgingly to spring.



Wikeliszki palms.

Every March, special attention focuses on the Kazimierz Market in Vilnius. From the cathedral to city hall, stalls are set up with various works of craftsmen. A special ginger bread-like cookie (*pierniki*) and palms are the special kings of that fair, which is called the Kazimierz Market in honor of St. Casimir, who died 530 years ago and lies in a special chapel of the cathedral.

from wicker and juniper, sometimes decorated with different kinds of paper flowers.

The Paschal Triduum is festive and enchanting in Wileńszczyzna, the atmosphere palpable. During Holy Week, there is plenty of cleaning, cooking, and baking going on. No Easter table should lack roast veal, smoked ham, cooked homemade kielbasa, cold cuts and *pâté*, horse radish, and pastries. On Holy Thursday at 10:00 in the morning, Archbishop Gintar Grušas presides over the Chrism Mass. In the evening throughout Wileńszczyzna is celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper. People greet their priests with flowers on that day, which commemorates the institution both of



Iced pierniki and bagels are among the many treats one will find at the markets.

the Eucharist and of the priesthood.

By tradition, all servile work should be done by Holy Thursday. On that day, the people of Vilnius go to the public baths because, in folk custom, the day is known as "Clean Thursday."

Good Friday is a time of quiet. Again, traditionally at 10:00 a.m.,



Kazimierz Market is named in honor of St. Casimir.

the Cross in this *Kalwaria* (like Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, near Kraków) is built to model Jerusalem. Among the stations is number 33, the "Small *kalwaria*," or the Church of the Finding of the Cross, in which a relic of the true cross is kept. It is also the station of the Tomb of Christ, in which a guard of honor is mounted during the Paschal Triduum. (There is also a real mass grave of *Armia Krajowa* soldiers near station 25).

The whole course of the Way of the Cross is four miles long, so it's not surprising the devotion last four hours. The practice was begun in 1669 by Bishop Jerzy Białozor, in thanksgiving for the liberation of the city from the Muscovites.

**ON THE EVENING** of Good Friday is celebrated the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. A beautiful liturgy is celebrated in Holy Spirit Church in Vilnius, where the choir intones "We Adore You, Oh Christ, and We Bless You." From 1986-2005, the original image of Divine Mercy, "Jezu Ufam Tobie," hung in that church. When Bl. John Paul met with Vilnius Polonia in that church in 1993; he received a gift of a Vilnius Palm.

Preparations for the celebration of Easter continue on Holy Saturday, as housewives prepare baskets to be blessed. Tradition dictates they include colored eggs, kielbasa, cheese, bread, butter, water, salt,

horseradish, and matches. One only colors eggs on Holy Saturday morning. Many homes throughout Wileńszczyzna use only traditional natural methods to paint eggs: blends of oak root, onion skins, and blades of grass combined with wax. Children are the primary egg painters!



A happy customer at the Kazimierz Market.

**VILNIUS PALMS**, which adorn the Easter table, are exceptionally beautiful. The most widely known are the "wałeczki," braided together from natural and dyed dried flowers but, unfortunately, they are also growing rarer because of the large quantity of wild flowers and the even greater labor they require. Today in Wileńszczyzna, palms are woven in various other shapes, like "brzuski," "rumianki," "pta-

anian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian.

While we are all familiar with the customs that exist in Poland and American Polonia today, we rarely hear how members of the Polish minority in those former Polish lands celebrate our traditions on now-alien shores.

Vilnius — Polish Wilno — is today the capital of Lithuania but, before World War II, lay within Poland.

by Andrzej Aszkielowicz

Wileńszczyzna is the region around Vilnius (Wilno), reaching into what is today Belarus. It is the heart of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It is an interesting and dynamic region, full of legends and still alive in tradition.

With the roofs of its Catholic and Orthodox churches that shoot into the heavens, Vilnius is a beautiful and multicultural city, permeated with the traditions of centuries. For centuries, it's been a multicultural city in which Lithuanians, Poles, Jews, Belarusians, and Russians lived together. Between the world wars, when about 200,000 people lived in Vilnius, 60% were Poles, 30% Jews. In today's city of 500,000, Lithuanians constitute the decisive majority. Catholicism has been rooted in these lands since the 14th century, when Poland and Lithuania joined together after the latter's baptism and the work of the first Franciscan missionaries there.

Sometimes called the northern Rome, Vilnius also stands on seven



Vendors at the market in Wilno.

sie piórka," "astry" and "grzybki." Palms were traditionally produced in the village of Krawczuny near Vilnius, where the women of practically every home have been making palms for centuries. Today, they are also made in Sałaty, Nowosiółki, Wikeliszki, and Ciechanowiski. (In the last, there is a palm museum). Easter palms are now often braided

the Way of the Cross is conducted from the Cathedral to the Hill of the Three Crosses. Fourteen stations are marked both in Polish and Lithuanian. Vilnius is home to the Vilnius *Kalwaria*, in which 35 stations marking Christ's Passion stand amidst a thick wood, on hills and valleys through which the Cedron River flows. The Stations of

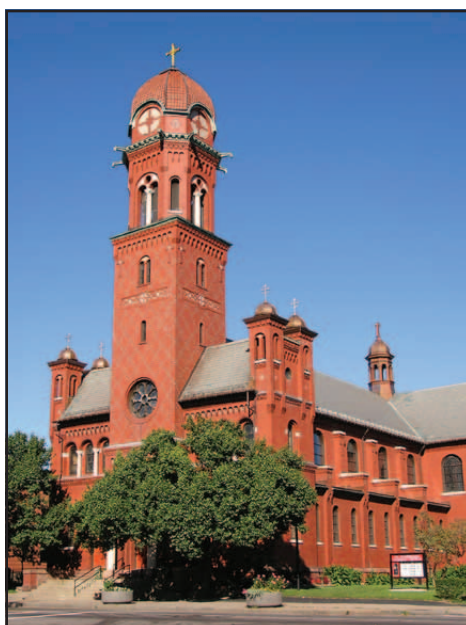
The Paschal Vigil, the most beautiful and most important Mass of the whole Catholic liturgical year, occurs on Holy Saturday night. There is a beautiful liturgy in the Vilnius Dominican Church of Ss. Philip and James, which ends with a Resurrection procession after midnight.

Mass at dawn on Easter is beautiful. Throughout Wileńszczyzna, the "alleluia" swells. The *Rezurekcyja* procession is particularly charming in the villages, e.g., in Podbrzezia

*continued on next page*



All ages help to make the woven palms.



Christ is Risen! Happy Easter!

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## POLISH EASTER CUSTOMS IN THE KRESY

## Easter in Vilnius

*continued from page 17*

the procession circles the church. The morning dew gives the procession an especially remarkable character.

**THE EASTER BREAKFAST**, which starts after the *Rezurekcja* Mass, sometimes lasts till late evening! The breakfast begins with the head of the house offering a prayer of thanksgiving, and then everybody takes a blessed egg. Everybody strikes the narrower end of the egg into that of the person next to him. It's said that who has an egg that remains whole will enjoy good health throughout the year. Everybody then eats breakfast, with foods that had been blessed the day before in Church.

After breakfast, people take part in various Easter games. "Kaczanie jajek" is a particularly popular game, in which multiple players take part. It usually takes place outdoors, weather permitting. The animals' food trough is set standing on its side. Each player rolls an egg along the edge of the trough. The Easter egg of the next player must reach that of the previous one and hit it. A cracked egg becomes the player's property. Whoever collects the most eggs wins. *Pobite jajko staje się własnością danej osoby.*

After breakfast, children, especially those in the villages, go from house to house, conveying Easter greetings, reciting verses, and singing Easter songs. In return, they receive Easter eggs, fruits, and candy. It used to also be a tradition in Wileńszczyzna to sing songs beneath the windows of unmarried women on Easter evening. It was believed that when a happy crowd sang for an eligible young lady, she would get married that year. That tradition, unfortunately, has passed completely into history.

**EASTER MONDAY** is a day for Easter wishes and visits. Smigus-dingus is only practiced in Wileńszczyzna; elsewhere in Lithuania, there is no such tradition.

In some parts of Lithuania, the head of the household makes a sign of the cross in each corner of his home using the blessed fire. The tradition is to protect the house and those who dwell in it from evil.

Farmers foretell the weather on Holy Saturday. Winds from the south foretell a warm summer, from the north, a cold one. Farmers in Wileńszczyzna still sprinkle their fields on Easter Monday with holy water, praying for bountiful crops. They also burn or bury the shells of blessed eggs in the ground.

One more tradition: the week of Divine Mercy. That week, which culminates in the Feast of Divine Mercy the Sunday after Easter, is celebrated in an especially festive character, since Vilnius is the home of the original image of Divine Mercy, "Jezu Ufam Tobie," where it was painted (in the then-home of Fr. Michał Sopoćko, near the Rossie Cemetery, by Eugeniusz Kazimierowski in 1934. Each day, Mass is celebrated in Polish and Lithuanian. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the painting of the image. On this April 27, the inhabitants of Wileńszczyzna will bend the knee on the Feast of Divine Mercy, before that image, in thanksgiving for the canonization of John Paul II.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Andrzej Aszkielowicz teaches high school religion in the St. Stanislaus Kostka High School in Podbrzezia, Lithuania, and at its various branches. He is a licensed tour guide of Vilnius.*

## Some Easter Reflections from Grodno

Grodno (Hrodna), a city of 335,000, lies east of Białystok in today's Belarus. Between World Wars, that area through Nowogrodek was part of Poland.

**by Fr. Roman Kotlimowski**

The Easter season begins with the Easter Vigil, which starts after sunset on Holy Saturday, ideally in the late evening. The rites of the Easter Vigil initiate people into the most joyous period of Easter, which our forefathers would joyfully mark by greeting each other with the "alleluia" on their lips. Both Church and folk customs agree that Easter is the most important feast of the whole year for Christians.

**ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE**

customs of Easter is the blessing of the food and beverages on the Easter table. Evidence of this practice reaches back to the end of the seventh and beginning of the eighth centuries. The ancient Church's rigorous fasting practices forbade Christians from consuming meat, milk products and eggs during Lent. It was no surprise, then, that the faithful joyfully awaited Easter, which ended a long period of fast and abstinence.

The tradition of blessing foods explains the "new life" we received in Baptism, when we became a "new creation." Eggs occupy a special place among the foods that are blessed. Eggs can symbolize chaos, the embryo, the

universe, the sun, earth, physical strength, fertility, birth. They were believed to have a particular power against evil spirits.

**EGGS PLAY A ROLE** in every

major moment of a farmer's life. When a farmer led his cows out for the first time in spring, he placed an egg on the threshold of the barn which, after the herd had passed, was given to the poor with a request for prayers for the farm's prosperity. Eggs were used in the cult of the dead for the so-called *coena novemdialis* (the supper on the ninth day), which concluded the mourning period. They were placed in the grave to "cleanse" the deceased and to ensure that his spirit would not "wander" the world. When a new house was built, an egg was placed in its foundation for good luck.

Many customs and beliefs were connected with Easter eggs (*pisanki*), too. One example was the practice of *wybitki* (cracked eggs), when one egg was struck against another. Whoever had the strongest, undamaged egg at the end was deemed to be the strongest. There was also many love-related fortune telling practices involving eggs. If an even number of blessed eggs were found on the table, it augured quick marriage for the young women. When a lover gave an egg to the beloved, it foretold a happy union, success, and many children. It was also believed that

if you shared a blessed egg with those close to you, it reinforced your relationship and protected the family against bad external influences, assuring them of vitality and health.

In Belarus, there was also a cult of holy water, especially of water blessed at the Easter Vigil. It was given to bees and poured into wells, so that they might be healthy and clean.

There were also interesting reasons why the *Rezurekcja* procession circled the parish church thrice. Some say it is because Christ rose on the third day; others say it stood for the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity). Following the *Rezurekcja*, the faithful would greet each other throughout the Easter Octave with "Christ is risen!" (*Chrystus zmartwychstał*) and the reply "He is truly risen!" (*Prawdziwie zmartwychstał*).

Even today, the family and close friends then share a common Easter breakfast. In the afternoon, groups of young people, especially in the countryside, go from house to house singing Easter hymns and folk songs. They were regarded as messengers from heaven, promoting a rich harvest and good life.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Fr. Roman Kotlimowski writes from Grodno (Hrodna), Belarus, where he works in the Catholic seminary.*

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## POLISH EASTER CUSTOMS IN THE KRESY

## Easter Traditions in Łwów

Lviv — Polish Łwów — today lies in Ukraine but, before World War II, was part of Poland.

by **Mikołaj Kizlyk**

The traditions and customs of Holy Week and Easter in what had been the southeastern regions of Poland and are now Ukraine did not fundamentally differ from those celebrated elsewhere in Poland. Today, these differences are even fewer, given the speed and permanence of contacts between peoples.

Easter—one of the oldest and most important of Christian feasts—marks and recalls the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is hardly just one of a number of feasts; it is the “feast of feasts,” the “celebration of celebrations” (just as the Eucharist is the “sacrament of sacraments”). The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ destroyed death, penetrates the whole of our time until everything will be subject to Him.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. In the past, people would reenact Jesus’ triumphal entry to Jerusalem by either an indoor or outdoor procession around the church. The main symbol of the day is the palm, most frequently made of budding willow branches (“pussy willows”) and dried flowers. After the palms were blessed, one would gently strike other members of the household so as to assure them of good fortune throughout the year. Swallowing one of the blessed buds foretold good health and wealth. Placed behind a picture or in a vase, the palms were supposed to protect the home from misfortune or neighbors’ jealousies.

Holy Week reminds Christians of the most important events in Christ’s Life. Its final days—from

Holy Thursday evening through Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil—is known as the Paschal Triduum. It is the highpoint of the entire liturgical year, reminding us that God’s love went so far as death to give us selfless forgiveness of sins. Through the liturgy, one can enter into an intimate relationship with the Savior in whom man finds God and himself in Him.

Polish communities in the *kresy*, as throughout Poland, experienced Good Friday in a particularly intense way. As a strict fast day, people limited their eating to the bare minimum, completely excluding not just fat or sweets, but protein as well. They ate barely one meal, often giving even that up. The entire day was passed in an atmosphere of serious meditation, with time dedicated to prayer and penitential practices.

The situation today in Ukraine is somewhat different as a consequence of the differences in calendars used by the Catholic (Gregorian) and Orthodox (Julian) churches. Because the Julian and Gregorian calendars calculate the time of Easter differently, celebration of the Paschal Triduum in the Catholic Church often collides with the normal work period of Greek Catholic and Orthodox believers: the Paschal Triduum loses something of its sacred character when normal, everyday life is taking place on the street.

As the oldest and most important Christian feast, Easter is celebrated in memory of the Resurrection of Christ. At first, it was celebrated at the time of the Jewish Passover but, since the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, it falls on the Sunday after the first full moon of spring (i.e., between March 21 and April 25).

An important custom is the blessing of food, or “święconka,” which occurs on Holy Saturday. In the past in eastern Poland, the blessing of foods took place on the estates of the nobility, because of the tradition that everything that would be put on the Easter table had to be blessed. Because such a tradition took up much of the pastor’s time, the custom of blessing foods in the church was introduced. Today, the Easter food basket is brought to church and put on a table. The priest then prays over the baskets and blesses them. The baskets most often contain:

- **A Lamb** (*baranek*) — a symbol of the Risen Christ;
- **Eggs**—(*pisanki*, *krasanki*) colored and decorated, Easter eggs are the symbols of new life. The custom of making and sharing Easter eggs reaches far into the past. The ancient Persians gave red-dyed eggs to their friends. The Greeks and Romans took over the tradition. The eggs were regarded as a means to prevent illness. They were also given to animals and buried in fields (to counteract plant diseases).
- **Salt and Pepper** (*sól i pieprz*) — a symbol of immortality, protecting food against spoiling
- **Meat and Cold Cuts** (*mięso i wędliny*) — symbols of prosperity and signs that Lent was over
- **Horseradish** (*chrzan*) — a symbol of the Savior’s conquest of his bitter Passion
- **Bread** (*babka*) — a symbol of perfection which, by tradition, ought to be baked and not store bought.
- **Cheese** (*ser*) — a symbol of friendship between man and animals.

The blessed foods are consumed

the next day after the Easter Mass at Dawn (*Rezurekcja*).

Everybody knows the Easter rabbit. Its symbolism is multifaceted. The rabbit is a symbol of the constant renewal of life (fertility) and watchfulness (it sleeps in the daytime and keeps guard at night). The word “rabbit” in Greek is *lagos*, similar to the word *logos*—the “Word,” Christ.

The blessing of fire, which occurs at the Easter Vigil, was connected with the lighting of fires on hilltops at Easter. Fire was taken from the church and placed on the graves of loved ones. The blessing of water also takes place at the Easter Vigil. Holy water was valued highly, often treated as medicinal with regard to diseases of the eye and other ailments.

Religious observances of Easter begin in the very early morning with a procession and Mass that we call the *Rezurekcja*. (*This is theologically inaccurate: Catholic theology today emphasizes the Easter Vigil, beginning after sunset on Holy Saturday, as the most important liturgy of the entire Church year* — Editor). Afterwards, one eats a festive breakfast as a family, preceded by a sharing of pieces of Easter eggs dur-



**A COMMON BOND.** A table of desserts for a *święconka* in Lviv would look at home in any Polish or Polish American household. Note the lamb cake, iced mazurek, and pussy willows.

ing which best wishes are extended to each other.

Finally, we all know “wet Monday” or *śmingus-dyngus*—a fun custom when one can douse everybody, everywhere, with water. Custom held that young girls who were soaked that day had a better chance of getting married. And if any of them were insulted by the custom—it augured that she would not be finding a husband soon. One could avoid being doused by an Easter egg, which is why every young woman tried to make her *krasanki* the prettiest. A boy giving a girl an Easter egg on that day meant he liked her.

Alas, these traditions are disappearing. Only a few still survive; most have been forgotten.

# HAPPY EASTER



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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## “Polka Dreams at Sea” Cruise Announced

PITTSBURGH — “A Dream Trip 4 U” announces the details of its next polka cruise adventure in sunny paradise, the new “Polka Dreams at Sea” Polka Cruise. From January 31 thru February 7, 2015, this Western Caribbean cruise will sail from Ft. Lauderdale on board the beautiful *Caribbean Princess*.

This state-of-the-art ship features all of the latest innovations including a unique atrium with restaurants, Crooner’s Lounge, and other meeting places; The Piazza — a casual street of cafés, the Vines Bar, and shops; The Sanctuary — an adults-only haven of serenity; and the outdoor “Movies Under the Stars” that features first-run films. Cruisers will especially appreciate the superior cruising experience of this premium cruise line. The food on the *Caribbean Princess* is considered some of the best in the cruise industry.

Its featured bands this year are Polka Country Musicians from Conn. and The Knewz from Buffalo, N.Y. The cruise will also have the “Polka Dreams All-Star Band,” featuring some of the biggest and hottest polka stars in the country — names to be announced very soon. The Dream Trip will have the “best of the best” live polka music all week long on one of the biggest dance floors at sea. There will also be a Polka Jam session where you can be the star; and there will be themes such as “All Country – Day & Night,” “Ladies Night Out,” “Pajama Party,” and more. The day after boarding is “Super Bowl Sunday,” and the cruise will have appropriate sports activities, so get ready to root for your favorite team.

As usual, affable Polka-DJ-at-Sea Kenny Olowin will host fun-filled parties and spin some of your

favorite polka tunes, and Dream Trip “Priest@Sea” Father Tom Aleksa will be there to conduct a Polka Mass. In between all the polka excitement, adventures will take guests to the exotic tropical islands of Grand Cayman, Roatan (Honduras), Cozumel (Mexico) and Princess’ private playground *Princess Cays*.

As anyone who has sailed with us on one of Dream Trip’s previous polka cruises can attest, you’ll be treated like royalty on this fabulous trip. Cruise rates start as low as \$999. For more information and to get a cruise brochure, contact Helga Leonard at (724) 234-2033 or email her at [helga@adreamtrip4u.com](mailto:helga@adreamtrip4u.com). You can download the brochure at [www.polka-cruise.com](http://www.polka-cruise.com). Also keep checking our Facebook page for updates at [www.facebook.com/adreamtrip4u](http://www.facebook.com/adreamtrip4u).

POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## Talent is Crystal “Clear”



**NEW DIRECTION** (l. to r.): Bob Krupa (trumpet); Frank Zeczak (clarinet, sax and trumpet); Geno Rzeznik (bass and guitar); Jim Raczkowski (drums); and Ron Urbanczyk (concertina and piano).

“The directions are clear, keep playing and singing the songs people like to hear.” This first sentence of the liner notes on the new CD, *Clear Direction*, by New Direction of Buffalo, tells the story in fourteen words and 17 tracks of music.

Creating a recording where Li’l Wally standards like “First Time,” “Here Comes Johnny,” and “Lucky” polka are featured with Casey Homel’s “To the Left” oberek, Casey Siewierski’s “Hey Ha” polka, and an updated Richie Gomulka tune, the band plays for the people.

Mixing in some originals like “Life’s Too Short” and “It’s Alright to be a Polka Fan,” these five “Nickel City” boys add some of their personal touches to this project. New Direction doesn’t need a map to find the right road. These veterans simply reached back to those early days when clubs and polka lounges featured local bands playing good old fashioned “Chicago Style” polkas.

“Clear Directions” is on the Sunshine label. More band information can be found on the internet at [www.thenewdirectionband.com](http://www.thenewdirectionband.com).

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

### Five Bands Featured at Club Festival

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. — The **American-Polish Century Club** will sponsor the American Polish Festival & Craft Show, July 11-13, 2014, on the club grounds. Highlighting the festival will be five bands: The Polish Muslims; Jeff Mleczo’s DynaBrass; The Knewz; IPA Tribute Band; the Polka Country Musicians; and Box-On.

The festival draws thousands from all around Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. Along with the music and dancing there will be a Polish kitchen, the Polish Pub-n-Grub, outdoor craft show, beer tent, and the 2014 Srodek’s Pierogi Eating Challenge. A traditional Polish Mass will be offered on Sunday at noon.

Admission to the festival is free to the public, although a \$5.00 daily parking fee is required.

### Kryger Tribute

FLORIDA, N.Y. — **Lou Kryger**, leader of the famed Kryger Brothers Orchestra passed away recently in his hometown of WilkesBarre, Pa. At one time, The Kryger Orchestra was one of the most popular orches-

tras on the East Coast. Three brothers continued the band started by their father.

His many fans will remember Lou and the band at the **Polka Derby Weekend**, April 25-27 at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerkonkson, N.Y. Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals will be performing at the tribute. Eddie played many times with Lou and the Kryger Brothers Orchestra.

Along with Eddie Derwin, Jimmy Sturr, Mollie B & Squeezebox, Joe Stanky, and the Polka Country Musicians will be performing.

The Belmonts will also be performing. Contact United Polka Artists, Box 1, Florida, N.Y. or call: (800) 724-0727.

### Michigan Band Retires

MUSKEGON, Mich. — The **Old Timer’s Polka Band**, which started playing over seven decades ago, is now officially retired.

The original band, known as the Pee-wee Orchestra, began performing in 1937. Due to medical demands faced by accordionist Fred Walker, the Old Timer’s Polka Band played its final gig in Muskegon on

March 14, 2014. Other band members include Tom Sanocki, Frank Piotrowski, Dick Strang Jr., Jeff Jasicki, Mike Walukonis, and the band’s elder statesman Ed Sanocki. Ed began performing at St. Michael’s Catholic School when he was in the sixth grade.

Their final performance was at the Polish Falcon Club.

### Radio Co-Host, Polka Fan Pass

RICHLAND, Pa. — **Deborah L. “Deb” Marano**, 61, Mineral Point, died Jan. 6, 2014, at Windber Hospice. With her husband, Bill, she co-hosted *Saturday Morning Polka Motion* and the *Pennsylvania Polka Show*. Marano also organized many bus trips to various polka events and served as a Cub Scout den mother.

HERMITAGE, Pa. — **Michael Dorfi** passed away March 18, 2014, in his home. He was 82.

Born in Romania, he came to the United States in 1956.

Dorfi loved polkas, and with his wife Olga, traveled all over the United States to festivals; he was a member of the United States Polka Association, and the Cleveland Polka Association.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Enough About Winter

Who knew “Let It Snow” would end up being an Easter song? Seriously, thinking that we’d have this much snow on the ground when Daylight Savings Time arrived shocked everybody. As so many readers have experienced in their hometowns, Toledo broke the all time record for snowfall, with somewhere around 77 or 78 inches (and still counting as I write this column). I hope it is gone by Easter Sunday, but I’m not holding my breath.

To while away those wintry days, the polka crowd made appearances at the few events not canceled by the wicked winter. On February 23, **Duane Malinowski & the Polka Jamboree** played for TAPS. A comfortable crowd joined in the fun at Conn-Weissenberger Hall. It was especially nice to see Duane Malinowski Jr., now a freshman at the University of Toledo, dancing with friends and family to the music of his father’s band.

On Friday February 28th, I turned the vehicle north, picked up a friend, and headed to the Our Lady of the Scapular Paczkowy Ball in Wyandotte. Musical guests

were **Jimmy K. & Mostly Honky Combo**. The crowd was cozy but everyone seemed to enjoy the Watkins style hamburgers, the complimentary pączki with paid admission, and of course, the solid sounds of the band. To top it off, there was no snow falling at all.

But enough about winter. Would the prospect of a bus trip cheer anyone up? If the answer is yes, Stas Pasko and the fine folks of PRCUA Society 162 along with Kevin and Judy Kwiatkowski invite you to join them for the **4th of July Polka Fireworks** at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. It’s the 40th anniversary of Polka Fireworks, so there are sure to be some extra special surprises this year. The bus departs from Wyandotte July 4th with stops in Toledo and Cleveland along the way, and returns July 6th after Mass. This has become one of my favorite polka trips in recent years, (and I’m sure the snow will be melted by the time we take off!). If you are interested, \$75.00 holds a seat and you can find out more by e-mailing Kevin at [Kevin.Jdy@bex.net](mailto:Kevin.Jdy@bex.net). All proceeds to benefit PRCUA Society #162.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish, email it with a short description to: [pajpolka@verizon.net](mailto:pajpolka@verizon.net).



**EDDIE BLAZONCZYK, SR.**, with DJs Eleanor and Art Kott; and Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., circa 1990.



**DOM POLSKI, NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y.** Stephen Wilczek on washboard, and Stan Lachut on accordion. 1967



**JOHNNY HAAS BAND**, Pottstown, Pa., 1957. (l. to r.): trumpet, Bob Sako; bass John Osuch; sax, Bob Petro; drums, Johnny Haas; and accordion, Frank Morba.



DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

## Easter Already? A Perfect Time to Show Your Pride

BUFFALO, N.Y. — It's hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner. I know that I am looking forward to many of my polka friends visiting Buffalo in the next few weeks to celebrate Dyngus Day. This is the perfect time to show your Polish pride and attend some wonderful events.

**IT WAS A BUSY** second weekend of February for polkas in the Buffalo area, as three bands performed at three different venues. I was lucky enough to attend each of the events and they were all quite enjoyable. My first stop on Saturday night was at the Pre-Valentine's Day Dance at Metzger's Pub where **Special Delivery** filled the air with the sweet sound of polka. Couples dancing consumed the floor as they reveled in a wide variety of music from the band. This venue typically hosts the band on a Sunday afternoon so it was a welcome change to see a polka band there on a Saturday night. It was obvious that the patrons of this establishment agreed as the bar and adjoining room were filled with those present just to hear the music. The evening was filled with a diverse array of music and the entertaining frivolity that I have come to expect from Special Delivery. The friendliness and talent of these musicians is infectious to anyone who happens into the bar while they are on the stage.

After leaving there, I headed over to Polish Villa II for their event. **New Direction** was providing the entertainment to celebrate owner **Eddie Kutas'** birthday. If you know Eddie at all, you would know that this was destined to be a fun-filled night. The band fed off the energy of the people who came to celebrate with him. Eddie poured shots of Zubrowka vodka for tables of his friends as they celebrated his always entertaining outlook on life.

On one of the band's breaks, the staff rolled out a large birthday cake (home made by his wife Rosie) while everyone in the restaurant cheered and serenaded him with "Sto lat." Eddie is a business owner who appreciates his customers and loved nothing more than celebrating with each and every one of them.

I know that every person in attendance wholeheartedly meant every cheer, *na zdrowie* and *sto lat* that was shared that evening. In true Eddie fashion, after the band had finished playing, he invited everyone out onto the dance floor to have a birthday picture taken with him and the band. Laughter filled the hall as everyone gathered around him for this classic picture.

The evening was almost over but not until Eddie brought out plates of rye bread, butter, and homemade sausage for everyone to enjoy be-

fore heading home. He is a wonderful host and I am thrilled that I was a part of this birthday celebration.

On Sunday, **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** hosted its annual Hard Times Dance. This has grown to be one of the most successful yearly events. It is a steal to attend for only \$5.00 (as long as you bring a coupon). Once you are at the dance, there are \$1.00 glasses of beer and \$1.00 baloney & onion sandwiches. How can you go wrong?

Every table and the bar area were filled for this "hard times" affair. There were even a few little surprises as **Tommy Wanderlich** and **Andy Bojczuk** joined the band for a



Dave and Princess Bonczkiewicz from the Pulaski Club in Phoenix.

few songs. I love seeing fellow musicians supporting each other. We are so fortunate to have so much talent in our area and it always refreshing to see the respect amongst these musicians. The band kept everyone entertained and constantly dancing.

A special thank you goes out to the Potts family for always providing whatever resources necessary to help a polka band with their event. **Molly Potts** stood for what seemed like hours as the line for the baloney sandwiches never seemed to end. Bargain prices on admission, delicious food, drinks, and gratifying entertainment are a perfect formula for a fun Sunday polka afternoon.

Great job Buffalo Concertina All Stars on marketing this dance and making it a pleasure to attend.

**VALENTINE WEEKEND** brings thoughts of dinner, flowers, chocolates ... and polkas?

The Penton in Tonawanda hosted a Valentine Dance with the **Buffalo Touch**. Owners **Jerry D'Anna** and **Carol Wozniak** recently opened this venue which hosts all types of music. The hall filled with polka lovers ready to dance their cares away. The Buffalo Touch took the stage and provided attendees

with non-stop entertainment. Those present seemed to really enjoy the atmosphere at this new polka locale and are eager to return to the next event. Thank you for opening your doors to the Polish community.

It was great to be back to **Buffalo Polka Boosters** meeting with music by **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**. This social group has been a stronghold during my time in Buffalo and I look forward to every meeting. You get great Buffalo polka music, beer, soda, and a snack for \$7.00!

This month President **Chris Tanski** made homemade clam chowder for the entire club. It was absolutely delicious and even more enjoyable served on a cold February evening. Members of the board also provided a delicious array of homemade baked goods for the masses. It was a great get together with people who truly love the music and want to keep it alive. The passion of the officers and board shows through as they want this club to grow and remain a mainstay in Buffalo for years to come.

Keep an eye on the calendar of events to join us at the next Buffalo Polka Booster meeting.

**Phocus** livened up the Anchor Inn in Cheektowaga for their monthly polka Sunday. This event always brings lots of local WNYers, but this month we were lucky enough to have a group of visitors. Our Canadian friends descended on the Anchor and added to the vivacity of the evening. They enjoyed a few beverages, indulged in some chicken wings and danced the night away. It was a wonderful surprise for all of us. They obviously reveled in the evening too as they quickly said they would be returning.

Trumpet player **Bob Wroblewski** was celebrating his birthday so his entire family was there to commemorate the occasion. Polka Sunday is always lively at Anchor but the extra additions boosted the excitement of the evening.

**A WELCOMED BREAK.** I relished in a short siesta from the Buffalo cold winter by traveling to Phoenix, Ariz. for a polka weekend with the **Buffalo Touch**. The **Pulaski Club** rolled out the red carpet for the band and everyone who attended this fabulous weekend. It was a Mardi Gras celebration complete with gorgeous decorations, delicious food, and unbelievable hospitality.

Buffalo Touch welcomed guest musician **Richie Tokarz**, who helped them out for this engagement. The band kept the beat alive and the dance floor hopping for both days. **Kenny Machelski** surprised everyone with a video remembering **Jerry Darlak**, the former leader of the band. The emotion of this remembrance captivated the entire

audience. The memorial instigated much story telling from everyone about their personal memories of Jerry.

There were polka lovers in attendance hailing from Buffalo, Cleveland, Michigan, Chicago, and beyond. The hospitality of the Pulaski Club especially **Dave and Princess Bonczkiewicz** is unmatched. It was a weekend-long celebration filled with marvelous music, irresistible laughter, an abundance of reminiscing, and a multitude of new friendships created.

While in Arizona, I learned that the **Phoenix Polish Festival** was in full swing. I took advantage of



Jerry D'Anna and Carol Wozniak owners of the Penton

this opportunity and stopped by the event. I was shocked to learn that over 100,000 people of Polish descent live in Phoenix alone. The festival was bursting with Polish pride through music, art, organizations, food, and much dancing. **Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish** welcomes over 2,000 people a day to their annual festival.

During my visit, I noticed a polka dancing competition. They played **Henny & the Versa Js**, **John Gora**, and for the dance competition finale, Buffalo's own the **Knewz**. It was amusing to watch the couples battle it out to win the polka competition. Janusz, who was the organizer of the event, is a famous Polish broadcaster who relocated to Phoenix from Chicago. He took some time and talked with me about the parish and this successful event.

My visit concluded with a tour of the beautiful church and the grounds which boasts a gorgeous bronze statue of beloved **Blessed Pope John Paul II**. It was a weekend which created lifelong memories for me, my husband, and my friends. Thanks to my Phoenix polka family for making this an unforgettable getaway.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Buffalo April**

- 5 **Buffalo Touch**, Broadway Market Easter Festival, 12:00-3:00. Free.
  - 5 **Special Delivery**, Polish Night, Moose Lodge #89, 296 Lakeshore Dr. E., Dunkirk 7:00. 10:00 p.m. \$20.00. Includes dinner.
  - 6 **Special Delivery**, Dianeagains, 2460 Clinton St., 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free.
  - 12 **New Direction**, Broadway Market Easter Festival, 12:00-3:00. Free.
  - 12 **IPA Spring Fling Dance**, The Boys and New Direction, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler St., 7:00-12:00. \$15.00
  - 12 **Buffalo Touch**, Milo's Restaurant, 5877 Main St., Williamsville. 7:30 p.m. Free.
  - 13 **Phocus**, Anchor Inn, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Free.
  - 18 **Buffalo Touch**, Broadway Market Easter Festival, 3:00. Free.
  - 19 **New Direction**, Broadway Market Easter Festival, 12:00-3:00. Free.
- For a listing of Easter Sunday and Dyngus Day events, please turn to page 22.**
- 23 **Special Delivery**, Polka Variety Meeting, Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave. 7:00-10:00 p.m. \$8.00 members/\$9.00 non-members.
  - 24 **John Gora**, Buffalo Polka Boosters Swieconka, Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$7.00 members/10 non-members.
  - 25 **Buffalo Touch**, Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, 45 S. Ellicott Creek, Tonawanda. For info call Linda 628-0648.
  - 26 **Special Delivery**, Run for Smiles 5K Sanctioned Run, SUNY Buffalo, South Campus Harriman Hall. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Free.
  - 26 **Buffalo Touch**, St. Gregory's Dinner Dance, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville. 8:00-11:00 p.m.
  - 27 **Special Delivery**, Metzger's Pub, 4135 Seneca St., 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free.



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# Everybody's Polish on Dyngus Day!

by Mike Pietruszka  
and Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — This year April 21 will mark one of Western New York Polonia's most visible and enjoyable community celebrations — Dyngus Day.

For those not familiar with this holiday, Dyngus Day, which is observed on **Easter Monday**, celebrates the end of the sacrifices of Lent. 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 attention 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 each other with water and switch each other with pussy willows equally.

The modern Dyngus Day celebration in Buffalo began with the **Chopin Singing Society** in 1961. Retired NYS Appellate Division Justice **Ann Mikoll** and her late husband **Ted Mikoll** hosted the first party at the Society's clubrooms on Kosciuszko Street in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District. This year's Chopin's Original Dyngus Day Party was in question, but the event will go on at the **Adam's Mark Hotel** in downtown Buffalo. (More on that later).

The success of Chopin's parties during the 1960s and 1970s led to other Dyngus observances in various taverns located on Buffalo's East Side, which later spread across WNY.

Additional events were also added over time, including the very popular **Dyngus Day Parade**, which will proceed from the front of Corpus Christi Church at 5:00 p.m., through the Historic Polonia District, ending at the New York **Central Terminal** again this year. There is also a "Blessing of the Instruments" at the Pre-Dyngus Day Party at the **Millennium Hotel** in Cheektowaga on Easter Sunday evening.

Also, the new **Betty Crocowski** food truck will be officially launched on the streets of Buffalo on Dyngus Day.

Of course the big news this year is the relocation of **Chopin's Dyngus Day Party** to downtown Buffalo. Hosted at the **Hearthstone Manor** in Depew for the last 15 years, the sudden closure of the banquet center forced Chopin's to find a new home. The organization decided to move the party right to the center of downtown Buffalo, to the banquet hall of **Adam's Mark Hotel**, 120 Church St., right at the foot of the Skyway. Music by **Rare Vintage** from 2:00-6:00 p.m., **Special Delivery** (7:30-midnight), Polka by **CDS DJs Rob and Geri**, and performances by the **Chopin Singing Society** and Toronto's **White Eagle Dancers**. Doors open at 11:30. Admission is only \$10.00, and an Easter Buffet will be available from 12:00-2:30 p.m. and 4:30-7:00 p.m. for only \$10.00. Smaczone! And — to top it all — you can stay at the hotel for just \$89.00 by calling (716) 845-5100.

You can search the Chopin's website ([www.chopinsingsociety.com/](http://www.chopinsingsociety.com/)) or Facebook page for additional details as Dyngus Day nears.

Buffalo is the uncontested "Dyngus Day Capital of the World." For more information on Dyngus Day and the latest WNY celebration update, check out Dyngus Day Buffalo

at [www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com](http://www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com).

Here is a listing of events available at press time. There will likely be many more, as many restaurants and bars will be running Dyngus Day specials and Polish food:

## Easter Sunday

- **Special Delivery.** Polka Mass, Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., 12:30 p.m.
- **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and Buffalo Touch.** Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.
- **Polka Family and Polka Country Musicians.** Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. \$10.00

## Dyngus Day

- **Buffalo Touch and New Direction.** Polish Villa II, 1085 Harlem Rd., \$10.00.
- **Phocus.** Pool Party, Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., noon to 4:00 p.m. Free.
- **Freeze Dried and IPA Tribute Band.** Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., 5:00 p.m. to midnight. \$10.00.
- **Special Delivery** (1:45-3:45 p.m.) and **Phocus** (6:00-10:00 p.m.), Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. \$10.00.
- **Rare Vintage** (2:00- 6:00 p.m.) and **Special Delivery** (7:30-11:30 p.m.), Chopin's Dyngus Day Party, Adam's Mark Hotel, 120 Church St., Buffalo.
- **Docenko Brothers and Hocus Phocus.** Adam Mickiewicz Library, 612 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo. 5:00-? \$10.00.
- **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and The Knewz.** Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **Concertina All-Stars and Stephanie & Her Honky Band.** St. Stanislaus Social Hall Peckham St., Buffalo. 5:00-?
- **Polka Family and John Stevens' Doubleshot.** Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler St. 4:00-?
- **Dyngus Day Jam Band** at the Firehouse Bar and Grill, 2141 Clinton St., West Seneca, N.Y., 12:00-4:00 p.m., \$5.00.
- **John Gora & Gorale** at IV Stallions Bar, 2912 William St., Cheektowaga, N.Y., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

## OUTSIDE WESTERN NEW YORK

### Easter Sunday

- **Illinois.** Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze at Polonia Banquets, 4604 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, Ill., dinner 1:30 p.m., music 2:30-5:30 p.m., \$25, teens 13-17 \$15, children 4-12 \$10, under 4 Free.

### Dyngus Day

- **Arizona.** Varitones at a Dyngus Day Potluck, Pulaski Club Arizona, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., meeting 12:30, music 2:00-5:00, free admission.
- **Illinois.** Lenny Zielinski & the D Street Band at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago

Ridge, Ill., from 7:00 p.m.

- **Indiana.** Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze at the Crumstown Conversation Club, 59440 Crumstown Hwy., Crumstown, Ind., 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at Sokolowski's University Inn, 1201 University Rd., Cleveland, Ohio, from 6:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Joe Stanky & his Cadets at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, Pa., 56:00-10:00 p.m.

Have fun, but remember to be responsible. Do not drink and drive. Jeśli pijesz, nie należy prowadzić samochodu.

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Then Join us for the "First Ever" **POLKA MASS in Buffalo** at 12:30pm Hosted by **Special Delivery and Ted Szymanski - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Happy Hour in the Lounge from 2:00pm to 6:00pm • Ballroom opens at 6:00 pm Music 7pm to 1am

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**MONDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2014**

Doors open at 11:00 am

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**POLKA** 12 noon till 4:30pm • Tropical theme, Oczipiny Hat and Easter Bonnet Contest  
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Polka Music 5:00pm to midnight by **Freeze Dried (Chicago)** • **The I.P.A. Tribute Band (Chicago)** with a guest appearance by **Dr. John Valby** singing his renowned "Dyngus Day in Buffalo" song

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Val's Dyngus Day Millennium Hotel

\$10 General admission/person (each day). Table reservation suggested but will only be held until music starts. After music starts, seating will be first-come, first-served basis.



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## Dyngus Day Kielbasa Contest

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Applications  
are being sought for **Buffalo's Best  
Kielbasa Contest** in both commercial  
and homemade categories.

The Broadway Market and Adam  
Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic  
Circle (Mickey's) are bringing back  
the spirited event on Dyngus Day,  
April 21, 2014.

This contest will converge Dyn-  
gus Day revelers, Polish beer con-  
noisseurs, and sausage lovers into  
the Heart of Polonia to determine  
Buffalo's Best Kielbasa.

The sponsor of this event is Fill-  
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The winner of this year's contest  
will receive a basket of Polish cheer  
and, best of all, the honor of being  
designated Buffalo's Best in either  
category; a People's Choice winner  
will also be chosen.

The contest will be held at The  
Broadway Market, 999 Broadway  
from noon-2:00 p.m.

Admission to the event is free.  
Tickets for kielbasa tastings will  
be sold for \$.50 each. Those in at-  
tendance will receive a ballot to vote  
for the People's Choice Contest  
(which means you get to sample the  
best from the commercial vendors  
and help decide the People's Choice  
winner)

Applications are being accepted  
in both categories until April 16.  
Participants must register in ad-  
vance by completing a registration  
form. Any questions can be emailed  
to [buffalobestkielbasa@gmail.com](mailto:buffalobestkielbasa@gmail.com),  
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Poland's Best Winter Olympics Ever

The Sochi 2014 Games proved to be Poland's best winter Olympics ever. Poland won the same number of medals at Sochi — a total of six — that it won at Vancouver in 2010. However, in Sochi four of those medals were gold, in comparison to the single gold Poland won four years ago. Although Poland has participated in every Winter Olympic since 1924, it had only won a total of eight medals until Vancouver.

### "DIVINE JUSTYNA" TRIUMPHS.

There were high hopes for cross-country skier **Justyna Kowalczyk**, who won a gold, silver and bronze in 2010 in Vancouver. However, after the 31-year-old finished a disappointing sixth in the 5 km cross-country race, an x-ray showed an injury that had been bothering her since January was a fractured bone in her right foot. Despite the injury Kowalczyk said she was determined to "win or croak" ("wygrać albo zdechnąć"). She competed in the 10 km race and, with the help of painkillers and a tightly bandaged foot, she won gold. Unfortunately, at the start of the 30 km cross-country race, a competitor hit her leg and the injury forced her to eventually withdraw. Still, the Poles loved "Divine Justyna" for her perseverance — and for bringing home a gold.

**JUMPING FOR GOLD.** On the second day of the Olympics, ski jumper **Kamil Stoch** won the normal hill competition in dominating fashion. Despite the pressure of being the favorite, the current World Cup leader had an extraordinary performance. He surpassed second place finisher Peter Prevc of Slovenia by almost 13 points, a huge margin. Stoch wasn't feeling well that morning, but was much better by the end of the day. "When I woke up I felt a headache and I had a high temperature, but the doctors did everything they could do bring me to life and they did," Stoch said.

Other Polish ski jumpers also did well in the normal hill competition at Sochi, as **Maciej Kot** finished seventh, while **Jan Ziobro** was 13th.

Stoch and his fellow Polish jumpers had been inspired by **Adam Malysz**, one of the world's best ski



**JUSTYNA KOWALCZYK** said she was determined to "win or croak" ("wygrać albo zdechnąć").

jumpers of all time. However, while Malysz was a four-time world champion and four-time World Cup winner, he had never won Olympic gold — just three silvers and a bronze. After Stoch's win, Malysz, now a rally car driver, said that he would trade all his four medals for just one Olympic gold.

Stoch later won the long hill ski jumping competition, though by just three points. Stoch became only the third man to win double jumping golds in the same Winter Games.

Unfortunately the Polish ski jumpers failed to win a medal in the team event. The team, comprised of Stoch, Kot, Ziobro and **Piotr Żyła**, finished fourth. It was still the best finish by a Polish ski jumping team in Olympic history.

**FAST ON HIS FEET.** **Zbigniew Bródka** won gold in the 1,500 m speedskating event by upsetting former record holder Shanni Davis and the rest of the favorites. In the final pair he defeated world champion Koen Verweij of the Netherlands by a mere 0.003 of a second. It was one of the closest races in Olympic speed skating history, and it was later determined that the margin of victory was equivalent to a difference of 4.5 centimeters.

The 29-year-old Bródka is a firefighter from Łowicz who placed 27th in the 1,500 at the Vancouver Games four years ago.

**TEAMWORK PAYS OFF.** Bronze was won by men's speedskating pursuit team of **Zbigniew Bródka**, **Konrad Niedzwiedzki**, and **Jan Szymanski**. There was a bit of controversy after defending Olympic Canada lost to the Poles in the bronze medal race. The Canadian coach said that the Polish team was less fatigued than the Canadians because they didn't race as hard as they could have in their previous race. He argued that the Polish team did not go all-out in their semi-final because they knew they couldn't defeat heavily favored Netherlands. By going easy against the Dutch, he said, they were fresher in the bronze medal match against Canada.

The team of **Katarzyna Bachleda-Curuś**, **Luiza Złotkowska**, **Natalia Czerwonka**, and **Katarzyna Woźniak** won silver. They finished behind the Netherlands, whose athletes dominated speedskating.

The Polish's speedskaters' success was all the more remarkable considering that Poland was the only European country competing that does not have a single professional indoor track for speed skaters to train on. The Poles have to either travel abroad or train outdoors.

**FINAL PUSH.** **Curt Tomasevicz** ended his ten-year bobsled career with a bronze in the four-man bobsled in Sochi. The USA "Night Train" team hoped to repeat the



**ZBIGNIEW BRÓDKA** won gold in the 1,500 m speedskating event by upsetting former record holder Shanni Davis and the rest of the favorites.

gold it won in Vancouver, but was hampered by a foot injury to driver Steve Holcomb.

Curt, 33, was a Nebraska football walk-on who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. He returned to his hometown of Shelby, Nebraska (population of about 700) to a hero's welcome.

**STRONG FINISH.** For **J.R. Celski** and the rest of the American Speedskaters, it was certainly a disappointing Olympics. However, Celski and Team USA finally did medal, finishing a close second to the Russian team to take silver in the 5,000-meter relay.

Much had been expected of the 23-year-old Celski, but it didn't go well for him in Sochi. J.R. finished fourth in the 1,500-meter individual race, crashed in the quarterfinals of the 1,000-meter and came in sixth in the 500-meter. Still, look for him to come back strong in 2018. Don't forget his comeback four years ago in Vancouver, when he won two medals despite cutting open his leg just five months earlier. He's as strong-minded and talented as they come, and I'm sure we'll hear a lot more from him.

**HAT TRICKS.** USA hockey failed to medal, but **Joe Pavelski** played well. The San Jose Shark, who was on the silver medal team four years ago, demonstrated his speed and all-round skills in Sochi. He had an impressive performance in the 5-1 win against Slovenia, setting up Phil Kessel's three goals. Pavelski had a

goal and four assists for Team USA in Sochi.

When Pavelski returned to the NHL, he registered a hat trick in a 7-3 victory over Philadelphia in his first game back.

**A MEMORABLE DAY.** February 15, 2014 will be remembered by the Poles as "Golden Saturday" or "Polish Day" at the Winter Olympics. It was on that single day that Poland (specifically Stoch and Bródka) won two gold medals, as many as it had won in every previous Winter Games combined. With four golds, one silver and one bronze, Poland ranked 11th among the 100 competing nations in both gold medals and total medals (by the way, only 26 of those countries won even a single medal). That could improve in the future for the Poles, especially if the International Olympic Committee approves a joint bid to hold the 2022 Winter Games in Poland and Slovakia. The proposal would have Krakow hosting the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games as well as most of the events on ice, Zakopane hosting snowboarding, cross country skiing and biathlon, and Jasna in Slovakia hosting ice hockey and alpine skiing.

**LAPUS CALAMI.** In last month's PAJ, I mistakenly identified **Kaleb Tarczewski** as an Arizona Sun Devil. In fact, the athletic teams at the Tucson-based University of Arizona are called Wildcats. The Sun Devil is the mascot of Arizona State University, located in Tempe. Przepaszam!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Schmid Memorial Scholarships Available

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. — Students of the Depew, Cheektowaga Central, Cheektowaga-Sloan, Maryvale, and Cleveland Hill school districts can apply for a Jackie Schmid Memorial scholarship.

The Fund, instituted in 2013, celebrates the life and spirit of the late community leader.

Awards will be based on academic achievement, participation in Polish heritage and culture, and financial need.

Applications and requirements are available at all five high school guidance offices, on line at [www.JackieSchmidScholarship.org](http://www.JackieSchmidScholarship.org), or by writing to Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 143, Depew, NY 14043.

Application deadline is May 1, 2014.

### Polish American Museum Founders Scholarship

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — Applications for the 8th annual Polish American Museum Founders Scholarship are now available upon request.

The Scholarship is offered to high school students of Polish descent residing in Nassau or Suffolk county and a citizen of the United States. The student must be entering college in the Fall 2014.

The Scholarship was established on the occasion of the museum's 30th anniversary in honor of its three founders, Chester Wrobel, Doctor Raymond Adamczak, and Julian Jurus.

Last year's recipient of the Founders Scholarship is attending the University of Stony Brook.

The deadline for submitting the application is April 25, 2014.

For more information, write to: Polish American Museum Founders Scholarship Committee, 16 Bellevue Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050; tel. (516) 883-6542.

**WORTH LOOKING INTO.** **Chase Kowalski Scholarship Fund**, c/o People's Bank, 470 Monroe Tpk., Monroe, CT 06468 ... The **Polish American Foundation** can be reached by dialing (773) 481-5407 and ask for Ellzbieta ... **Lyczko Scholarships** are awarded by the city of Chicago through the Polish American Association. Tel. (773) 427-6317.

Become a member today



## Polish American Historical Association

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it

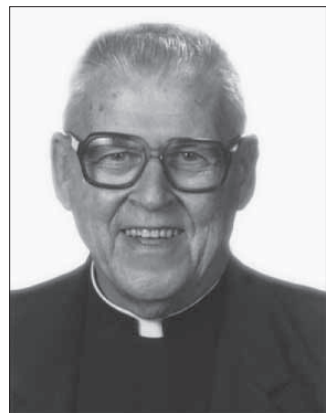
was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt.

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

PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050  
[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)



## OBITUARIES

**Monsignor Anthony Jaworowski***Active in Philadelphia Polonia*

Msgr. Anthony Jaworowski, a Catholic priest for over 69 years, was born April 18, 1917 in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia. The son of the late August and Katherine Jaworowski, he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1944. In addition to his archdiocesan assignments, he was a teacher at St. Pius X High School, Pottstown, Pa. In 1972 he was assigned as pastor of St. Adalbert Church in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. After many years of services to the church he received title of Monsignor in 1976.

Involved with church and community activities, Msgr. Jaworowski was the general chairman of the Polish Committee of the 41st Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia

in August, 1976. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, then Archbishop of Krakow, later Pope John Paul II, was a guest at St. Adalbert Church during the Eucharistic Congress. Msgr. Jaworowski was also on the committee for the visit of Pope John Paul II to Philadelphia in October, 1979.

During his distinguished priestly career, Msgr. Jaworowski was honored by many organizations for his outstanding leadership and ongoing work with the Polish American community.

He was a founding board member of the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia and a long-time board member of Polish American Social Services.

He served as pastor of St. Adalbert Parish in Philadelphia from 1972 to 1993. After his retirement he was a resident priest at Sacred Heart Church in Swedesburg, PA from 1993 to 2011, when he moved to the Villa St. Joseph for clergy in Darby, Pa.

Donations may be made in memory of Monsignor Jaworowski to the priest retirement home of "Villa Saint Joseph," 1436 Lansdowne Avenue, Darby, PA 19023.

**Anna E. Rajtar***Member of Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, Saturday School Teacher***by Staś Kmiec**

Born in Lublin, Poland, Ania Tefelska met her husband Edward Rajtar at the Course for Instructors of Polonia Artistic Ensembles at the University of Marie Curie-Skłodowska. She was an *opiekunka* (student guardian) who excelled in the English language, he was a student with a keen interest in folklore. Eventually they married, and she was transported to the world of American Polonia in Minneapolis and the workings of the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers.

Anna was a former director of the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School, member of the Polanie Club,

and worked in radiology at Abbott Northwestern where she was loved by her patients and co-workers. One co-worker in the MRI department recalled how Ania taught them Polish words, kept them entertained with stories of cooking lessons and was a calming presence in the midst of chaos. "Ania was always professional and looked crisp and fresh in her dress clothes and lab coat at the start of the day, and later in ironed scrubs with neat creases."

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, daughters: Karina and Kaja; siblings: Maciej, Piotr, Marysia, and Basia

**Edward J. Mendyka***Founding Member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland*

Edward J. Mendyka was the son of the late Adam J. and Anna H. (nee Twardzik) Mendyka. He attended St. John Cantius Elementary School, Lincoln High School, and Adalbert College of Western Reserve University. After spending four years in the U.S. Army and being part of the Korean Peace Action, he was honorably discharged. He was an avid Cleveland sports fan and proud of his

Cleveland roots and Polish heritage. At various times in his life he volunteered at the Veterans Hospital in Brecksville, Playhouse Square, Seaman's Service, and the Cuyahoga County Archives. He was one of the founders of The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland, and was retired from the General Motors transmission plant.

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Diana Maria Migala, Vocalist, Actress, and Businesswoman****by Geraldine Balut Coleman**

Diana Maria Migala, 67, passed away on February, 20, 2014, after a long illness. She was born in Krakow, Poland on May 11, 1946. In October 1947, she emigrated to Chicago with her parents, Jozef and Slawa, along with two of her sisters, Barbara and Lucyna. She was a graduate of Holy Family Academy High School and the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she was the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech and theater. Diana was very active in the Polish American community. During her teen-

age years, she performed in Polish theater and was active in Harcerstwo, the Polish Scouting Organization. Her talents went beyond theater and scouting; Migala was a voice student of Alice Stephens at the Chicago Conservatory College, as well as a student at the American Conservatory in Chicago. She was one of the original members of the Lira Singers, today known as the Lira Ensemble, Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago. Migala sang with the Lira as an alto and, for 15 years, was its first assistant manager.

Migala joined her family in creating the Radio Halls-Royale Inn Catering Service in Chicago. Then she went on to work in the travel industry, first as a travel agent, then as the CEO of Europe Travel Bureau, Inc., also located in Chicago. An avid traveler, Diana traveled worldwide and established another travel agency, Come Along Travel, Inc.

Along with her family, she established radio station, WCEV 1450 AM, one of the metropolitan Chicago's ethnic radio stations. On this radio station, Migala served

as host of a live talk-in program, *Just Between Us*. She also served as the vice president and business manager of Migala Communications Corporation. Additionally, Migala was a guest director of the Second City Children's Theatre, as well as serving as a theatre critic on the ethnic television station, ETC-TV channel 25.

Migala is survived by her mother, Slawa, sisters, Barbara Holtzinger, Lucyna Migala, Krista Dinges, brother, George; a niece, three nephews, one grand niece, and five grand nephews.

**Marcella Nowak, Renowned Baker and Cook****by Geraldine Balut Coleman**

Marcella Nowak, 86, was born in Poland. Jozef Malacha, Marcella's father, left his family in Zdrochec, Poland to seek work in Chicago. While here, he felt that the turmoil

in Europe would extend into Poland, so he sent for his family. Marcella, along with her mother, Anna, and sister, Susan, arrived in the United States on December 24, 1938, aboard the *MS Pilsudski* Ocean Liner.

From that point, Christmas Eve was always an important date for Marcella. At the age of 16, she began working at one of the former Pixley and Ehlers Restaurants. One day, as she stood at the restaurant's window baking pies, Richard Nowak saw Marcella. It was love at first sight. They had such a huge Polish wedding that there were three separate dinner seatings. They settled on the Northwest Side of Chicago, where Mrs. Nowak was

a parishioner of St. Ladislaus for 65 years. She was one of the star bakers of the church's bake sales, creating kolaczki, breads, oatmeal cookies, and even golabki. Each gourmet donation prepared with loving hands, but never from any written recipe. She had an abundance of recipes in her head.

Marcella and her son, Ted, were fixtures on certain CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) buses. With Tupperware containers of homemade chicken soup, in hand; she would travel from her Northwest Side home to Lake Shore Drive. A chore? Never! She was always available to care for her adult children, whenever they were sick. But also,

it was an adventure for Ted, her learning disabled and developmentally challenged son. Each ride was entertainment for him. They were the "best of buddies." Together, they did everything and went everywhere.

However, a few years ago, Mrs. Nowak had a stroke and their roles were reversed. Ted became her caregiver, always at her side, ready to call 911 or one of his sisters. But Ted died in 2011. Marcella Nowak needed special care. She died on December 26, 2013 at the Alden Northmoor Care Center on Chicago's Northwest Side. She is survived by her daughters, Patricia Nowak Izban and Donna Baumgardt, along with her sister, Susan.

**Nina Polan, Polish Culture-in-exile Legend****by Staś Kmiec**

With the stage name of Nina Polan, actress and singer, Janina Katelbach set out to conquer the world's stage. She was a Founding Director of the Polish Theatre Institute of New York and was its artistic director, director, producer and manager.

Polan's work in promoting Poland's culture came through the Institute with the presentation of numerous plays, concerts, musicals, operas, and cabaret performances in theaters, community centers, universities and schools, throughout the Tri-State area, elsewhere in the United States, and on many tours of Poland. Among the many roles that she played, her favorite character, apart from Lady Macbeth, was Helena Modrzejewska.

**A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.** Born in Berlin (during the Weimar Republic), she was the daughter of Zenaida Semplińska, a Polish activist from Kowno region, and Tadeusz Katelbach, a Polish senator of the Second Republic, journalist and staunch activist in exile. As a child she lived in Wilno (currently Vilnius, Lithuania) and Warsaw, and later grew up in London. Nina graduated from the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, performed in theaters on London's West End, and was directed by Peter Brook, in among others, *Dark of the Moon* and Shake-

speare's *Henry IV*. She also appeared in productions by the London's Polish Dramatic Theatre, and ZASP Polish Theatre.

At 27 years of age after a stint with Radio Free Europe, she came to the United States and immersed herself in the theater scene. She played many New York theaters, including the famous La MaMa, and performed in theaters in several states from Washington to Florida.

Polan appeared in several films including *Sophie's Choice*, *Fever*, and *Occupant*; appeared on television in the movie *Cheaters*, on *Saturday Night Live*; and is the voice of Olenka Targonski in the video game – *Wolfenstein: The New Order*.

In the '70s Nina bought the Polish Theatre Institute founded by Lech Michalski in New York, and since 1984 was its artistic and general director. The troupe became the Polish Theater Institute of New York in 1984. The objective of the institute was to spread the knowledge of Polish history, through literature and music, among Americans.

Polan staged and directed productions of stage classics such as *Alfa* by Sławomir Mrożek; *Pastoralka* (Leon Schiller); the Wilno version of *Halka* by Stanisław Moniuszko; *Krakowiacy i Górale*; and Moniuszko's *Verbum Nobile*. Original, new works included Kazimierz Braun's



*Helena, the Queen of the Emigrants, In the Footsteps of Chopin, and Who was that Man?* – a historical drama about Janusz Korczak.

"We are the only Polish American professional, bilingual, traveling theater in the United States, playing the treasures of Polish literature, drama and music," she said. Like other immigrant institutions in the United States, the Institute struggled with financial problems. Partially funded by the New York State Council for the Arts, it continues to balance funding mostly on its own.

To the dismay of Polan, Polish American institutions have not been interested in their plight. Her passion could be seen in her every gesture, every word and in her work as she fought not only to sustain the Institute, but also to awaken the consciousness of the Polish in the United States.

For her dedication in promotion of Polish culture,

Nina Polan was awarded with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture "Gloria Artis."

Poles and Americans bade Nina Polan farewell in a Memorial service held at St. Stanisław Church in Manhattan. Friends, American actors and producers, emphasized Nina's contribution to the promotion of Polish culture in the United States.

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka noted that Nina Polan belonged to the greater family of the so-called London Emigration, whose members attended the funeral in great numbers. The London Emigration is distinguished for its patriotism and cultivation of the Polish language, in conjunction with Polish literature and art. Consul General expressed hope that the heritage, especially in the field of theater that Nina Polan left, would remain a valuable commodity for younger generations of Americans of Polish descent.

Nina Polan's ashes were transported to Poland and will remain at Powązki in Warsaw, in a family grave.

Contributions in her memory will be accepted for the Polish Theatre Institute (Pol-TheatreInst@aol.com, 112 West 72nd St. 8A, New York, NY 10023, 212-724-9323); the funds will go towards continuing Polan's life work.



POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Giving Your Eggs a Polish Twist

**THE FRESHNESS TEST** (próba świeżości). Place fresh eggs one by one in a pan or bowl of cold water. The freshest eggs are those which lie on their side at the bottom, so set those aside for direct consumption. Those that stand up but still touch bottom are OK for baking. Anyone that floats up away from the bottom is suspect. Do not boil it but break it and smell it. If it doesn't smell bad, it is still good for baking.

**HARD-BOILING EGGS** (gotowanie jaj na twardo). There are two basic ways of preparing hard-cooked eggs: 1) Newer way: Place fresh eggs that have passed the freshness test (above) in pot in single layer and full with water which should be 1-1/2- to 2 inches above the eggs. Add 1 T salt and on medium heat bring to a boil under cover. Switch off heat and let stand covered about 15 min. Pour off hot water and cool in cold running water until cooled to room temp. 2) Our Babcia's way: Place fresh eggs that have passed the freshness test (above) in pot in 1 or 2 layers and full with water which should be 1-1/2- to 2 inches above the eggs. Bring to boil, reduce heat and cook at a gentle rolling boiling 8-10 min depending on size of eggs. Pour off hot water and cool in cold running water until cooled to room temp.

**EGGS IN HORSERADISH SAUCE** (jajka w sosie chrzanowym). Combine 3/4 c sour cream with 1 heaping T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with salt, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar.

**EGGS IN PINK HORSERADISH SAUCE** (jajka w różowym sosie chrzanowym). Combine 3/4 c sour cream with 1 heaping T home-made or store-bought ćwikła or beet horseradish. Season to taste with salt, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar.

**EGGS IN EASTER SAUCE** (jajka w sosie do święconego). Fork-blend 1/3 c dairy sour cream with 1/3 c mayonnaise, add 1 - 2 chopped hard-cooked eggs and 1/2 c mixed finely chopped chives, green onions, pickled mushroom and radish. Stir in 1 heaping t to 1 T prepared horseradish and season to taste with salt, sugar and lemon juice or vinegar.

**KIEŁBASA-DEVEILED EGGS** (jaja nadziewane kielbasą). Cut 6 shelled, hard-cooked eggs in half lengthwise and gently remove yolks. Set aside whites. Grind or process cooked yolks with 1/4 lb skinned smoked Polish sausage and 1 small quartered onion. To mixture add 1 - 2 t brown mustard, 1/4 t paprika and 2 - 3 T mayonnaise or sour cream (or a little of each). Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Stuff egg whites with mixture, rounding off tops with spoon. For a Paschal



**YOU CAN GARNISH** deviled eggs with any number of fresh-cut vegetables. These mushroom deviled eggs (jaja nadziewane pieczarkami) are decorated with slices of red and yellow sweet peppers and green onions.

touch, press a chive cross into the top of each egg (cut chives into 1" and 1/2" strips).

**MUSHROOM-DEVEILED EGGS** (jaja nadziewane pieczarkami). In saucepan sauté 4 oz finely chopped fresh mushrooms and 1 finely chopped med. onion in 2 T butter or margarine until fully cooked (about 15 min), stirring frequently. Peel 6 hard-cooked eggs and remove yolks. Mash yolks and combine with cool mushroom-onion mixture. Stir in 2 T sour cream, 2 T finely chopped fresh dill and 1 T finely chopped fresh parsley. Mix well, salt & pepper to taste and use mixture to stuff whites as above.

**EGGS IN HOT HORSERADISH SAUCE** (jaja w sosie chrzanowym na ciepło). Melt 2 T butter in saucepan, sprinkle with 2 T flour, stir to combine and dilute with a little water to get a smooth paste. Stir 3/4 c sour cream and 1 heaping T prepared horseradish. Dilute with a little hot water or stock and continue simmering until sauce is thick, bubbly and pourable. Season with salt, white pepper and a little lemon juice and sugar. Serve over hot (freshly cooked) hard-boiled eggs or warm up cold hard-cooked eggs in the hot sauce.

**HOT STUFFED EGG-SHELLS** (jaja faszerowane w skorupkach). Allow 1-2 egg per guest. Hold each hard-cooked egg firmly against cutting-board and tap it lengthwise with a sharp, thin-bladed, non-serrated-edge knife. With swift cutting motion cut through to cutting-board, shell and all. With small spoon gently scoop out yolk and white and set aside, taking care not to break the shell. Carefully remove and discard and loose, jagged shell fragments that adhere to eggs or rim of shells. Set shells aside. For 10 eggs, simmer 2 finely minced onions in 2 T butter until tender and golden. Grind or chop eggs fine and com-

bine with onion. Add 2-3 heaping T finely chopped fresh dill, 1 heaping T finely chopped chives and salt & pepper rather generously to taste. Mix ingredients well. Fill shells with mixture pressing it down very gently so as not to damage them. Sprinkle tops generously with bread crumbs, pressing them in gently. To serve, fry stuffed eggs, open-side down in 2 T butter or margarine until a golden-brown crust forms and top of shell is hot to the touch.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Although known in Polish as "palmy" or "palemki" (palms), what Poles have blessed in church on Palm Sunday are pussywillows interspersed with boxwood or other evergreen sprigs or rod-type wildflower bouquets.

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I LOVE PACZKI DAY TOTE 2-273

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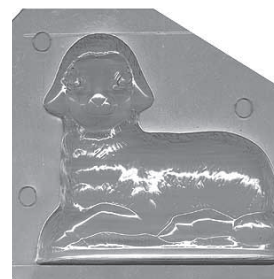
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### MOLDS

**EASTER BUTTERLAMB** Easy to use! To make with butter, simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerate until hardened and you're done. For chocolate, just pour and let harden. It's that easy! Clean with soap and warm water.



### EASTER BUTTER LAMB MOLD

Small 3-1/2" width by 3" tall

# 1-600 **\$4.95**

Large 5" width by 4" tall

# 1-601 **\$7.95**

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12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep. Includes Polish and English for: Happy Easter, Easter Monday, Basket Blessing, Butter Lamb, Easter Eggs, Sausage, and more!

## The treats of Święcone (Polish Easter brunch)

continued from last month

**EASTER EGG-BREAD** (paska). This leaner and less sweet version of babka makes this bread suitable for eating together with Easter ham. Dissolve 1 oz fresh yeast in 1/2 c lukewarm milk, mix in a heaping T flour and set aside to rise. When it rises add 4 whole eggs, 1/2 c sugar, a pinch of salt and 1/2 c milk, mixing well. Gradually add about 1-3/4 c flour and work ingredients into a smooth dough. It should not stick to hands. If too wet, work in a bit more flour. Melt 1 stick minus 1 pat of unsalted butter and gradually add to dough, working it until butter is absorbed. Set said in warm place to double in size. Transfer dough to greased, breadcrumb-sprinkled babka, brioche or Bundt pans and again allow to rise until doubled. Brush exposed top with beaten egg yolk and bake in pre-heated 330° oven 30-40 mins.

**WAFER-STYLE MAZURKA** (mazurek na wafli). If you don't do much baking, this is the mazurek for you! You will need several (4-5) large, plain square or rectangular wafers (available at a pastry-supply, gourmet, speciality or European import shops) or large sheets of opłatek (Christmas wafer). Spread 1 sheet thinly with thick jam (powidła, apricot, cherry), cover with another wafer, press down gently and spread thinly with canned or home-made chocolate of white frosting, cover with another wafer, spread it with jam and continue alternating. Cover last layer of filling with a plain wafer, cover with clean dish towel, weight down with a heavy book and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving spread top and sides

with frosting and sprinkle top generously with ground or coarsely chopped walnuts or almonds. Cut into squares and serve.

**CHEESECAKE** (sernik). Sift 1 1/2 c flour onto board and cut in 1 stick cold butter. Beat 4 eggs with 4 T confectioner's sugar and add to flour mixture. Sprinkle with 2 T milk and 2 t baking powder, quickly work ingredients into a dough and chill in fridge 30 min. Meanwhile grind or process 1 1/2 lbs farmer cheese and blend together with 2 med cold, well-mashed potatoes. Cream 3/4 c butter with 1 c confectioner's sugar. Add 1 t vanilla extract, continue beating, gradually adding 5 egg yolks and cheese mixture a little at a time. When fully blended, sprinkle in with 3 T potato starch (or cornstarch), add 1 c plumped raisins and 2 T finely chopped candied orange rind. Mix ingredients and fold in 3 stiffly beaten eggs whites. Roll out 2/3 of the dough 1/4" thick to fit lightly greased pan. Top with cheese filling and smooth the top. Roll remaining dough into pencil-thick strands and arrange latticework on top of cheese. Brush top with beaten egg and bake in preheated 350° oven about 50 min.

**OUTSOURCING** (zaopatrzenie zewnętrzne). Nothing can beat good, home-made comfort foods at Easter time. However, there may be times and situations when that is not an option. In such cases, outsourcing may be the next best thing. There are Polish markets, delis, groceries and bakeries that can supply all the fixings from the carton-packed white barszcz and żurek to the ham, sausage and other meats as well as breads and holiday cakes.

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Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord ~ Ps 105:6



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